

December 2025

Dear Camp Billings Family,

Three times a day, every day, our entire camp gathers under one roof to sing, to laugh, to connect, and to simply be together in the Camp Billings Dining Hall. It is where campers learn to set a table and sweep floors. It's where they selflessly learn to wait tables and support their cabin mates. It's where they hear their names called and are celebrated for passing the boat test for the first time. It's where counselors grow into leaders, learning to speak confidently in front of the camp community. The Camp Billings Dining Hall is where lifelong friendships are strengthened over corn dogs, pizza cookies, and boisterous cheers so loud that camps all around Lake Fairlee know when it's meal time at Camp Billings.

For more than a century, this humble and historic building has held generations of Billings campers. But the years have caught up with it. The roof leaks. The kitchen is cramped, overheated, and outdated. There are no camper bathrooms inside. The building's foundation and systems are tired. It's time for a thoughtful reset for the hub of the Camp Billings community.

When you walk into the Dining Hall, the first thing you see is the sign that reads: ***"Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."*** That message has guided generations of campers and counselors, and it guides us now. If we are going to rebuild the heart of Camp Billings, we must do it with care, with craftsmanship, and with a strong foundation that will last another hundred years.

Camp Billings has never been a flashy camp and, appropriately, this will not be a flashy project. It's a modest, necessary investment to ensure the safety, health, and comfort of every camper and staff member. The renovation will:

- **Expand the kitchen** for safer, cleaner, and more comfortable working conditions, with modern appliances, better ventilation, and energy-efficient systems.
- **Create more space** in hopes that every cabin can sit together again, resulting in fewer overflow tables and campers squeezed onto porches.
- **Add new ADA-compliant bathrooms**, accessible from both the Dining Hall and Dartt Hall, so no one has to walk across camp during meals or inclement weather.
- **Improve ventilation, air flow, and insulation** with new windows on both the camp and lake sides, making the space brighter, cooler, and more comfortable.
- **Add an outdoor handwashing station** to promote better camper hygiene and keep campers healthy during their time at camp.
- **Add a generator** for food safety and clean water in an emergency.
- **Preserve the historic look** of the building while strengthening its foundation with structural steel and a new floor.

And yet, when the project is complete, it will still feel like our Dining Hall. The same college and university pennants will hang from the rafters, connecting generations of counselors and campers who sang the same songs around the same tables. The foundation will be sturdier, the air a bit cooler, and the kitchen brighter, but the spirit of where we gather three times each day will remain unchanged.

This will be the largest and most ambitious construction project since Billings opened in 1906. Completing this project will require \$1.85M. Construction is just underway with the hope that the new Dining Hall will open for our 120th Summer and 2026 Camp Billings Reunion, a perfect moment for us all to gather in celebration.

To date, generous alumni have committed over \$400,000, but we will need the support of the entire Billings family to make this project a reality. We are asking every community member to dig deep for our dear old camp. Please join us by making a gift to the Camp Billings Dining Hall and Kitchen Renovation Fund.

If you are moved to contribute, please visit campbillings.org/support-camp-billings (or use the QR code) or return the enclosed remittance envelope.

Camp Billings has always thrived because generations of alumni, parents, and friends have cared deeply and given back. This is our moment to do the same, to strengthen the heart of camp, doing it well, just as we were taught.

With gratitude and love for Camp Billings,



Andy Schneider
President, Board of Directors

