



11/17/2023

Press Release

From: Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center

***Silver Bay YMCA awarded grant for teen center***

***Silver Bay YMCA receives Charles R. Wood Foundation grant***

Silver Bay YMCA is pleased to announce that the Charles R. Wood Foundation has awarded Silver Bay a \$8,600 grant to help support the Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center.

Silver Bay YMCA's VP of Development and Government Relations Walt Lender said on the awarding of the grant, "We are thrilled with the announcement of this grant for Silver Bay's teen center in Ticonderoga. The confidence that the Charles R. Wood Foundation has placed in us to provide local teens with a safe and enriching environment is encouraging."

The teen center is run through Silver Bay YMCA in partnership with the Town of Ticonderoga is open six days a week during the school year and provides free activities and programs such as basketball, cooking lessons, cake decorating contests, and pinata making for local teens. Teens also have the opportunity to suggest programs and activities for the teen center to do or are welcome to take advantage of one of the many hangout areas and do their own thing.

In addition to fun activities and programs, the teen center also has a dedicated hour daily for homework help, and teens are more than welcome to ask any of the teen center staff for help on homework whenever the teen center is open.

The Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center is dedicated to their mission to provide youth with a safe space to connect with their community and to engage in opportunities to grow and have the freedom to be their best selves.

"This grant allows us to continue our mission by giving teens a fun and safe place to come every day. We offer opportunities that help teens foster social, emotional, physical, and academic growth in a safe welcoming environment," Silver Bay YMCA Youth and Teen Director Jackie Palandrani explained.

The center has seen a lot of use since its reopening in 2022, with over 130 teens enrolled for its first year back. During the 2022 to 2023 school year, the teen center continued to grow with 160 teens registered to use the space with as many or more expected for this school year.

The Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center is open Monday through Saturday throughout September through May for teens in grades sixth through 12. To learn more about the teen center, or to enroll a teen in this program visit <https://silverbay.org/youth-teen/>.

\*

### *Photos by Silver Bay YMCA*

***Ti Teen Center Photo 1:*** Silver Bay YMCA Chaplain Karen Skalla makes apple crisp and apple pie with some teens at the teen center.

***Ti Teen Center Photo 2:*** Teens from the Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center participate in Silver Bay YMCA's first ever "Zombie Hike".

***Ti Teen Center Photo 3:*** Teens from the Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center participate in a painting activity.

***Ti Teen Center Photo 4:*** Kickball has become a favorite game to play at the Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center this year.

**About the Charles R. Wood Foundation:** From a desire to share the success of his business and personal life, Charles R. Wood developed the foundation that bears his name in 1978 to provide assistance to worthwhile organizations supporting children, healthcare and the arts in the area. His extraordinary donations to the arts, healthcare and children — and his signature charitable venture, the Charles R. Wood Foundation — continue to fuel Charley's legacy of hope, compassion and healthy, wholesome fun to this day and hopefully for many generations to come.

**About Silver Bay YMCA:** Silver Bay YMCA, founded in 1902, is in Silver Bay, NY, just minutes south of Hague. Its 700-acre campus along one mile of Lake George shoreline offers a breadth of programs for all ages. Silver Bay YMCA is consistently ranked one of the top ten family reunion sites in the country and is on the National Register of Historic Places with the U.S. Department of the Interior. As a mission-based charity, Silver Bay YMCA offers outreach programs in addition to its core activities as a premier conference and family retreat center. Learn more about Silver Bay at [www.silverbay.org](http://www.silverbay.org).

**Our MISSION:** To foster relationships, strengthen communities and nurture spirit, mind, and body for all.

**Our IMPACT:** Because of Silver Bay YMCA, connections between people and family are stronger. People are more connected, respectful, and caring. They have the confidence to develop to their full potential and to positively impact the communities in which they work and live. As a result, communities are more dynamic, inclusive and diverse. As stewards of Lake George, we inspire people to be stewards of the environment while they are visiting our magnificent campus and in their home communities.