The McGaw YMCA has long instilled a love of nature and the outdoors in children through its resident camp, Camp Echo. Located on Long/Ryerson Lake near Fremont, Michigan, Camp Echo encompasses over 500 acres of lakeshore, woods, and wetlands. For many youth, Camp Echo is a life-changing experience that teaches them independence, life skills, and respect for one another.

It is not hard to define what makes Camp Echo so special – the staff, activities, location, and fellow campers. Camp Echo is structured to facilitate interpersonal connections between youth, building relationships face-to-face, without the distraction of technology.

CAMP ECHO

% OF CAMPERS WHO WANT TO GO BACK TO CAMP ECHO:

85% – Strongly Agree

“Can’t wait till next year. I want to be a CIT (counselor in training).”

“I can’t wait to go back!! Even though this year was my first I feel I have been going FOREVER!!”

12% Agree
2% Disagree
1% Strongly Disagree
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Throughout the summer over 1,300 children and teens participate in one- and two-week camping sessions and adventure trips. The McGaw Y also hosts family camp four times during the summer where children and adults of all ages can experience Camp Echo together. Campers choose their own activities, including horseback riding, water skiing, paddle boarding, arts and crafts, archery, bike riding, and much more. Year after year, campers and their families return to Camp Echo.

The McGaw YMCA works hard to ensure camp is accessible to youth and families from a range of backgrounds. Scholarships covering up to 90% of fees are available to help all who wish to attend camp. In FY2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015), Camp Echo provided scholarships totaling $202,941, a 25% increase in the amount of scholarships given the previous fiscal year.

Find out more: www.mcgawymca.org/CampEcho

% OF PARENTS WHO BELIEVE CAMP ECHO HELPED BUILD THEIR CHILD’S CONFIDENCE

70% – Strongly Agree

“Before Camp Echo our son lacked confidence in himself and his own abilities. The two week transformation after his first year of camp was remarkable. It totally allowed him to be a success in 5th grade.”

28% Agree

“My child is his best self at Camp Echo; he returns every summer more confident, more caring, more connected, and more his ‘real’ self.”

1% Disagree

0% Strongly Disagree

1% Don’t Know