

Grains of Sandy

125th Anniversary Celebration! *Black Tie or Tie Dye*



Come celebrate the 125th camping season with us on November 9th, 2024, on the Spirit of Boston! The Spirit of Boston departs from 200 Seaport Blvd., boarding will begin at 6pm.

The boat will embark at 7pm and return at 10pm. Music, dancing and fun are being planned!

Special thanks to Mark DiStefano and the 125th planning committee for organizing this amazing celebration!

Stay tuned for more details and a registration link to purchase tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime event!

A little history by Anya Archer...

It was March 1899, when a group of men from the Boston YMCA crossed the ice of Lake Winnepesaukee to inspect a 66-acre island, with a plan to start "a summer resort for young men working on small salaries and receiving short vacations where they could enjoy healthfully economically their summer outings." They found a pleasing island with a lovely natural beach, surrounded by pine and birch trees. There was a single cleared space in the center of the island, which became the camp's ballfield. Located in the center of the pristine lake and surrounded by mountain ranges, the men quickly decided that the island was the perfect spot for their camp. They arranged to rent it from the owners for \$100 per year. They decided to name it Camp Buena Vista since the island and its surroundings were so beautiful. They quickly arranged for structures to be built: a dining room, a social hall named Alhambra, two dormitory cabins, and a superintendent's cabin built on the south end of the island. The structures were all completed in time for the first season of camp which lasted from June 15 to September 7, 1899. The price to attend camp was \$15 for two weeks, which included round trip transportation from Boston.

The camp was so successful in the first year that in 1900 the decision was made to purchase the island for \$2000. Improvements were made, additional structures built, and Camp Buena Vista thrived. Around 1920, the decision was made to change the camp's name to reflect the island's name. Sandy Island Camp was born.

125 years later, Sandy Island Camp is still going strong. Could the founders who first explored our lovely island, or those first campers who attended camp in 1899 ever have imagined what our camp would be like in 2024? The island is still beautiful, the lake cool and clear, and the mountains still surround us. The facility looks very different, but the Sandy spirit and the love we have for our island is probably much the same as what those early campers experienced. As we look back at those who came before us and helped build our wonderful camp, we are reminded that it's up to us to be the stewards of this special place, and to pass it forward to the campers of the future.




Photos in order top to bottom:

A row of large tents along the waterfront, 1923
Sandy Island waterfront: Astoria, Alhambra and To-Rain, 1900

The old boathouse, before the Hurricane of 1938 destroyed it

What's better than camp? More camp!



Please consider our Sandy "kids camps"

North Woods Overnight Camp for Boys and Pleasant Valley Overnight Camp for Girls for your kids and grandkids ages 8 to 15.



Consider Joining Us For Session 1
June 23 - July 6

Check out our website:

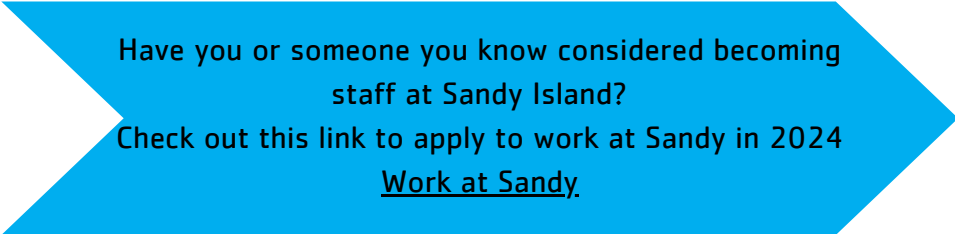
<https://camps.ymcaboston.org/prospective-families/>

Want to learn more? Fill out this form [HERE](#) and a camp team member will contact you!



There are a few open cabins left scattered over the summer. Check [here](#) to see the open cabins list.

All questions should be directed to Leah Tinstman @ ltinstman@ymcaboston.org



Have you or someone you know considered becoming staff at Sandy Island?

Check out this link to apply to work at Sandy in 2024 [Work at Sandy](#).



March 1
50% of Tuition is due for 2024 Registered Campers

May 1
Remainder of 2024 Registration Balance Due

May 17-19
Sandypalooza
[Learn more](#)

May 31-June 2
Live in Love Retreat

June 7-9
Sandy Strong

June 14-16
International Weekend
[Learn More](#)

June 29
2024 Season Starts



Contact Leea Regan with any questions you may have regarding the Grains of Sandy @ lregan@ymcaboston.org