

Dear NYSCDA Member,

We hope everyone is having a wonderful fall. We wanted to share the latest happenings for the New York Camp Directors Association. Please see the report below from our Lobbyists.

Two important pieces of information from NYSCDA:

1. Renew your membership for 2020!. We have made it very easy to renew [online here](#). You will be receiving more information about this over the coming weeks, but if you would like to renew early and get this off your to-do list, we appreciate the early enrollments.
2. Our Annual Meeting/General Meeting will be January 9th, 2020 at Pierce Country Day Camp in Roslyn, New York. We will have more information about this, but please save the date!

If there is anything we can do to support you and your organization, please reach out!

Yours sincerely,

Alicia Skovera  
Board President  
NYSCDA

Susie Lupert  
Administrative Coordinator  
NYSCDA

### **Fall Newsletter**

On behalf of Tress Capitol Advisors, we hope that NYSCDA members had a successful summer camp season. We visited three member camps this summer, all of which provided us with a diverse perspective on issues that campers, camp directors and staff face each day. Thank you to the Fresh Air Fund, Frost Valley, and Timberlake for taking the time out of your busy summer days to host us. We plan on touring additional camps next summer and look forward to the opportunity to experience your many unique and valuable programs.

[Albany Update](#)

The legislative session, which ended in June, was exceptionally busy for NYSCDA.

The Governor signed into law a bill requiring unregulated camps to disclose to parents that they are not subject to state regulation and oversight. Disclosure is required on enrollment forms and websites. The new law went into effect this week and is an important first step in ensuring public and parental awareness of camps that are not required to obtain a NYSDOH permit, are not state inspected and are not required to follow the same health and safety protocols that regulated camps must meet.

The NYS Department of Health's Camp Safety Advisory Council (CSAC) has recently experienced difficulty in forming a quorum for meetings due to several Council vacancies. As a stop-gap measure to help the CSAC meet and function as required by law, legislation was passed in June and signed into law which changes the definition of a quorum. As a result of this new law, the CSAC was able to meet this past week in Albany.

In addition to the above proactive measure, NYSCDA was able to stop several bills that would have a negative impact on our members, including legislation that prohibits regulated camps from using pesticides, a measure requiring propeller guards on instructional boats, and a bill requiring escrow deposits for child day care providers.

NYSCDA was also successful in exempting the camp industry from measures that had unintended consequences for our members. Camps are now exempt from the following pending bills:

- A bill that sets a 7-year limit on the tax exemption for property owned by non-profits by requiring them to build on the land within 7 years; and
- A bill that prohibits vehicles with nine or more passengers from operating without seatbelts if it is designed or modified after a certain date

NYSCDA continues to lay the groundwork to advance our priority bill allowing camps to hire additional professionals, such as mental health counselors. We encourage all camps to share their experiences with camper and staff mental health issues that occurred over this past summer. This information will aid our advocacy efforts for the 2020 legislative session.

We look forward to continuing our work in Albany to advance policies that improve the summer camp experience for all children and families across the state.