



What You Should Know About Your Gift to A Surprise Lake Camp Endowment

Surprise Lake Camp is committed to responsibly managing the endowment funds that were created for the benefit of the children we serve. In keeping with this, we follow the requirements and guidelines of the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (“NYPMIFA”), which was signed into law on September 17, 2010. This law requires the following:

1. Management of Endowment—Organizations must manage funds “in good faith and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.” The organization must make decisions based on eight enumerated factors, and may only incur costs that are appropriate and reasonable. Surprise Lake Camp has an active and dedicated Finance Committee that performs this task with the assistance of (a) professional advisor(s). The Finance Committee makes regular reports to the full Board of Directors.
2. Investment Policy—Organizations must have a written investment policy that conforms to the terms of NYPMIFA. Our policy seeks to achieve a balanced, diverse portfolio that is appropriate for an organization with Surprise Lake Camp’s mission and that will hopefully exist indefinitely. This includes using return on investment from our funds to meet defined program goals while growing the funds over time to keep pace with changing needs and with inflation. Our investment policy is available to donors upon request.
3. Appropriations—Organizations must make spending decisions from endowments based on a prudence standard that requires a review of eight factors. Organizations may spend below the original dollar value of an endowment gift if it is prudent to do so under the eight factor analysis. Decisions, including the substance of the consideration given to each of the required factors, must be documented in contemporaneous records of the governing body making such determinations. If, however, a donor provides written directions in a gift instrument that vary from the terms of NYPMIFA, the organization must follow the donor’s directions instead of the NYPMIFA prudence standard.

We are grateful to the many generous donors who have made it possible for deserving children to enjoy a magical, life changing experience at Surprise Lake Camp, and we are happy to answer any questions that our donors may have.