



THANKS TO OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS

January to April 2016

Sarah Balzer
Jenny Boehs
Clair Brenneman
Joe Burchman
Josh Carns
Leo Christner
Judy Classen
Paul Classen
Barry Cox
Tony Diederich
Taylor Ermoian
Bob Fowler
Peter Friesen
Randy Friesen
Frank Gaeddert
Mary Ellen Gaeddert
Andrew Gibson
Anita Goertzen
Jim Hathaway
Karen Hathaway
Sam Hershberger
Jill Hofer
Heidi Johnson
Allen Joseph
Dawn Kaczor
David Katz
Arlene King
David King
Jonathan King
Rick King
Tyler King
Franziska Klause
Amanda Koch
Anna Koehler
Seth Lantz
Steve Lantz
Matt Layman
Dennis LeFevre
Jen LeFevre
Lynn Lehman
Isaac Longacher
Lisa Longacher
Mark Longacher
Caleb Longenecker
Chad Martens
Cindy Martens
David Martens
Eldon Martens
Eldon Mast
Ken McDowell
Matthew McDowell
Jake Meacham
Daniel Miller
Dave Miller
Indigo Miller
Jodi Miller

Les Miller
Stan Miller
Dave Musselman
Charles Nafziger
San Nikkel
David North
Anali North Martin
Gerry Oakes
Meredith Oakes
Mark O'Brien
Debbie Reed
Doug Reed
Harlow Schmidt
Betty Schrag
Jonathan Schrag
Brad Schrock
Katrina Schrock
Alex Schuerman
Ed Shirk
Phyllis Shirk
Carol Showalter
Jim Showalter
Eric Siegrist
Kendal Slabach
Meg Smeltzer Miller
Danielle Smoker
Jason Smoker
Ethan Spicher
Jean Spicher
Jeff Spicher
Jenae Stutzman
Leon Stutzman
Levi Stutzman
Rachel Stutzman
Rodney Stutzman
Ardell Swartzendruber
Doug Swartzendruber
Glen Theiszen
Rich Thomas
Terry Troyer
Jeni Umble
Anna Unruh
Lyonell Unruh
Lauren Weaver
Ron Weaver
Bruce White
Ivan White
Jill White
Roger White
Kevin Wilder
Denise Woelk
Jasmine Woelk
Jerry Wyse
Lois Wyse
Tyler Wyse
Gilbert Yutzky

PLEIADES DEDICATION



It began in 1963, with the foundation for a log cabin, Pleiades, to be the home for female summer staff at RMMC. As camp continues to grow and change, the idea of what Pleiades is has evolved into a brand new building serving multiple purposes. The dedication on Sunday, May 29, celebrates the completion, purpose, and all those who made it possible (donors, volunteers, board members and staff). RMMC continues to fulfill the mission of being a place of retreat and Pleiades now provides a space for many to enjoy in the years to come.

"The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name." - Amos 5:8 NRSV

THE "GOOD SOIL" OF MENNONITE CAMPING

Through many years of camping ministry, I am especially humbled for the abundance of stories and fond memories campers and staff share about the joy and impact camping experiences have made in their life (and life direction). The experience might be as recent as the previous summer or as powerful as fifty summers ago! For so many, a camping experience offered an environment for individuals to nurture "good soil" for an abundant Kingdom harvest in the following ways:

A SAFE SPACE/PLACE FOR FAITH AND GIFT DEVELOPMENT

Camps invite and facilitate a safe space/place for campers, staff and guests to a relationship with God. Regardless of age, while some are building the first blocks of their faith, others might be adding and arranging those blocks (making them their own) as part of their faith development. Camp Pastors and staff join in to be present, a listening ear and supportive word of encouragement while maturing and working with their own blocks of faith. Developing gifts and talents is a natural part of the camping experience through a variety of activities and leadership opportunities. Individuals can discover a passion or gift they have in serving God's Kingdom through careers in music, foodservice, teaching or even seminary.



EXPERIENCING GOD IN A CHRIST LIKE COMMUNITY

Good relationships and shared experiences at camp are part of creating an atmosphere of acceptance and love. Campers gain insight and camaraderie from staff role models they look up to and are influenced by. For everyone, the 24/7 nature (and intensity) of a week(s) at camp offers transparency in who they are.

Everyone is simply themselves; taking advantage of a space/place away from normal pressures, routines or expectations. In place of judgment and agenda is a spirit of

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COME STAY WITH US!

Dates listed are available nights for ridge cabin rentals and Emmental Retreat Center

MAY 2016

Eagle's Nest: 1-11, 15-31
Sky-Hi-View: 1-26
Rocky Ridge: closed for winter
Solitude Center: 1-31
Emmental: 1-11, 15-27

JUNE 2016

Eagle's Nest: 2-4, 14-16, 23-30
Sky-Hi-View: 4, 16
Rocky Ridge: 1-4, 16-19
Solitude Center: 1-4, 11-20, 22-29
Emmental: 4, 29

JULY 2016

Eagle's Nest: 1
Sky-Hi-View: 17-18, 30
Rocky Ridge: 3-9
Solitude Center: 5-7, 14-21, 29-30
Emmental: none

AUGUST 2016

Eagle's Nest: 28-31
Sky-Hi-View: 11, 16, 21, 24, 29-31
Rocky Ridge: 21-27
Solitude Center: 5-31
Emmental: 17, 21-23, 31

Please call with interest in available dates and to make a reservation.



6&7 Grade Wilderness camps filled up quickly this year which prompted us to open a third week for 6&7 graders. Since then, both weeks of 8&9 Grade Wilderness camps have also met capacity. It's great to have so many young kids interested in exploring the great outdoors! There's still room in Senior High Wilderness - sign up!

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curiosity and genuine care when exploring and better understanding a variety of faith and life questions. The fruits of the Spirit (Galations 5:22-23) offers additional ingredients in community building. And what better way to teach/remember the fruits of the Spirit than to joyfully sing them ("The Fruit of the Spirit") as part of inspirational times of campfire singing and worship.

EXPERIENCING THE CREATOR THROUGH CREATION

The opportunity to be in and explore new and unique parts of creation offers a unique environment away from the routines, busyness and noise that life has to offer. A star filled sky, a hike in the forest, the water's edge of a lake are but a few examples of experiencing the peace and presence God offers us through creation. Here at Rocky Mountain, getting to the top of Raspberry Mountain or Old Baldy and enjoying the panoramic view is indeed a mountaintop experience! I encourage everyone to consider being part of a camping ministry where the opportunity to nurture and witness "good soil" in our youth, young adults and people of all ages has the potential to "... produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

- Corbin Graber

Submission for the April theme "The Camping Effect" of The Gathering Place (ministry of Mennonite Church USA) as part of the online blog for youth ministry connection, resourcing, and spiritual formation!

VOLUNTEERS - JONATHAN & BETTY SCHRAG

"But step out / and you will know / what the wise who traveled / this path before you / knew: / the treasure in this map / is buried / not at journey's end / but at it's beginning." -- Where the Map Begins by Jan Richardson

The Schrag's left Indiana on January 6, Epiphany, to follow their "inner star" to RMMC for a year of service. Jonathan works in maintenance, spending many hours finishing furniture for Pleiades and helping with snow removal. Betty spends her days helping in the kitchen, office, and with housekeeping. She also enjoys her "camp granddaughters". They both enjoy the bountiful sunshine and blue skies, meeting the many volunteers who come to work at camp, and getting outside to hike and snowshoe. A term they've adopted for friends for this adventure is "Retirement in Installments." Four months have flown by quickly and they continue to find "treasure" in the simple things on their journey. They are contemplating what God's calling is for next year.



WHAT YOU SAID...

"Great to escape the heat of summer in Kansas. Wish we could spend more time here! Great food, great staff, beautiful scenery, lots to do, loads of fresh air, and sharing the faith. Keep up the great work!"

- Facebook Review

"[RMMC] holds wonderful memories for our family, 6 years on staff, the place we got married, and 6 years of family camp. A wonderful place."

- Facebook Review



This past winter season brought lots of snow to RMMC. A total of 153 inches exceeded the average yearly amount of 125 inches. With good moisture on the ground, the threat of forest fires is less imminent and makes the Four Mile Creek flow swiftly again.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP

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Corbin Graber, Executive Director

Mary Yoder, Head Cook

Jenelle Roynon, Program Director

Tom Unruh, Facilities/Special Projects Dir.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ed Shirk, President

Jodi Miller, Vice President

Jean Spicher, Secretary

Dennis LeFevre, Treasurer

Diane Fowler

Lisa Longacher

Dave Miller

Rodney Stutzman

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is a ministry of the Mennonite Church with the purpose of providing a place of retreat which encourages holistic Christian growth by fostering the spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual growth of each guest.



VISION 2020 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



PLEIADES BUILDING PROJECT - "ARE WE ALMOST THERE?"

So how many of us on a trip as children, or now as adults, have wondered out loud how long it was going to take to get to our destination? Additionally, how many times was the full range of emotions (weariness to excited anticipation) experienced along the way?

After two years of construction, I will humbly suggest that a capital building project is COMPLETELY like taking a family trip, for everyone involved. Have there been "bumps" in the road along the way (excavation, spring water drainage, weather challenges, etc.)? Absolutely! Have we experienced unexpected hospitality along the way (abundance of moderate gifts, significant financial gift, volunteer regulars, etc.)? Absolutely!

Through it all, donors, volunteers, board members and staff have no doubt experienced first hand the question of "Are we there yet?" in reaching our destination, along with the full range of emotions. To that question, I've got good news to share for all involved:

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

With the dedication ceremony this month, the Pleiades building will be ready to move into and be enjoyed. How exciting is that?! Can't wait for your opportunity to see first hand the "destination" we have all been working towards.

That said, the "almost" is represented by the \$71,361 still needed to cover expenses. It is also represented by the need for volunteers to help with final landscaping (plants, pedestrian fencing, etc.) now that the ground is beginning to thaw.

Please be sure to stop by and see us and this amazing addition to the Rocky Mountain ministry!

-Corbin Graber

WHY WE'RE DOING THIS

Providing a variety of programs along with a variety of facilities is a unique challenge. Pleiades has been built to provide the following benefits to the camp's ministry:

- ❑ Accessible sleeping rooms with inside bathrooms near the DH/Lodge.
- ❑ Rooms for two persons to better serve increasing number of adult program retreats, church groups and volunteers.
- ❑ Provide a comfortable and functional infirmary for youth camps as required by our child care license.
- ❑ Improve female summer staff accommodations.
- ❑ Add needed permanent staff housing.
- ❑ Save money with improved energy efficiency (insulation, windows, etc.).
- ❑ Relocate staff lounge (now in Langnau room in DH/Lodge) to provide a new office entrance and lounge area for guests in DH/Lodge year around.
- ❑ Provide close spring water source to main camp facilities and Dining Hall/Lodge.

HOW YOU'VE HELPED



WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN: \$628,639 (90% of projects)

WHAT'S STILL NEEDED: \$71,361 (10% of projects)

TRAIL CALL

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YOU'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

We spotted Paul Unruh (Newton, KS) and his grandkids, Kai and Corey (Seattle, KS) wearing their RMMC shirts. Paul leads the MDS crews which have helped with the Spruce Beetle trees. Thanks, Unruh family, for sharing RMMC with Seattle!. Share your "spotted" photo with us. Email jenelle@rmmc.org

To change your preferences for how you receive publications from RMMC or update your contact info, please contact camp by phone or email.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5-11

Summer Staff Orientation
Colorado Roots Music Camp (guest group)

June 12-18

Senior High Resident Camp
Grade 6&7 Wilderness I

June 19-25

Grade 8&9 Resident Camp
Grade 6&7 Wilderness II

June 26 - July 2

Grade 6&7 Resident Camp
Grade 8&9 Wilderness I

July 3-9

Grade 4&5 Resident Camp
Grade 8&9 Wilderness II

July 10-16

Grade 6&7 Wilderness III
Camp Rocky (guest group)

July 16-22

Camp Pike (guest group)

July 22-24

Grade 3 Resident Camp

July 24-30

Senior High Wilderness I
Family Camp I (ends on July 29)

July 31 - August 6

Senior High Wilderness II
Family Camp II (ends on Aug 5)

SPRUCE BEETLE INFESTATION RESPONSE CONTINUES

Pheromone Packets - With the onset of warm weather, the spruce beetles are leaving their winter home (now a dead spruce tree) to look for a new spruce tree. To steer the beetles away from other spruce trees at camp and save the the trees, volunteers stapled pheromone packets (with ribbons) on selected trees. Volunteers distributed the packets approximately every 30 feet with the goal of protecting all the spruce trees in the area. The pheromone packets give a scent telling the spruce beetles that the trees in the area are already occupied and they should go elsewhere. This labor of love was accomplished by children, adult, and young adult volunteers, including past summer staff and friends. Their young legs were beneficial because tromping through 38 inches of new snow even with snow shoes is no easy task. Hopefully the reward for everyone who helped



will be to see the spruce beetles move away from the trees here at Rocky Mountain.



Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Tree Removal

Last fall, MDS crews helped cut down and remove 150+ spruce trees that were actively infected or had died from spruce beetle infestation. From May 18-June 4, MDS continues the work of disrupting the life cycle of the spruce beetle to minimize their numbers along with removing the danger from falling dead trees.

With these combined efforts and methods, it is hopeful that many of the mature spruce trees here at camp will be spared, leaving the beautiful surroundings healthy and alive.