



DRIFT CREEK CAMP *Currents*

Lincoln City, Oregon

Autumn 2011

Reflections of a Camp Counselor

What a summer! Each week I lived memories that will stick in my head for years. I was impressed by the closeness of our cabin during high school week. We opened up and were honest about our struggles and weaknesses. It was like we were sisters, carrying each other's burdens, and experiencing God's powerful love for each of us.

During Jr. High week my cabin had nicknames for us, and they would make up the most random stories at mealtimes. I loved the positive attitude of my Amazing Race team. They were so excited about everything and always encouraged one another. Even though we placed 5th, it still felt like we had won because we had such a great time!

There is something special about 5th & 6th grade, and I couldn't have asked for a better cabin. I loved watching the girls interact. If one's towel was wet, three girls would immediately offer theirs. One girl had never been a camper and was great to see her experience things for the first time. On camp out night, she told me, "I've never slept just under the stars before." Then we witnessed a star shoot across the night sky. "Wow!" She exclaimed, thrilled to see it. "I've never seen a shooting star before! Never!" Then while on a tubing run, she asked me to tell her about Jesus. It felt strange, yet so wonderful to tell Christ's story to someone for the first time. *Such times make camp come alive for me.*

Then there was 3rd & 4th grade, what an age! They had so many questions and kept calling me "teacher." One night a camper said, "Teacher, what are my activities tomorrow?" Another girls said, "No, it's 'Counselor,' not 'Teacher!'" From then on I was simply called Counselor. We had a homesick camper who had a tough time in the evenings so I kept sharing stories to get her mind off it. My reward came the last night of camp. As we walked into the lodge for snack, she said, "When my mom comes tomorrow, I'm gonna tell her all about this week! How I got homesick and missed her, but then how much fun I had with our awesome cabin! When I come back next year, I want you to be my counselor!"

It was an unforgettable summer, and an unforgettable staff. Some of my favorite times were when I could sneak away for a few moments with another counselor and share a cup of coffee or warm by the fire. It was good to be able to support one another, pray together and of course, the GROUP HUG! Thanks for an awesome summer. I can't wait to do it again!

-Ropheka Gershom



Happy camper, Ropheka Gershom, enjoys the delightful taste of S'mores with her cabin.

2012 Camp Calendar:

TENTATIVE DATES:

Parent & Me Camp

June 15-17

High School Camp

June 20-24

Grades 6, 7 & 8

June 24– June 28

Grades 3, 4 & 5

June 28-July 2

Surf Camp

TBD

Join us in 2012 to participate in summer programming at Drift Creek Camp.

Visit www.driftcreek.org in early 2012 for information, registration details, counselor and teen volunteer application forms.

To volunteer in the kitchen, contact Glen Oesch at

503-371-2183

foodservice@driftcreek.org

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Parent & Me: **Jana Gingerich** stepped in to fill the role of pastor and invited campers and parents to experience God's goodness. Thanks to the **Rich & Karen Kropf & John & Nancy Histand** families for providing meals. Thank you to camp nurses **Denise Diller** and **Claire Yoder**.

High School Camp: Camp pastor, **Eric Ivanitsky**, made the trek from California and invited campers to become more aware of God's many blessings all around them. Thanks to cooks **Sheryl Mast, Karlene MacGregor, Luanne Berkey** and **Cheryl Garber**, and to nurse **Annette Pike**.

Grades 7 & 8: Campers endured a lot of rain, but were inspired by camp pastor **Charlene Schrag**. Thank you nurse, **Bonnie Heppner** and kitchen volunteers **Ebelyn & Aijuan** (from Lebanon Mennonite's Micah House), **Derek & Ana Hostetler, Kelli Bacher, Kaitliana Rux** and **Hillary Garman**.

Grades 5 & 6: **Carlos Sequiera** was pastor and compelled campers to taste God's goodness with open hearts. **Alicia Beachy** was nurse; cooks were **Kari Stutzman, Solome Gershom, Urszula Balenkowski, John & Louise Gingerich**.

Grades 3 & 4: **Phil Rempel** led firesides and campfires while **Sarah Acosta** served as nurse. In the kitchen were **Sheryl Mast, Karlene MacGregor, Sandy Roth, Ruth Hopkins, Judy Gascho** and **Kelli Bacher**. *A special thank you to Kelli for tending to all the campers with special dietary needs!*

Surf Camp: **Merv Kropf** for directing the program and Pacific University grad, **Jefferson Bethke**, who was pastor. Thank you **Jani Jenkins** for serving as nurse. *Special thanks for Glen Oesch's service planning every meal and shopping for the loads of groceries! It is a giant job to facilitate Drift Creek's food service and we're grateful for Glen's willingness to do so! THANK YOU!*



*We appreciate the dedicated service of lifeguards and surf camp volunteers **Nissi, Tsid** and **Ropheka Gershom**. In addition, **Nissi** worked tirelessly directing teen volunteers with abundant cheer.*

Derek & Ana Hostetler (far left with sons **Chase** and **Lucas**) spent a week of their home-leave from MCC serving at Drift Creek. They have worked in several countries and currently live in Vietnam.

Mary Yoder (right) is an art teacher and led crafts for two weeks. She generously offered her expertise teaching campers to carve block prints, paint with wax, create altered journals and build mini-terrariums. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies!

Paul Manickam, completed Goshen College practicum at DCC and donated his photos for camp use!

Mike Ross led a variety of camp activities, read to campers, took photos and pitched in wherever help was needed!

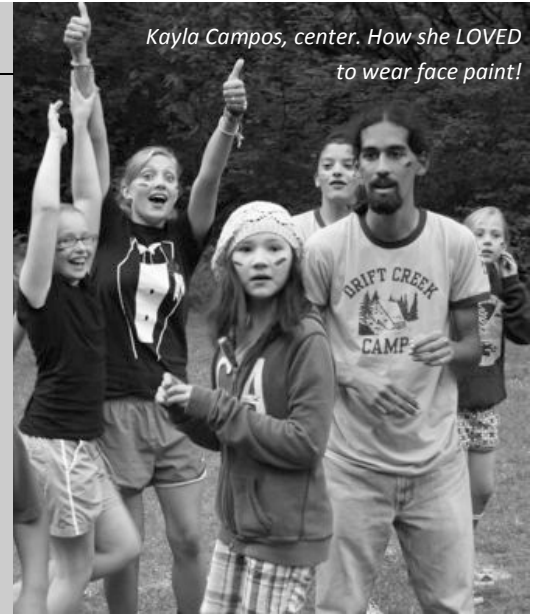


Remembering Kayla Campos

Our hearts broke when we heard the news that a girl we knew as a camper had been in a fatal accident near her home, just weeks after she had been to DCC. **Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Kayla Campos.** She will be remembered fondly. She was full of abundant energy and charisma; expressive and full of life. She jumped into every activity with both feet and lived with great passion. It was both an honor and joy to know Kayla. She had a wonderful sense of spunky humor and will be missed.

Kayla's Nehalem cabin-mates recently gathered for a sleepover they planned during camp. They spent time reflecting and talking about their time at Drift Creek; how they had bonded as a cabin, and how much they missed their friend, Kayla. They made a collage of pictures that they plan to take to camp next year in her honor.

For Kayla's family, *May God's grace and healing fill the empty space.*



Kayla Campos, center. How she LOVED to wear face paint!

Kayla Mast, Kristen Leichty & Tsid Gershom: Thanks for your passion and endless creativity! We are grateful for the loving care with which you interacted with every child throughout the camp season.

THANK YOU!



"There must have been so many people praying for a good summer because that was just what we had! The theme, Taste and See God is good, forced us to think on simple things that we take for granted. Things like food and creation. We don't always take time to enjoy these gifts. Both are around us all the time and show how GOOD God is! I tried to challenge campers (and myself) to crave God like we crave food! Just like you have to feed your stomach to live you also have to feed your soul. I was also blessed by our dedicated summer staff. When they were tired and felt like they could not go another minute, they spent the night staying up with that one kid that needed them. Their love and purpose for being at camp was evident every day! Thank you to all the volunteers! It is a special place and until you are there when summer camp is in full swing, there is just not words to describe just how special it truly is."

-Kayla Mast, Summer Camp Program Director

The Annual Members' Meeting & Family Camp
Friday-Sunday, Nov. 4-6

*A weekend of fun & fellowship,
It's a wonderful way to support DCC!*

**To register: driftcreek.org
or call 541-992-2556**

CAMP WISH LIST

- Sing the Journey & Sing the Story song books, music stands
- Hymnal accompaniment books
- Mattress covers for queen beds
- Dry-Z-Air for cabins
- Rechargeable AA batteries
- Shelving and large bins for storage
- Palm sander, utility trailer
- **Inner tubes!!!**
- Plywood to support mattresses
- 24-32 qt. stainless stock pots
- Lg. stainless steel mixing bowls
- Hand-held mixer
- **POSTAGE STAMPS, paper, ink, blank thank you cards (Empty ink cartridges turned into Staples w/ DCC phone #, 541-992-2556, earns \$3 ea.)**
- LP grille, hall tree, ottoman or coffee table for Yamhill
- Volunteers to paint in Yamhill's back room, bathroom & kitchen.
- **Vehicles for donation**

Leave a legacy...

*consider including
Drift Creek camp
in your estate planning.*

**Remember to donate items
for the Annual Meeting
Benefit Auction!
November 5, 2011**

Got hands?

WE NEED YOURS TO HELP
IN THE KITCHEN:

October 28-30
November 4-6
November 12
January 27-29
February 17-19
March 8-11
April 13-15

Your help is greatly appreciated!

We welcome individuals,
youth groups, friends &
families looking to serve.

If interested, contact:

Glen Oesch
503-370-2183

foodservice@driftcreek.org

Volunteers make a difference!

Peter and Marilyn Hartman, of Hesston, Kansas, arrived in early July, and made the Sitka cabin their home. The Hartmans were placed at Drift Creek through SOOP (Service Opportunities for Older People), which functions through Mennonite Central Committee. Working with the Hartmans the latter half of summer was truly delightful. Caretaker, Sara Gibson, described the experience saying, "It was like Peter and Marilyn brought the Kansas sunshine to Oregon with their warm dispositions and servants' hearts. We loved their adventurous spirits and will never forget the day Peter floated the loop! Marilyn shared so much love with our kids; we looked forward to seeing her every day. We are so thankful for their help, no job was too little or too big. They showed gracious hospitality to guests and were a huge part of helping camp run smoothly.

In reflecting on their service, Peter and Marilyn shared: "We were introduced to DCC as we followed Tony through Lincoln City, skillfully winding up one side of the mountain and down the other, crossing Drift Creek and into the serene setting of the Camp. We could not have imagined the peaceful retreat, away from the noise and bustle of the city, with huge, tall trees and a welcoming family.

We are pleased to have been volunteers through the SOOP program as a part of the camp's support team. It has been a blessing to see impressionable children being taught the principles of God's Word as well as having fun, good food, and fellowship,

all at the same time. Our experiences have been varied. From helping with restroom /shower cleanup and providing paper goods, sometimes helping with meal serving, doing laundry, clearing walking trails and other assigned projects. There has also been enough available time to make clocks and read books.

A surprise for Marilyn was to see humming birds looking for food. The feeder was just outside the deck door but it was empty. Marilyn provided

sugar water according to the recipe she used at home. She was delighted to see several hummers feeding regularly throughout their stay. Peter shared a whistle making project with Toby and his friend, Jessie. Then they invited him to cruise down Drift Creek on an inner tube. What fun! He certainly enjoyed tubing with those fine young men, an experience of a life time!

We have enjoyed evening walks with sightings of beavers, sounds of lots of birds, discovering a special tree blossom, being in awe of the giant trees in the Rain Forest, meditating by the laughing Creek and marveling at the wonders of God's creation.

An event that initially drew us to Oregon was the Kauffman cousins reunion which was held at Drift Creek August 5-7. We have certainly enjoyed working with Tony & Brenda and Aaron & Sara and their family. We give praise to God for these opportunities and pray that the Camp will continue to be used for HIS glory."

-Peter and Marilyn Hartman



Sharing life's e x p e r i e n c e through service:

SOOP gives adults of all ages an opportunity to use their gifts to help others and make a difference in others' lives. SOOP participants serve at locations throughout the United States and Canada.

Camping is "in tents"!

In early August, 39 people from Portland Mennonite Church descended onto Drift Creek, some for the first time, ready to camp and hang out. Several pitched tents in the ball field and some slept in cabins. There were conversations and s'mores around the fire, tubing on the creek, swimming in the Canyon, hiking on trails, reading and relaxing! Saturday evening campers took a break from "roughing it" to enjoy the luxury of a hot meal in the lodge. Prior arrangements had been made with the Kauffman family in the lodge, to have the PMCers come in for the evening meal. Both groups were gracious and respectful of one another and hosting two separate groups proved to be a win/win for everyone! By sharing the site, the weekend maximized one of the few rentable summer weekends .



Ministerios Restauracion meets at Portland Mennonite Church. Nelly Ascencio, daughter of Pastor Samuel Moran, has been actively encouraging her Hispanic congregation to get more involved at Drift Creek. Through the encouragement of PMC Youth Pastor, Curt Weaver, Nelly attended Parent & Me Camp with her son and started exploring opportunities to get her church community to camp. A date was set and at the end of August, nearly 40 church members arrived, ready to enjoy the weekend.

Because it was the first-time for most, the whole group toured the grounds. Together they visited the amphitheater, "inspiration point" and the entire Creek-side trail! There were children so small they had to be carried and older folks who needed assistance as well. It was certainly a group effort and an exercise in building community. Both groups, PMC & Ministerios, were blessed by *perfect weather*.



*Above Center: PMC campers.
Above: The tasty Guatemalan cooking
was a highlight for DCC staff during
the Ministerios' weekend!*

Drift Creek Camp

is owned and operated by the Mennonite Camp Association of Oregon, Inc. It is authorized under a special use permit from the Siuslaw National Forest. DCC is a member of the Mennonite Camping Association.

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Glen Oesch

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Administrators

Tony and Brenda Kauffman

Currents

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For camp updates and photos, become a fan of DCC.

Receive DCC announcements

via email at:

www.driftcreek.org/

Get Involved/Keep Informed



More Geologic Change Discovered around Drift Creek Camp



Left, view from the top of the Hike to the Rock, circa 1975. Right, Roger Oakes and Tony Kauffman atop the rock at its new location on June 19, 2011. See more photos of the slide in Drift Creek Camp's Rock Face-book photo album.



Last fall I spent many of my free afternoons hiking anything that remotely looked like a trail searching for the famous "rock." I had heard the stories of the wonderful rock and had seen the black and white photos of pensive hikers looking out over the grand vista of camp and wilderness. I knew it was close, but try after try I could not seem to find "the rock." I had never been there personally, but I listened carefully to many recollections from the seasoned staff and campers who had been there in years past and I kept at it.

It ends up that I was not the only one interested in finding "the rock." A few others went out to look for and refresh the trail so that a new generation could have the experience. Unfortunately, landmarks and trails return rapidly to their natural state of dense vegetation in the Pacific Northwest and no one could seem to find it.

Enter long-time camper, Roger Oakes. Armed with an adventurous spirit and a modern GPS system, he managed to find "the rock" using the GPS coordinates of DCC and the angle at which the old photos from "the rock" were taken. He relocated it this January. He was very surprised when he came back for Parent and Me camp a few months later and "the rock" was gone. It had relocated several hundred feet down the side of the mountain taking down trees and bulldozing the soil until it came to an angle of repose not far from the road.

DCC is located on the Siletz River Volcanic Series

formation. Our portion of the coast range is made up of a softer and more vesicular type of basalt. This mountain range was formed long ago as a series of submarine volcanoes far out in the oceanic crust that were scraped off onto our continent. They are very ancient and highly weathered mountains making them susceptible to rock slides.

Mark Your Calendar

November 12, Fall Mushroom Event at Drift Creek Camp

Program planned by Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center. Featuring a class by Northwest Mushroom Expert, Jake Hurlbert, with ample time for collection and identification.

Watch the DCC website for more information.

This has been a big year geologically-speaking, for getting to see massive weathering and change up-close and first-hand near camp. We had the cliff face at Drift Creek Falls flake off erasing the beautiful, smooth, mossy face of the falls and obliterating the plunge pool at the bottom and now we have "the rock" that rolled. It is still worth it to take the new Hike to the Rock to visit it in its new resting place, just to see the scope of what can happen when something that large dislodges and takes off down the mountain-side. Be prepared to hike through some scree and vegetation but it is a great adventure to see such a fresh geologic change to our area.

- Sara Gibson, Caretaker

New Nature Center Classroom Provides Kids with Work Space

"The first activity was TODAY! We set up the microscopes out there for X-stream exploration. It was great!" Brenda Kauffman reports to the board of directors how the first nature activity turned out in the newly completed classroom. "Things that could improve the space: better lighting and maybe a wipe-off board or chalkboard."

Tony Kauffman headed up the project to modify the north side of the activity building to include a closed-in room that is 10 feet by 24 feet. This new space will give kids and adults another dedicated location for equipment, nature activities and projects.



Nature Not Boring at Drift Creek

This summer I had the joy of leading the nature activities at Drift Creek. Heading into the job, I was somewhat concerned on how I could teach the kids nature and have fun at the same time- mainly based on own experiences of being in nature activities as a camper. I focused the activities on capturing and studying macro-invertebrates, a subject that had been one of my strong-points in biology the previous school year.

Every day I would lead the kids out to the creek, find an area with high turbidity, and teach the kids how to catch macro-invertebrates and accurately identify them. The weather at camp wasn't always cooperative; there were lots of cold rainy days when we'd wade through the



frigid water, scooping up organisms as quickly as possible before retreating to the nature classroom where we could identify them away from the rain.

I personally wasn't sure if kids were enjoying the activity until one day one of the campers asked if he could stay for his free-time to identify the creatures. To me that was really exciting because it meant that kids were actually finding what I was teaching interesting! In a time they could be spending playing foosball in the lodge or talking with friends, they were identifying macro-invertebrates.

As the kids got younger, the more interested they seemed to be in the activity. Their attention spans, however, also proceeded to shorten, and I began to allow them to catch critters other than macro-invertebrates. I encouraged them to catch anything they found fascinating or bizarre. A lot of the campers used the scuba masks to find young crawdads and others spent their time chasing fish. Whatever the case, we ended up snaring tadpoles, fish, crawdads, mayflies, stoneflies, and all sorts of slippery things.

The last week of camp was also the youngest full week of campers, 3rd-4th grade week. Knowing that this particular age group is a bit more tiring than most, I was expecting my daily nature activities to be a bit more stressful than usual. Surprisingly this wasn't the case. Although I had large groups, the kids who participated actually wanted to be there, making my job a lot easier.

By the end of camp, I had campers telling me that nature was their favorite activity and that they never knew nature could be fun. I think an exact quote was something along the lines of "I never knew nature could be this fun. I always thought it was about boring things like plants." Hearing that made me sure that I had been successful in what I believed was my role as the naturalist this summer. Knowing that kids went away from summer camp believing that biology could be engaging and fun made me feel confident in what I had been teaching.

-Ana Smith, Summer Camp Naturalist

DRIFT
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CAMP



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DCC Annual Meeting, Nov. 4-6, 2011

October

7-9 Faith Baptist Women
14-16 Evergreen Women
28-30 Albany Mennonite Church

November

4-6 **DCC Annual Meeting**
12 **Mushroom Workshop** with Friends of
Straub Environmental Learning Center

December

9-11 Adams Family

January

13-15 Grace Pointe Nazarene Women
19-22 Grace Community Men
27-29 Zion Mennonite Church

February

17-19 Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship

March

8-11 **DCC Quilters**

April

13-15 **Oregon Mennonite Women**

CAMP NEWS: www.driftcreek.org
and on Facebook under Drift Creek
Camp or follow the website link.

To receive camp news via email:
[www.driftcreek.org/Get_Involved/
Keep_Informed.](http://www.driftcreek.org/Get_Involved/Keep_Informed)

For information or reservations,
contact info@driftcreek.org
or call the office at 541-992-2556.

We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers who support DCC!

Summer camp would not be possible without many volunteers! Thanks to the following folks who generously gave of their time:

- **Todd Lehman**, for the helpful work during orientation to ready the grounds and buildings for the arrival of campers!
- **Ken Beachy, school counselor**, for spending time with summer staff to guide and equip them with important tools for talking with and listening effectively to campers. *Thank you for your insight on good listening!*
- **Kristin Ramsted, forester**, for providing a thoughtful and informative introduction to Drift Creek's natural surroundings for summer staff. *Thank you for the anecdotal stories of how many of camp's natural resources may have been used by Native Americans and early settlers, which was very applicable to our Taste & See theme.*
- **Seth & Brie Ediger, former caretakers**, for challenging the summer staff to fully embrace their call to leadership and to use their role to show Christ's love to campers. *Thank you for your personal insight and reflections on your own camp experience.*
- **Carson & Kathleen Hershberger, Ropes Course Managers**, for making the YWAM base available to DCC staff to practice team-building skills as part of their counselor orientation.
- Thank you to the many **kitchen volunteers** who donate their weekends throughout the year to serve in the camp kitchen!
- Thank you to everyone who contributed to **Work Weekend 2011!** Your many hands made it possible to be ready for the camp season! Thank you for hauling firewood, moving wood chips, installing toilets, cleaning every nook and cranny! Thanks so much!
- **All the churches who made it possible for kids to attend through camperships, birthday offerings & sponsors. Thank you!**
- **Thanks to Zion Mennonite Church's BBQ lunch that raised funds for DCC operations! Your gifts make a difference!**