

MENNONITE CAMP ASSOCIATION OF OREGON



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

While we are excited to think about celebrating Drift Creek Camp's 60th Anniversary in the 2022, it is not without feeling conflicted thinking about the history of this land...

We honor and celebrate the rich and profoundly resilient cultures of our neighboring indigenous communities. We acknowledge that DCC campers are not the first to walk these paths. We are not the first to look up with wonder at the towering trees or be refreshed by the mountain stream. As much as we love DCC and consider this ground to be sacred, we humbly honor the first people who lived here, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Grand Ronde.

May healing grace rain down and may peace roll like a river.

RENTAL GROUPS

Albany Mennonite Church
Jane Goodall Environmental School, Salem, OR
Corban University Ministry Students, Salem, OR
Boy Scouts, Lincoln City, OR
Hershberger Family, Madras, OR
Wenger Family, Corvallis, OR
Ministerios Restauración, Portland, OR
Camp Risen Son, Falls City, OR
Fairview Mennonite Church, Albany, OR
Marvin Boss Family, Aurora, OR
New Life Missionary Church, Portland, OR
CS Lewis Academy, Newberg, OR
JGEMS, Salem, OR

YAMHILL:

Anne Anderson,
Scott Shetler,
Stewart Mones,
Bobby Wall,
Ben and Becca Wigton
Chris and Bonnie Lehman
Kara and Mike Hanson
Phil Toews, Sy and Sandy Smith
The Hive church planners
Derek Scholl, Dennis Gingerich
Tim Wenger, Levi Kropf

The 2021 Fall Quilt Retreat was in mid-October. We waffled on whether to host it as Covid numbers fluctuated, but moved ahead. We limited attendance so that sleeping rooms would only have two people and so quilters could spread out for meals and workspace. It all went very smoothly! It has been a treat to develop relationships with the quilters over the years. *What a joy to discover the threads that connect us all.* We look forward to HOPEFULLY being able to host more DCC programs again soon!

VOLUNTEERS-OUR HEROES

VOLUNTEERS: *We are grateful for the many hands that keep camp rolling! We really do depend on volunteers!*

-Thank you to Fairview Mennonite for dedicating two weekends to DCC! Thanks, Dan and Dorie Roth, for organizing and providing meals for the workers. What a tremendous blessing this group was! Together they accomplished so many tasks: They removed the old side rails from the bridge, which also meant dismantling the pipe that housed the old phone line. Once into the project, it was clear that the rail condition was much worse than we thought. Some rails crumbled into the creek in the process! YIKES! They replaced metal roofing on the pantry where part of a tree had fallen and had punctured the roof. They split wood for days! They helped to resurface the main floor bathroom walls and sink. *(The bathroom flooring still needs to be torn out and replaced. OR, we may just expose and polish the existing concrete.)*

-The Fairview youth walked the entire gravel road picking up trash and debris along the way! They applied new chips on the path to the amphitheater and deep-cleaned the cabins in preparation for summer!

-Laura Charles and Matt Wiens were faithful volunteers over several 2021 weekends. They helped repaint the third floor of the lodge and sealed the cedar shakes on all four of the new cabins. They also repainted the interior of Alsea!

-Lori Eberly, along with her mom and daughter, helped repaint the third floor of the lodge; Karin Gingrich Weaver and Sonya Kauffman-Smith helped paint the doors fronts of the new cabins.

-Thanks to the crew from the Mandate School who helped with painting the fascia boards on the new cabin and installing the pellet stove on its main floor. They also rehung the gutters on the Activity Center, which had been damaged by fallen limbs.

-Thank you, Merv Kropf, for his creative help with "Camp Gear" and for your vision with having custom shirts be a summer camp highlight! Thank you Laura Linares of Fig Jewelry for your amazing gift of time and supplies to enrich crafts for high school week!

Thank you, Sara Gibson, for your amazing help with summer camp! Your energy and knowledge are incredible! Thanks for the hikes, the crafts, the plant identification lessons, the moral support! Thank you Barrett Gibson for filling in with lifeguarding and being willing to help whenever you could. Your willingness to help is deeply appreciated.

-Thank you, Brandon Chupp & John Gingerich for tech support with the website! Thank you, Mervin, for printing gear!

-Thank you to Wilbur Kauffman for creating our last-minute, "Yes, we're having camp" registration form!

I'm so sorry for anyone I missed! There are so many hands for which to be grateful...

Feel motivated to support DCC but not sure what would be helpful? *Look here:*

- ***DCC needs volunteers to help with facility projects!*** The operation interruptions of the road closure, Brenda's cancer and Covid, have meant that many tasks and projects have been put on hold. We are currently without caretakers so our time is stretched more thinly than usual. Would your family, small group or Sunday School class be willing to take on a project? We can provide housing and meals for groups or individuals willing to volunteer. Projects might include: paint the interior of summer cabins; help finish the main floor bathroom project; replace several non-working bathroom fans; install trim in new cabin & bathrooms; repaint craft room; replace front doors on lodge, split wood/chop kindling; misc. grounds work!
- Enjoy scrapbooking? Use your creativity and simultaneously provide a treasure of memories for generations of campers to come!
- Marketing? Many of our regular school groups were unable to come to camp this year due to Covid restrictions and others canceled due to budget cuts. DCC's customer base needs to grow. *Do you have creative ideas that can help maximize revenue or reach prospective guest groups? Especially for possible weekday groups? Our weekends tend to fill up, but there is a lot of flexibility for mid-week groups.*
- Writing? There are various grants available to fund future projects. *We'd love to see energy conservation projects be funded through grants.* We would also love to get a safe rubber floor covering installed in the Activity Center.
- Last year we opened the **CAMP STORE** at www.driftcreek.org. This was such a fun project and a great way to connect with DCC fans near and far. The online store is still in operation and new gear will be posted soon! Anna Park has designed cool wooden stickers and soon there will be canvas totes for your shopping needs. Emily Stutzman has put her creative juices to work and designed new gear for the campers on your Christmas list! (Hoping to get new gear posted soon!)
- Designate **Mennonite Camp Association of Oregon** as your non-profit recipient every time you order merchandise from Amazon. **Log in to smile.amazon** and camp receives a percentage of your purchase!
- Choose DCC as a recipient for your Bottle Recycling in Salem!
- Help orchestrate craft projects for camp! We always need ideas and supplies!
- Consider working as a caretaker during the summer. Once the new cabin is constructed, the Sitka Cabin will be available again for staff housing so we can have extra Caretakers to take on the heavy load of hosting busy summer usage. We need extra hands in the spring with outdoor work preparing the trails, summer during camp programs and in the fall with outdoor school groups. We're looking for creative solutions to meeting camp's staffing needs.
- **It's not too early to plan to work in the kitchen during summer camp! Many hands are needed!**

DCC SUMMER CAMPS

SUMMER CAMP, 2021: *Love God, Love Your Neighbor*

We are so grateful that we were able to safely squeeze in summer camp between Covid highs. Thank you to everyone who trusted us with their kids! It was a lovely summer and it was obvious that everyone was so happy to be back at Drift Creek! There seemed to be an extra layer of gratitude! Programs had a slower pace with smaller groups, but it made the transition back into programming manageable after a 2-year break. For summer staff, we had mostly all familiar faces. Former campers Lilly French and Ruby Anderson took on the role of Program Directors. The two made a fantastic team! They were intentional, thoughtful and creative. They rolled with all the Covid punches and developed on-their-feet problem solving skills as restrictions were fluid. We are deeply grateful for their compassionate leadership.



From Lilly: Something I am sure I have in common with many of you reading these words is that DCC holds a special place in my heart. My first time at camp was the summer of '15. I was a sophomore and I had been invited by a friend who was a boy, so I was worried I wouldn't have a friend in my cabin. I remember being swept away by how welcoming everyone at camp was. I felt an overwhelming sense of relief and of welcoming that has carried me forward to this day. I find myself with similar feelings every time I go back.

This summer I was honored to be one of the summer camp program directors. Ruby and I faced many challenges, including COVID regulations and rusty memories of camp games, but we built many wonderful new memories as well. A personal highlight was the invention of a new activity that I hope will stay for years to come: *Berry Hike with Kyle!* It was an absolute joy to watch counselor, Kyle Diller, teach campers about various plants at DCC. It was even better to see them return from the activity with their hands covered in sticky berry juice. To me, these joyful memories are what camp is all about. Camp is about learning new things, making new friends, and connecting with nature. I think it is safe to say that we accomplished these things this summer. I'll be dreaming of orange cafeteria tables and stuffy Alsea bunk beds until I can be there again.

From Ruby: Brenda asked, "What does camp mean to you?" My experience this summer changed, for the better, what I think of when I hear the word 'camp'. It was an especially challenging summer for me, but it was also by far the most rewarding. There were big shoes left to fill by the previous program director, and after two years without camp, along with constantly changing covid restrictions, it felt like an exciting, yet daunting task.

Though covid restrictions could have made the summer difficult and boring, my time at camp felt refreshing as a community of campers, staff and Earth knit itself back together after so much time apart. Throughout the summer I found myself continually impressed by everybody's resilience and patience as we figured out how to return to the rhythm of camp. Of course, camp is about the campers, but some of my favorite summer memories come from little moments shared between counselors. My nerves at the start of the summer made me worried about how this group would bond after not having seen each other for so long, but I am happy to report that I saw camaraderie and friendships form that I never expected to see. I remember this year at camp as one full of sun soaked afternoons, belly laughs, and starry nights filled with campers shouting the lyrics to 'Walk in the Light'.

I now see camp as both a place for personal growth, and a place that inherently creates a community between both your peers and the Earth. I think that there are few places that so easily create such meaningful experiences, and I consider myself incredibly lucky that I get to spend my summers at one such place. 'Thanks' feels like too small a word to sum up my appreciation, but I am so grateful to everyone who makes Drift Creek what it is, and I cannot wait to see what the future of this place has in store.

As I read the reflections of Ruby and Lilly and think about the experiences of my own kids, I am convinced that while we talk so much in orientation about camp being for the campers, I am struck by how deeply the experience impacts the staff! When I think of each of the past summers, so many of the memories center around the daily staff meeting circle. THAT is where we have had the privilege to see young adults grow and blossom! Every year I am asked to write reference letters for former staff, whether it is for jobs, internships, or even med school. It is so rewarding to build relationships with these young adults...to see kids transition from camper to Teen Volunteer to Counselor.

Female Staff: Ruth Reimer-Berg, Emma Gingerich, Claudia Mobley, Emily Pérez, Olivia Hazelton, Iris Anderson, Shanti Kauffman, Mana Acosta

Male Staff: Ian Martin, Nathan Pauls, Alec Hibbard, Kyle Diller, Logan Nord, Andrew Nord, Saroj Kauffman

Lifeguards/Training: Mana Acosta, Barrett Gibson. Sara Gibson led hikes/crafts. Conrad Gowell, Becca Wigton & Chris Nord provided staff training

Parent and Me: Pamela (pastor); Michael (nurse); Karen Tieszen (book discussion) Cooks: Ed P., Cathleen Hockman-Wert, Kropf/Histand

HIGH SCHOOL: Jerrell Williams (pastor); Kristina Kraybill (nurse); Cooks: Gwen Peachey, Lori Eberly, Kelsey Preuitt, Heather Gingrich

7 / 8: Serenity Coulombe (pastor); Sarah Acosta (nurse); Judy Gingerich, Jeremy and Jennifer Gingerich, Kristin Oakes

5 / 6: Logan Mordhorst (pastor); Lynette Hershey (nurse); Cooks: Lyn and Janice Miller, Katie Chupp, Melissa Nisly, Aly E., **Crafts:** Dianna/Laura Eshleman
Lyn Miller, Leon Eshleman and Simon Obold Eshleman worked on facility projects during the week.

3 / 4: Tim Shenk (pastor); Linford Beachy (nurse); Cooks: Deb Lang & friend, Vonnie Oyer & Sarah Sager, Alicia Beachy, Clean-up volunteers: Trevor and Abby Oyer, Stan Oyer (**WHAT A HUGE HELP TO HAVE EXTRA HANDS FOR CLEAN-UP!**)

2021 Disc Golf Tournament/ It worked well to schedule tournament following summer programs, but we dropped the ball with getting the word out to many parents who might have stayed with their camper to participate, but having it right after ¾ grade didn't exactly correspond well. Wondering about doing it on a weekend preceding or following high school camp as there could be students would want to participate...The weekend was a lot of fun! **A HUGE THANKS to Trevor & Jared Oyer** for all their planning, everything from the logo to score-cards! And to Jennie Kauffman for the towels—which will be available in the camp store for the disc golfer in your life!

DCC STAFF UPDATES:

Glen Oesch: I have been privileged to spend two different 12-year periods at DCC: 12 years as co-administrator with Lois and 12 years as food service manager. It was fun, exciting and satisfying to observe the development of eager, shy 3rd and 4th graders transform into responsible teenagers who exhibit promise as future contributing members of society. Was it worth transporting tons of food to camp? I say, yes! It was very satisfying to be a part of the spiritual development of campers and staff. A heartfelt thanks to all of you dedicated volunteers and supporters who make this ministry a reality!

Josh & Anna McLaren: I cannot possibly express our gratitude and the love we have for all of you and your support and encouragement for our family in the last 5 years. We have made the always hard decision that it was time for us to move on. We have accepted jobs as the Managers of an apartment complex in Lincoln City. It was a really quick decision and move for us, and has made the goodbye to the camp especially hard, but we are looking forward to this new challenge. And even though the girls will miss camp, they are pretty excited to live closer to their friends and be able to walk to the library! We are sad to be missing the annual meeting for a chance to say goodbye to everyone in person, but we have created new DCC lovers in the girls and plan on making sure Gus is as addicted as the rest of us, especially now that we've taught them to help with dishes! We are so incredibly grateful to all of you whether you supported us with encouragement, much appreciated cleaning, being a kitchen buddy, or simply for including our kids in your activities. I think the most amazing thing for me these years was watching Maddie follow everyone around soaking up information, Ruby talking patient quilters ears off, and Gus being toted around by Teen Volunteers! I got to not only share my favorite childhood place with my kids, but experience it with Josh and watch him grow to love the place as much as all us old campers. Thank you all for everything, and we hope to see you all at the next event!



Maddie: Thank you all for coming to camp. Me and my sister loved it when you groups came over and I miss you all already. I love the way we used to play and the way we got to know each other. And I hope to meet again sometime in the future. **Ruby:** I love all you groups and I love when you guys came. **Tony & Brenda,** along with their family, are grieving the loss of Brenda's dad, Derald Hostetler, who died unexpectedly in September. The farm seems empty without him, but there is comfort in knowing his feet walked the rows of trees. Otherwise, we are finding our pace. Shanti is a junior at Bethel College. Saroj is home and working at Rickreall Farm Supply.

There have been major challenges both at camp and at home for the past few years with the road closure, Brenda's cancer, adoption grief, etc. We hope to be able to establish a regular routine again as we crawl out from Covid. We are anxious to see how DCC's staffing needs are resolved as it is currently overwhelming to be short-handed. It is easy for camp staff to be spread too thinly and experience burn-out. With the new cabin there will be more flexibility for staffing. We are open and eager to looking at things with a new lens and seeing what creative solutions unfold!

DCC BOARD:

Christine van Belle, Chair
Chris Nord, Vice-Chair
Karen Tieszen, Secretary
Kevin Hockman-Chupp
Kristin Oakes
Kelsey Sommer
Kelsey Preuitt
Larry Passmore
Levi Kropf
Kristialyn Johnson

LOOKING AHEAD:

Staff Orientation: June 12-17

High School: June 19-24

Grades 7 & 8: June 26-July 1

Parent & Me: July 1-3

Grades 5 & 6: July 3-8

Grades 3 & 4: July 10-15

Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men, will be at DCC during orientation as part of his the plant 1 million trees project!



Drift Creek Quilters: March 10-13

Mennonite Women's Retreat: April 8-10

PNMC Board Retreat: May 13-15



DCC 60th Anniversary: Spring 2022???

Fall Quilt Retreat: October 13-16

2022 Annual Meeting: November 4-6

While we didn't have a "Work Weekend" in 2021, people from Fairview Mennonite came to work on projects. This approach was efficient and easier to manage for camp staff. It would be great to have small groups of volunteers take on projects throughout the year. Please contact us if you have a group willing to work and we'll match a project to your skill-set! *There is always work to be done!*

**Remember to visit the CAMP STORE
for your DCC gear and apparel!**

We plan to provide regional church deliveries again in December or we can ship straight to you or the happy camper on your Christmas list!

With a deep river of gratitude for your prayers, acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and helping hands, we thank you.

-DCC BOARD AND STAFF-