

AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2024 Newsletter

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT" said a camper in 2023 when the truth of Scripture was initially shared. Fast forward to the summer of '24... the same counselor greeted the same returning camper a year later and was asked, "When will we have our first Bible study?"

At Camp Appanoose we do not force young persons to assent to belief in the truth of the gospel. We do not resort to manipulation or emotional appeals. Rather, we expose the truth of God's Word in a life setting (the camp week), much as Moses instructed parents in Deuteronomy six, to teach as they rise up, as they lie down, and throughout the activities of the day (paraphrase). Truth is sourced in God's Word, but finds expression in all facets of life. Each day at camp begins with a small group, counselor led Bible study, called "Log Book Time". In house prepared, interactive Bible studies are designed to draw campers into Scripture which then finds application throughout the day. Camp days conclude with BTT (Bible Talk Time) in the evening, during which a Bible teacher will bring the day's lesson to a focus. Finally, campers are encouraged to discuss in their small groups, with their counselor, the spiritual truth presented that day. Ultimately, it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

We are privileged to be a part of God's work in the lives of young persons. It is not about Camp Appanoose or any one of us, but about the redemptive work of God in human lives.

LIFE ON THE ROCK

The well-known parable which Jesus told in Matthew seven about a wise builder and a foolish builder was the back story of this year's challenge to campers. Contrasting builders, one constructing the house of his life on soft and soothing sand while the other making special effort to build on a rock solid foundation, illustrates the eternal wisdom of listening to God's Word and building life on that immovable foundation. In a culture which often encourages young persons to "just go with the flow", "never make waves", and accept what God says is unacceptable, the message of Matthew 7:24-27 is invaluable. It is rewarding to see campers interacting with God's Word.

AN ENGINEER NEEDED

Some time ago, Camp Appanoose was gifted with a quality O gauge model train which we hope to mount in the camp dining room above the windows and doors. It will be operational with lighting and sound and should enhance the enjoyment of campers. Needed, however, is someone who could design and construct the shelf. The needed engineer does not need experience in an actual locomotive, but rather the engineering skill to construct a shelf which is both camper friendly and attractive in the room. If you could be that engineer, please contact the camp office at 641.649.2491, cabar@campappanoose.org, or Pat Amsden at 641.895.0295. We would like to see it operational sometime this fall so that we can incorporate its use into a craft and a lesson next summer.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

As many of our friends and supporters know, the past few years have been rather challenging financially. We are so thankful for those of you who have dug deep and, in many cases, supported us sacrificially and generously. We are humbled by your commitment and will continue to try to live up to the trust you have placed in us. Pray with us that the Lord of the harvest will show His mighty hand in providing for the needs of those who labor for Him here at camp. This fall we will be suspending, for a year, our Fall Roundup event

in favor of several events which will focus specifically on developing new resources leading to a more stable financial picture and long term expansion.

OPERATION FACE LIFT – CAMP APPANOOSE FACE LIFT! - *While it continues to be our goal to better facilitate year round ministry with lodging and other important amenities, we have the ongoing need to renew our present facility. We are grateful for progress:*

Δ Wagon Camp Lighting -Four new lights are installed in the wagon camp to expand the lighting system while minimizing light pollution in the night sky.

Δ Reconstruction of playground Infrastructure is underway, some equipment has been relocated to a more pleasing and safe setting and some has been retired. The landscaping has been altered to re-route the water flow. Rubber mulch has been provided to enhance safety beneath play equipment. This project will be completed by volunteers this fall

Approximately 60,000 are still needed to improve the lift station, refinish the pavilion floor, update the filling station and replace some of the Conestoga wagons.

The \$25,000 per month goal was set in November 2023: To date we are grateful for increased monthly support of this ministry and continue to seek additional monthly operational support of this ministry.

Camp Appanoose is a non-profit organization. Celebrating our 35th year of ministry in this location, the camp is chartered as a 501(c) 3 organization. The board of Directors serves as ambassadors of this ministry, while prayerfully consider the financial and fiduciary health of the ministry. Board members sign a statement each year of agreement with the philosophical and spiritual tenants of the ministry.



SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- SURF Club – 7-12 graders, watch for updates on Facebook!
- GO team Thursdays, 9:00 – 10:30; September 5, October 3
- Westlake Community Fellowship night, September 1, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday Night Friendship Nights at Camp Appanoose, beginning September 8 at 6:00 p.m.
- FALL Volunteer Retreat -- October 4-5

DID YOU KNOW? The camp kitchen was staffed by 20+ volunteer cooks this summer. † Camp Appanoose had an actual queen on staff this summer! (Congratulations to Emerson for serving Christ by serving campers so well this summer, while being crowned Davis County fair Queen!) † IA Teen Adventure Camp has a standing tradition of bean s'mores and bean burgers. † Insurance requirements made some playground changes necessary – and not inexpensive. The MCC church youth and their leaders hosted a coffee house activity and raised around 3200.00 to cover the upgrades, then, on the second week of Leadership Training Camp, they provided physical labor to move and reinstall much of the equipment, and add several improvements along the way! † Tom Wilson, (longtime friend of the camp, and “camper dad”), stopped by in early June to get the HVAC units functioning properly. † Several young men, for whom staff had been specifically praying, responded to the message of the gospel. † Rocky High campers took video footage of a black bear, many elk and some smaller but seldom seen wildlife. † Several past staff members returned as volunteers this summer when they heard of our needs. † We so appreciate all of YOU!