

Camper Contact

Over 30 years of
connecting campers with camp

Volume 34, Issue 2 Fall 2024



The Camp Director's Corner

Ryan Long, Director

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

It seems that each and every autumn our administrative staff here at Camp have high hopes to publish and circulate this semi-annual newsletter a bit earlier in the fall season. However, finding the appropriate time to dedicate to this project on the heels of a bustling summer is difficult to come by, especially with our busy guest group schedule this time of year. For our Camp staff, summer doesn't officially come to an end until Labor Day as the month of August is filled with a combination of guest and school groups looking to squeeze in a late summer visit to Doubling Gap. As you'll read later on in this Camper Contact, we had good reason to take things a little bit slower the past few months. It seems that each of the past few years have carried with them a very similar report coming out of summer camp season: "We had our largest summer on record!" That's right, 2023 picked right up where 2022 left off by sending us a tremendous number of young people in search of a Christian Camp experience. Not only did our campers get that, but they certainly left here knowing who Jesus is and why they should place their faith and trust in Him! Some of the statistics that may interest you are included later on in this publication.

Not long after summer camps end and we transition into a busy fall guest schedule, there is also a considerable amount of effort that goes into two annual events that land in the months of September and October. The first is the Adult Bike Trek which just celebrated its 17th year of visiting a regional rail trail



for a weekend of biking and camping. This year's group was smaller than past years, but they were blessed with a great weekend of faith, fellowship and food all the while pedaling 50-60 miles on the C&O canal in Maryland. The second is the Children's Fishing Derby held at our Lake Henrietta each year the middle of October. Kids between the ages of 5-15 gather around the Camp lake in anticipation of catching a few of the 500 or so trout that are stocked prior to the event. This year right around 150 people, anglers and chaperones combined, joined us for what turned out to be a very mixed weather day. The combination of cool temps, a mix of sun and clouds and even a passing shower gave us quite the variety. We were grateful for a strong bite and to see



a lot of smiling faces pulling fish out of the water. Even if the fishing is good, a highlight of any visit to camp is enjoying some good food. Camp cooks Justin Hinkle and Bryan Eichelberger prepared a buffet supper over a charcoal fire at the pavilion which served as a great break in the action. The day concludes with the anticipation of having fish measured and

handing out prizes. Stay tuned in 2024 for the Derby date and plan to join us!

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

As the leaves have left the trees and our fall retreat season comes to an end, the busyness here in Doubling Gap shifts a bit from preparing and wrapping up from weekend groups to planning and conducting the second round of YoliJwa based events on our annual calendar. On November 18 we are excited to

'welcome back to Camp' many who were an integral part of our summer camp season, along with those that are intentional in supporting the Camp in other ways throughout the year. This evening of food and fellowship at Camp is always highlighted by the



recognitions that are made and thanking many selfless individuals who have sacrificed their time over the years as summer camp volunteers. On the heels of the Appreciation Dinner focus will immediately turn to our December Youth Retreats. These retreats provide a great opportunity to visit camp mid-school year and reconnect with both faith and friends. The growth we have experienced during summer camp has also been experienced in and through the winter retreats, so if you or someone you know plans to attend the time to register is NOW! Similar to the summer, registration can be done through the online option on our website or by obtaining a paper form and sending it through the mail. Details regarding each of the different retreats can be found in this newsletter.

Typically, this time of year, our Camp staff gets ready to embark on a project as we near the winter months. Since summer camp, right around 60 different guest groups have made a trip to Doubling Gap. As you can imagine, pursuing projects other than the day-to-day upkeep is difficult when we are focused on hospitality. There are a few items in the works, without definite dates for completion. Two of those which have required quotes from outside companies are repairs/replacements to our pool fence and a more substantial project that

may include improvements to the gym sidewalks and upper parking area. The latter would be significant as our current vision is to use concrete rather than blacktop which would allow for a multi-use space to serve as a parking lot for a majority of

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The Camp Director's Corner (continued)

the year and an ice-skating rink during the cold weather months! Discussions are in progress regarding not only the feasibility but also the expense. Camp leadership has always been intentional about pursuing outdoor recreation options that provide enjoyment year-round rather than being limited to the summer months. Beyond a few prospective projects, the staff have been busy painting the exterior of the lodge, improving cabin roadways, and taking care of a few trouble trees near access areas and facilities.

WHAT WE HOPE WILL HAPPEN!

At this time of year, our HOPE for you and your family is that you have an opportunity in the coming weeks to give thanks to the Lord for all that He has done as well as celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas. 'Winter' has been difficult to find the last few December retreats, so Christmas celebrations have played a major role in those retreats for which we hope you'll join us. It is such a special time of year for campers to bring the Christmas spirit to Camp along with the beautiful way in which the facilities are decorated.



We have high hopes that between now and the spring printing of the Camper Contact that 2024 summer camp registrations will be rolling in. Growth presents its challenges but we are committed to doing our best to accommodate more and more campers that desire an experience within the YoliJwa camping program. Much needs

to happen between now and then as staff teams will meet to determine themes, activities and most importantly recruit staff. In January, those interested in serving next summer will be given the opportunity to apply and commit their time for a particular camp session.

Thoughts and visions continue to be discussed for expansion around Lake Henrietta. If you've been keeping up with our plans the past few years, you know that our hopes continue to center around the idea of a building that can be used to support summer Wilderness Camps and also provide a place for offseason cabin groups to meet and eat. As I'm sure many of you have experienced in your own lives, sometimes our immediate plans either get put on hold by other pressing expenses (new gym roof), or the Lord kindly says 'not now.' The Camp board continues to examine and sift through the importance of maintaining what we have while also keeping a keen eye on the future. The goal is to do our best to make sure that our desires coincide with God's timing and plans. Any growth or additions to our current facilities and offerings will no doubt require a continual building up of our expansion eligible funds. We are grateful to those of you that have embraced this effort in the past, and a big thank you in advance to those that will respond to this newsletter. Enclosed you'll find an envelope that if led, you may designate your gift be used towards the operations here at Camp or be reserved for the expansion fund and a few of the hopeful projects we try to undertake in the future. Doubling Gap Center and the Camp YoliJwa ministry continue to be blessed by God, and the faithful service of His people! PTL!!!

Young Adult Retreat!

February 16-18, 2024

Over President's day weekend, we will be welcoming another group of young adults for a time of worship, fellowship, and Biblical teaching! Our Young Adult Retreat is designed to meet the needs of those **post high school to 30-years-old** so they can leave filled up and on fire for the Lord! Our prayer is that each attendee will return home ready to shine the light of Christ to each person they meet. Be on the look-out for registration information!



CAMP YOLIJWA

2024 SCHEDULE

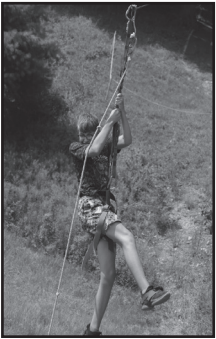
YOUTH CAMPS	RECOMMENDED WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	ALTERNATE WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	DATE
Youth	10th - 12th	-	June 9-15
9th Grade	9th	10th	June 16-22
8th Grade	8th	9th	June 30-July 6
7th Grade	7th	8th	July 7-13
6th Grade	6th	7th	July 14-20
5th Grade	5th	6th	July 21-27
4th Grade	4th	5th	July 28-Aug. 1
3rd Grade	3rd	4th	August 2-4
Mother/Daughter	K-2nd	-	August 4-5
Father/Son	K-2nd	-	August 10-11
WILDERNESS CABIN CAMPS	RECOMMENDED WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	ALTERNATE WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	DATE
Wilderness Adventure	10th - 12th	-	June 30-July 6
Sr. High Wilderness	10th - 12th	-	July 7-13
9th Grade Wilderness	9th	10th	July 14-20
8th Grade Wilderness	8th	9th	July 21-27
7th Grade Wilderness	7th	8th	July 28-Aug. 3
ADULT CAMPS & RETREATS	AGE LEVEL	DATE	
CAMP HOPE (Intellectually disabled)	16+	June 2-7	
Family Camp	All Ages	June 23-29	
Adult Fellowship	50+	August 12-16	
Bike Trek	Adults (18+)	Sept. 27 - 29	
Young Adult Retreat	Post High-30 y/o	Feb. 16-18	
WINTER RETREATS	AGE LEVEL	DATE	
Junior Blast	Grades 3-5	December 6-8	
Junior High Breakaway	Grades 6-8	December 13-15	
Senior High Bash	Grades 9-12	December 20-21	
2024 EVENTS	FOR	DATE	
YoliJwa Staff Workshop	2024 Volunteer Staff	May 31-June 1	
Open House & BBQ	All Ages	June 8	
Children's Fishing Derby	Ages 5-15	TBD	
DGC Appreciation Banquet	2024 Supporters	November 23rd	

ROCK

Each year as the air begins to chill, we like to look back at what the summer brought to Camp YoliJwa here on the mountain. As we do every year, we chose a theme for the summer that centers around a particular verse in Scripture. This year our theme was “Rock” taken from 1 Samuel 2:2. In this passage, Hannah, Samuel’s mother, prays to the Lord and says “There is no one Holy like the Lord. There is none besides you. There is no Rock like our God.” This year we wanted to impress upon our campers what it means that God is our Rock. We looked



at different characteristics of rocks and what they can teach us about God. We learned all about the necessity of what a firm foundation in Christ can do for our lives. And what more fitting theme could we have chosen with one of our most popular activities being a hike to Flat Rock! With all of the beauty in the nature around us, we had a wonderful opportunity to learn about what God is like through this passage of Scripture.



Like last summer, we saw tremendous numbers across the board. We had over 2,500 people attend our camps throughout the 2023 year. That includes a record number of youth attending our summer programs at 1,480. What an amazing opportunity it is to be able to share the Gospel with that many kids. It would certainly be an insurmountable task without the help of many of you. YoliJwa could not happen if it weren’t for the 476 total individuals that volunteered their time to serving God here on the mountain. Because of the love that those volunteers lavished on our campers, 227 youth made a decision to follow Jesus for the first time! We should all take a moment to soak in what a blessing it is to have those new brothers and sisters in Christ. Not only do those kids



now know what it means to have God as their Rock, they will also be able to go out and share that with others. Thank you to all of you for your support in our summer camping ministry. Whether its through your direct participation as a volunteer, as a financial partner, or most importantly as a prayer warrior, we would not be able to fulfill God’s mission for Camp without you. We look forward to the next time you’ll all be up here, and until then, keep standing on the **ROCK!**



CAMP YOLIJWA DECEMBER RETREATS

Each December Camp YoliJwa holds three winter retreats that target Junior, Junior High, and Sr. High campers. These retreats are an amazing opportunity for campers to get back to Camp, see their friends, and spend time fellowshiping with and worshiping God in the middle of the school year. Each retreat has age-specific programming and time to focus on the Christmas season. Campers will experience everything they’ve come to know and love here at YoliJwa, along with some winter activities like snow tubing,

sledding, ice skating, and broom ball. You can register online NOW at campyoli-jwa.org or through the mail. Be sure to invite a friend. See you soon!



December Retreats!

Junior Blast
3rd-5th Grade
Dec. 1-3
\$104

Junior High Breakaway
6th-8th Grade
Dec. 8-10
\$104

Senior High Bash
9th-12th Grade
Dec. 15-16
\$62

Register by Mail or Online at campyolijwa.org



MOST WANTED

Volleyball Net Storage Cart
\$250

BBQ Chicken Rack
\$250

Auditorium Sound Upgrade
\$350

Battery Nail Gun
\$350

Cinder Spreader
\$1,600

Digital Welcome Sign
\$6,000



Doubling Gap Center
Touching Lives For Over 75 Years

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1550 Doubling Gap Road
Newville, PA 17241

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT # 583

*Winter Retreat
Registration Info @
campyolijwa.org!*



facebook.com/CampYolijwa



[@CampYolijwa](https://instagram.com/@CampYolijwa)

2023 Summer Staff

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
1 Peter 4:10

You're Invited

Mark your calendars NOW for our ANNUAL WINTER FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, February 4, 3-7 p.m.

Dress for the theme and receive a prize!

Come and enjoy activities for children and adults, along with Winter activities!

Meat and drink provided by the Camp.

Each family is asked to bring a side dish to share:

Last Name:

A-I: Salad (veggie, potato, fruit, pasta)

J-Q: Dessert **R-Z:** Salty Snack

This year’s theme is:

YOLIJWA SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



*It was another great summer with a group of staff Standing on **The Rock!***

Front (L to R): Faith Sprecher, Kitchen; Kaylee Miller, Kitchen, Rose Shifler, Kitchen; Lana Wolfgang, Lifeguard; Leah Britcher, Music; Makayla Detweiler, Craft

Middle (L to R): Makayla Halbleib, Wilderness Coordinator; Kaitlyn Fetterhoff, Office; Jerikah Fetterhoff, Kitchen; Layna Horner, Kitchen; Betsy Jansma, Wilderness Technology

Back (L to R): Michael Baker, Program Coordinator; Clayton Maiden, Technology; Jon Scott, Nature; Ryan Long, Activity; Nick Egger, Maintenance; Jackson Grimland, Maintenance/ Kitchen; Ryan Long, Executive Director