

# Presbytery Report for Camping and Youth

October 2024

## Westminster Spires Camp Recap

**Elementary Camp** (incoming 3rd-5th graders) - **24 students**

**Middle School Camp** (incoming 6th-8th graders) - **18 students**

**High School Camp** (incoming 9-12th graders) - **14 students**

= **56 students total**

## Leaders/Volunteers

**Core Team:** Kara Todd, Nichole Bodalski, Taylor Lovaas, Evelyn Todd, Ella Todd, Emma Lovaas, George Goodrich, Freeman McCall, Jamie Rowe, Perrin Chavez

**Elementary Camp:** Jamie Schmeling (Speaker), John Davis (Counselor)

**Middle School Camp:** Daniel Triller (Speaker), Tayah Kovanda (Counselor)

**High School Camp:** Mary Grace Reynolds (Speaker), Jon Dupuis (Counselor & Worship Leader), Russ Kline (Cook)

## Ministry Highlights/Reflections

Overall, given the circumstances, I think camp went really well. The leadership team, although thinly staffed, was spectacular. They went above and beyond, cared for students deeply, and provided a Christ like example. Camp would not have happened without Kara Todd. Replacing her will be difficult. Camps were well planned and organized, each person wore multiple hats, speakers provided solid biblical teaching and the testimonies were powerful. The overall atmosphere of camp was sweet - that thin space between heaven and earth.

For being understaffed and our first summer back at Westminster Spires since 2021, things went pretty well. God was unbelievably faithful and kind to us, providing for us every step of the way.

## Things to Plan For / Consider for 2025

- In need of more volunteers/staff. In particular, male counselors, cook, nurse, and program director. Things to improve on here: posting positions earlier, higher stipends, utilizing broader networks.

- Each camp can reasonably hold 36 campers. I think those numbers are reachable in 2025 for Elementary and Middle School. I think the key would be increased advertising / recruiting more heavily in churches such as FPC Billings, Lewistown and all across the board.
- Future leadership. I think the camp is in need of a new and long term program/camp director. I wonder if Sarah Tunall could be that person. I'd like to see our Presbytery budget the position for 5-7K/year. It would be an investment, but I think it's worth it. Person would be responsible/accountable for executing camp as well as being at camp all three weeks + training. If not Sarah, I would explore some kind of hybrid ¾ time pastor position in the Presbytery + Camp Director.
- Increasing our scholarship fund. Anywhere between 25-50% of our campers request full scholarships. If this continues at this rate, we'll need to continue to bolster funds.
- Explore if we can rent out the facility even more than we already do. (This would help fund the above). Things to explore: online booking, photos (create an Airbnb / VRBO out of it)
- Family Camp sadly didn't happen. Some of this is due to poor planning and execution on my part. Also not sure if the need/want is there among families. Maybe we move towards a more open policy where families can stay over the weekend in between camps as they drop off and pick up their campers (especially for those in Dillon or those with 4+ hr drives)

Thanks,

Daniel Triller  
Pastor – FPC Dillon  
Camping and Youth Moderator