

Camping and Youth Report
Leadership Council
April 30, 2013

Westminster Spires Camp Season

Revamp the Camp	June 7-9
Camp Staff Training	July 5-6
Senior High Camp	July 7-12
Junior High Camp	July 14-19
Elementary Camp	July 21-25

Staff

We will have a veteran staff returning for the 2013 season.

Curt Kochner	Registrar and Logistics
George Goodrich	Staff Training, Senior High and Elementary Camp Leader
David Andrew	Junior High Camp Leader
Bill Scott	Cook (along with Belinda and Mara)
Cynthia Kessler	Counselor/Crafts
Kristin Kochner	Counselor- MSU- Presbycat
Dani Repka	Counselor- MSU- Presbycat
Hailey Muller	Counselor- Whitworth
Ruth Letson	Counselor- Earlham (Indiana)
Rebecca Jones	Counselor- MSU Fall 2013 (Potential Presbycat!)
Taylor Cashmore	Counselor- MSU Fall 2013 (Potential Presbycat!)
Heather O'Brien	Counselor- MSU Fall 2013 (Potential Presbycat!)
Stephanann Costello	CIT- Butte
Tanner Robison	CIT- Butte

All staff members have been on the Westminster Spires staff in the past, so we have a very experienced group. Russ Kline from First Presbyterian Billings is planning to join us for the week of Senior High Camp.

Recruitment

We have a very high rate of return of campers from year to year. If all campers that have attended camp in the past return this year, we could have 27 campers for senior high camp, 12 for junior high camp and 3 for elementary camp. Promotion of the camp experience through all churches would be appreciated. Our promotion needs to be for all camps, but particularly at the elementary camp level. I love the refrain from the song Pass it On, that goes, "That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, you want to pass it on." Once campers have experienced living in Christian community in a camp setting, it becomes something that they want to participate in again each year.

We have an outstanding group of counselors, and it will be a very comfortable for new elementary aged campers to attend. Slide shows are available for each of the camps that were held last year, and we would be happy to provide these to help promote camp through VBS programs or as a part of a Sunday school or youth program. Our counselors are from Dillon, Miles City, Butte and Billings, and I am confident they would be happy to visit churches to talk about camp.

The Holy Spirit is working through the fall and winter retreats and the summer camping programs to bring the young people of Yellowstone Presbytery together. As we strive to build the strength of collegiate ministries throughout the state, I believe we will need to continue to support strong youth programs in individual churches and supplement these with presbytery wide experiences for our youth. These young people will be the leaders in our Presbyterian churches in the future!

Facilities and Grounds

We still celebrate the installation of the well! Our caretaker Simon Hill has continued the cutting of dead and diseased trees and trees that are hazards. Some of the slash piles were burned during the winter when snow was on the ground. The Zimbabwe shed located at St. Andrew has been emptied, and we are working on plans to move the shed to Westminster Spires.

Fall Retreat

Planning will begin soon for our fall retreat!