

Camping and Youth Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
November 8, 2013

Westminster Spires Summer Camp Season:

- Staff Training- July 5-6
- Senior High Camp- July 7-12 (21 campers)
- Junior High Camp- July 14-19 (10 campers)
- Elementary Camp- July 21-25 (12 campers)

Staffing for camp included:

Curt Kochner	Registrar and logistics		
George Goodrich	Staff Training, Senior High and Elementary Camp Leader		
David Andrew	Junior High Camp Leader		
Bill Scott	Cook (Accompanied by Belinda Scott and granddaughter Mara)		
Cynthia Kessler	Crafts and Medical		
Dani Repka	Counselor	Kristin Kochner	Counselor
Hailey Muller	Counselor	Ruth Letson	Counselor
Rebecca Jones	Counselor	Heather O'Brien	Counselor
Taylor Cashmore	Counselor	Tanner Robison	CIT
Stephanann Costello	CIT		

Although we maintain a fairly large staff for the number of campers served, the camper/counselor ratio has worked out very well, and it provides an excellent opportunity to continue leadership development of young people in the Presbytery. Our strong connection with camp staff has an impact on leadership available for fall and winter youth retreats and it has helped enhance the collegiate ministry program, particularly in Bozeman.

Scholarship Support: Many thanks to churches for providing \$2,318 in scholarships to help campers cover camp fees. We were also able to provide \$1,435 in Yellowstone Presbytery Camp Scholarships. The Yellowstone Presbytery Camp Scholarship Fund has been supplemented with funds from the Presbytery offering collected at the meeting in Dillon and private donations.

Facilities:

- The new well has been a great asset. At the request of the DEQ, we purchased a digital water testing unit to provide more accurate testing of our chlorination system. Our caretaker Simon Hill works closely with the DEQ to maintain ongoing water safety certifications.
- Through a separate contract with Simon, we have made vast improvements to the health and safety of the forest. The \$3,100 additional cost for timber removal was covered by a private donation. Many dead and diseased trees have been removed, slash piles are ready to be burned this winter, and the grounds and buildings are more defensible from fire. Note of interest: The August "Rock Creek Fire" burned across the creek and highway approximately two miles north of the camp- between camp and Red Lodge.
- We anticipate that the next major expenses at the camp will be the replacement of roofs on three of the cabins.

Fall Retreat

Fall Retreat was held at Rockhaven on October 17-19. We had 44 total participants including 12 junior high youth, 17 high school students, 5 college students and 9 adult leaders. Talks were presented by Orrin Feddes, Kathy Goodrich, George Goodrich and Traci Ruschetti. Six small groups met following the talks to provide time for further discussion. Once again, Pam Jackson from White Sulphur Springs provided outstanding meals and snacks with Debbie Funke serving as assistant chef and kitchen manager. Recreational highlights included hiking and the zip line. Many thanks to the churches and volunteers that provide the support to make our retreats happen!