



The Rock

2022

We had a great summer with 933 Campers, 222 leaders, and 29 Staff plus a few extra people here and there from June 1 to August 7. It has been a beautiful summer of great weather but more importantly baptisms in the pool, voices carrying worship to our Father in heaven, learning more about how awesome He is, being outside in His beautiful creation, and making new friends. The campers learned about “Chesed”, the loving kindness that God has for us and how we can show that to others.

We are so thankful for the all of the Deans, Faculty, and Medical staff that gave of their time this summer that came to share life with all of the campers this summer. We serve an amazing God and it is always rewarding to listen to campers worshipping, playing, talking in their small groups, and laughing with each other. So much growth happens in one small week of camp.



2023 Summer Camp Schedule

Teddy Bear - 1st-2nd - June 16th-17th, 2023
Edge – 9th-Just Graduated - June 18th-24th, 2023
Equestrian – 5th-8th (Girls) - June 18th-24th, 2023
Elevate – 6th-8th - June 25th-30th, 2023
Adventure – 7th-10th - June 25th-30th, 2023
Boys Paintball – 7th-Just Graduated – July 2nd-7th, 2023
First Chance - 3rd-4th - July 5th-8th, 2023
Embark - 4th-6th - July 9th-14th, 2023



Mark German D.D.S.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Bart Jepson:

Richard and Karen Jepson

In Memory of Mary Galyen:

Tracy Sokol

In Memory of Al Baxter:

Beverly Young

In Memory of Warren and Mary Lou Hughes:

Thomas Hughes

In Memory of Naoma Humphreys:

Dave and Laurie Martin

Sue Michael

Janice Martin

Connie Hansmeier

Nancy Hall

Nadia Wirchnianski

In Memory of Boyce and Naoma Humphreys:

Nelda Meador

In Memory of Eldo Krebs:

George and Sandy Davis

Cheryl Droste

Gene Bierman

Laura Dawson

Ken and Monica Clarke

Sharon Johnson and Genevieve Sager

Peggy and Loren Andresen

Jeff and Joyce Vath

Jeffrey and Cindy Bloomer

David and Karen Thode

Paul and Carol Behrens

William and Midge Haas

Russel and Angela Shipman

Dennis and Phyllis Arp

In Memory of Matt Russell:

Terry and Gayle Green

Margie Moffitt

Babette Anderson

Fred and Katherine Wolf

Mark and Jody Heppner

Margaret Klimstra

James and Kathy Koenig

David and Tina Craigmiles

William and Brenda Wainwright

Lisa Raischel

Donald and Sally Embree

Michael and Jane Bare

Port Byron Great River Tug Fest

Richard and Mary Lohman

Clint and Mary Thulen

David and Kathleen Harrison

David and Lisa Ven Huizen

David and Betty Habben

Marjorie Ellis

Erie Christian Church



Donating to Rock River Christian Camp in someone's name can be done by sending a check with it marked in memory, or you can give at rockrivercc.net/donate. We know that Rock River has impacted many lives for Christ and that it would have meant a lot to them to see Rock River Christian Camp continue to change lives today.

You can also give a gift in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary, or just because. We would be happy to share those gifts in the following newsletter.

Ways to Help Camp Right Now

General Fund

The General Fund is how all funds given currently are marked. This keeps our general operations of the camp going. As we will explain in the State of the Camp Section of the newsletter, this is currently needed the most. There are several ways you can give to camp during this holiday season. Go to rockrivercc.net/donate, send checks directly to the camp, or you can give them to the camp on Facebook. No matter how you give, we are so very grateful for your generosity and for keeping

the ministry of Rock River Christian Camp going. The QR Code to the right is a fast way to donate to the camp today!



Amazon

If you shop on Amazon, you should support a non-profit organization like Rock River Christian Camp. This is a super simple way to give financially without doing anything except shop like you usually do. Use this link to get started today.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2715306>

Does this cost you anything? No, it does not. Your purchase is the same amount, whether you are supporting an organization or not. So why not? What

an easy way to help the camp today! With multiple people shopping every day, together, we can make a huge difference!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Thrivent



If you are a Thrivent Member, you can support RRCC with Action Points and Choice Dollars! If you have questions on how to give to RRCC or be a part of Thrivent Financial, you may contact Brian Wynn, our local agent, at 815-970-3680 or brian.wynn@thrivent.com. Please reference Rock River Christian Camp when you talk with Brian.

Scholarship Fund

The camp Scholarship Fund is a great way to help others attend camp who otherwise might not be able to participate. Every year we have campers that need financial assistance to attend camp. In the last

several years, the requests have been between \$3,500 and \$4,500 each year. We do not want anyone to not come to camp because they are unable to afford it. You can help! Give to the Camp Scholarship Fund today!

Help Us Save Resources...

Would you like to receive "The Rock" newsletter by e-mail instead of the mailed paper copy? Please contact the camp office and let us know what changes we can make. However, we do want you to read the newsletter, so please continue to get the mailed copy if this is how you will most likely read it.

Thank you

S.A.W. Program Returning

Servants At Work is a program for those 13 to 18 years. Participants serve at camp for a week and/or weekend helping out in the kitchen, dining hall, canteen, and on various service projects. They join the summer staff for daily devotions, learn the importance of serving others, and make new friends along the way. For each week served, participants receive \$167.50 towards a week of camp or prorated for the number of days worked or hours may be



used for school community service hours. If you do not need any of these options, then your hours are simply volunteer. To be considered for the S.A.W. program, you must return a completed S.A.W. application to the camp office by May 1st, 2023.

Acceptance to the program is based on availability, need, and prior service experience. Spots are limited, so apply early. If you are interested in serving as a S.A.W. this summer, you may fill out the S.A.W. application under the "Camp Programs", then "S.A.W. Program" tab on the camp website, or you can contact us so we can send it to you.



Summer Staff

We are looking for people with big hearts to work at camp for summer 2023. You must be at least 16 to apply, with several positions needing to be 18 years and older. These are great jobs for college students. Our staff live here at camp for the summer, meals are provided, earn some money, make life-long friendships, and the reward will last a lifetime.

We need maintenance and kitchen staff. Our staff will be trained, depending on position, to be lifeguards, high ropes course facilitators, archery facilitators, paintball referees, food handlers, and more. All staff will help with keeping the camp facilities



clean each day. We are a team that works hard but has a lot of fun together while working.

Please consider the opportunity to work at camp for the summer. If you would like this opportunity, please go to www.rockrivercc.net to apply today or email the camp office at rrccoffice@gmail.com to get an application sent to you.

Summer 2023 will be a great, and we need you!



Summer Camp Faculty

Have you ever thought about being a camp counselor for a week of camp? Each summer, we have about 100 people volunteer to be camp leaders (Faculty) for a week of camp. If this is something that you would like to do next summer, please let us know at the camp office. We have a few camp sessions that could use your help, and it is so rewarding in many ways. One of our faculty said, "It is my favorite week of the whole year!" You have just as much fun as the campers. The campers need you! The campers really learn a lot from the faculty, and they look up to you. Consider this for next summer. You are needed! Such a great way to give time and help others come to know the love of Christ!

Note: We check references and run background checks on anyone that would like to volunteer and serve.

State of the Camp

We pray this finds you well. We had another great year of camp. We are blessed to be a part of God's changing lives here at Rock River Christian Camp. We are so blessed to serve alongside all the summer staff, faculty, deans, and board members who have a love for Christ and youth. It is a blessing to see what God does each week of camp and how He changes the hearts and minds of all who come here. Camp is unique, so don't take it for granted. Growing up, I never went to youth camp, but now as an adult, I see lives changed every week here. Over the last 16+ years, we have seen countless lives experience great strides for the sake of Christ, from the Teddy Bear Campers experiencing camp for the first time to the high schoolers who go out into the world during their week serving others for Christ. God has also changed my life over the time I have been here. He has molded and formed me over the years here, along with the campers.

Camp is an investment in the kingdom and God's people, especially our children. What happens at camp? What comes from our children going to camp? Campers experience a week on their own, experiencing God in their camp community in nature, helping them grow in their faith with other kids away from their everyday influences. Sometimes kids can grow up in the church with their family, which is excellent, but many times their parent's faith is what they take on. Camp gives our children time away from their parents to help them grow their own faith and friendships outside their local church in Christ. I think kids that attend camp help grow their church. Camp is a unique experience. Giving our kids as many different experiences in Godly environments helps them figure out who they are as servants of Christ. None of us are the same, and we grow in different environments. The more God-centered encounters they experience, the more well-rounded followers they will be.



In this day and age, it is hard to keep people involved at camp; many things keep our attention every day year-round, from work, school, church, friends, sports, etc. It is hard to get people to serve at camp; getting faculty and Deans gets more challenging every year, especially after COVID. We need good faithful adults and teens to help pour into the next generation in an environment where you can have their attention away from electronics and other daily distractions, so please consider serving at camp!

Our camp was set up as an extension of the churches to come alongside and help us all grow in Christ. It is actually owned by the churches and needs the input and help of the churches. As such, the owner churches have made commitments to help support the camp physically with servants and financially to help cover the ever-increasing cost of putting on camp. Initially, the churches were committed to covering half the cost of camp, with the other half being paid by camper fees. Still, over the years, the church support has stayed stagnant or increased slightly but has not kept up with the ever-increasing inflation costs, especially the last two years' high inflation. With inflation going up every year, even in good years, the same amount of support in 2022 is far from what it was worth back in 2007. To help cover the money needed, the camp has allowed outside rental groups to come in help cover the cost of putting on our camps and keeping up with maintaining the property. Currently, in 2022 our camp income breakdown is around 19% from camper fees, 21% from churches, 20% from individual donors, 1% from camp store sales, and 39% from rental groups.



Because of the high inflation this year, we needed to raise camper tuition more than we wanted. We don't want to raise it again for subsequent years, but financially we have exhausted all of our savings with an almost 25% increase in expenses this year compared to last year. Remember, we have a scholarship program for those who can't afford the full price of camp. Also, next summer, we will be bringing back the SAW program in which those 13 years old and older can volunteer to serve. Each week of camp they serve, they get half their camp tuition covered. This is an excellent way for teens to help pay for their week of camp. Many who come through this week-long service, love to come back for multiple weeks to help.

We continually try to cut costs across the board, including cutting our year-round staff to only one full-time staff (Camp Manager), one part-time staff (Office Manager), and one half-time (Maintenance Worker). This is the smallest year-round staff the camp has had for many years. We have a couple of dedicated board members who come to camp weekly to help maintain the camp with the lack of staffing. We fill up as many of our summer days with camps as possible, with only three to four days without campers the entire summer to help keep the camp full and utilized. We fill many off-season weekends with rental groups to help with income. We are also considering harvesting trees from the camp property again to help raise funds.

Besides our general budgeted income needs, there are several large projects we need to accomplish to keep from having buildings damaged. The following buildings need new roofs:

- Fireside (est \$15,000)
- Earth Lodge (est \$60,000 trusses, walls, and steel)
- Old Chapel (est \$10,000)
- Well house (est \$3,000)
- Garage (est \$8,000)
- The office (est \$7,000)

We will put steel roofs on all of them that will last 40+ years.

While these roofs don't all have to be replaced immediately, they will need to be completed relatively soon. Most of our buildings need updates to HVAC systems. Pine Ridge needs five new HVAC systems (est \$40,000); the Farmhouse, Dean's Quarters, and White Oaks all have new donated furnaces but will need money to cover the cost of parts to hook them up. We just had to replace several expensive parts on the Earth Lodge furnace last week, but it is also very old. While we do our best to maintain the property and buildings, many of our facilities and the things in them are 20-50+ years old and can only last so long. Volunteers or staff do almost all our labor, so these projects are without much labor costs.



We need the churches that own and love the camp and individuals that love the camp to help get us through these tough times. Please consider donating a year-end gift to the camp. Also, think about adding the camp as part of your Will to help the next generation attend camp. We are also set up to receive stock donations. Remember, Rock River Christian Camp is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

We thank everyone who helps make this camp a great place to attend!

In Christ,
Dan Augenstine, Camp Manager

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 3, we have a rescheduled workday at camp. It will begin at 8 am with breakfast, begin work at 9 am, lunch at noon, and then work as late as 3 pm. RSVP on the camp website at www.rockrivercc.net to come help get the camp cleaned up for the winter months.

Rock River Christian Camp

Breakfast and Lunch Provided
8 am - 3 pm

FALL WORKDAY!
Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

RSVP by November 2nd, 2022
rrccoffice@gmail.com
815-493-6622
16486 W. IL Route 64, Polo, IL 61064
WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.NET



Rock River Christian Camp
and Retreat Center
16486 W IL Route 64
Polo, IL 61064

Return Service Requested



815-493-6622



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WISHLIST

- Amazon Gift Cards
- Walmart or Sam's Club Gift Cards
- Staples Gift Cards
- Automatic Transfer Switch Generator
(Est. Cost \$20,000)
- Lifetime Chairs (White)
(29.99/each—Need 40)