



WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Northern Pines provides experiences of Christ, creation, and community among the tall pines.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S PEN - Deaconess Leslie Hobson

Greetings from among the tall pines,



There is plenty of snow still on the ground, ice on the lake, and the possibility of more snow in our future. But we are actively preparing for our summer camps now.

Northern Pines will have a visit from ACA (American Camp Association) this summer as part of our accreditation process. It is a wonderful opportunity for reviewing all of our policies, programs, management of the site and staff, and to learn from the visitors things we are doing well and areas for improvement.

We are recruiting staff for the summer, so we are conducting interviews, attending job fairs, and posting the jobs where we can. We have hired 3 cabin leaders with the hopes of finding 4-5 more before summer begins.

We are promoting camp with Camp Sundays and are always open to visiting churches to share about the joys of camp. We have almost 275 campers registered for 2023 summer camp sessions. Early Bird registration ends on April 30. We are hoping to have 400 campers registered by that date, with a goal of 500 campers for this camp season.

We are blessed each year with volunteers for some of our camp sessions. Volunteer staff help us maintain our staff to camper ratios, assist with activities, stay in the cabins or treehouses with campers, and provide another person who loves and cares for our campers. All of our volunteers have background checks and receive training and guidance for their specific camp week. We are looking for volunteers for any of camp weeks. Please call the office at 218-732-4713 if you are interested in volunteering.

Donations are an important part of our funding. Donations allow us to purchase items for programming and make improvements that keep the camp safe and welcoming. We are searching for churches or groups who would like to sponsor some of our ongoing needs for a month or for the summer. We have one church that will be providing coffee and possibly laundry detergent. Other ideas could be to pay the entrance fee for our weekly offsite camp excursion (approximately \$17.95/person), wrapped toilet paper, new white kitchen towels, and paper towels.

Northern Pines Camp and Retreat Center continues to tell the story of God's love and Christ's grace and mercy as it begins its next century of ministry. We invite you into the story.

Blessings,
Deaconess Leslie Hobson

2023 Wish List

Donations may be given to help purchase items or the items may be donated to the camp. Contact Leslie Hobson at Northern Pines Camp and Retreat Center, 218-732-4713, to ask questions or discuss a donation.

A replacement for our 15-passenger van

Throwing axes

Metal garbage cans

Pontoon trailer

Boat lift

Pontoon lift

Yard games

2 wall tents



Portable disc golf
baskets

Metal bunkbeds

Outdoor Adirondack
chairs

Outdoor cubby storage

PLAN NOW FOR SPRING WORK DAYS—We will be offering scheduled work days on April 22 and May 20. You can come help for a day or stay on site and work for a few days. We have many projects we wish to complete as we prepare for summer camp. There are tasks for all ages and abilities. If you wish to volunteer at camp, call us at 218-732-4713 to let us know when you are available.



*Thank
you*

**TO ALL OF OUR 2022 GENEROUS DONORS!
YOUR GIFTS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO OUR
CAMPING MINISTRY.**

Daniel/Bonnie Boots
Peggy Cooper
Richard and Karen
Dykoski
Don and Helen Eslinger
Paul and Stephenie
Goecke
Hedeem Charitable Fund
Steve and Leslie Hobson
Nancy Ireland
Garry and Bonnie Nelson
Sue Sattler
Nancy Stephenson
Patti Wayman
Hubbard Methodist
Women

Perham UMC
Funds in memory of Sean
Carroll for our wish list
items
Hamline UMC
Sheila/Leah Higbe
Grace UMC/Paynesville
Rhoda Mead
Bemidji Methodist Women
June Thompson
Deborah Jacobs
Nicole Culver
Michael Madsen
Paula Murray
Hazel/Edwin Anderson in
memory of Sharon Berger

Ron/Sue Stahl
Steven McCallson
Harvey/Judith Blomberg
Thomas/Amy
VanValkenburg
Kenneth Livermore
Cheryl Broady
Arne Stefferud
Sharon L. Fields
Tracy Smalley
Amanda Lane
Chris Schlieckert
Kristine Haertl
Lori Yerbich
Amelia Halsted
Jeanne Goodwin



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We were gifted with amazing volunteers during 2022. We had spring and fall work teams, kitchen help during our large Round-up event, carolers and event helpers for our 2021 and 2022 Christmas at Camp light shows, and summer cabin leaders who gave a week to share the power of camp. Volunteer deans and the staff they bring with them are so important to the camping ministry as well. Volunteers made it possible to make camp improvements and help with ongoing grounds work. We are very grateful to those who shared their time, talents, energy, and skills to help the camp provide amazing camp experiences and a safe, welcoming space for our guests and campers.

Scott and Michelle Piepkorn
Roger and Chele Grafenstein
Bob Ford
Carl, Cassie, Zane, Bram Jacobi
Janet and Gary Johnson
Richard Dykoski
Ernie Parker
Keith and Cheryl Broady
Scott Broady
Randy and Rose Easter
Crown College sport teams
Luke Herbert
Spike and Gail Wellman
Duane Gebhard
Sam Mattson
Kaitie Rautio
Steve Prenevost
Jennifer Therkilsen
Ruth Ann Brady
Bob Williams
Bickey and Mark Bender

Jeff and Sandy Green
Dave and Mary Jane Keller
Jeri Current
Larry and Zelda Novak
Sue Stahl
Linda Szusztzky
Barb Gauldin
Riverside UMC-curtain ironing
Linda Bair

Our volunteer camp deans:
Rev. Rhodie Jacobson
Rev. Tony Fink
Rev. Marianne Ozanne
Rev. Amanda Larsen
Garry and Bonnie Nelson
Beth Kuehl
Mikaela and Bri Haertl
Steve and Kristin Howe
Mary Steffenson
Rev. Andy Petter

Fundraising Goals

Each year we set a fundraising goal for our work at camp. This year we have set our goal at \$40,000. One way we can meet that goal is with more sustaining donors, those who give a monthly gift to the camp. Right now, we have 2 donors who give a monthly gift to the camp. With 30 more monthly givers of at least \$50 we would be at 50% of our 2023 goal. There are many other donors who make a gift to camp annually. We are very grateful for these steady donations. We have others who were willing to donate to specific needs at camp, such as new boat motors in 2022.

Donations from our supporters let us know we are providing a special ministry that you trust and care about. We are grateful for all the ways you support us as we provide radical hospitality to our guests.

We are hiring our summer cabin leaders!

We have hired three staff persons already for this summer and in conversation with others. We are looking for cabin leaders for our 2023 season. Cabin leaders provide leadership for all camp activities, such as worship time, water sports, game time, crafts, and small groups. Cabin leaders sleep in the treehouses or cabins providing supervision for the campers. Campers range in age from 6-16 and includes campers 16 and over who have developmental delays. Staff typically have 24-36 hours off each weekend and a short break each day. Cabin leaders have 2 weeks of training before beginning 8 weeks of camp. Cabin leaders should enjoy outdoor activities, be able to lead a lesson such as crafts or a Bible study, have a Christian background and desire to share their faith, be responsible, be able to follow directions, can relate to youth and adults in a positive manner and understand the developmental needs of children and youth. A full job description is available from the camp director. Call Leslie at 218-732-4713 if you have questions about the position. Applications are available online at www.campminnesota.org



Cabin leaders must be at least 18 years old.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist cabin leaders during Christian Friendship Camp (camp for people with developmental delays) and Mini Camps (for 6–9-year-olds.) These volunteers would stay in the cabins with the campers and assist with activities at camp. Training is provided.

Christian Friendship camp weeks: June 25-30; July 2-7; July 16-21; July 23-28

Mini camps: June 18-20; July 9-11; July 30-Aug. 1



100th Anniversary Celebration

On July 2, 2022 we celebrated the 100th year that Northern Pines Camp and Retreat Center has offered camps or assemblies. We gathered at the campfire ring for songs and stories, had a meal, a worship celebration, and fun visiting the grounds, doing crafts and visiting. We look forward to another 100 years of telling the story!



WE WERE AWARDED A GRANT!

In the spring of 2022, the UMCRM (United Methodist Camp and Retreat) Association had the joy of distributing \$2.5 million in Ministry Impact Grants, funding 86 different United Methodist camp/retreat ministry projects with a focus on future sustainability. Northern Pines Camp was a recipient of a 2022 Ministry Impact Grant for \$20,000 to help us prepare to build a new cabin. With the funds we were able to hire a contractor/builder

who is working on the background work needed to obtain permits and do needed tasks before being able to build. We are excited to be back on track with the cabin that will be replacing the cabins demolished in 2017. We will provide updates as progress is made.

EFFECTIVE CAMP RESEARCH PROJECT



Northern Pines Camp participated in the Effective Camp Research Project this last summer. This study demonstrated that the Christian summer camp model has 5 fundamental characteristics: faith-centered, relational, participatory, safe space, and unplugged from home. These characteristics interact dynamically to give rise to the Christian summer camp experience. When all 5 characteristics are present, the experience has positive and recognizable impacts that extend beyond the week of camp, impacting family devotional practices, church participation, personal well-being, and faith commitment.

The surveys are designed to assess the 5 fundamental characteristics at individual camps, measure camper growth, and identify areas for improvement. As of 2022, the study includes data from over 13,000 campers at 60 camps in 30 states. Northern Pines participated in the survey with 31 other United Methodist camps that participated in 2022. Campers were surveyed on the first day of camp and the last day of camp. A third survey was sent via e-mail or text two months after their camp experience. This series of surveys was designed to gather camper impressions of their camp experience and also measure growth over time. The surveys measured various camper

outcomes, including enjoyment, happiness, and self-confidence, though the strongest emphasis was on growth in faith commitment. All campers who participated had parental permission.

