

Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp – Fall 2022



Photo by Joy Colwell

WCYC Sees Major Improvement to Its Physical Facilities

Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp's Summer Camp Session 2022 is now in the books. Many thanks to all the campers, parents and volunteer staff who played their integral roles. We appreciate you all!

Our operations manager, Patrick Crowe, has been busy this year. Along with an army of servant volunteers, they completed and made significant progress on a number of major projects.

The new **Pines** cabin has begun its journey for blessing campers. This was the first summer we were able to put it to use for all sessions.

Lullabye's siding was replaced, and it got repainted and new light fixtures installed.

Dreamland went through an extensive overhaul, including new siding, new electrical and new light fixtures.

The Nature Center also received some long-overdue TLC: it required significant structural framing repair, rebuilding of two walls, new chinking and all new gutters.

Squeeze Inn, Squeeze Out and the **Bathhouse** are getting new metal roofs (which may be done by this printing!).

Lastly, the **memorial walkway** leading up to the Great Hall and entrance doors is getting a facelift, with a new concrete sidewalk poured and the bricks re-laid on-top of that.

In addition to one-time projects, there are a number of different tasks that take time & effort on a regular basis for Patrick.

The **floor drains** in the bathhouse have consistent draining issues, so time has been spent clearing those and finding a long-term solution.

Camp has many **hiking trails**, which have been cleared/maintained as well as new signs made for them and the devotional sights.

There are always **trees falling**, especially on the boy's side, so there has been a good amount of time spent on cutting and clearing those trees.

Patrick has been working on building and hanging **bat boxes** throughout camp, in an effort to guide the bat population out of our buildings. We have high hopes this will be a big help!

There have been multiple areas around camp that have damage from **water erosion**, so there have been efforts made toward repairing the driveway to the dining hall, the road through The Hill, and the road down to Lullabye and Dreamland.

After years of faithful use, and lots of repairs, efforts are now being made to sell the old **camp Ford truck**.

Patrick is also heavily involved in **project management** for our sub-contracted tasks (e.g. re-siding of our cabins). This includes monitoring the budget, coordinating schedules, answering questions, and purchasing materials.

A big "thank you" to Patrick and the Facilities Committee for their tireless, diligent, and expert work on these tasks, and so many more. And, a big supporting-role "thank you" to all the selfless servants who have shown up for various workdays, stuck around after a camp session, or just went to camp on their own terms, to get the jobs done.

WCYC is blessed by you all.



Annual Meeting Saturday, October 15

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Hosted by

Southside Church of Christ

1933 W Grange Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Coffee & donuts at 9am

Lunch provided

(details inside)

Lifeguards needed! We'll pay for your certification!

Our campers love their time in Robinson Creek: tubing down the falls, the Watermelon Wallow, the Wade In, just sitting and soaking. Besides the wonderful people, the beautiful environment, and the solid Christian teaching, Robinson Creek is one of the biggest attractions and staples of camp life.

Interestingly... whenever our campers are in the water, doing those things they enjoy, we are required by state law to have a Red Cross certified lifeguard on duty. Each of our camp sessions have "Lifeguard" as a staff role that needs to be filled... just like the "Nurse", or "Head Bible Teacher", or "Head Cook".

And yet, every summer, WCYC camp session directors struggle to fill their lifeguard positions. Every summer, one or more of the sessions actually have to throttle the amount of time campers can spend in the "creek time," because they can't recruit a lifeguard.

If we cannot enlist a lifeguard, the campers simply don't get to go in the creek. This past summer, we resorted to hiring young people from Black River Falls for several days. And it was not cheap.

For these reasons, the WCYC Board Directors have approved a new program for Summer 2023: The Lifeguard Certification Reimbursement Program.

Annual Meeting, October 15, 10am, Milwaukee

On Saturday, October 15, at 10:00am, we will hold our Annual Meeting, at the Southside Church of Christ, 1933 W Grange Avenue, in Milwaukee.

Doors will open at 9am, for social time over donuts and coffee. We'll convene at 10am. We'll sing. And, we'll conduct our normal business meeting.

This meeting provides an opportunity for the Board of Directors to present to the membership some nitty-gritty details about our activities during the past year.

We will review WCYC's current financial situation, provide some observations re-

The details are pretty straightforward:

If you serve as the dedicated lifeguard for (at least) one week of camp...

Then WCYC will reimburse you for the registration fees for the coursework necessary to become a Red Cross Certified Lifeguard.

If this program sounds intriguing to you, please, give it some thought. This is a wonderful way for us to help each other.

You can get certified. That certification is valid for two years. And, you can use it for gainful employment throughout rest of the calendar year. (And lifeguards can make decent money!)

All we ask in return is for you to donate at least one week of your summer to camp.

To be entered into this lifeguard certification reimbursement program, please, reach out to communications@wyc.org.

Your request must first be approved by the Board of Directors before any funds will be refunded. (We need to ensure applicants can be matched up with a camp session. We don't need, say, four certified lifeguards at Junior Camp.)

For information on the Red Cross Lifeguard Certification, visit the Red Cross website. Questions can be sent to communications@wyc.org.

garding our camper registrations, and we will evaluate how camp went, and how we can make it better. Lastly, we will elect Board members. (This year, five seats are up for election.)

Members of the Southside congregation have graciously offered to provide us a lunch afterward, consisting of pulled pork & coleslaw. Thank you, Southside!

We hope to see you there.

If you wish to attend remotely, you must register by Tuesday, October 11. Details can be found at wyc.org/annual-meeting.

Craft Corner

by Kayde Johnson,
WCYC's Craft Coordinator

WCYC's campers are a crafty lot: they love the art of tie-dyeing, and we go through an amazing volume of craft-supplies every camp season.

In the Spring newsletter, I had put out a request for the craft cabin. I asked for tie-dye supplies and small glass jars.

And, wouldn't you know it: The outpouring from members of the WCYC family was both beautiful and humbling.

On behalf of the campers, craft teachers, staff, and myself, thank you!!

There were a couple individuals that supplied us with enough jars to get us through this year and next! Thank you, both.

To the members of the Waukesha Church of Christ thank you so much for all you did. Thank you for supplying all the shirts for the whole summer. To the couple that made a generous donation, thank you so much for supplying most of our tie dye kits.

Our campers had so much fun this summer making tie dye shirts and using the jars for a variety of creations. I know most of you didn't get the chance to see the fun they had using these supplies but I did and it was awesome. You should know that each of you blessed them. They had so much fun. You could see it on their faces, hear it in their laughter, and the creativity they used.

Thank you again for blessing us and for blessing the campers.



The Summer in Review

Junior Camp

Junior Camp went really well, once again! I was especially thankful for the great staff God provided.

Two weeks before Junior Camp was scheduled to begin, we still needed some counselors and a lifeguard. Of course, God answered many prayers and sent the right people to serve at WCYC.

Not only did he send a bunch of great people to help on staff, God also blessed us with what was possibly the most perfect weather ever seen at WCYC for an entire camp session.

We may have resurrected an old tradition: I'm not sure if it was more of a Wade-In or a Swamp Stomp, but on the one day that we couldn't arrange for a lifeguard, we waded down Robinson Creek from the bridge to Wilderness Chapel. Some campers said that was their favorite activity of the whole week.

Our daily lessons and devotionals used the theme of "God's Work, Our Hands". We talked about all the different ways we could serve God.

Kudos to the great staff that helped make Junior Camp 2022 run so smoothly! See you next year!

Middle Camp

Middle Camp's theme this year was "Getting Dressed." Each day campers would get together as a large group and learn about "clothing" themselves with righteousness.

One highlight from the lessons was when we were considering the "Armor of God". For visual aid, a staff member modeled an actual suit of armor.

Middle Camp also experimented this year with offering to the campers elective classes. In addition to a daily Bible class, campers could choose from a variety of classes with topics like board games, exercise, painting, and crafts.

Intermediate Camp

"On Your MARK," get set, GO!

Taking a snappy sprint through Mark's Gospel, Intermediate campers read about the miracles of Jesus, recognizing the authority & power of Christ as he healed, loved, taught, and ultimately gave His life for His people.

As we considered the starkly different responses that Jesus received, and listened to Mark's urgency to immediately take up our cross and follow Jesus, we challenged the campers to consider their own personal response to Jesus. Are they going to follow Him or reject Him?

We also invited GTS Life Ministries to the Intermediate Session this year to take campers through the process of discovering their spiritual gifts. It was made evident to campers that they are all wonderfully and purposefully created.

THANK YOU, Jesus, for once again showing up for our session in an amazing and powerful way!

Senior Camp

Senior Camp '22 was what we expected it to be: God was present, helping us to grow in the Lord.

The first week we focused on Old Testament passages that helped us know about God's presence: with Adam and Eve, during the Exodus, in the tabernacle, in the temple, and throughout the Psalms. All this taught us to seek the presence of the Lord.

The second week focused on John. We saw the presence of the Lord in Jesus, who shared the glory of God in human flesh. From the upper room servanthood, to the sacrificial cross and to the victorious empty tomb, Jesus opens the door (tears the curtain) for us to be in His presence *all the time*, not just in church or at camp.

The campers drank this in.

In truth, camp was serious all the time. Serious studies, serious conversations, and

serious Capture-the-Flag, water balloon volleyball, and a camper-staff soccer! (I can't remember who won.)

Thank you to all the staff that made this year the life changing event for campers we have come to expect.

Family Camp


"Pass the Baton"

We had a wonderful crowd at Family Camp this year. Dozens of families and individuals, young and old, spent three fun, energetic, and rejuvenating days at Fall Hall Glen.

During our study of Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we talked about "Passing the Baton." We are called to know Jesus in our hearts and spend our whole days passing on the *good news* to our children, our friends and family, and the whole world!

To fill out the days, we participated in a steady stream of balloon games, relay races, kickball, nature hikes, a talent show, scavenger hunts, digging in the sand, floating down the falls, Carpet Ball, Gaga Ball, endless crafts, good food and sleepy snuggles!

Thank you to all who helped, served, and led to make this session happen.

We are already looking forward to next summer. We hope to see you then. 

Volunteers (always) Needed!

Every year, WCYC requires countless hours from volunteers of all sorts, for all sorts of tasks. (And, not all of them require a one-week commitment and staying in a rustic cabin.)

If you love WCYC, if you or someone you love has been blessed by WCYC, or if you just want to be part of a great ministry, please, consider joining our army of volunteers.

For details on opportunities to serve:

Visit wcyc.org/volunteer

Has your name changed? Are we misspelling your name? Are we sending three copies of the newsletter to the same address? Has your camper grown up and moved into their own apartment? Does your friend want to start receiving our newsletter?

Send address additions and corrections to: communications@wcyc.org



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“Really Nice Guy” Frequently Seen Working on WCYC Camp Grounds



For the past couple years, authorities have observed a modest, high-energy man working all over the WCYC camp grounds. He has been serving in sweltering kitchens during youth camp, ministering to campers and staff alike, and just “showing up” for Camp Work Days and... working. Various witnesses have seen him spreading gravel, repairing damage to buildings, digging sand out from cabin foundations, sweeping, hauling branches, and removing debris from the site of the old Pines cabin (image to the left).

Observers report he’s a “really nice guy,” and genuinely seems to enjoy being helpful. In fact, despite the rigors of all this physical labor — and being 68 years old — he maintains a suspiciously pleasant attitude, and has even been overheard asking, “What do you need me to do, now?”

If you recognize this man, please, let him know that his efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we would love it if he started bringing his friends. 🙌

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