

TALES FROM THE CAMPSIDE

Sharing the latest news, info, and updates from Camp Challenge



WHERE WILL WE BE?

- Sep 7-8 CWC Prayer Retreat @
Camp Challenge, Bedford
- Sep 17-21 Campers on Mission Work
Camp @ Camp Challenge,
Bedford
- Oct 1 Indiana Ministries Annual
Meeting @ Madison Park
Church, Anderson
- Nov 2-4 365 State Youth Convention
@ Westin Hotel,
Indianapolis

SUMMER CAMP RECAP!

What an amazing summer! During June and July, over 150 staff and volunteers welcomed 584 campers during our 6 youth camp sessions—33% growth in attendance over the last 5 years! About 70% of our campers attend a Church of God or other partner church; the remaining 30% come from other churches and organizations or no home church.

Through our scholarship fund, our generous donors and church partners were able to provide registration fee assistance to 47 campers who otherwise would not have been able to attend camp.

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CAMP CHALLENGE

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Our theme this year was TOGETHER, based on Romans 12:5: “so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Our fantastic weekly program directors and staff and volunteer team helped our campers explore what it looks like to be the body of Christ using the examples given in Acts 2—learning, fellowshiping, eating, praying, meeting, sharing, giving, praising, and growing as one Church.



Although we love having fun and experiencing new things, our ultimate goal is for our campers to experience the life change possible through Jesus Christ. 95% of campers reported their relationship with God changed positively because of camp, and 114 campers made decisions to follow Jesus at camp. We are excitedly looking forward to how God may continue this work in 2019!





FACILITIES UPDATE—THANK YOU!!

Look at what the generosity of Individual donors, missions giving from partner churches, and work camp labor and funds from supporting organizations and businesses, has allowed us to do this year!

- Replace all mattress covers
- Connect all our main buildings with paved roads
- Complete the dining hall re-roof and add an exterior kitchen deck
- Add a slide platform
- Put our shooting sport range under roof
- Purchase a new dining hall stove, retreat center ice maker, and nurse's station washer and dryer
- Replace our pond fence
- Move our paintball equipment into dedicated storage

CAMP CHAMP: ALEC KERN

What is your role at Camp Challenge? Physical Operations Manager.

What kind of things does that entail? My job is making sure that all of our facilities and activities at camp are top notch. I make sure that our campers in the summer have an awesome time doing stuff like paintball and archery among other things, and that our retreat groups year round have amazing places to host their folks and have an enjoyable time doing so.

How did you originally get involved with Camp? I originally got involved with camp through my church's fall retreats at a very young age. I then started attending camp as a third grader, and came many summers after until I graduated high school.

Why do you choose to stay involved at camp? I remember so many awesome things about camp as a kid, and I feel God's call every day to make sure our campers and visitors have the same and even better experiences.

What is your favorite thing about working here? Meeting all the campers and people that come through camp every year, seeing how their experiences here make a real and positive impact on their life and their walk with Christ.

What is your best memory at Camp? A cabin time that I led with some of my campers this summer. Our staff was a bit under the weather, and we came together for a time of prayer. Afterward I felt the spirit just pouring out of me into my guys. To see the impact those times



Meet some of the folks that make Camp Challenge go!

together I've had with my guys over the years are some of the memories I'll carry with me for a long time.

What would you say to other people considering getting involved in camp ministry? Don't ignore God's call, and just dive in and get out of your comfort zone. My best advice is to just step out in your faith and see how amazingly rewarding getting involved at camp can really be.



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Camp Challenge exists to develop followers of and leaders for Jesus Christ by encouraging disconnection from everyday distractions and reconnection to God through His creation.

2019 CAMP DATES!

Registration opens January 1, 2019!

May 17-18, 2019: Staff & Volunteer Retreat

June 6-8, 2019: Young Explorers

June 9-14, 2019: Senior High

June 16-21, 2019: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade

June 23-28, 2019: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade

July 7-12, 2019: 5th, 6th, & 7th Grade

July 14-19, 2019: 4th, 5th, & 6th Grade

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The summer of 2018 has come and gone. It was an amazing one at Camp Challenge. Before the season even began we were able to make some changes at camp that really made a difference for the camper (and camper parent) experience. The most obvious improvement was that most of our gravel roads are now blacktop! It looks much better, there is much less mud around, and it works so well during check-in. Thank the Lord that the dining hall roof was finally completed this spring. It was a long process, but it looks (and works) great.

I am always thankful for our staff and volunteers. Our volunteers make it possible to run summer camps – THANK YOU! Thank you to this year's amazing summer staff and all that have served as summer staffers in the past. The impact a summer staffer has on camper lives is immeasurable.

At the end of the camping season a work group completed three important projects: a storage shed at the paintball field, a couple of slides for our younger campers and guests a new deck at the service entrance of the dining hall.

God is using and blessing Camp Challenge! We always strive to be good stewards of the resources we have. Our maintenance needs are still large for our existing buildings and at the same time we are looking at what we do next to improve the camp for the future. We will have some exciting opportunities to partner with Camp Challenge during our "Giving Tuesday" and year end fundraising campaigns. Please watch for more info on those efforts and prayerfully consider what you may be able to give.



Beyond those two efforts, one of the things that adds financial stability to our operations are recurring donations from individuals. We call them "fire circle" donors. Our donors currently give between \$10 and \$250 per month to our general fund, which pays for utility bills, liability insurance, office supplies, summer camp food, etc. It is one of the most important ways a person can be involved to ensure we have excellent camps each year. Our goal is to double our current number of individual monthly donors.

Would you partner with us in that way? If you have any questions about the mission or future plans for the camp, please don't hesitate to reach out. I love to talk about Camp Challenge!