

October 2023

THE DBC TIDINGS

A WAVE HELLO FROM CAMP

SPRING AND SUMMER MINISTRY



Contents...

- Page 3:
From the
Director
- Page 5:
Summer
2023 Review
- Page 8: 2023
Retreats
Recap
- Page 10:
Staff Update
- Page 12:
Facilities
Update
- Page 15: Get
Involved!

OUR MISSION

Creating opportunities for youth to:
Know Jesus → Love Jesus
Know Others → Love Others
1 John 4:19

Our Values



Christ-Centered

We want our campers to meet the real God and to know His **real** love for them. They have a Savior who loves them more than any other individual ever could. We want to point each camper to Him.

Bible Based

His word is truth, and we want that **real** truth and light of His gospel to penetrate through the brokenness of the dark world they live in, that they may find **real** hope in Him.

Relational

We want our campers to feel welcomed and to have the experience of a **real** Christian community with an inviting culture, making genuine and lasting friendships. When they step on this campus, we want them to be part of the **real** family of God, and to feel safe and loved in this environment.

Spiritual Transformation

We're not looking for our campers to just experience a retreat high, that comes and goes as soon as they leave this place. We want them to experience **real** change and growth as they get to know Him.

Fun & Memorable

God's way is better. He gives life that is truly life. Our culture portrays a message to our campers that they cannot have fun or experience joy without sinning... We want to shatter that message! In Him is life and fullness of joy. We want our campers to have a blast while they are here, and to create **real** friendships and memories that will last!

LOOKING AHEAD



COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT RETREAT.....	DECEMBER 30TH-JANUARY 1ST
HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT.....	JANUARY 12TH-15TH
WOMEN'S RETREAT.....	MARCH 15TH-17TH
MEN'S RETREAT.....	APRIL 26TH - 28TH
YOUTH LEADER CONFERENCE.....	SPRING 2024, DATES TBD
COWLITZ CO. MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP.....	JULY 6TH-10TH
KIDS CAMP.....	JULY 11TH-15TH
COWLITZ CO. HIGH SCHOOL CAMP.....	JULY 16TH-21ST
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP.....	JULY 23RD-27TH
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP.....	JULY 28TH-AUGUST 2ND

FROM THE DIRECTOR

-Brian Bickle, Executive Director

It has been both a blessed and busy year for Dunes Bible Camp. Coupled with the growth of our own camps and programs, we have also had various church groups using the camp throughout the summer and nearly every weekend since January. It is such a joy and privilege to see this place being used by so many different churches and ministries around the Northwest. This increase in usage has been an adjustment for our staff, as our "off-season" stays pretty busy now, but thankfully the Lord has also been growing our team so we are better able to carry this load together. God has been good to us!

OUR GROWING TEAM

Our most recent addition to the full-time team is our new Aquatics Director, Josiah Mallory. We have been looking for someone to fill this role for quite some time and Josiah is a huge answer to these prayers. This is a significant move for the camp, as Josiah will be living on-site and making efforts to make the pool a bigger part of our overall ministry to youth and the local community on the peninsula.

To make this addition even sweeter... Josiah recently married Savannah, who has become our new Accommodations Manager. You can learn more about Josiah and Savannah in an article below.

And continuing with additions to our team, this Fall we were also blessed with the opportunity to add Amalia Budrow as both a camp intern and lifeguard for this coming year.

Our team is growing, and we are thankful, as we've seen so many other camps, ministries, and local businesses struggle with staffing shortages over this last year. This has probably been the biggest blessing over the last couple years for Dunes...the formation of



our current team. Our team was about half its current size coming out of the pandemic, and we were excited to see so much growth in our camps and rentals, but it was pretty overwhelming for our small team to sustain. God quickly answered our prayers, and has continued to help us add the right people. This has not only helped us with the workload, but it has also been a great blessing to the community and culture we have here at the camp year-round.

SPRING RECAP

We had some amazing retreats this spring, with significant growth at our Women's, Men's, and College & Young Adults Retreats, along with the launch of our first annual Youth Leader Conference. You can read more on these below as well.

We were also blessed to have several work crews and serve teams come out this Spring. Brush Prairie Baptist Church came out at the beginning of May and did several projects around the main camp, including adding the first station to our Challenge Course.

Families on Mission followed that up by adding a second station to the course in addition to helping us host our Memorial Day Garage Sale and putting on our final "Dunes Night" before the launch of our camp season. About 40 local students attended that event and heard a gospel message from Brad Butcher, who was leading the team.

Mt. View Baptist then came out and focused on upgrading and preparing our lake property for the camp season. We were astonished at the amount of work they achieved in one weekend; replacing boards on our dock, taking down about 50 dangerous trees in the camping areas, painting the shower rooms and lodge, pressure washing the sidewalks and RV hook-ups, etc. as well as providing the funds for the various projects they took on. All these crews were a huge blessing to our ministry.



SUMMER CAMPS

I'll leave the more thorough recap of our summer camps for the articles below, but as a Director, looking back on the ministry of this summer, I am so encouraged to see how God is working in the individual lives of the campers, volunteers and staff that come here. For us as staff, I don't know if there is anything better than to see the real, genuine gospel fruit produced through the ministry you plan and invest in year-round.

...I don't know if there is anything better than to see the real, genuine gospel fruit produced...

Many people that come in get to see what God does in the life of these campers through the relational ministry and gospel presentations at Dunes, but what is equally as encouraging to me and our other year-round staff is to see many of these campers transition to CADETS, SEALS and other Summer Staff roles, which gives our camp leadership more opportunity for discipleship and ministry with these individuals. This group has become vital to our summer ministry, but it has also become a ministry in itself that our year-round team is very thankful for and passionate about. It's a blessing to see these programs come to life, which were once just visions and ideas. Again, God has been very good to us!

Please keep our ministry in your prayers and enjoy the updates and articles below.

-Brian Bickle, Executive Director

CONSIDER THE HEAVENS SUMMER 2023 REVIEW

-Amy Rose Collins, Program Director

THEME

The theme this summer was 'Consider the Heavens'. The theme verse, Psalm 8:3-5, called our campers to pause and consider that the very same God who created the universe is mindful of them, and wants to have a personal relationship with each one of them. Planets and stars were our backdrop this year, thanks to many talented contributors who helped us prepare camp for a summer in space. In line with the theme, accompanying each evening chapel this summer was a dramatic video presenting an awe-inspiring space fact that highlighted the majesty and wonder of God's intricate design in creation.

SPEAKERS

God brought us 5 speakers this summer who each had a unique way to connect our theme with the gospel message. We are so thankful for these speakers!

Middle School 1: Brad Butcher

Kids Camp: Isaac Bruns

High School 1: Brian Bickle

Middle School 2: Steven Dilworth

High School 2: James Aiken



STAFF

We are very proud of the staff team this year. It takes a lot of counselors to make camp happen! We were blessed with over 110 volunteer counselors who worked so hard and left our campers (and each other) with a lot of sweet memories and new friendships.

PROGRAM

This summer we introduced some new traditions, such as a Dunes original Happy Birthday cheer, and Soup the Goose. Who is Soup the Goose, you ask? Soup is a mischievous goose who likes to hide in sneaky spots around camp for campers to find. If you found Soup this summer, you may just have earned a LOT of points for your team!

We also added some new elements to old traditions, such as an appearance by my 'twin sister' Sheila from Australia who visited camp to lead Safari.

We tried something new at Kid's Camp:

rotations in the morning and messages in the evening. These rotations included a puppet show, verse memory, arts and crafts, and games. This change allowed for short breaks each day for every counselor, which is a huge step

towards our goal of making camp more sustainable for staff.

Some of our camper highlights this summer included Dunes Got Talent, Safari, Organized Mass Chaos, Dance Parties, Orbee Wars (new this year!) and Lake Day!

Of course, all the programming is secondary to the work of Jesus in our camper's lives.

This takes place during chapels, cabin discussion times, morning devotions, all of the quality time with counselors and friends - and any other time the Lord decides to work during a fun-filled camp day!

HS and MS campers enjoy workshops in the morning, where they can choose a topic that they are interested in.

“
*When I look at your heavens, the work
of your fingers, the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place, what is
man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?*
”

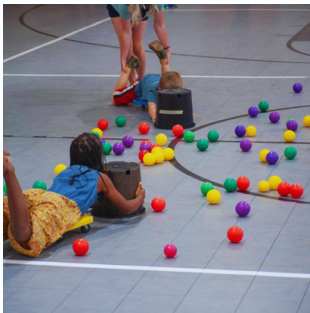
PSALM 8:3-4



This summer featured workshops such as 'How We Know the Bible is True', 'Dealing with Anxiety', 'Relationships,' 'Biblical Conflict Resolution', and more.

IMPACT

Our favorite part of camp is watching campers walk away with changed lives. Whether it is verses they have hidden in their hearts, finding that they are not alone in their walk with Christ, or best of all, having put their trust in Jesus for the very first time. At every camp, campers testified either at campfire or at chapel of the ways God had worked in their hearts and lives that week. We don't push for exact numbers at each camp, but each week we witnessed many campers place their faith in Jesus for the very first time. This is why we do what we do!



“I went home with good practical tools to continue in my walk with Christ.”

Here are some of my favorite comments from campers about how they grew at camp this summer: “I went home with good practical tools to continue in my walk with Christ.” “I feel refreshed after this week.” “I accepted Him as my Savior.” “I had questions regarding creation but Brian's workshop helped a lot.” These are only a few of the ways God used Dunes this summer to reach youth for His Kingdom.



the numbers

- 649 campers
- >165 volunteer staff
- 8 SEALS
- 13 CADETS
- 5 weeks of camp
- 61 meals served
- 12 night games
- 4 Dunes Got Talent shows
- 12 times Soup the Goose was found



SEAL AND CADETS PROGRAMS

-Sophie Lembke, SEAL & CADETS Leader

SEALS

This summer we had 8 SEALS who served from June 18th to August 8th. The SEAL team (Servants Equipped to Assist and Lead) is the core group of summer staff that we rely on all summer long to get camp ready for campers, serve rental groups before and after camps, and make camp happen throughout the summer through counseling, cleaning, food service, and anything else needed.

It was amazing to see God working through these individuals as they served joyfully, contributed their unique talents, and persevered through difficult days.

This summer, two SEALS, Adam and Aidan, donated their photography and videography skills to provide us with great media for summer camps. One SEAL, Clover, oversaw the Snack Shack for the whole summer. Another SEAL, Tanis, lifeguarded at the pool all summer. These are just a few examples of how much each of these capable individuals on the SEAL team brings to the table. From counseling, to game set-up, to emergency maintenance help, to town runs, to Snack Shack, to meal prep and dish crew - we can't imagine running a summer without them! Thank you, SEAL Team!



Email sophie@dunesbiblecamp.com if you would like to "adopt a summer staffer" for summer 2024! You will receive a short bio and updates on how to pray for your staffer throughout the summer

CADETS

We were blessed to have a total of 13 CADETS (Campers At Dunes Eager To Serve) between 2 teams this summer, to accommodate our guest rental groups!

It was wonderful to see this program grow from last summer, and to see campers who have grown up at Dunes all their lives excited to serve on staff for the first time. We are so proud of all of our CADETS who exemplified joy and flexibility and hospitality to our guests - and we received the feedback from our rental groups to show it.

[The] youth staff - so willing to serve with a smile. Great role models for our team!

-Guest Church Staff

ADOPT A SUMMER STAFFER PROGRAM

One new element that I added this year to benefit our SEALS and long-term counselors was the "Adopt-A-Summer-Staffer" Program, where friends of camp (alumni, parents, volunteers, retreat attendees, etc.) signed up to support a full-summer staff member through prayer!

This summer, 14 of our staff, made up of SEALS and full-summer counselors and volunteers were faithfully prayed for and encouraged during the course of their time serving at camp. Many received letters of encouragement during their summer commitment, and all were encouraged to know that they were being prayed for by someone rooting for them and this ministry. This summer, our prayer team was mostly made up of women who attended the 2023 Women's Retreat. I am excited to see this new program continue to grow!

2023 RETREATS RECAP

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT NEW YEARS RETREAT

The 2022-23 College and Young Adult's Retreat was our biggest ever, with over 100 young adults in attendance. We were honored to have Josh Duff, director of Ecola Bible College in Cannon Beach, OR, as the speaker. Attendees enjoyed small groups, games, great food, and on New Year's Eve, a Scottish Ceilidh (Kay-lee) dance, led by the father of our Program Director, Amy-Rose. The New Year's party concluded with a time of worship after the dance to ring in the New Year. It was a wonderful weekend of connecting with other young adults in the Northwest and being encouraged in the pursuit of the Lord.



HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT

This mid-January camp was a blast with over 65 campers. Students enjoyed night games, marshmallow wars, free time, pool time, snacks, chapel messages, worship sessions, and cabin discussions. Our speaker was Zack Talbert from Crossroads Bible Church in Bellevue, WA. Zack was a summer speaker at Dunes and the High School Students greatly benefited from his message on trusting Jesus in the storm. Some camper favorites from Winter Retreat include playing Assassin with the whole camp, the Saturday night Q & A panel, Diamond Smugglers, making new friends, and a black light dance party in the Dining Hall.



WOMEN'S RETREAT - MARCH 2023



“
What a fantastic weekend of hope, love, and community!
”

-Women's Retreat Attendee

This year we saw growth in our Women's Retreat, with over 130 women attending. It is encouraging to continue to see numbers increase post-COVID. We also continue to partner with more churches and see them bringing more attendees to our retreats.

This Women's Retreat was a sweet time of fellowship, fun, and enjoying both new and old



friendships. The ladies enjoyed small groups, worship, fellowship, a painting class, walks on the beach, and our annual Silent Auction, which is made up of handcrafted items donated by attendees.

Just over \$2000 total was raised by the Silent Auction, which was split between camper scholarships and Coast Pregnancy Clinic in Astoria.

Dawna Stutzman of Southwest Bible Church in Beaverton, OR was our speaker.

She encouraged and inspired everyone at the retreat with beautiful singing and Gospel-centered, hope-filled messages from the Bible.



MEN'S RETREAT - APRIL 2023

Men's Retreat 2023 was our largest Men's Retreat in over a decade. There were over 65 attendees, and it was one of our most beloved events of the year. This growth is largely due to churches partnering with us, and we are so thankful for the growing relationships with these ministries around the Northwest and the honor it is to host them at our retreats!

The men enjoyed small groups, fellowship in the dining hall before and after meals, lots of coffee, axe-throwing, and just having time away to rest.



We were honored to have Mike Collins of Gateway church in Washougal as our speaker. His words of Biblical wisdom were very well received.



“
Mr. Collins was a great speaker and gave us men the perfect message on how to continue as men leading our families and churches.
”

-Men's Retreat attendee

Attendee Testimony:

I was more than impressed with [Mike Collins] and his instruction, testimonial and personal experiences. I cannot express enough how much this short weekend gathering of men of like belief in Jesus profoundly affected me and strengthened me. - Men's Retreat attendee, 63

YOUTH LEADER CONFERENCE - APRIL 2023

For the first time ever, this April, Dunes Hosted a retreat with the goal of encouraging and equipping youth leaders, staff, and volunteers from around the Northwest.

During this refreshing mid-week retreat, three experienced ministry professionals: Mike Arzie of Southwest Bible Church in Beaverton, OR, Dr. Jeremiah L. Peck of Ally Christian Counseling in Vancouver, WA, and Dr. Ron Marrs of Western Seminary addressed relevant topics such as common challenges

facing youth today, and how to prevent burnout in ministry.

Attendees enjoyed fellowship with other youth ministry professionals, good food, worship, and time away to relax and be refreshed.

Even though this was the first ever Youth Leader Conference, we welcomed attendees from 17 churches and ministries around the Northwest. We are excited to see how God will use this retreat in years to come.



Staff Update

JOSIAH AND SAVANNAH MALLORY

This year we welcomed Josiah and Savannah to our team! Josiah is our new Aquatics Director, taking the place of Rob Buchanan who has been looking to take a step back from the pool, although he still serves in a consulting role and assists with cleaning and monitoring chemical levels, but now with more time to enjoy his retirement. We have been asking for prayer for an Aquatics Director for quite some time and we praise God for His provision. Savannah is taking on the role of Accommodation Manager and will be overseeing housekeeping. We are so thankful for the Mallorys and are so excited to have them on the team!



With the addition of Josiah, this spring we were able to launch a swim program for our local Hilltop Middle School, giving the opportunity for about 70 students to come to Dunes for swim lessons. We also have been able to expand our evening swim classes for the younger children in our community as well.

Josiah comes to us with a whole lot of camp ministry under his belt, having grown up at Camp Gilead in Carnation, WA, and interned at Camp IdRaHaJe in Colorado, then served as a Conference Assistant for a year at the Cannon Beach Conference Center. Josiah has always had a passion for aquatics and he is excited to bring the love of Christ to our public pool facility, which serves the Long Beach Peninsula community all year long.

Savannah comes to us from Colorado, where she has been involved in camp ministry at Camp IdRaHaJe for 3 years. Savannah has worked as a special needs para-educator and is excited about serving God and working with kids here at Dunes. Savannah loves hiking, her bunnies, and spending time with her husband.

2023 INTERN: AMALIA

Amalia moved here from Vancouver, WA in September. She graduated in spring of 2022, and came to Dunes for the first time just this summer as a counselor, after hearing about the opportunity from a friend. While at camp, Amalia heard about the internship opportunity and felt called to join the team.



Although Amalia has only been with us for a few weeks, she has already achieved her Lifeguard Certification, and will be spending much of her time this year at the pool.

In her spare time, Amalia enjoys longboarding and swimming. She is looking forward to experiencing what it's like to live in the camp community in the off season.



FACILITIES UPDATES

THE NORTH PROPERTY

In June of 2022, we acquired the North Property, a long strip of wooded land on the North end of camp from the beach to the highway. The property adds 4.5 acres to camp. We acquired this strip of land with dreams of fixing up the run-down home on it into camp housing and adding a team-building challenge course.

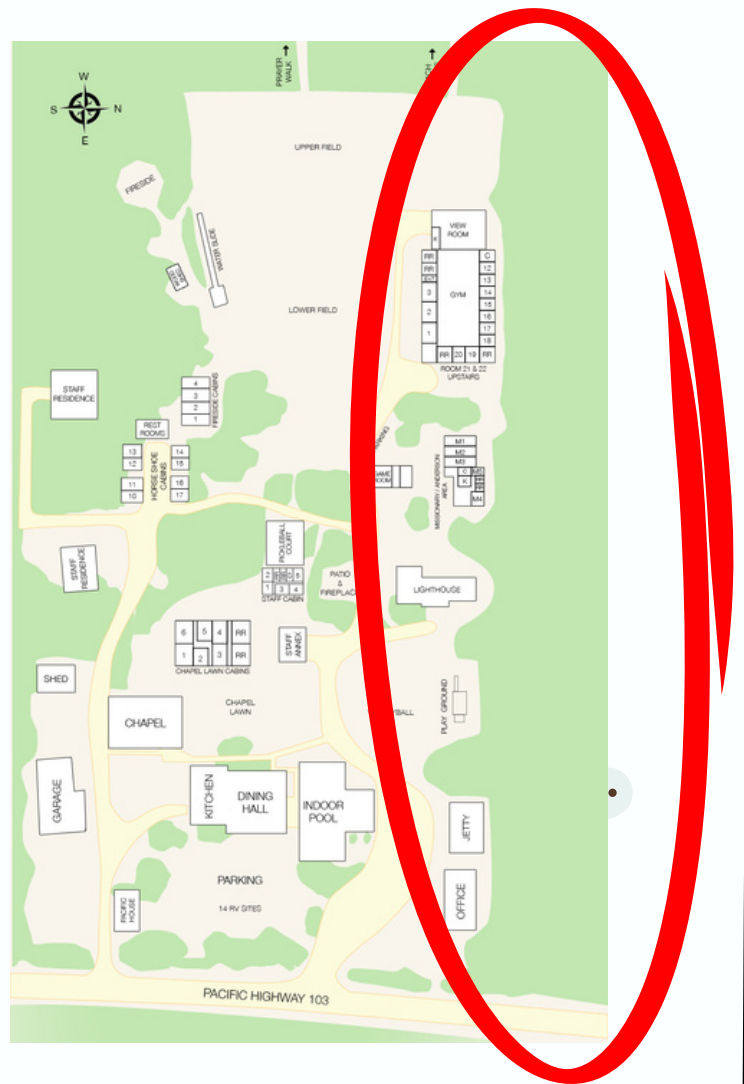
PROGRESS SO FAR:

Over the past year, we have been able to add 5 team building elements to the woods, thanks to the SEAL Team, Brush Prairie Baptist, and the Families About Mission serve team.

Having this additional land has already been a blessing in many ways, for example, this summer the stretch of woods by the Gym was turned into an epic arena for an extremely popular new activity; Orbee Wars!

As for the beach cabin on the property, our staff and faithful volunteers have spent countless man hours over the last year gutting the run-down cabin and turning it into a pleasant living facility. Facing termite damage, rats nests, and more fun stuff, the crew has leveled the foundation, re-roofed, resided, and built a deck. Things are coming along nicely! The current plan is to have Josiah and Savannah, our new staff couple, move into this house when it is completed. Currently this project is about 50% done.

It's so exciting to see the dreams for this property beginning to come true, even within just one year!



Pictured: Jeremy Scamman, Steve Olsen, and George Caward getting ready to put in new windows!



OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS



FLOORING FLOORING FLOORING!

Over the last year, we have redone the flooring in several places around camp, including the Anderson bathrooms and the Chapel sound booth. Right now, we are in the process of updating the Chapel Lawn cabin floors, and redoing the Girl's Bathroom floor in the Chapel Lawn! We praise God for the financial provision and willing laborers to get these important jobs done.

FRONT OF CAMP UPDATES

If you've been to camp recently, you've probably noticed some changes out front! A volunteer arborist from Mt. View Church in Centralia, Andrew Shedd, came out and took down many rotting trees from our front fence area for free. To beautify the stumps, a volunteer chainsaw artist, Blaine Gunkel, from local church PBC turned some of these stumps into black bears and an octopus to welcome guests as they arrive.

Some other changes to the front of camp include an update to the bus stop that sits at the main entrance. Sarah and Tyler Stout repainted, giving it a much needed refresh, and to top it off, two



summer staff from our volunteer Ecola Summer Ministry Team, Kate and Ella, painted a Dunes logo on the back (they did a beautiful job!)



SIDING

So much new siding! Siding on the Gym, siding on the View Room, siding on the North Property house, siding on a staff house! We are so thankful for Jeremy's expertise as well as the many volunteer man hours that make these upgrades possible.

LAKE BATHHOUSE REPAIRS

A pipe burst in the larger Men's Bathroom at the Lake this winter, causing excessive water damage. Jeremy gutted the bathroom and replaced the drywall and counter tops. Thank you, Jeremy!



LOTS OF LITTLE THINGS

Additional small, but none-the-less exciting improvements which all add to the overall quality of our facilities:

- Refinished picnic tables
- Refinished pickleball benches
- Installed and improved paths around camp - including to the Chapel Lawn cabins from the Chapel
- Updated signage around camp
- Lighthouse remodel - this project has been begun by George and Cherryl Caward, whose work made the Lighthouse suitable for rental groups this year
- Pool updates and maintenance - new sand for the filters, repaired heat exchange, added manifolds for an automated chemical system, fixed leaks
- Fixed freezer
- Landscaping
- New Slide at the Pool
- New mats for in and around many showers
- New doors on Fireside Cabins

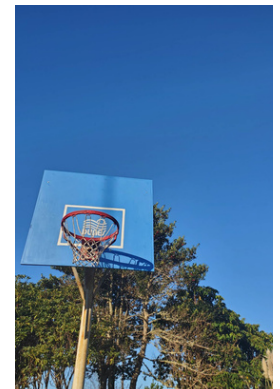


VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

We want to give a special thank you to Steve Olsen, George and Cherryl Caward, Tyler and Sarah Stout, Fred Butcher, Dave and Mary Brawdy, Dave Haugsten, Steve Holmes, Josh McDaniel, Judy Cunningham, Andrew Shedd, and Andy Fagerness for the hours of skillfull volunteer labor they have donated within the past year to make Dunes a better place.

COMING SOON!!!

In addition to the current flooring projects, Jeremy is excited about replacing the siding on the south side of the chapel. He is also working on adding/repairing water fountains around camp, and a sprinkler system.



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

PRAY!

PRAYER REQUESTS :

- For our first Outdoor School Program this fall to go well!
- That we would be able to recruit another lifeguard or two to help with pool staffing.
- That all of our new staff would be able to transition and adjust well into their new roles.
- That we would be able to finish the North Property remodel in a timely manner.
- That God would continue to use this camp to reach souls for Christ!

WORK AT CAMP

Whether you are 14 or 104, there is an opportunity for you to serve at camp! We rely on a huge team of volunteers each summer to make camp happen. Would you prayerfully consider applying to serve on staff this summer? We need leadership staff, counselors, SEALS, CADETS, and a number of behind the scenes support staffers who can assist with kitchen, media, lifeguarding, and more.



SEND KIDS TO CAMP

In summer 2023, at least 62 individuals were able to attend camp because of full or partial scholarship! Donating to our camper scholarship fund is one of the primary ways to support the ministry of Dunes Bible Camp.

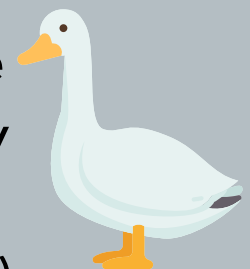
“
**IN SUMMER 2023, AT
LEAST 62 INDIVIDUALS
WERE ABLE TO ATTEND
CAMP BECAUSE OF
SCHOLARSHIPS!**
”

ADOPT A SUMMER STAFFER

Would you consider being a prayer partner for a staff member next summer? If you sign up to adopt a summer staffer, you will receive a short bio and a note from them at the start of their summer commitment, with updates on how to best pray for them throughout the summer.

Email sophie@dunesbiblecamp.com if you are interested in adopting a summer staffer for summer 2024!

Can you find
Soup the Goose
hidden on every
page?
(except this one)




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Brian Bickle – *Executive Director*

Joel Uram – *Assistant Director* | Jeremy Scamman – *Facilities Manager*

Amie Connor – *Kitchen Manager* | Amy-Rose Collins – *Program Director*

Josiah Mallory – *Aquatics Director* | Savannah Mallory – *Accommodations Manager*

Sophie Lembke – *Administrative Assistant* | Charity Scamman – *Dining Hall Coordinator*

Katie Uram – *Cook* | Karen Suprunowski – *Cook* | Amalia Budrow – *Intern*

Cherie Dunwoody – *Swim Instructor* | Amber Onder – *Swim Instructor*

Rob Buchanan – *Pool Services*



FULL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Brush Prairie Baptist Church - Vancouver, WA

Cornerstone Community Church - Tenino, WA

Emmanuel Bible Fellowship - Olympia, WA

First Baptist Church - Shelton, WA

First Baptist Church - South Bend, WA

First Baptist Church - Warrenton, OR

First Baptist Church - Woodland, WA

Gateway Community Church - Washougal, WA

Green Mountain Baptist Church - Woodland, WA

Mt. View Baptist Church - Centralia, WA

Peninsula Baptist Church - Ocean Park, WA

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