

Camp Lebanon n News

OCTOBER 2020

The Official Newsletter of Camp Lebanon

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www.camplebanon.org

MINISTRIES REPORT

Friends Shout "I LOVE CAMP!" with \$90K Offering



Camp has amazing friends who love, love, love Camp Lebanon. We also have an AWESOME God! These are the two big affirmations coming out of the "I LOVE CAMP!" WEEK celebrated August 24-31. Challenged by the generosity of four families who put up a \$26,000 matching gift opportunity, over 200 first time and long-term donors stepped to the plate and knocked it out of the park. Friends added to a surge of early gifts and blessed Camp with \$35,000 during the week of "I LOVE CAMP!", making August one of the biggest donor months in Camp history. Donations kept coming in September, as donors more than doubled the match with **campaign total topping \$90,000**. Wow! What a tremendous boost to the ministry and team, especially at the end of a summer that saw all youth camps and most rental events canceled. "Camper attendance was a quarter of 2019, but the workload doubled," observed Bill Abeler, Executive Director. "With fall events at reduced capacities and winter retreats uncertain, this flood of support will go a long way in building a financial bridge to next summer." *Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

Reduced Fall Capacities Can't Diminish Blessing

For guests returning to Camp this fall, the feeling of anything reminiscent of "normal" explained what one **Women's Restore** guest described as "the delight of being back at Camp." Cedar Lake. Chapel. Laser tag. Beaver Point. Wiffleball. Chef Jim's famous oatmeal. Ah, it was good to be "home!" The staff felt the joyous relief, too, despite the fact that sessions were running at only 50-70% capacity. Several **rental groups** canceled out, as well, as churches struggled with pandemic concerns and State mandates. But after a summer without youth camps, it sure was a thrill to hear 65 teens running around Camp at the annual **Fall Fire**. And who couldn't enjoy the "funnest fun!" experienced at **parent-child** campfire chapels, fireworks and all! Perhaps the grandest blessing of all might have been dusting off the hymnals at the "**Young at Heart**" retreat. Now it's time for Camp's amazing quilters to celebrate 30 years of **Quilt & Scrap**!



PRAISE & PRAY!

- **PRAISE! Brotherhood Mutual settlement:** \$141,000 from a Loss of Revenue policy.
- **PRAISE! CRITTERS ARRIVED:** 37 animal & bird mounts donated. Beautiful!
- **PRAISE! QUILT & SCRAPBOOK:** Celebrating 30 years of amazing ministry!
- **PRAISE! WOMEN'S RESTORE BLESSING:** \$3000 for Camp, \$1700 for Missions.
- **PRAISE! RECENT BLESSINGS:** "new" pickup, gifts of \$3K, \$3K, and \$5K! Wow!
- **PRAY! Coronavirus:** Wisdom, protection of guests and staff, grace to serve.
- **PRAY! Safety of guests, staff, and community:** Camp continues to do its part.
- **PRAY! Future Planning:** Winter season questions; financial bridge to next summer.

INBOX Blessings

NOTES FROM MOTHER-DAUGHTER

"We always feel a renewed connection to God and bring it home with us... This is truly a place where heaven is on earth."

"Every year my kids look forward to coming to Camp. It's a chance for us to connect... The chapels spark curiosity about God and allows us to see His glory in nature."

"This place is amazing – a home away from home, a place for my heart to rest and enjoy God's blessings!"

"All my grandchildren asked Jesus to be their savior at Camp."

COVID UPDATE

Keeping Campers Safe

Camp leadership has worked hard to establish protocols and complete facility adjustments to keep guests safe. Safety measures now in place:

- Pre-communication with guests
- Pre-screening all staff (daily), guests
- On-site orientation and signage
- Facial covering compliance
- Housing capacities reduced
- Distancing for food lines, chapels
- Safe food serving and dining protocols
- Rec equipment checkouts, cleaning
- Deep-clean, daily sanitation
- Hand sanitizer, masks available
- Guest email follow-up check-in



COVID Changes Bring New Memories

It's easy to gripe about mask mandates, extra cleaning protocols, and ever-adapting dining procedures. However, some of the forced changes have made for fresh, meaningful experiences. The move to outside chapels for fall events has been especially impactful. Whether it's the big campfire or special lighting, guests and staff alike have found the atmosphere both inspiring and refreshing. Another big change has required all recreation checkout to run through the Activity Center. The move has brought new connections with guests and opened new activities for families, such as archery and BB guns. Turning the Main Hall into a second Dining Hall has also turned into a blessing for families and groups, who have enjoyed the extra space and quieter setting. "Count your many blessings, name them one by one... And it will surprise what the Lord has done!"

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 11-13	Mother- Daughter Retreat	135 guests (FULL!)
Sept. 14-17	Young at Heart Retreat	29 guests. So sweet!
Sept. 15	Fall Senior Day	Canceled due to COVID
Sept. 18-20	Dads N Lads Retreat	99 campers. Super FUN!
	Dads N Daughters	Canceled due to COVID
	Men's Retreat	Canceled due to COVID
	Women's Retreats	Canceled due to COVID
Sept. 24-27	Women's RESTORE	115 guests, 10 churches
Oct. 2-4	Fall Fire! (gr. 9-12)	75 teens/leaders
Oct. 15-20	MEA Quilt Retreat	60 quilters! Great time.
Oct. 29 – Dec. 8	Quilt & Scrap Retreats (5 sessions)	HURRY!

RENTAL OPENINGS: December (call!), January – February spots.



2021 WINTER SCHEDULE

December 31- January 3	YAR Winter
January 15-17	Arctic Blast (grades 7-12)
Rental openings	January 22-24, February 5-7, 26-28

Due to COVID concerns, the following events will not be scheduled: **Mega Fun** (3-6), **Women's Winter Warm Up**, and **Men's Advance**.