



Finding Peace at Camp
By Andrew Graber, Senior High Camper

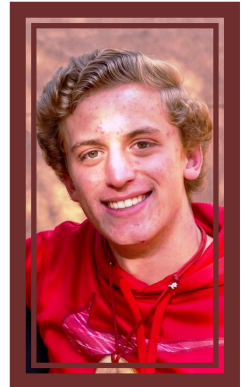
Camp is not a place where you go for the amenities or to relax; it is a place where you find peace in chaos. This year more than ever, I stopped to look around at all the shuffling of people and felt at peace. It gives an indescribable feeling of being truly present. Other campers and I wanted to learn how to do more of this in our everyday lives: keeping camp alive. It became a theme, in a way, for the week, deciphering our feelings in the moments and how to live our lives like we are at camp.

Coming to camp, you see people as they are without having a phone to distract you or help you avoid conversations you may not want to have. This allows people to be vulnerable with each other because real conversations happen face to face. These conversations can be a lot to take in. But, by knowing someone's struggles, though you may *not at all* understand what their struggles are like, you can still better understand how their life was shaped.

For me, I have to remember that when people at my school are frustrating or doing something I don't appreciate, they might have some stuff in their life making them think they

need to act out. By learning from each other and listening, I can find God and who I want to be. Camp is a safe place that allows that vulnerability and understanding to happen. It's easy to find God at a camp *about* God, but it allows me to learn from teachings and deep conversations, and then try to place that into my everyday life.

Like a job, you don't start with the most difficult task, but you learn and grow. Camp is a safe place that allows for practice and failure, so when you go back to the "real world" you have a better grasp of who you want to be and how you can be more like Christ. The best part is you can do this while doing really fun activities. Mennoscah is a place of reconciling, where people who are going through so much can learn and be at peace, even for one week, and then have the strength and support from friends to keep going throughout the year.



Your support makes the difference!

As you read in the article above, campers like Andrew have been formed by relationships that have grown and been fostered at Camp Mennoscah. While this summer camping season has come to a close, hundreds of campers will come next summer to find peace in the chaos, experience the feeling of being truly present, and (re)discover who God wants them to be. Your gift helps provide the space, programs, and staff for these three things (and more) to happen.



Be part of a camper's faith story by giving today!

Make a one-time or recurring gift online at campmennoscah.org.





Creating Traditions at Women and Girls Retreat



With Women and Girls Retreat coming up, Michael visited with Denise Nickel, a dedicated attendee, about what has made the retreat special for her.

MU: *When did you first start coming to the retreat?*

DN: I started consistently coming in 1992 once our family moved back to Goessel. My sisters and mom started before that, probably in the late 70's or 80's.



around the circle take liberty to enhance it! We often joke around and tell stories until between 2:00 and 4:00 in the morning, and sometimes haven't gone to bed at all.

MU: *Why should other people come to this retreat?*

DN: You have the time to spend quality time together with your daughter or mom. You can make new friends from other communities, just like at summer camp. You have the opportunity to evaluate your own personal life and relationship with God. And, it can be a time to create new traditions!

Women and Girls Retreat is September 6-8, 2019 so register ASAP! Find information about registration by visiting campmennoscah.org and clicking "Programs," "Retreats," "Women & Girls Retreat."



MU: *What makes the retreat special?*

DN: Women who give so much of their time to their families sometimes don't take time for themselves, so it's a weekend to be away from home, listen to good speakers, attend meaningful workshops, and have some time to ourselves.

MU: *Are there any traditions you have?*

DN: Well, after popcorn time, around 11 p.m., we (my sisters and others from Tabor Mennonite) usually make an announcement: "Tent City is open for business." We then encourage new attendees to tell "their" story...and others

2019 Summer Camp: By the Numbers

The 2019 summer youth camping season was another wonderful time of fun and faith formation! Here are some numbers that capture some of what happened over the eight summer sessions:

- 611:** Total Youth Campers
- 13:** States Represented
(KS: 565, MO, NE, TX: 7 each, CO: 6, OK, WI: 4 each, IL: 3, IA, LA, SD, WA: 2 each, SC:1)
- 391:** Campers from Mennonite Church USA Churches
- 221:** Campers Not from MCUSA Churches
- 247:** Total Volunteers
- 39:** Campfires Successfully Lit
- 485:** Lost-and-Found Items Collected
- 1,400:** Bierocks Prepared
- 13,166:** Plates of Food Served
- 873:** Campers & volunteers who made summer camps great!

Open dates at Camp Mennoscah for your next meeting, retreat or gathering!

September 6-8	Bluestem
September 13-15	Main Camp, Retreat Center, Bluestem
September 20-22	Bluestem
September 27-29	Bluestem
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October 4-6	Main Camp, Bluestem
October 11-13	Main Camp, Retreat Center,
October 18-20	Bluestem
October 25-27	Bluestem
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November 1-3	Main Camp, Bluestem
November 8-10	Retreat Center, Bluestem
November 15-17	Main Camp, Bluestem
Nov 22-23	Retreat Center, Bluestem
Nov 29-Dec 24	Main Camp, Retreat Center, Bluestem

Weekdays also available.

*Contact us and schedule your event now!
office@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290*

Work and Play Days
September 14 &
October 5

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting
September 22

Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats
November 1-3 &
November 15-17

Christmas Gathering for Volunteers
December 14



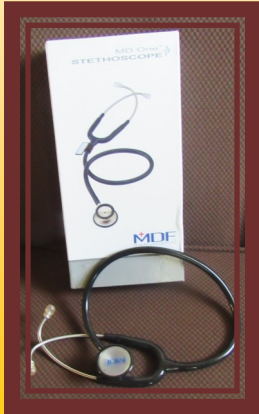


Remembering Camp Mennoscah Volunteers

Ethel Wedel

Ethel was a camp nurse for 4 or 5 years and enjoyed working with the children. In her vocation as a nurse, the patients were always important to her and that continued at camp. She also attended Camp Mennoscah as a camper and at family camp growing up. In listening to testimonies of baptism candidates at church, Camp Mennoscah is always mentioned as being so important to the youth in

their spiritual walk, as it was with our children. The long-lasting friendships that are developed from a week is priceless. That is why Ethel and I are supportive of Camp Mennoscah and its mission.
- Rod Wedel, spouse



Memorial gifts for Ethel provided a needed new stethoscope and other supplies for the camp nurse's station.

Virgil and Vernell Kaufman

When I think of my parents and camp, I think of service, relationships, and fun! *Service* included many hours in the kitchen, putting in and taking out the dam, being on the planning committee for family camp, and building projects. They formed many, many *relationships* at camp and deepened their relationship with God through nature. Spending time with their grandchildren at Grandparents Camp was a highlight, too. *Fun* included fishing and more fishing, card-playing, and swimming, including the early-morning polar bear swim at family camp. Camp Mennoscah was important to them and they always encouraged their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to attend camp.

- Marla Gillmore, daughter



Memorial gifts for Virgil and Vernell provided a bench by the horseshoe pit near the dining hall.



Adolf and Wanda Neufeld

Growing up I cherished spending time with my grandparents and pestering my big brother. One weekend a year I got to do both, when my brother was a camper and I would tag along with my grandparents to help in the kitchen. My grandparents loved service work, especially at Camp Mennoscah. In addition to these memories, I most cherish the values my grandparents instilled in me. Today it's so easy to get sucked in by all the hatred and negativity that we start to lose sight of our faith. It's in those times that I remember how my grandparents lived and ask: what am I doing to make this world a better place? - Marc Marshall, grandson



My first memories of camp were from the 60's when my parents would go help cook, do crafts, or maintenance. I knew camp well, even before I was old enough to attend. When I did attend, they planned to be there helping. They continued the tradition with my sons and for many years after. They made so many friends, young and old, while working or attending camp. Such wonderful memories. - Marilyn Marshall, daughter



Memorial gifts for Adolf and Wanda provided a bench in the picnic area near the river.



Come Celebrate Another Great Year at Camp Mennoscah!

Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon and evening, September 22, for Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting!

All are welcome to attend.

Here are some activities we have planned for the celebration and gathering on Sunday:

- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.** - River play, fishing, canoeing, disc golf, gowling, other games
(Activities not organized or supervised by camp staff or volunteers.)
- 5:30 p.m.** - Picnic-style BBQ chicken supper, Annual Meeting to follow
 - Hear from campers and staff about the summer camping season
 - Connect with new and current Camp Mennoscah staff and board members
 - **Enter your name to win a Camp Mennoscah prize!**



Register online at campmennoscah.org to let us know you're coming to celebrate with us!



Camp Mennoscah

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to receive the newsletter
by email!

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Camp Mennoscah Wish List

Items can be purchased at smile.amazon.com, your favorite local store, or wherever you find them.

- [ACDelco Heavy Duty Twin Hammer 1/2" Air Impact Wrench ANI402 \\$55.95](#)
- [KitchenAid Professional 6000 HD KSM6573CWH Stand Mixer, 6 Quart \\$279.00](#)
- [\(2\) 5-shelf shelving unit with casters \\$49.88](#)
- [Rubber Mallet 1 lb. w/Fiberglass handle \\$6.99](#)
- Twin size quilted mattress covers-good quality
- [Cuisinart DLC-2ABC Mini Prep Plus Food Processor \\$26.99](#)

*Thank you for your generosity
in supporting this ministry!*

Family Weekend



Ten families came to Family Weekend on June 29-30, 2019 to reconnect, focus on family, enjoy activities and fellowship, and make some wonderful memories at Camp Mennoscah.

Hope you can join us next year!



Camp Sing



What a fun and colorful celebration! Over 175 campers, staff, parents, and friends joined us at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church on August 11 for Camp Sing 2019!

We sang joyously, jumped up-and-down, and enjoyed meaningful fellowship with each other through worship, popcorn, and generic pop.

The offering raised \$821.00 toward new music equipment!



www.campmennoscah.org

