

Ninnescah News

Fall Retreats

Mental Health Spiritual	Sept. 1-2
Women & Girls	September 6-8
Work & Play	September 15-18
Fall Scrapbooking	November 1-3

Annual Meeting

At Camp
Sept. 22, 3:00pm



3:00 Gathering
 4:00 Reports & Election
 5:00 Pulled Pork Meal
 (bring table service & salad or desert)
 6:00 Bathhouse Ground Breaking

Summer Camps a Hit!

575 campers attended Camp Mennoscah's summer youth camps. Last year 541 campers attended. This is an increase of 34 campers or approximately 6%!



From a camper!



"I like coming to camp because it is really easy to make friends here."

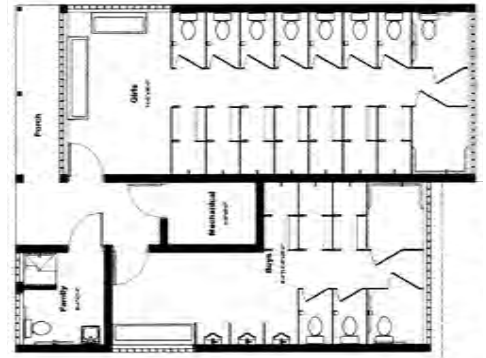
Riley Krehbiel
Kingman



New Bath House Plans

Architectural drawings and specifications are being finalized. The building of the bath houses is scheduled for this fall. The new facilities are projected to meet the future needs of Camp Mennoscah.

The project costs are very dependent on the availability and participation of volunteer labor. The structures will be a combination of masonry and frame construction. The floor plan provides facilities for youth camping programs, family camping, church and congregational groups. Please watch for notices offering opportunities to participate in and/or give to the construction of these facilities.



New Bath House Plans



Olivia Bartel, Tammy Duvanel Unruh
Delon Martens

Delon Martens Ends 40 Years of Directing!

NOTE: This summer Delon Martens ended 40 years of directing summer camps at Mennoscah. He reflects on his years as director. Thank you Delon! (Pictured at left is a collage presentation to Delon on July 10, his last full day as director.)

What year was your first directorship? 1974

What influenced you to become a director? I began as a counselor in 1968 and was asked to direct a camp by Menno and Mary Doerksen in 1974.

What do you recall from your first year? In 1974 Mennonites were celebrating their centennial. Ron Flaming, who was co-director with me, and I shared early Mennonite history stories from the *Junior Messenger*.

What has changed over the years as a director? Until the mid-1980s directors were responsible for creating curriculum. Since then the curriculum has been provided by the camp. Another change is how I contacted prospective counselors. In early years I would mail out letters to prospective counselors with an enclosed postcard that they returned with their response to my invitation. This year phones, e-mails, and Facebook were used to make contacts. Another change - how nametags were made. For many years now they have been sawed from 2x4s. I have used the same nametag for over 30 years. It comes from when Menno Doerksen and Bill Stucky took tree limbs and sawed them into thin nametags. The one I have looks like a buffalo.

Why did you direct camps? For years I have said that going to camp meant seeds were being planted and nurtured in the lives of campers. I have seen that over and over through the years as former campers become counselors and camp staff. There is no doubt in my mind that camp affects lives of all who are there!

What will you miss as a camp director?

- Reading *Toad for Tuesday*—a book I've read to campers since 1984. It was read prior to campfire to have a calming affect on campers.
- The enthusiasm campers bring to camp! They are always excited about being at camp. Frequently on the first morning, campers are ready to leave their cabins when the wake-up bell is rung.
- Working with Tammy Duvanel Unruh—She has a gift of connecting Bible stories to everyday life!
- Bible skits—This is something Tammy and I have done for many years. Each cabin is asked to come up with a Bible skit that they share



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This summer I spent my 11th straight year counseling out at camp. And each year it seems that someone will ask me what it is about camp that causes these kids and staff to be so devoted to this place. The easy answer is to list off all the activities that happen during the week: river play, singing, campfires, borrow the balls...but from what I've witnessed, the answer should really start and end with the relationships that are formed. Sure all these fun activities play a part in camp, but the most important aspect is that while they are happening, they're breaking down the walls between campers. For whatever reason, Mennoscah is a sort of safe bubble where the rules of the world just don't apply, where kids forget the expectations on how they are supposed to act. Give it a couple days and soon the 'cool kid' ends up with a face covered in taco salad and the 'shy kid' breaks out their dance moves during singing. And once those barriers between everyone have fallen you can truly see the love of God begin to flow through the campers and staff. I wish people from the outside could see the caring, encouragement, and hugs that happen and understand that this is why the kids see this hot, sandy place as holy ground and why they start the countdown to next year as soon as they're gone. And this is why 11 years later I just can't leave either. - **Kent Peters**

"Camp is a place of healing and renewal of one's whole being, and it is induced greatly by the mere presence of the other people there."

Katrina Heinrichs - Hesston

"This past week at Camp Mennoscah has been amazing! It's just awesome to be in a place where you can be around other people who share the same beliefs as you and can just let go of the rest of the world and worship God."

Tara Schwartz - Pretty Prairie

"Camp Mennoscah was once again an inspiring visit to a very special place. Sharing my story in front of so many accepting people really helped me realize what God has placed in my life. Change will come, and I had better just embrace it. Ready to take on whatever comes my way."

Kylee Schunn - Whitewater

"Camp this year was simply amazing, probably one of the best yet. I cannot get over how insanely awesome everything was, especially evening worship! I feel so blessed to have a place like camp to go every summer...to get a break from everything going on in daily life and just focus on what really matters."

Kara Schmucker - Goessel

In the words of campers

"I still can't get over how incredible camp was this year. That was the most amazing group of people I've ever been around. I'm so blessed to

get the opportunity to go every year and I'm so happy I've made new friends and people who have become like family to me. God is so great."

Bailey Strausz - Moundridge

"Every year I come to camp wondering how it's possible to become so close to so many people and God in such a short amount of time. I feel so incredibly blessed to be a camper. God is so good, I miss camp already."

Hannah Carlgren - North Newton

"Another year at Camp Mennoscah has now passed and all I can think about is how truly blessed I am to have the friends that experience this wonderful place with me. I could not feel closer to God and every year it just gets better! I thank God for putting all the people at camp in my life, campers and staff! I honestly can say I have no idea where I would be without them and camp as part of my life."

Chloe Denno - North Newton

Camp Mennoscah

PO Box 65
9458 SE 40th St.
Murdock, KS 67111

620-297-3290

Email: campmno@mennowdc.org

Website: campmennoscah.org



Camp needs...

- Bunk beds (each) \$300
- Sewing machine \$300
- Dressers in Retreat Center (each) \$350
- Crutches \$150

Donate by mail or on the website.



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PO Box 65
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“Elephants & Underwear” Olivia Bartel, Exec. Dir.

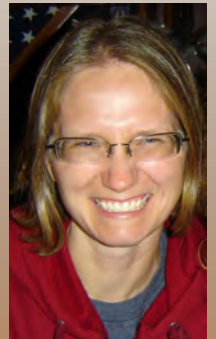
Elephants and underwear fall on vastly different sides of a visual spectrum. Elephants are hard to miss. Plunk one down almost anywhere and it’s going to be seen. In fact, there are all sorts of jokes based on that visual fact. Why does an elephant paint its toenails red? To hide in a cherry tree, of course.

Underwear, on the other hand, is meant to be NOT visible. It’s the behind-the-scenes support of your everyday outfit. The right kind makes your evening wear all that much more elegant. It makes standing up in front of a crowd infinitely more comfortable. Underwear is also some pretty good fodder for jokes, too.

Camp Mennoscah has some elephantine projects scheduled for this fall. There is one old bath house to dismantle and two completely new bath houses to build. And we’re looking at kitchen renovations, too, though that may not happen as quickly as we’d like. These changes are going to be new and exciting and hard to miss.

To go with our elephant projects, we need some elephant-sized underwear. We need the behind-the-scenes support that often goes unnoticed. We need volunteers who can take down the old bathhouse and volunteers to help put up two more. We need folks who are skilled in fundraising so that we can actually build the new bath houses and start work on renovating the kitchen. We need underwear made of money and prayers out the wazoo.

We know it’s not going to be easy. Asking for money and help can sometimes feel like being caught with your pants down—awkward and embarrassing. But I’m going to put on my big girl pants and start asking because I believe the new bathhouses and the kitchen renovations will make Camp Mennoscah a better place for you.



www.campmennoscah.org

