Camp Wakonda's Quarterly Newsletter Oct-Dec 2022

THE BEAM

Check out page 4-6 for the 2023 schedule!

Advent Blessings from the Board:

This Advent season has me thinking of the blessings found at Camp Wakonda. All my life Wakonda has been a place of hope, joy, peace, and love. Here, at the close of the year, waiting in darkness for the light of Christmas, the scent of evergreens around the house reminds me of the deep green spaces in Wakonda's woods. Flickering advent candles whisper to me of fireside vespers in years gone by, and the sounds of good cheer echo of camp fellowship shared halfway around the calendar.

Camp days may seem far removed from carols and snowflakes, but Wakonda's Board is working to make the next summer season a success. From finances and fundraising to programming and alumni engagement, we are working to support the work of Pastor Ben and his talented staff. If you would like to learn more about specific initiatives or to get involved on one of our committees, please let Ben know, and we can find a good fit for you.

These next few weeks, if you find yourself dashing through the snow, making lists, and checking them twice, desperately needing a brain break, give yourself the gift of a Wakonda moment. Connect with the hope, joy, peace, and love this season is all about. Turn down your playlist, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine yourself in your favorite spot at Wakonda. Now, just breathe... What would that space look like at this moment? Breathe. What sounds would you hear there? Breathe. If you listen, what would the Great Spirit whisper to you there?

Shalom, my friends.

Wishing you all the blessings of Advent,
~Jennifer
Jennifer Souers Chevraux
Camp Wakonda Board Chair

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Shalom!

2023 Staff Info

We are excited to have part of our 2023 staff in place already! We are delighted to welcome back some of our leadership team, specifically Bonnie Wiggins (Program Director), Brian Husted (Maintenance Director), and Pat Moore (Head Cook).

A few other familiar faces will be returning: Ella Woolf (Kitchen Assistant) & Joey Anderson (counselor). Joining us is long-time Wakonda alum and staff assistant Thomas Ziol (Lifeguard/ Counselor).

We are excited to welcome the following international staff members: Jose Paz Garcia (Mexico), and Osiel Garcia Domínguez (Mexico). We are also in conversations with a potential staff member from Ghana!

This means we almost have a complete male staff! But we need your help to fill the remaining positions! If you know a young person who would be a good fit as a female counselor (18+) or a kitchen or maintenance staff member (15+), please have them get in touch with Pastor Ben (bgeorge@cantoncpc.org). It's going to be a great summer at Wakonda!!

Winter Projects!

We have a variety of projects we are working on this winter (small & large). If you are interested in helping us, reach out to Pastor Ben (bgeorge@cantoncpc.org).

- Install new lighting
- Line kitchen shelves
- Replace kitchen exhaust fan
- Remove old tennis practice boards
- Stain benches
- Build new doors for beach building

Support Wakonda With Our Amazon Wish List!

A great way to support Wakonda is to send us items from our Amazon Wish List. There's no need to guess what camp might need or want to make the campers' experience great—we've done all that for you!

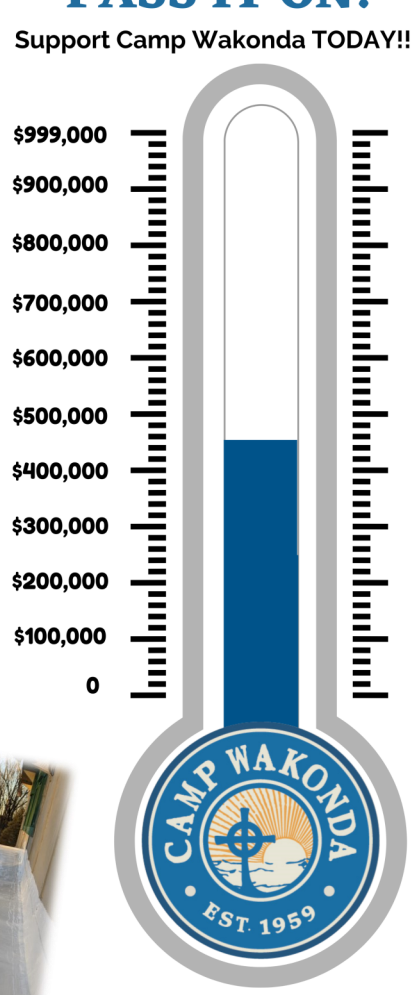
CHECK IT OUT!

"Pass It On" - UPDATE

On October 16th, the Camp Wakonda Task Force announced the beginning of the Wakonda " Pass It On " Capital Fund Campaign to raise $999,000.00 to enhance the Wakonda experience for our future campers and staff. Many new and rehabilitative projects are on the list to be completed (visit http://wakondacamp.org/capital-projects.html for a complete list).

The response from you, the congregation, and our alumni staff members and campers has been uplifting for the Task Force. We have already **reached 45% of our stated goal** in donations and pledges, such that we have been able to fund the installation of a new generator, repair some roofs on the lodge, and complete the renovation of the Activity Building.

If you have already made a gift or pledge to the Campaign, the Task Force is grateful for your support. If you are considering your level of participation, we ask that you be in prayer about how you will "Pass It On." Thank you. - Steve Stocker, Chair



Support the "Pass It On" campaign at:

https://give.classy.org/PassItOn

THANK YOU!

Start Looking Ahead to 2023 & Mark Your Calendars!

Senior High – Seeking the Great Spirit (finishing grades 9-12)

Our senior high campers have three options, all of which will run at the same time as an outpost experience*: Camper ONLY; Staff Assistant ONLY (training); or Camper & Staff Assistant.

Camper ONLY (June 18-23) – Teens who desire to only be campers will have the classic camp experience with a twist: each day, they will have the opportunity to choose between two activities, both in the morning and the afternoon.

Staff Assistant ONLY (training) (June 21-23) – Those who desire to only serve as Staff Assistants will have a shorter experience during which they will learn about what it means to serve in this role. Workshops will be focused on various aspects of camp leadership.

Camper & Staff Assistant (training) (June 18-23) – Teens who want to experience camp as a camper and go on to lead as a staff assistant later in the summer get the best of both worlds. In the first part of the week, they'll get to choose between two activities in both the morning and the afternoon; in the second part of the week, they'll experience workshops that will train them in camp leadership.

Outpost: Wilderness Camping (finishing grades 6-8) – June 25-30

In this outpost experience*, kids will discover how to live and survive in the woods as campers. From fire-building to make-shift shelters, from edible plants to canoe training, these campers will learn to live off of the land. "If you are roughing it, you aren't doing it right!"

Wakonda Forever! (finishing grades 3-5 & 6-8) – June 18-23

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! The movies and stories that entertain us will come and go, but Wakonda is Forever! Games and activities this week will come from our favorite fandoms: Marvel, Harry Potter, Star Wars, & more. Join us as these epic sagas come to life!

Just Games (finishing grades 6-8) – June 25-30

Field games, water games, nature games, adventure games, card games, mystery games, board games, racing games, team games, silly games, messy games, rope games, pocket games…Seriously, just games!!

Sky, Stars, & S.T.E.A.M. (finishing grades 3-5) June 25-30

What do model rockets, telescopes, slingshots, and a camp-wide scale model of the solar system have in common? This week at Wakonda! Join our special guest leaders, Adam & Bonnie Wiggins, for this exploration of God's cosmos.

The Great Wakonda Cook-off: Pie Iron Extravaganza! (finishing grades 3-5) – July 5-7

Are you craving something more than the usual camp food? Whatever you call it: a pie iron, a toastie, a pudgy pie, a snackwicher - dream it and you can make it! Teams will design, make, & eat amazing pie iron creations (main dishes, sides, desserts, even breakfasts!), culminating in the most intense Wakonda Cook-off yet, where judges will sample your creations and name the Pie Iron Extravaganza Champions!

Discovery (finishing grades K-2) – July 2-3

This event is perfect for young campers! Campers experience all the best parts of Wakonda in just one short, safe weekend: games, swimming, crafts, & s'mores – all while learning about God's boundless love. Start your little one off right – here at Wakonda!

Choose Your Own Adventure (finishing grades 3-5 & 6-8) – July 16-21

Want to make your camp experience as unique as you are? Choose the special activities you'll experience throughout the day (options below). You'll still enjoy all the classic aspects of Wakonda AND dive deeper into something you love. Make your week a great adventure!

Outpost: Up All Night (finishing grades 6-8)-July 5-7

Are you a night owl? Want to stay up late and sleep all morning – even at camp?? Spend two nights at Wakonda in this outpost experience* playing late-night games, going on night hikes, and sleeping until lunch. This camp will have a special schedule such that you'll experience camp like never before!

Spanish Immersion (finishing grades K-12)-July 5-7

Do you speak Spanish – or do you want to practice Spanish in a loving Christian community? Experience all the joys of camp (hiking, swimming, games, and learning about God) as we speak and learn Spanish together. Whether you are fluent or just want to learn more, join us for this unique experience! (Help will be given to English speakers.)

Inmersión en español (terminando los grados K-12)-5-7 de julio

¿Hablas español o quiere practicar el español en una comunidad cristiana cariñosa? Disfrute de todo lo que nuestro campamento ofrece: senderismo, natación, juegos y el aprender sobre Dios - mientras hablamos y practicamos el español juntos. Si ya habla con fluidez o solo quiere aprender un poco más, le invitamos a unirse a esta experiencia única. (Ayudaremos a los angloparlantes).

How to Help Wakonda:

- **Pray** for our board by name! Jennifer Souers Chevraux (chair), Courtney Wallace (vice-chair), Julia Frankland (treasurer), Carol Boeryd (secretary), Romy Anderson, Lakisha Cundiff, Janet Ziol, Craig Joseph, Kaity Kline, Rev. Ben George (ex-officio)
- Check out Wakonda's **Amazon wish list** here!
- Become a one-time or monthly donor to Wakonda! Or "Pass It On" through our capital campaign!

THANK YOU!