

Bear Lake Camp – Bear Tracks

1805 South 16th Street
Albion, IN 46701

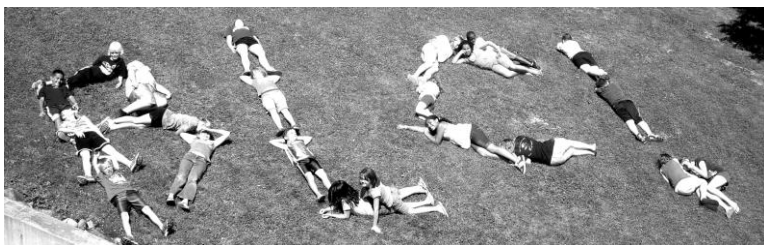
260-799-5988
www.bearlakecamp.com
info@bearlakecamp.com

THAT THEY MAY KNOW HIM...

Or Current Resident

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia City, IN
Permit #306

SUMMER 2010 – “CAPTIVATED”



THE NUMBERS:

Total Campers: 553	First Time Campers: 203
Kids to Camp Campers: 59	Salvations Reported: 18
Summer Staff: 22	Service Crew: 18
Guest Staff: 15	Leadership Staff: 6

CAMPERS SAID:

“I’m coming back next year and bringing friends with me.”

“Camp was awesome and really fun!”

“I really liked the one-on-one time with my counselor.”

“I am so excited to come back next year.”

“I liked everything. Camp is exciting and interesting.”

CAMPER FAVORITES:

Gaga Ball, Giant
Slip-n-Slide,
Worship, Rock
Wall, Bible
Studies,
Campfires,
Friends!



BLC Receives an A+ Rating

Both a State Inspector and a Health Inspector paid the camp surprise visits this summer. Both times the camp received outstanding reviews on our facilities and operations. Both inspectors mentioned a noticeable difference between BLC and other camps they had visited during the summer.



Words from the Director...

Why do I still love Christian Camping after 18 years? I often ask myself why do I do what I do? What would it be like to have a “normal” summer where I could enjoy lazy summer days, cookouts, and all

the many enjoyable things that I hear of people doing during their summer months? Why do I continue to stay and direct a summer camp program that requires most of my waking hours during the months of June and July? I really don’t have to spend too long thinking about that because I have witnessed over and over the value of Christian Camping for young people. There is nothing else that compares to a ministry of discipleship that can take place at a Christian Camp with the exception, of course, of the “strong authentic Godly family.”

In times like these we need Christian Camps that are focused on the Great Commission, boldly sharing God’s Truth in an atmosphere of love and conducting their programming with excellence.

Part of Bear Lake Camp’s mission statement reads that BLC exists to be a Christian Ministry Center which challenges individuals toward maturity in Christ. Our purpose comes directly from Christ’s command to *“go and make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”*. Our primary purpose at BLC hasn’t changed from its earlier years – “That They may Know Him.” Discipleship – developing and equipping young people to be mature Christ followers is our core purpose.

I believe now more than ever the urgency and the magnitude of this purpose is much greater. Satan’s grip and dominion on our society has grown and continues to gain momentum. Followers of Christ are distracted and are finding it increasingly difficult to focus on Christ and to walk with Him. We have churches that are full of converts, but desperately needing disciples – those who are truly following Christ. Several organizations have conducted research pointing out very disturbing statistics on the lack of focus, purpose, and fruit in Christians’ lives today. Instead we have become more impacted by the Secularism, Individualism, and Consumerism of

our world. Too often people who claim to be Christ followers look no different from those who have no claims of Christ in their lives.

As a result young people are confused more than ever on just who Jesus Christ is, what his message is and what the implications of that message could be. They are not seeing the body of Christ on a daily basis, if at all, and are walking away from the church and God in record numbers when they strike out on their own. Christian Camping can be an incredible tool for raising up Christ followers; its core principles create the framework for effective discipleship.



Listed throughout this newsletter are **4 Critical Camp Factors (CCF's)** or camp-specific values which drive the ministry here at Bear Lake Camp and keep me driven to continue leading a camp where God and youth can intersect in a very real way!!!

If you'd like more information on the importance of Christian Camping or would like to explore how you could become more involved with this vital life changing ministry please don't hesitate to drop me a note or give me a call. We are excited to see God continue to work through Bear Lake Camp in the years ahead. You can email me at monty@bearlakecamp.com or call me at 260-799-5988.

For His Kingdom



CCF # 1 - The 'Time Factor' • Camp life is a 24-hour-a-day experience of living together over a period of several days. Unlike the classroom where you attend and then return to your "other life," nights at camp seem to be God-designed to allow campers to unpack what they have soaked in throughout the day. People often need an extended period of time to absorb truth and think through its implications. They also need time to build meaningful relationships and open up. And most need time to make major, life-changing decisions. Camp provides the environment necessary to do just that.

SUMMER STAFF REFLECTIONS:

"This summer at Bear Lake Camp was different (in a good way) and very exciting! I saw God work with campers who wanted to make a difference in their lives, which was great to see. I thank God for making this all happen." -

Cheyenne Perry, 2nd Year Counselor



"Each year God uses Bear Lake Camp to change lives. This year was not different; however, the way that he works isn't always the same. Many times this summer I saw staff and campers faced with trials and hardships, but through it all God remained sovereign, holy loving, truthful, and faithful.

Although we may never directly see all the ways in which God worked, I am thankful that God accomplished his will for the summer of 2010." -

Aaron Walters,
2nd Year Counselor



"Camp is never what I expect. Last year I went expecting a good time, and found it to be harder than I could have ever imagined. I didn't enjoy myself. This year I went, unwillingly I might add, but at God's direction and I found instead that I absolutely loved it. More than that, I felt like I was actually making a difference with the kids, instead of feeling useless like I did last year. It frightened me, in a way, to see how pointless it was to do what I wanted instead of what God asked of me. So I suppose the lesson I would take away from this summer is that following God will not be easy or happy, but it will bring joy and fulfillment. What else is worthwhile but serving him, after all?"



Jordan Rockey – 2nd Year Counselor

THANK YOU to our faithful Adopt-A-Staff Partners who daily prayed for our Summer Staff and encouraged them through e-mails, notes, and gifts.

"Thanks for expanding on the truths that we are trying to instill in them at home! Sometimes kids need to hear those things from someone else besides their parents!! Thanks for a great camp!!!"

"Thank you for running such a top-notch program where the counselors are in touch with the issues that kids are facing and can relate so well with them. My husband and I have been impressed with your camp from day 1, (about 9 years ago!)."

Parent Comments

CCF # 2 - The 'Integration of God's Word Factor' - Christian Camping is effective, first, because it is a concentrated ministry of God's Word. Truth is taught, explained, demonstrated and reinforced over and over - and in many different ways. Chapel messages, morning devotions, discussions, counseling sessions, Bible studies, testimonies, music and campfires are some of the most obvious. Add to that the less structured witness of Christian staff and campers, and this sheer concentration, all taken together, has tremendous power to affect change.



BLC WISH LIST

Here are a few items we need. If you can help provide one or more of these items, please contact the camp at 260-799-5988.

Upright Sweepers
Cordless Drill
Fill Dirt (Lots)
Pick up Truck
Sleds

Refrigerator
Megaphone
Railroad Ties
Plastic Barrels
Inter-Tubes

Outboard Motor for Pontoon Boat
Work teams for all kinds of jobs!

Bear Lake Camp, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

CCF # 3 - The 'Group Living Factor'- At camp, the message is not only presented, but modeled. Though there is a body of truth we Christians believe, Christianity is not merely facts to be learned, but truth to be lived (love, submission, trust, forgiveness). It is primarily a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ, but it is lived out in the context of human relationships (friends, enemies, family, and authorities). The skilled counselor sees quarrels, winning and losing, loneliness, or just having fun as opportunities for imparting biblical principles every bit as valid as the formal teaching times. Sharing, for example, is better taught with eight hungry kids around a platter of spaghetti than in a dozen sermons. This may be the closest we come to emulating Christ's ministry of discipling.



K2C Kids to Camp

59 campers from the Fort Wayne and Muncie area enjoyed a week of camp through the K2C program. Most of the K2C scholarships are given to kids who are connected to social services agencies and some are provided through area church connections.

This summer we were very pleased to work with Charis House, Euell Wilson Center, Friends of Bethany, Southwick Elementary & Village Elementary Good News Clubs, The Villages, Urban Light Church, and Vincent Villages.

A special **"Thank you"** to scholarship sponsors:

For Kids Only: Dare to Dream Foundation

The Midwest Region Foundation

MicroPulse

Trier Ridge Community Church

Individual Donors

"Thank you for your heart and generosity in allowing our kids to attend camp. They all had a great experience...Our kids really connected in a great way with the staff. The chapel/lesson times really impacted our kids as well."

- Charis House Children's Coordinator

THANK YOU to all of you who supported the camp this summer with your prayers, visits, notes of encouragement, , donations, and so much more.

MORE SUMMER STAFF REFLECTIONS:



"This summer as a counselor really opened my eyes, and helped me see camp in a whole new perspective. When you began building relationships with the camper, you could see a common trait that linked all of them together. It was searching for love and acceptance which can only be found in Jesus Christ. There

is an indescribable joy you feel as you watch camper's lives transform before your eyes; when you witness them accept Christ for the first time. And as I taught the campers about God's Word, I too learned more about Him. And if there had been one thing that I have learned this summer, it has been, "The more I seek You, the more I find You." I am so glad that I decided to follow God's call for me. This summer helped me grow as a Christ Follower, and I thank God for using me for His work."

-Leah Quillen, 1st Year Counselor

"Camp for me this year was different. The whole feel, kids, staff was just different. I wasn't expecting it and so there came some trials with it, but I grew so much this summer. I have come to realize that we can't



always expect what's to come. God has a plan and a way that things need to happen in order for his plan to come into action. There were so many times when I questioned how I was doing as a counselor because I wasn't seeing that change like I did last year, however, I was shown otherwise toward the end of camp. Senior High week at the last campfire I was amazed how close all the girls got. They didn't care about what they looked like or who the world saw them as. With the love of Christ they saw past what society says about them and came together as one body. I have

received so many emails and letters telling me what an impact the camp has been for them that I was reaffirmed. One of the biggest things that I have had to learn is that even though we don't see change happening, doesn't mean that God isn't working in their lives. Seeds have been planted. BLC is a great place with people who really care about investing in the campers and want to help them grow in a relationship with God."

- Nichele Powell, 2nd Year Counselor

CCF # 4 - The 'Away-ness Factor' - The camp setting and its environment also contribute to our effectiveness. Camping takes people away from the noise, demands, routines, and pressures of daily life. It removes them from the constant onslaught of the world's influence which comes via TV, video games, internet, cell phones, busy schedules and constant choices etc. Fewer distractions equals enhanced focus and effectiveness.

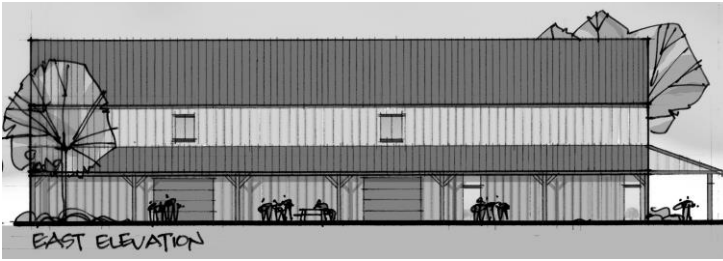
Refresh ~ Renew ~ Re-energize

Step away from the distractions and clutter of work and life. Take a deep breath and enjoy the coolness of the fresh air. Take time to refocus your life and ministry.

Come alone for a personal one-day retreat with God. Bring your ministry team or small group as you spend time relaxing and refocusing together.

*Refresh your body;
Renew your spirit;
Re-energize your vision.*

*Call us today to schedule your retreat-
260-799-5988.*



Ministry Activity Center Update

Thank you to those who have *Embraced the Vision* and given nearly \$104,000.00 toward the future ministries of Bear Lake Camp.

Plans have been submitted to the State and we are waiting approval. Our hope is to be able to begin this project in late fall by contracting out the concrete and framing. We hope to finish the building through volunteers and work teams as we continue to raise the needed funds to complete this much needed facility.

If you would be interested in helping with electrical, plumbing, carpentry, drywall, or painting please contact Tim or Monty at 260-799-5988

You can be a part through prayers, volunteering, and giving. **Financial contributions can be mailed to Bear Lake Camp, 1805 S. 16th Street, Albion, IN 46701. Please write: *Embrace the Vision* on the memo line of the check.**



Therefore, go and make disciples
of all nations...teaching them to
obey my commands.

