

prairieriver camp



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

South Central MN YFC | Prairie River Camp | 52792 80th Street | Bricelyn MN 56014
507.653.4700 | www.PrairieRiverCamp.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



thrivent[®]

Thrivent policy holders may qualify to apply for one or more \$250 Action Team projects each year. If you would like to know how these funds can help Prairie River Camp, please contact Greg at 507.383.1782.

DEAR PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP PARTNERS,

Thank you for your partnership in this mission ministry of reaching lost young people and raising them up to be life long followers of Jesus. **Prairie River Camp works to share Christ in an environment of love and truth in the midst of God's creation.** Young peoples' eyes are opened up to a whole new world when they spend a week or a weekend at a programmed camp at Prairie River Camp.

Our cabin leader from one of the past camps shared about a girl that she barely knew from volunteering at a school. As the camp went on this student started to open up and have conversations with the cabin leader. She told her about the past and her abusive father who she never really got to know because he left when she was really young. She said she wanted to let the past go and focus on where she is right now. **She was so happy to be at camp where she could put the fears away and enjoy the time there.**

Please pray for Prairie River Camp and the ministry of South Central Minnesota Youth For Christ that is carried out here. **Many youth are coming to Christ at Prairie River Camp. Praise God!** I am excited to share with you that we have \$10,000 in matching funds for this ministry. Please prayerfully consider a special year-end gift. Thank you for your partnership.

Reaching lost youth,

Greg Gudal
Executive Director
of South Central MN Youth For Christ

2022 CAMP SCHEDULE

To register, visit prairierivercamp.org,
or call 507.653.4700

Due to the ever changing
pandemic, dates are subject
to reschedule.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT I | JAN 14 - 16
6th-8th Grade Students

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT II | JAN 21 - 23
6th-8th Grade Students

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT | FEB 18 - 20
9th-12th Grade Students

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP | JUNE 26 - JULY 1
8th-12th Grade Students

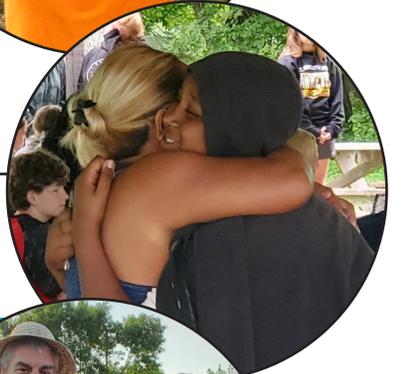
PAINTBALL CAMP | JULY 5 - 8
7th-12th Grade Students

ADVANCED HORSE CAMP | JULY 21 - 24
9th-12th Grade Girls

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP | JULY 25 - 29
6th-8th Grade Students

MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP | AUG 1 - 6
7th-12th Grade Students

BEGINNER HORSE CAMP | TBD
8th-12th Grade Girls



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camp

CAMP DIRECTOR

Hello Fellow Camp Evangelists,

Happy "extra sleep weekend!" I know, weird, but it does sound better than "happy daylight savings time", I think. While you're likely reading this a few weeks after daylight savings, it does remind us that soon enough we will be experiencing those cooler temperatures, and some white stuff. But before we get all wrapped in our blankets, and stoke the fires (turn up the thermostat for some), let's take a moment to praise God for the ways He used camp to impact students for His purposes. Over the summer and last winter's retreats, **He called over 75 students to follow Him for the first time, and He stirred over 100 students to say "yes again",** and get back into fellowship! In the past three weeks through two Underground Bible Study events, we had **another 13 students say "yes" for the first time, and another 30 who said "yes again!"** Can you feel those goose bumps after hearing how God is moving, and YOU are a part of it through your prayers, volunteering, and sacrificial giving? We praise God for your support and pray for you every week!

But wait, God's got more! In Mid-November we are hosting a retreat for new and recommitted Christian students from YFC and beyond! Our first CORE retreat is mid-November 2021, and we are already brainstorming CORE retreat number two. Hold on, there is even more! 2022 Winter Retreats are scheduled, and we are almost ready to announce ALL 2022 summer dates! PHEW ... this is amazing!

"So Peter how do I get in on all this cool stuff?" -you may ask. Well, I'll tell you! Pray, first and foremost, for our team. We need God's energy and guidance every day. Pray for the students, He wants you and others to invite, to come to one of our camps, retreats or outreaches, and ask God if He wants you (yes you!) to come and serve a meal, hang out with students and listen to their stories, play some foosball or air hockey with a student, or maybe God has even equipped you to support scholarships, or the camp budget? Whatever God is calling you to do, I invite you to read one of the stories about what He has been doing below, and I want to encourage you to act on His calling for you!

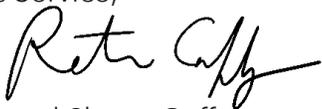
"Jon" an Underground Bible Study student shared:

"Tonight was supposed to be a way to hide from all the stuff at home, and get a chance to just stop the hurting for a little bit. Playing the Underground seemed lame at first, but then I started to get into it and was really trying to help my team get the scripture to the church. During the speaker's talk it felt like a hug. He wants to love me no matter what. I know now that no matter the hurt around me, God wants to love me, and is always reaching out to hold me. Tonight I said "yes" to Him."

Lastly, you can share "Jon's story" of love and hope with others, and encourage them to become evangelists with you for this place that God has set aside for His purposes. Maybe you share with one person, or maybe you share with your entire church. God has a purpose for the role you play with Prairie River Camp!

We would also encourage you to join our new prayer team, and we are reaching out to ask you to pray for camp, staff, and students. We will start sending out prayer needs by email or mail this month. **If you would like to be a part of our prayer team, send an email to: prayer@prairierivercamp.org**

Again from the whole team at Prairie River Camp, Thank you!
In His Service,



Peter and Sherry Coffey
Prairie River Camp Director & Wife



Want to become
a part of the
PRC Prayer Team?
Use your phone
camera to scan the
code below!



Scan Me!



A PLACE FOR ALL

"The **BEST** thing about being at camp is playing a part in showing someone Jesus' love ... maybe for the **FIRST** time!"
-PRC Summer Staff Member



Prairie River Camp has a **BIG** need for volunteers to help with our events. From Kitchen Staff, to Cabin Counselors, and even help with our Maintenance Team there are SO many opportunities for people of all ages to help. So, whether you're right out of High School, or right into retirement, we'd love to have you volunteer! During our summer season, we also have a variety of paid positions as well!
If interested, please inquire at the email or phone number listed below.

To volunteer, contact us at 507.653.4700 or email Peter@PrairieRiverCamp.org

WAYS TO FUND THE PRC MISSION

Your faithful support is vital to the ministry of Prairie River Camp. In addition to regular giving, there are several unique options available. Below is a list of ways that others have helped and may be a good fit for you. It is because of your prayers and support that we have been able to reach young people in the Southern Minnesota area.

1

Become a Team PRC Member:

Team PRC Members make a 3-year commitment to monthly pledges (i.e. \$25, \$100, \$500, etc) or annual pledges (i.e. \$1,000, \$10,000, \$25,000, etc). Pledges can be made online at prairierivercamp.org or by mail. Checks should be pay to the order of: **Prairie River Camp**, and mailed to:

SCMYFC, 116 W Clark St. Albert Lea, MN 56007



2

Real Estate Donation:

The value of real estate can often greatly increase the size of your estate. A real estate donation entitles you to a significant current tax deduction and can reduce the value of your estate, which can save or eliminate estate taxes. It can also provide a lifetime monthly income.



3

Donation of Stocks & Mutual Funds:

Donating appreciated stocks or mutual funds can be a great benefit to both the donor and Prairie River Camp. As a donor of an appreciated stock or mutual fund, you are able to avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation of the asset. Also, as the donor of that security, you get to deduct the full fair market value of the security at the time of the gift, if you have held the security for longer than 12 months.



4

Wills & Trust Bequests:

A bequest through a will or trust is the most popular form of planned giving. By remembering Prairie River Camp in a will or trust, you are looking past your own lifetime to further the work of the Kingdom through the Prairie River Camp Endowment Fund. These gifts ensure that Prairie River Camp will always be ready to reach out to young people.



5

Charitable Gift Annuities:

You make an irrevocable gift, generally using cash, maturing CD's, or securities in exchange for lifetime guaranteed payments, the amount of which is based on the value of your gift and the age(s) of the payment recipients. In addition, the donor receives an immediate income tax deduction, and a portion of each payment is income tax free!





THIS WEEK GOD TAUGHT ME...

“To be patient with one another and communicate with one another, to not be selfish but put ourselves below others, and lift one another up instead of putting them down. We aren't perfect and we make mistakes, but if we abide in Jesus and stay connected to him in worship and prayer, we can change.”

- PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP 2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPER



Hello everyone!

Previous newsletters had stated that I was interning at PRC, but that has come to an end. Instead, PRC provided me the opportunity to become the Guest Services Coordinator and Ministry Support. This role has provided me countless opportunities of meeting new people and seeing their joyous times at camp. In my new role, I communicate to the guests before during and after their stay to ensure we are meeting their needs, reach out to new and previous guests, clean facilities, run activities, and work on marketing and media.

You might be wondering, “What types of groups are welcome at PRC?” Here at PRC we welcome a variety of groups such as; Women’s Retreats, Men’s Retreats, Family Retreats, Youth Retreats, Church Retreats, Homeschool Groups, Family Gatherings, Paintball Groups, RV & Tent Rentals, Father & Son Retreats, Mother & Daughter Retreats, Craft & Art Retreats, and the list goes on!

If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in booking a stay at PRC please reach out to me at Erin@PrairieRiverCamp.org or call 507-653-4700 and ask for Erin!

Erin Mushett
Prairie River Camp
Guest Services Coordinator
& Ministry Support



STAY AT PRC

LODGE, CABIN, RV & SEASONAL TENT CAMPING!

Here at Prairie River Camp, we want to invite you to bring your family or church group to spend quality time at our facilities!

Facilities include: Two Yurt Cabins (sleeps 12 each), Prayer Cabin, Six Year-Round Cabins (sleeps up to 10 people), River Lodge, Cups of Faith (kitchen), The Shelter (Dining Hall), Prayer Chapel, The Church, Amphitheater (summer only), Playgrounds & Firepits.

For inquires, or to make reservations please call 507.653.4700

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dear Family and Friends of Camp,

It has been so wonderful to watch God continue to move and minister in our staff, and in all who have come through the gates at Prairie River Camp this year. While I reflect on all that God has done here I am reminded of the scripture in 2 Corinthians 9:8 that says, *"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

This verse is a good reminder for us because even in our weakest moments when we are doing our best to serve and love others, yet feel exhausted, God is still faithful and blesses our efforts and changes hearts for His Kingdom! It is encouraging to know that we have a God who cares for us even in our weakness. The last two months have been exciting for me since I was sick with Covid last October, and was not well enough to do our fall programs. This year however, I feel blessed and so thankful that I am in good health and am able to plan and execute some of the programs I missed out on last year. A few of our programs worth mentioning are our Beehive Program, The Underground Bible Study, and our new YFC CORE Retreat coming up in under two weeks!!

Last spring we purchased our first "Nucs" of bees and I was able to care and observe these two hives near camp all summer as they worked and produced honey for camp. After August, we harvested a surplus of 10 gallons of raw honey for us to sell in our camp store!! Our hope is to develop this program to be a way for us to produce a little revenue for camp, and for our Nature Center we plan to build in the future.

The Underground Bible Study is one of those programs I was unable to do last fall due to my illness with Covid-19. This year we had two events; one for our Middle School youth, and another for our High School youth. Underground is a three-hour event where we invite students from all around to come and learn about what it would be like to be a member of the underground church in other countries around the world where it may be illegal to be a Christian. We did this by giving our kids scripture verses on paper, and they had to smuggle it across camp without getting caught by our undercover guards. At the end of the event we had a speaker deliver a Gospel message to the youth. I am overjoyed to announce that **we had 13 first time commitments to Christ and 30 recommitments** between both events!! Please join with me in praising God for the rescue of these new believers in Christ!

Our last big fall program is our YFC CORE Retreat. Our theme is **"Arise"** and our focus is 1 Timothy 4:12 which says, *"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."* Our hope and the purpose for this retreat is to provide a safe space for kids who have already said "Yes" to Jesus, and are wondering "What do I do now that I have put my faith in Christ?" We will unpack the lifestyle of following Christ and wrestle with what a disciple of Christ looks like.

This has been an exciting season to be at Prairie River Camp, and I hope you will also join us in prayer as we approach this last program for the fall season before the New Year. Thank you for all your support and prayer for PRC, we hope you and your family are well and that you have a most wonderful holiday season.

Be Blessed!!

Alex Melin
Prairie River Camp Program Director



FACILITIES DIRECTOR



Igor and Caleb constructing the Yurt wall



Yurt skylight



Tubing going in for in-floor heat in the Rec. Room.

Greetings PRC Family,

Where do I begin? **God is so good, faithful and has provided at our every turn!** In and amongst the retreats, team building, and other events, we have been able to make some amazing progress on our construction projects. We have been focusing on our exterior side of things before the snow hits the ground.

All exterior work on the yurts, by the time you're reading this, has been completed! This includes the decks and fire pit areas. We have several volunteers teaming up with contractors to hopefully get our solar system and walk-in cooler/freezer installed before winter. It's been a long road, but we are encouraged to see those projects starting to move forward even this late in the year. As it has been getting cooler, we did jump inside to get the heat working in our new Rec. Room. The tubing that we installed in the concrete last year is now running with warm water to keep the building nice and toasty.

After the few other exterior projects, we will be moving to interior projects mainly. This includes finishing the two added bathrooms that will complete the Rec. Room, and building cabinets between the office and Rec. Room where our Registration Desk and camp store, the Canteen, are located. We are calling the building that houses our office, Canteen, Rec. Room and the area surrounding that building which includes the playground, sand volleyball, corn hole, basketball, carpet ball, spike ball and three fire pits; "The Hub." It's where we are seeing a ton of usage from campers in much of their free time. We are excited to see it getting ever closer to completion. Scheduling our volunteers, contractors and material deliveries around our retreats and events to get these projects wrapped up, has been challenging to say the least, but we know that God's timing is ultimate, and we want to be on the same page as Him.

The next project we are looking at, is another bathhouse facility. The lower Lodge has been the only area for showering since PRC's opening, but since adding the two Yurts, and the desire we have to add more, the distance between those and the Lodge is 150 yards. That will be no fun in the winter, and with only five guy and five girl showers, it takes a long time to get 100 campers through at night. Quite often, we have campers showering past midnight to get everyone through, and our staff cleans after everyone is finished, so they have seen the one AM hour frequently during the summer. So, to say we are excited about the potential of a new bathhouse is an understatement!

We have been blessed through prayer with donors, prayer warriors and volunteers that have all played crucial roles in helping us to make PRC bigger and more effective at ministry than ever before! Our goal of 200 beds is getting focused in our sights as the days go on, and we are excited to be at a point to say we are closing in on some of the goals set out years ago. We are reaching out into the community to partner with likeminded organizations to further the reach of the Gospel and evangelize those on the fringes!

I've said we are excited before, but God keeps showing up at every turn and we can't help but be grateful to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Thank you for your prayers, support, and volunteer hours. Please keep it all coming as we are already looking for next summer to be the best one yet!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caleb Sutton".

Caleb Sutton
Prairie River Camp Facilities Director



NEW AT PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP



DINING HALL

Completed and ready for use! Upstairs will seat 90 people, and the downstairs Shelter will seat an additional 95 people!



REC ROOM & CANTEEN

Complete with in-floor radiant heating. Awesome indoor space for fellowship, stage for speakers, soon to house registration desk and Canteen!



THE HUB

Outdoor rec. area including: sand volleyball court, corn-hole boards, ga-ga ball pit, basketball court, 9-square courts, playground, and 9-hole mini-golf.



BASKETBALL COURT

Brand new concrete full-size outdoor basketball court!



YURT CABINS

Two all new all-season Yurt Cabins! Sleep 12 people each. Complete with pellet stoves and intimate outdoor porch seating!



MAIN OFFICE

Renovated office space for our year-young staff. Complete with built-in desks and adjacent to our new Rec. Room and Canteen!

Ready to book your stay at PRC? Contact us at 507.653.4700 or email Erin@PrairieRiverCamp.org

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

LEAVE A LEGACY

In Memory Of:

Arlen Legred
 Claire Snyder
 Cyrus "Cy" Olson
 Daniel Wagner
 Deborah "Deb" Brown
 Dennis "Denny" Stephans
 Donald Wermedal
 Elwood & Geraldine Klingbeil
 Gary Johnson

Glenn Helland
 Janice Jerdee
 Joanne Prange

Joel Wolleat
 Maynard Bakken
 Paul Alphas

Given By:

Lee & Sharyl Johnson
 Robert & Julie Aamodt
 Keith & Karen Hovland
 Carolyn Weller
 Carolyn Weller
 Robert & Julie Aamodt
 Carolyn Weller
 Steve & Miriam Klingbeil
 Lester Volsen &
 Lorraine Haugland-Volsen
 Paul & Jan Overgaard
 Paul & Jan Overgaard
 Lester Volsen &
 Lorraine Haugland-Volsen
 David & Tara Weber
 Carolyn Weller
 Robert & Julie Aamodt

In Honor Of:

Verna Carter's 95th Birthday!

Given By:

Carolyn Weller

Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate and complete. If we have inadvertently omitted, misspelled, or otherwise improperly reported your name, please accept our apologies and contact us at 507.653.4700.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AVAILABLE ON OUR PRC MEMORIAL TREE

Two plaque options available:

- Option 1: \$125 Gold Plaque
- Option 2: \$500 Larger Plaque

**For inquires, or to
 purchase a
 memorial plaque
 please call 507.653.4700**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for safety in construction and completion of the camp projects!
- Pray for open hearts to the messages during camps.
- Pray for High Schoolers and College-age folks to volunteer for retreats.
- Prayers for all recovering from COVID.
- Pray that our guest group numbers continue to increase in order to help increase funding for camp.

PRAISES

- Praise God for the MN Department of Health continuing to allow more campers!
- Praise God for the youth who have attended camp this year, that the message of Jesus' love was shared and responded to!
- Praise God for the grants and special donations that have been given in order to complete our new facilities!
- Praise God for the health of our students, volunteers, staff and all the families!

CAMP NEEDS

- 2 Golf Carts
- Wood Chipper 2.5" or larger branches
- Snowplow/blade for Compact John Deere Tractor (JD 3720)
- PTO Tiller for Compact Tractor (JD 3720)

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Prairie River Camp has a **BIG** need for volunteers to help with our events. From Kitchen Staff, to Cabin Counselors, and even help with our Maintenance Team there are SO many opportunities for people of all ages to help. So, whether you're right out of High School, or right into retirement, we'd love to have you volunteer! During our summer season, we also have a variety of paid positions as well! **If interested, please call (507) 653-4700.**



**Follow Us On
 Social Media!**

We are excited to update you regularly on what is happening at camp! We also post contests and prizes for you to WIN camp goodies!

@prairierivercamp

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook!

**Challenge: Who can you tell about the life-changing mission at PRC?
Once you have read our newsletter, pass it along!**



Support Youth For Christ at Prairie River Camp!

Prairie River Camp has received \$10,000 in year-end matching funds, and we need your help to match it!

Would you consider giving a special year-end gift to help us reach this \$10,000 goal?

Checks should be pay to the order of

"Prairie River Camp"

and mailed to:

SCMYFC, 116 W Clark St.

Albert Lea, MN 56007

Or donate securely online at

prairierivercamp.org/giving



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South Central MN YFC | Prairie River Camp
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507.653.4700 | www.PrairieRiverCamp.org

South Central MN Youth For Christ

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**BRING YOUR FAMILY
TO PRAIRIE RIVER
CAMP!**

Our facilities are perfect for making memories with your family or friends that feel like family.
Call 507.653.4700 for details!

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www.prairierivercamp.org