



TM

# MAY NEWSLETTER 2021



**YOUTH FOR CHRIST**  
PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP

52792 80th Street, Bricelyn, MN 56014 | [prairierivercamp.org](http://prairierivercamp.org)

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DEAR PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP PARTNERS,

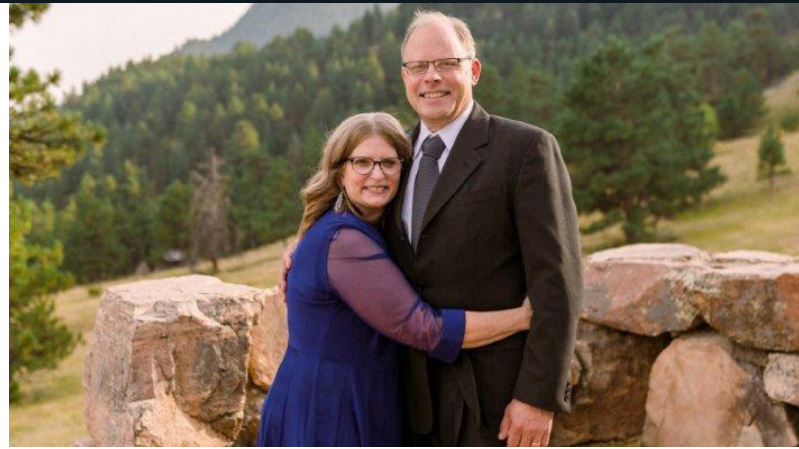
The mission of South Central Minnesota Youth For Christ is:

***"To reach young people everywhere working together with the local church and other like minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus, who lead by their Godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement."***

The Youth For Christ target age range is 11 to 19 years old, so all of Prairie River Camp programming is for youth in that age group. **This year we will have more youth camps than we have ever had, God willing. This is exciting!**

It seems to me that God is setting the stage for many youth to be able to come to Christ this summer. Youth will be attending from many Youth For Christ Chapters and sites, especially from the state of Iowa. Please be in prayer for our Camp Director - Peter Coffey and the staff as they work to reach lost young people coming to camp and develop facilities. We have been donated a solar field system we hope to get operational this year, as well!

We will also be putting out a special campaign packet in May in place of a banquet. Be watching for the large envelope. This will include stories from kids impacted by the ministry of Prairie River Camp as well as an opportunity to give.



In addition, we have set up a Prairie River Camp Endowment Fund Account for special gifts and estate gifts. This account can be used for furthering the ministry of Prairie River Camp as well as provide scholarship money for youth to attend camps.

***"One boy from last year struggled with forgiving others. He was bullied sometimes and doesn't always know how to respond. He has accepted Christ and is learning more about living in Christ."***

Thank you for being a part of reaching kids, changing lives and developing leaders!

Reaching lost youth,

Greg Gudal  
Executive Director  
of South Central MN Youth For Christ

## 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!



# PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP SUMMER 2021 SCHEDULE!

To register, visit [prairierivercamp.org](http://prairierivercamp.org), or call 507.653.4700

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

| JUNE 14 - 18

6th-8th Grade Students

## BOYS PAINTBALL CAMP

| JUNE 21 - 25

7th-12th Grade Boys

## BEGINNER HORSE CAMP

| JUNE 22 - 26

8th-12th Grade Girls

## HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

| JUNE 28 - JULY 2

9th-12th Grade Students

## HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP II

| JULY 12 - 16

9th-12th Grade Students

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP II

| JULY 26 - 30

6th-8th Grade Students

## ADVANCED HORSE CAMP

| JULY 29 - AUGUST 1

9th-12th Grade Girls

## MINISTRY CAMP

| AUGUST 3 - 8

8th Grade - College Freshmen

## PASTOR'S KIDS/MISSIONARY'S KIDS

| TBD

6th-12th Grade Students

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



## WAYS TO FUND THE 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.



### 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](http://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**



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PRC?

**This Just in April 30, 2021:**

**The Governor of Minnesota and the State Department of Health will allow summer camps to open at full-capacity! There will be some mask-wearing and being in groups of 50 people, but we will have camp, and it will be a blast!**

Prairie River Partners,

We have been planning, hiring staff, and preparing to offer an amazing summer, filled with fun, fellowship, and **FUN!** We have six-weeks of camp designed with new activities as well as some old favorites.

Our core camps are always here for you: Middle School Camp (two weeks available), High School Camp, Horse Camp & Boys Paintball Camp. We have added camps to create some new opportunities for students. A highlight is Ministry Camp; a chance to come and learn about music, art, drama, tech, evangelism and possibly partnering a local church and leading their Sunday worship! We have an incredible team coming from all over the U.S., and maybe from across the ocean, and to think you could be here for all of it!

**We are still in need of your support to make all this happen:**

**Prayer Warriors:** to pray for students to come with hearts open for the Gospel, college and high school-aged staff to serve in all areas of camp, safety and wisdom of staff to keep our students safe and having fun, and funds to support our scholarships, so they are available to every student that needs one!

**Summer Staff:** we are still looking for College and High School age students to serve as Program Staff, Cabin Leaders, and Food Service either as volunteers or missionaries with us!

**Camp Evangelists:** to reach students in their communities to come to camp through prayer and letting students know we are open and ready for a great summer!

**Camp Volunteers:** to come to camp for an hour, a day, or a few days. We have plenty of places for volunteers of all ages to serve; painting, staining, light construction, office help, and so much more. **If you would like to come volunteer at camp, please reach out at (507) 653-4700 and let us know!**

For over twenty years, Prairie River Camp has shared the Gospel with hundreds of students every year, and we, like Moses, need you to be our Aaron and Hur and hold up our arms as we share the Gospel:

*"When Moses' arms grew tired, Aaron and Hur brought a stone for him to sit on while they stood beside him and held up his arms, holding them steady until the sun went down. In this way, Joshua totally defeated the Amalekites."*  
-Exodus 17:12&13

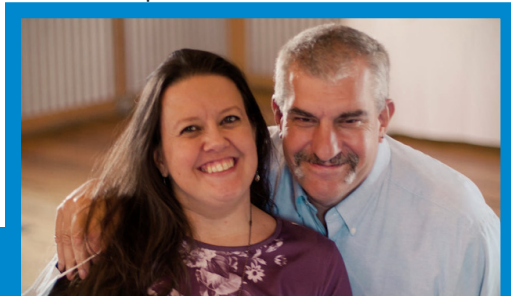
**Thank you for all that you are doing, and have done, to support Prairie River Camp** and its Mission; let's work together for another great season!

## **PRC Mission Statement:**

Prairie River Camp exists to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus by creating a transformational environment for young people through authentic relationships, shared experiences, outdoor challenges and times of solitude that draw students to the heart of God.



In His Service,  
Peter and Sherry Coffey - Prairie River Camp Director & Wife



Greetings from Prairie River Camp!

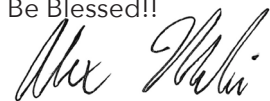
**We had an amazing winter season at camp this year.** There were three events total; the first was a local youth group retreat and then we had the Middle and High School YFC Winter Camps. I am pleased to announce that all three events went very well, although each one presented its own challenges.

Our first event in January was a youth group from Albert Lea, and while we were preparing for the retreat, we had very mild weather. What little snow we had quickly melted in the rain and warm temperatures. We were afraid there would not be any snow for any winter activities, but thanks to our great God, the day of the retreat we had a snowstorm that dumped six inches on camp, and we were able to do all the activities we had planned to do! One of the highlights for this weekend was building relationships with young people from Albert Lea, and watching the young people surrender everything in Chapel during Worship. It was a powerful weekend with rich teaching and prayer for each other.

The second event we had was our High School YFC Winter Camp. During this camp we had the opposite problem of the first, extremely **low** temperatures. It was so cold that we had to change our plans from outdoor programming to mostly indoor programming! Even though this camp had the potential to be a disaster, the team at PRC was able to put our heads together and come up with some great indoor alternatives. The biggest hit was the Foam-Dart Wars, and also the down-time we provided the kids to relax and recharge.

Our third event was the Middle School YFC Winter Camp. For this camp we had top notch weather. The entire weekend was low twenties and plenty of snow! We were able to play Broom Ball on the river, go sledding on the hill, and we also had some great creative snow sculpture building! God has been very good to us this winter. Despite all the challenges we faced, God showed up in some major ways!! He kept each of us safe each weekend, guests and staff included; He showed us His Faithfulness by providing snow, safety, and spiritual growth in students' lives; and He provided us with some excellent speakers that brought the Word and challenged us to go deeper in our walks with Him. Collectively this winter, **we had eleven first time commitments to Faith in Jesus Christ!** Each of us here at camp want to thank you all for your prayers and support of this ministry.

Be Blessed!!



Alex Melin - Prairie River Camp Program Director



## CAMP STORY

Have you ever been so hungry that all you can pay attention to is the growls from your stomach? The sound of the clock as each second goes by?

One camper said that the best thing about this year's Winter Camp was the schedule. They were so thankful that they could eat their meals before hearing about Jesus because it meant they could finally pay attention to the message! This seems like such a minor change, but to a student from an inner-city homeless shelter it meant the world. Many programs require those in attendance to hear a sermon as their admittance to receiving a meal. Not only did this camper receive a warm meal, but also was attentive to the life-changing message that could make the difference in their eternal salvation.

The camper said, "Hearing about Jesus after eating is better than before eating. Hungry people don't listen well." And through the message, God taught the camper that, **they are loved and that God cares about them. The camper also learned how it is essential to love yourself before you can love others properly.**



Erin Mushett - Prairie River Camp Intern

# 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: 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



## 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!

## Online Donations Accepted!

Would you like to give via credit card or set up a regular monthly donation?  
Visit [PrairieRiverCamp.org](http://PrairieRiverCamp.org) and click on **Giving**.

**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.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

### 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

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

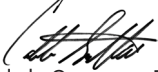
Greetings PRC Family,

What a whirlwind it has been these past couple of months! We have started on the Dining Hall deck and the patio leading into The Shelter. These two projects will get our Dining Hall about 90% complete with exception to the walk-in cooler/freezer. It is purchased & awaiting a foundation. Our new commercial kitchen is set to be inspected mid-May. We are very excited about the use of this building for summer ministry!

Our Rec. Room is getting the interior tongue-and-groove siding installed. Cabinets will be going up shortly, so we can start getting our Canteen and Camp Store set up within the next several weeks. This building is where registration will take place as well as snack time, indoor table games, and meeting areas for breakout sessions during camps.

We had to cut down 14 trees that were dead from last year, most of which were Oak. It was sad to see these trees go but for the safety of staff, campers and buildings, they had to be taken care of. These were full grown trees, and several were in pretty precarious locations, but with the help of one of our Camp Advisory Committee members and his noble sidekick, we got them all down. Then, on March 24th we had 16 volunteers attend our Camp Work Day, and got a lot of the trees cleaned up, firewood chopped, and brush piled. There's still lots to be done, and we are grateful for volunteers that continue to help get our facilities ready for campers this summer!

In Christ,



Caleb Sutton - Prairie River Camp Facilities Director



## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### In Memory Of:

Bonnie Risius  
Dr. Jack Peterson

Glorian Sander  
Joyce Thompson  
Robert "Bob" Moreau  
Vickie Becker

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.

### Given By:

Judy Prestegard  
Shirley Gudal  
Janet Peterson  
Wayne & Jolyn Olson  
Greg & Robin Gudal  
Shirley Gudal  
Shirley Gudal  
Fern Urbatsch  
Lynn & Lyn Sorensen

## PRAISES

- Praise God for the MN Department of Health allowing more campers this summer!
- Praise God for the youth who have registered and attended camp this year, that the message of Jesus' love would be heard and received!
- 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 staff and families!

## CAMP NEEDS

- Multiple Passenger or Utility Golf Carts
- Wood Chipper (PTO or Engine)
- 65" or Smaller Tiller for JD 3720 (Model: RT1165)
- 70HP or Higher Skid Steer on Tracks (Grapple Bucket and Forks would be a plus)
- Front Mount Snow Blower for JD X748
- Gas Pole Saw

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Helpers for Summer Camps.
- Painting, cleaning and assistance with general work projects around camp.

## 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 serve on staff this summer.
- Please pray for the upcoming Summer Camps continuing with safe precautions in place.
- Prayers for all recovering from COVID.
- Pray that our guest group numbers continue to increase in order to help increase funding for camp.

To volunteer, contact us at 507.653.4700 or email  
[Peter@prairierivercamp.org](mailto:Peter@prairierivercamp.org)



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