

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

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JOB OPENINGS

CAMP UPDATES

Woodcrest Retreat, Ephrata, PA, has an opening for Facilities Manager. This person works under the Operations Director to make sure that all the buildings and grounds of the campus are functional and prepared for groups. Skills include general maintenance and repair, organization, and able to work with volunteers and summer staff. This is a full time, year-round position with benefits. A complete job description can be found at www.woodcrestretreat.org/jobs.

MENNOCON21

Convention planners are seeking proposals for equipping seminars at MennoCon21, the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) biennial convention slated to take place July 6-10 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The deadline for submissions is October 10.

Visit the convention website for a list of seminar criteria and to access the submission form: <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/the-experience/worship-equipping-seminars/>

Bethany Birches Camp, Plymouth, VT, www.bethanybirches.org
by Anna Martin, Program Director

“As Long as I’m Alive I Will Glorify His Holy Name!”

Singing camp songs at Bethany Birches Camp has always been a huge way that we share God with our campers. This summer we struggled to know how to maintain this camp classic while keeping our campers safe. Even though we were spread out across a field, campers were excited to yell their favorite camp song suggestions up to the worship leaders. There is nothing like watching campers dance around and sing boisterously to songs about God’s strength, steadiness, and love. It is clear that despite all of the road blocks this year God is continuing to move. I feel blessed to have felt that this summer.



FALL “CAMP DAYS” UPDATE

Over the past weeks, there have been conversations regarding the annual recruiting Camp Days that happen at EMU, Bluffton, Goshen, Hesston, Bethel, Tabor and McPherson colleges in early November. The end decision from these discussions is Mennonite Camping Association will not coordinate recruiting on campuses this year. Rather, MCA will provide a yet-to-be-made video of MCA camps and summer staff opportunities to share with these colleges and universities. The hope is the video can be used on campus in video displays, sent to students, and distributed in whatever ways are available.

The MCA board is willing to help with the costs of producing a video and have offered some general thoughts about content (keep it short, general so all camps can use, the rewarding aspects of being a staff person, etc.), but your ideas are needed! **Please reply with ideas for the video by October 2.** Names of people who could create the video or lead the process are welcome, too. (This could be you!)

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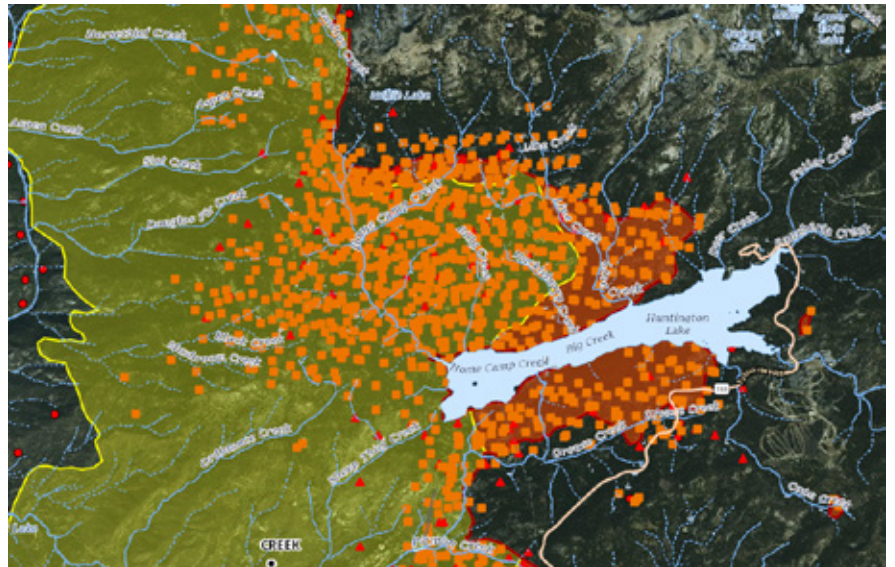
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CAMP UPDATES: WEST COAST WILDFIRES

Camp Keola, Lakeshore, CA, www.campkeola.org

Camp Keola had a harrowing few days, but survived thanks to the concerted efforts of the local fire fighters and our new water system. This satellite map shows green for the first day's burn and the yellow and red spots are heat signatures. We are at the southwest corner of the lake. It shows us burned, but that's because of the back fires used to protect us. The fire is still going at well over 200,000 acres, and is threatening ski resorts on the other side of the Sierra Nevada. The north side of the lake had a fire tornado that uprooted trees and then burned them. Two other camps were completely destroyed and others were damaged. The current difficulty is that it will be another month before we can get in to get our boats out and winterize. We often have snow by mid October here at 7,000 feet. Roots are burning underground, trees are constantly falling and the two roads in have been burned over, resulting in rock slides as well as fallen trees and power lines. We are assuming that all the infrastructure issues will be addressed by next summer when we have our season, but we are not sure the pandemic will have abated sufficiently. Since we serve food in a dining hall, figuring out how to socially distance is a problem. We're working on it. Given that we came so close to losing the camp, we are staying grateful.

- Duane Ruth-Heffelbower, Executive Director



Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR, www.driftcreek.org

Strong winds from the east tore through much of Oregon on Monday evening, September 7. The wind knocked down countless trees along Drift Creek's only access road. Meanwhile, a human-caused fire emerged in the nearby town of Otis. After assessing the road, the decision was made for the camp caretakers to seek shelter with family in Salem. The Echo Mountain Fire grew and spread west from Otis toward Lincoln City. At least 100 homes have been lost in the blaze. For more than a week the camp staff waited, praying that the wind would not shift the fire toward camp. Thankfully it has subsided and not spread south! We are so grateful that DCC has been spared, but we ache for our neighbors in Lincoln City who have lost everything. We pray for our campers from across the region who have been evacuated from their homes. It has been a trying couple of years for camp with back-to-back summer closures. But we are so deeply grateful for this bit of good news! - Brenda Kauffman, Executive Director

