

## BIG SKY'S WINTER RETREAT LINE UP

If you enjoyed summer camp at Big Sky, join us for a winter retreat! You won't want to miss broom ball, tubing, ice fishing, snow activities and all of the great worship and solid teaching that you experience during the summer! See you there!

### Jr High Snow Camp

For: 6-8th Graders / Date: Jan 8-10, 2021 / \$75

### Senior High Getaway

For: 9-12th Graders / Date: Feb. 19-21, 2021 / \$75  
(2020 L.I.T.'s attend free)

### March Madness

For: 3-6th Graders / Date: March 12-14, 2021 / \$75

To register and for more info., check out [www.bigskybiblecamp.org](http://www.bigskybiblecamp.org).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR CONT'D...

2. **Prayer and Praise** – After campers depart on Friday evenings, all of the Big Sky staff come together for dinner and a time of worship and sharing about the week. As I would gaze around this circle of hard-working individuals, I would definitely see fatigue and exhaustion, but it was a “spiritual” exhaustion from having been used greatly by the Lord and spent for His glory. Countless joys, struggles and trials were shared during these times. The joys involved campers coming to know the Lord, growing in their faith, being challenged to flee from their sin, etc. The struggles often involved campers asking theologically challenging questions or asking for help with a particular sin. The trials often came in the form of hard-hearted campers who left without knowing Christ and, from outward appearance, had no interest in the gospel. However, we always rejoice in knowing that the gospel was presented and we pray that the Holy Spirit will someday use the seed that was planted at Big Sky Bible Camp.

Instagram



501 McCaffery Rd  
Bigfork MT 59911

**BIG SKY**  
BIBLE CAMP



*Big Sky is a great place for a retreat, family getaway, pastor getaway, business meeting, catered meal and more!*  
Go to [www.bigskybiblecamp.org](http://www.bigskybiblecamp.org) for more info.

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## CAMP WITH COVID

This summer was full of God's faithfulness, unintentional blessings and the gospel. Numerous camps around the nation were unfortunately closed this summer, but Big Sky was blessed to be able to remain open and still be in line with health department guidelines. Although it was different, we praise the Lord for a great summer! In order to keep campers and staff safe, there were various new protocols put in effect. This included keeping the campers split by gender for their electives and field games to keep the groups smaller, running chapel in the pavilion and eating all meals outside! COVID also brought the unintentional blessing of a summer staff that may not have been here otherwise. Several of the counselors planned to serve in other ministries in Costa Rica, China, and even at other camps. However, God intended them to be here. We truly marveled at His provision and were so grateful for what these staff members added to the ministry at Big Sky!

COVID's impact could potentially affect our Camp Promise campers the most. To protect them and our staff, we were able to provide day camp for one week. Day camp was a wonderful blessing that gave us insight into the potential of running Day Camp in addition to overnight camp in the future. Overall, God's name was glorified, and we had a full summer. We have a lot to be thankful for, even though it looked a little less than normal!



## SUMMER TESTIMONY FROM ANDREA ROSEND

This summer was my first time working at Big Sky Bible Camp, and it is not a summer that I will soon forget. I loved getting to know the kids and spending the summer with them; I don't think I've ever laughed so much as I did at camp! I learned so much from them and enjoyed sharing my testimony of God with them. I also enjoyed getting to know the other counselors and staff members and being able to learn from their examples as followers of Christ. They taught me the importance of prayer and intentionality. It wasn't always easy, but working at camp was more than worth it. I am so grateful that I was able to spend my summer at camp and that I was able help kids learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ.



## CAMP PROMISE UPDATE...

Beth Wiegand

There is so much to be thankful for even in the middle of a COVID year. This summer we were able to have Camp Promise in the form of a four-day - day camp. We had approximately 30 attendees with several first-time campers. We even discovered that some of our campers prefer the day camp model, which has caused us to consider offering a week of day camp along with our two weeks of regular Camp Promise in 2021. A post-summer highlight was a picnic for the families that attend Friday Night Out - the ministry in Kalispell during the school year. It was a sweet time of fellowship and conversation with the numerous families that attended.

One struggle many Camp Promise campers deal with is loneliness. A majority of these campers are adults and while some have active lives, others have minimal interactions throughout the year. In order to try and help these campers, October will usher in the first "Promise Club" at BSBC. Once a month we hope to gather and enjoy outdoor activities, but also give our friends with special needs the opportunity to encourage another group in our community. For instance, we will decorate and fill treat boxes for residents in an assisted living facility, make birthday posters for kids who celebrate their birthdays in Montana Children's Hospital, or maybe even a thank you poster to first responders. It will be an opportunity to give back and serve our community. The beauty of Promise Clubs is that we can potentially take this program on the road and gather with our campers in Missoula, Great Falls or Spokane and allow them to also have the chance to reach out to others. Please pray for these new opportunities to serve the special needs population and the community at large.

We look forward to God's direction as we aim to minister to people with special needs and their families. Continue to pray the gospel of Christ would go forth, be understood, and trusted by those we reach out to and families would be served with the love of God.

## PARENT COMMENTS FROM THE SUMMER...

*"My daughter absolutely loved her counselor this year...thank you for bringing in all of these amazing young people...thank you for another amazing year and for all you do for the youth of the community!"*

*"I loved the leaders of the backpacking trip. They obviously loved the kids and loved what they were doing!"*

*"Our daughter had the best time this year at camp...with the current situation we're in with COVID, it was such a blessing to have camp be so much fun for her. I was worried it wouldn't happen and the way you all worked together to bring the kids the best experience you could - was awesome. She also said that the chapel speaker gave the best chapel experience. She was very moved and came back full of the Lord. Thank you guys for everything!!"*

*"Our daughter has been requesting bible stories each night since day camp -something we don't do on a regular basis. She had such a wonderful experience, each of the 4 days, and can't wait to return next summer! Thank you so much, Big Sky Bible Camp team!!"*

*"We are so grateful for all the enthusiasm, energy and teaching that went into a very successful man week!"*

*"Thank you for your continued dedication to do Camp Promise. I know it has special challenges that other camps don't have. I bless you and thank you for continuing to do the Lord's work."*

*"This was my sons first year and I was quite nervous to send him...the counselors were fabulous with him! The second morning dropping him off he was greeted by name by multiple counselors. The engagement from the counselors especially first thing in the morning on the playground made the drop off transition so smooth!! Thank you for making this a memorable time for him! He can't wait to come back next year!"*



**Fun Summer stats:**

- 266 New campers this summer**
- 288 songs sung by counselors at meal times!**
- 1,529 miles hiked by staff and campers as a part of the wilderness program!**

## BSBC'S WILDERNESS PROGRAM...

Tyler Kerst

The Wilderness Program of Big Sky Bible Camp had an awesome, adventurous and amazingly blessed summer in 2020. We are so very thankful for the work God did in the lives of the leaders and participants, and the protection and safety He provided. All three trips saw great interest and were maxed out with more young people wanting to go than we could take. What a wonderful "problem" to have!

The Trail Camp trip kicked off the backpacking season with two weeks of incredible experiences and extremely hard work. The three leaders and twelve hardworking participants ventured deep into the Great Bear Wilderness and tackled a section of trail in the Dean Creek drainage that had virtually become impassible.

Our team worked on 1,128 yards of trail, including the clearing of 12 trees, 4 drainages and countless amounts of brush. All of this was done with basic hand tools and manual cross-cut saws. This was the 26th year that a crew from Big Sky Bible Camp has worked on trail maintenance and construction in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and we look forward to continuing the special tradition and worthwhile endeavor.

The Junior High Boys and Girls trips once again explored the Jewel Basin Hiking Area and experienced some of God's remarkably beautiful wilderness settings.

These 4 night trips are a wonderful introduction to overnight backpacking. The trips are led by exceptionally gifted and experienced leaders that get to pass on their backpacking and wilderness adventuring skills, while at the same time encouraging and guiding the participants in their understanding of, and relationship with, God. The lives of these young people were profoundly impacted. Exploring biblical truths while experiencing back-country adventures uniquely intensifies the learning opportunity. The Big Sky Bible Camp Wilderness Program was once again abundantly blessed by God.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

One of the biggest challenges I have as director is conveying what I see take place on a daily basis throughout the summer to those who love and support Big Sky, but are not here to see what the Lord is doing firsthand. I have thought long and hard about how to do this better, but have thus far come up with nothing more than words to describe what takes place each summer. I would invite you to join me as I describe two of the most encouraging times of the week throughout the summer:

1. **Staff Meetings** – Twice a week, a portion of the staff (of course the campers have to always be supervised!) meet together at 7 in the morning to pray, hear from God's Word and share what is going on in their cabin. I continually think that I should record these meetings because this is where we hear how the Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts of the campers and staff. During one of the meetings this summer, I recall one of the counselors sharing how one of their campers came to know the Lord. This was not simply a hand raising, either, but rather a deep conviction of sin and a desire to know the one who could save them from this sin. Through countless questions and conversations with their counselor throughout the week, this camper came to know Christ as their Savior and we rejoice in that.

*Cont'd on back*

