

SUMMER CAMP DATES

OVERNIGHT CAMP

High School (Gr. 9-12)	Jun. 11-16
Man Week (Gr. 6-9)	Jun. 18-23
1st Junior (Gr. 3-6)	Jul. 9-14
All Girls (Gr. 6-9)	Jul. 16-21
2nd Junior (Gr. 3-6)	Jul. 23-28
Jr. High Co-ed (Gr. 6-8)	Jul. 30-Aug. 4
3rd Junior (Gr. 3-6)	Aug. 6-11

WILDERNESS CAMP

Trail Camp A (Gr. 9-College)	Jul. 6-20
Trail Camp B (Gr. 9-College)	Jul. 20-Aug. 3
Intro. Backpacking Boys 1 (Gr. 6-9)	Jul. 23-28
Intro. Backpacking Girls 1 (Gr. 6-9)	Jul. 23-28
Adv. Backpacking Co-Ed (Gr. 9-12)	Jul. 29-Aug. 4
Intro. Backpacking Boys 2 (Gr. 6-9)	Aug. 6-11
Intro. Backpacking Girls 2 (Gr. 6-9)	Aug. 6-11

DAY CAMP

#1 (Grades K-3)	Jun. 26-29
#2 (Grades 2-5)	Jul. 3-6
#3 (Grades K-3)	Jul. 10-13
#4 (Grades K-3)	Jul. 17-20
#5 (Grades K-3)	Jul. 24-27
#6 (Grades 2-5)	Jul. 31-Aug. 3
#7 (Grades K-3)	Aug. 7-10

CAMP PROMISE

Day Camp 1: (ages 20+)	Jun. 13-16
Day Camp 2: (ages 8-25)	Jun. 20-23
Overnight Camp 1: (ages 10+)	Jun. 26-30
Overnight Camp 2: (ages 10+)	Jul. 3-7



501 MCCAFFERY RD.

BIGFORK, MT 59911

A Promise Kept Update

Phase 1 of our A Promise Kept expansion, the new Dining Hall, is now fully funded!

p2

New Project: Office & Welcome Center

Learn about an exciting new project here at camp.

p2

Help Wanted! Kitchen Manager

Do you love the Lord, like to cook, and have an eye for detail? We have an opportunity for you.

p2

Summer Camp Theme: "Who do you say I am?"

The seven "I Am" sayings of Jesus are the teaching focus of this summer's ministry.

p3

Summer Camp Timelines

Keep up with some key summer dates here at camp.

p4

the BIG SKY QUARTERLY

A NEWSLETTER OF BIG SKY BIBLE CAMP

spring 2023



Europe's cathedrals are staggering in their size and grandeur. Representing years of blood, sweat, and tears, and billions of dollars in today's currency, these monuments were meant to evoke a sense of the majesty and glory of God. They are a sight to behold!



LIVING STONES

Yet a quick glance across the landscape of post-Christian Europe reveals many cathedrals, but few Christians; grandiose houses of worship, but few worshippers. Many of the buildings which once resounded with rich musical worship, prayer, and the Word of God boldly proclaimed are now mere museums of antiquity.

What happened to Europe's cathedrals can happen to any Christian. We can lose sight of God while serving Him when we become preoccupied with buildings, programs, and the busy-ness of ministry.

This is why 1 Peter 2:5 rings true for any Christian. The Apostle tells us that Christians are like "living stones" being built up into a spiritual house of worship. Because our bodies are temples

"You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." - 1 Pet. 2:5

of the Holy Spirit, God is more concerned with the "living stones" of our spiritual lives and the lives of those we serve than He is with the buildings we build for Him.

This is a timely reminder for us! Our staff, donors, and volunteers have expended considerable time, energy, and finances on the infrastructure needed to support our growing ministry.

We should never forget, though, why we are here. Without people to minister to, our buildings are just bricks and mortar. Unless we labor for the Lord, the sound of construction is just noise. Our success is measured not by beautiful buildings, but by our faithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And so, as our facilities expand, we will continue to prioritize the "living stones" God is building through Big Sky Bible Camp. Our facilities are simply tools to help us share the wondrous mystery of Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection.

May the Lord always be glorified here as He builds us into a living temple for His worship!

Greetings from the staff at Big Sky Bible Camp!

You might notice the new name and layout of our newsletter. We thought a quick refresh would be a welcome change. Enjoy!

We're thankful for the spring sunshine and warmer temps we're enjoying. It was a long winter! What makes the change of season even more exciting is the reminder that another summer of ministry is only a couple months away.

While it seems like every day here at camp brings some sort of change, there are a few things we are asking God keep the same! We desire that the Lord would continue to build "living stones" through our ministry to our campers, guests, staff, and friends of camp. We want Jesus Christ and who He says He is to be the foundation of our faith. And we want the staff we hire, like our new Kitchen Manager, to share our commitment to the things of God.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ!





JOIN OUR TEAM AS KITCHEN MANAGER!

This is a paid, year-round opportunity for a Christian believer who is detailed, organized, enjoys food service, and understands the importance of this vital ministry.

Duties include inventory, quality control, and occasional cooking. Lodging provided with a possibility of full-time work at the conclusion of the summer season.

Email our director, Jamy Landis, at jamy@bigskybiblecamp.org for next steps and to apply.



Praise the Lord that Phase 1 of the A Promise Kept expansion is now fully funded!

Siding and soffit are being installed, and our contractors will soon begin work on the heating, plumbing, electrical, and ventilation systems. We are close to finishing masonry throughout.



Our plan is to have the new dining hall finished in time for summer camp 2024.

Soon, we'll begin fundraising in earnest for Phase 2 which consists of eight duplex cabins to be built near the site of the new dining hall.

Visit bigskypromisekept.org for updates on our progress!



We are thriving, thank the Lord! Opportunities to network with non-profits and other ministries abound. We continue to welcome new guests and visitors on site.

retreat groups, and support any number of business functions here as our ministry grows. We'll also be able to better welcome camper families and guests.

The challenge? Our office situation is no longer sustainable.

NEW PROJECT! OFFICE & WELCOME CENTER

We have only four offices serving eight full-time staff and one part-time staff member. Over the summer, we add another four full-time staff. Meeting space is scarce to nonexistent, and we often conduct business outside on the porch! Beneath the office is our camp store and craft room, which doubles as both programing and storage space.

This is why we are expanding the office and camp store below us approximately 2,000 sq. ft. Besides providing our staff with a proper work space, this expansion will enable us to better conduct meetings, enhance our service to

We aim to begin this project, estimated at \$200,000, in the fall of 2023. We should finish by the spring of 2024, Lord willing.

We are proceeding concurrent with the A Promise Kept expansion to save time and money in using supplies, manpower, and contractors advantageously. Our full-time staff will supplement the skilled labor necessary for the expansion, another way we are trying to keep costs low.

We are excited and ready to proceed, but we need your help. Would you consider making a special gift to this project? (See below for the advantage of making your gift on Reach Day, April 28th!)

YOUR GIFT GOES FURTHER ON...



REACH DAY, APRIL 28th

Reach Day is a special 24-hour online giving event during which BCM, our parent organization, will waive all administrative fees on gifts given to Big Sky Bible Camp.

This year, our goal is to raise \$50,000 towards the cost of the office expansion and welcome center, along with raising additional support for Camper Scholarships and our General Fund.

Visit bigskybiblecamp.org to donate on April 28. Thank you!



Childhood and adolescence are key times of identity formation in any person's life. Our campers come to us wrestling with a vital question: "Who am I?"

It is tempting for kids to find their identities in fleeting things like hobbies, athletic abilities, and other people's perceptions of them. However, the formation of identity ought to be different for those who are in Christ.



2023 SUMMER THEME



As Christians, we can know who we are because we know first and foremost who Christ is. Only once we know who He is can we know who we are in Him. God desires for his people to know Him deeply, and therefore in His loving kindness, He has made Himself known to His people.

In the book of John, Jesus revealed seven times who He is, stating: "I

am the Bread of Life. I am the Light of the World. I am the Sheep Gate. I am the Good Shepherd. I am the Resurrection and the Life. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am the True Vine."

Jesus used ordinary and visible things to explain the invisible realities which His followers were just beginning to grasp. Jesus' teaching confused some, but those who truly sought to know and follow Him were given more clarity about who He was. In turn, they knew more about themselves and their place in the world.



This summer, campers will dive into these "I am" statements and explore what they teach us about God's being and character. In turn they will learn what it means to be a follower of Christ in this broken and complicated world! -- Grace DeValois, Program Administrator



Our 211 winter campers (a record number!) enjoyed many memorable moments at Jr. High Snow Camp, Sr. High Getaway, and March Madness.

Winter Camp Wrap Up

Over the course of four chapels, campers learned how God created mankind in his image in Genesis 1 and then how that image was distorted when sin entered the world in Genesis 3. Speakers discussed the implications of living in a fallen world and the ways campers may

see the image of God twisted. Campers learned how through Jesus Christ the image of God is restored in Christians as they are made into new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17).

"It is sweet to see the ways the Lord is using this ministry to plant seeds and bring children to himself," said camp speaker and summer staff member Brooke Mehlhoff. "What a privilege to be a part of something with such eternal value!"

CAMP PROMISE

It is the first week of April and snow is still on the ground, yet plans for Camp Promise Summer Camp are in full swing.



We're growing! This year we will have two weeks of Day Camp and Overnight Camp with a potential for 140 campers. The excitement for summer follows a busy year of Promise Clubs in person and online.

In March, we held our last Promise Club Junior club of the year. It has been a special blessing to have these younger friends join us and be able to provide respite for their parents. For some, it was the first time they left their child with someone other than family. What a privilege to serve our families in this way!



New friends join us every month for our Zoom Promise Club. We look forward to ways this club can grow and be an encouragement to the participants. With about 20% of our campers traveling over four hours to Bigfork, Zoom is a great way to keep in touch and continually disciple our campers.

In Missoula, a new parent's group meets while we are doing Promise Club. It is a wonderful way for families to connect and talk through the joys and challenges of raising kids with disabilities.

The need to come alongside families facing the struggles of disability, to support, encourage and uplift them, is great. Please continue to pray for God's leading in the best ways we can do this ministry and where to continue to plant Promise Clubs. -- Beth Wiegand, Camp Promise Director