

WINTER CAMP DATES

Register now for winter camps! Get ready for broom ball, tubing, fun in the snow, and the same great worship and biblical teaching that you experience during the summer.



Jr. High Snow Camp
Grades 6-8
January 26-28
Cost: \$85



Sr. High Getaway
Grades 9-12
February 23-25
Cost: \$85*

*Fee waived for '23 LITs and summer staff



March Madness
Grades 3-6
March 22-24
Cost: \$85

SUMMER CAMP NOTES



Registration for summer camp opens **January 3rd**.

(Be sure to register by March 15th to take advantage of the early-bird discount!)

Visit bigskybiblecamp.org for details, dates, and to register.

We have recently upgraded our camp registration software and are pleased to provide you with a new registration experience through CampBrain! Our goal is for you to enjoy a parent-friendly registration process that is streamlined, clear, and easy to navigate.

Please reach our office with any questions regarding summer registration at info@bigskybiblecamp.org or 406-837-4864.

New Ministry Partnership Program

Learn about a special opportunity for summer staff to build prayer and financial support.
Inside

Welcome to our New Staff!

Join us in welcoming the Dahl family and Brooke McIntosh on board.
Inside

Christ & the Power of Camp

The Lord works at camp in powerful ways!
Inside

Top 5 Reasons to Serve at Big Sky!

Join us for a summer you'll never forget.
Inside

Winter & Summer Camp Updates

Registration for summer camp opens on January 3.
On back



the BIG SKY QUARTERLY

A NEWSLETTER OF BIG SKY BIBLE CAMP

winter 2023

Project Focus: Office Expansion & Welcome Center

As the story goes, there was once a wise and skillful old carpenter who hired a young apprentice. In his youthful but misguided zeal, the apprentice would do his best to use whatever tool he had handy for the task at hand – even if it was the wrong tool – instead of investing in necessary new tools.

This often resulted in shoddy work, wasted time, and increased expense on the part of the master craftsman. One day the wise old carpenter pulled his apprentice aside and said, “Son, there are few things more important than using the *right tool* for the job.”

Our job here at camp is to share the gospel and make disciples to the best of our ability. What a wonderful job it is! Yet in order to meet the demand for our programs and to equip our growing staff for ministry, we have had to invest in a number of new tools which will return dividends in the long run. One such tool is the expanded office and welcome center.

Thanks to the support of our donors and friends – and the crew we hired after seeing their excellent work on the dining hall – we have made great progress. Our new office and welcome center is now framed out and will soon be dried in for the winter.

What will be the result of this new “tool” for the ministry here? How will it impact the lives of our campers and guests?



Our cramped quarters make routine work difficult at times, with four offices serving eight full-time staff and an additional four staff members joining us each summer. Some might not realize that Big Sky Bible Camp is a year-round operation.

We run several winter camps, ongoing church and family retreats, Camp Promise programming, and other events. With adequate office space, our staff should be more efficient and effective, and we'll never have to conduct routine business on the porch again!

Campers and their families, retreat groups, and conference guests will be welcomed warmly and with excellence in an expanded office and camp store. Our guests will have the space to linger, build community, and share what the Lord is doing in their lives.

The new dining hall will allow larger organizations to use our facilities for their own programming. The new office will be an administrative hub equipped to adequately serve and support expanded ministry opportunities.

Would you help us finish funding this project through a year-end gift? This \$350,000 project is 70% funded, and we are optimistic that we can finish fundraising by the New Year.

In the past, we have provided our donors and friends with multiple projects as year-end giving options. This year, we are focusing all of our efforts on completing this new tool for ministry. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift!

This \$350,000 project is 70% funded.
Please consider a year-end gift!
Visit bigskybiblecamp.org to donate today.



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New for Summer Staff! Ministry Partnership Program

Have you wanted to spend a summer in ministry at a Christian camp like Big Sky but needed to work a more lucrative summer job to save for college?



Our new **Ministry Partnership Program** is an opportunity for summer staff to broaden their circle of prayer supporters and significantly increase their salaries.

This spring, we'll be provid-

ing the necessary materials and coaching for summer staff who wish to raise additional financial support for their summer ministry.

There is the potential for some staff to more than double their salaries.

While we cannot control or predict how much financial support a given counselor will be able to raise, we are optimistic and eager to work alongside counselors to create opportunities for them to be financially blessed.

Contact Grace DeValois at grace@bigskybiblecamp.org to explore this exciting new program.

Top 5 Reasons to Serve at Big Sky!

We are encouraged by the influx of early applications to serve with us this summer! Camp is truly a wonderful ministry opportunity, rich in relationships and rewards.



Among all the reasons to serve at Big Sky Bible Camp, here are our top five!

Grow in your knowledge of God's Word. The Bible is a treasure, and its depths are waiting to be mined. Camp ministry is an opportunity to be saturated in the Word of God!

Learn how to effectively share the Gospel through your testimony, and learn how to make disciples.

Be mentored and discipled through a summer of one-on-one meetings with seasoned full-time staff and other mature Christians who are ready to invest in you.

Make great friends who share your values. Many lifelong friendships begin at camp. Who knows what treasured friends you'll meet here!



Spend your summer outside, having a ton of fun in one of the most beautiful places in the world. From Glacier National Park to our own Peterson Lake, adventure awaits.

Apply now for the summer of a lifetime at bigskybiblecamp.org. Early application is encouraged!

Christ and the Power of Camp

One of the questions we often explore as a camp staff is what role Christian summer camps play in God's plan of redemption for His people. Why do we believe Christian camp is an effective means of evangelism and discipleship? How important are Christian summer camps in encouraging a young person's devotion to the Lord? What do Christian camps do that other ministries cannot? We hope you will be as encouraged as we are by the answers to these questions!

It's true that no Christian camp or conference center can ever replace the local church. The Lord has ordained local expressions of His body to preach and teach His word, make disciples, and cultivate Christian maturity. This is why camps like ours are considered parachurch ministries: they come alongside local churches in advancing the Gospel, but they do not replace them.

Christian camps nonetheless support evangelism, discipleship, and Christian maturity in several powerful ways!

There is the power of immersion in God's Word. At Big Sky Bible Camp, the Bible saturates our teaching, preaching, singing, and community. Campers tell us they feel closer to God at camp, and we believe it is because they are immersed in His Word when they are here. God's Word is powerful to transform campers by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2).

There is also power in purpose and focus. Most of us rarely set aside large blocks of time for much else besides work or family obligations. What would happen if we gave the Lord a week each year, uninterrupted, to read the Bible, worship, and enjoy Him in Christian community? We know what happens when young people do just that over a week of summer camp. In some instances, lives are completely changed through a week of purposeful focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

For our counselors and staff, there is the power of servanthood and sacrifice. We ask a lot of our summer staff. The hours are long and unrelenting, and the emotional and spiritual investment is intense. What do we

do when our strength is gone, our energy spent, and our emotions fragile and frayed? Christ must increase, and we must decrease further still! (John 3:30-35). Summer camp is a crash-course in selflessness and servanthood, a supernatural undertaking which succeeds only by the power of Christ made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

Lastly, the power of God is seen in His creation. Our campers spend a lot of time on Peterson Lake, framed by the beautiful Swan Mountains. Our God, the one who created the heavens and the earth at a mere word, is powerful! The grandeur and majesty of His creation and the pleasures of pine trees, campfires, crisp evening air, warm sun, and cool water all make camp so exhilarating.

Perhaps, though, the deeper blessing of creation is one we realize less often: the blessing of being eclipsed by a creative Power we simply cannot comprehend and to Whom we owe our existence. Prolonged immersion in nature reminds us that we, too, are God's creation, His workmanship, created to do the good works He prepared for us before time began (Eph. 2:10).

These are some of the reasons we believe Christian camp is a powerful, and special, means of gospel ministry. We are delighted and grateful that the Lord continues to use us for His purposes here at Big Sky Bible Camp.



A Promise Kept Facility Expansion Update

Phase 1: New Dining Hall

It's hard to believe that this spring, Lord willing, we will occupy the new dining hall!

Our Camp Promise campers will have access to an ADA-compliant facility with wheelchair-accessible bathrooms and doorways, as will our many guests throughout the year. Over the summer, 200+ campers and staff will no longer have to wrestle with a facility built to accommodate 60. (Plus, we'll get to eat inside!). Cooks and kitchen staff will have industry-stan-

CAMP PROMISE

Welcome, Dahls & "Scrunchie"!



Welcome, Brad and Christi Dahl, to the Camp Promise staff at Big Sky Bible Camp!

The Dahls are presently working as assistant directors alongside Beth Wiegand, Camp Promise director, to fulfill the objectives of our recent grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., including creating an online discipleship curriculum to help parents disciple their children with special needs.

Brad and Christi come with decades of ministry and pro-

fessional experience and are committed champions of our people and programs.



Welcome, Brooke McIntosh, camp name "Scrunchie!"

Brooke served as a counselor and led our LIT (Leaders in Training) program for two summers before graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Creative Media Production. Brooke joins us as a ministry assistant. She will be a great help in producing the video content for the new online discipleship curriculum among other projects.

It is an exciting chapter in Camp Promise's history as we glorify God by sharing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, creating meaningful community with people of all abilities, and encouraging families impacted by disability.

dard food preparation and service space. Retreat groups will enjoy enhanced food service flexibility, including the ability to accommodate much larger groups. What a blessing!

Phase 2: New Cabins

We've begun fundraising in earnest for eight new cabins to be built near the dining hall. These cabins will allow us to meet the growing demand for Camp Promise and other programming. Stay tuned for more on this project!