



Rainbow Reflections

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Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
107 South Ninth Street, Suite B
Canon City, Colorado 81212

Volume 34 , Number 3 Fall 2022

Rainbow Trail is operated and maintained under authority of a USDA Forest Service Special Use Permit. Rainbow Trail is located in the San Isabel National Forest, USDA.

One Step Closer!

We Have Officially Stepped Into the Land Exchange!

In 1998, the Rainbow Trail Board of Directors first approached the U.S. Forest Service about doing a land exchange to own our site. At that time, the Forest Service was not even interested in exploring the exchange. Roll forward twenty-four years, and we are now on the verge of this exchange and owning our site becoming a reality!

As of August 15, 2022, Rainbow Trail received a signed copy of the "Agreement To Initiate" (ATI) the land exchange and we officially are in the exchange process. This agreement defines the estates to be exchanged and estimated timeline to complete the land exchange process. There are 64 steps that are included in the exchange process. However, the overall timeline will be shorter than what we have experienced thus far. Up to this point, it has been a very linear process, one step had to happen before the next step could happen, and so forth. Within the actual exchange process, however, multiple steps and



studies can happen simultaneously. We are hopeful that field work will begin this fall. The projected timeline for us to complete the land exchange and own our stie is early 2024. That is less than two years away!

The Rainbow Trail Board has been very busy preparing for the exchange. The Board is currently working on a land use analysis for

the new land configuration which will lead to a new site master plan and will define the boundaries of our conservation easement.

Rainbow Trail plans to begin the final fundraising efforts of the HOME AT LAST campaign for the land exchange. We continue to ask for your prayers and your financial support for this process. Your contributions at

this stage will help us see this process to fruition. If you haven't given to the land exchange yet, consider making a special gift for the future generations that will be a part of this ministry. This is a project that the RTALC community has rallied around. Our estimates indicated that we still needed to raise about \$35,000. The great news is that we just received a \$20,000 gift from a donor. Family members of long-time camp participants have agreed to match funds raised for the land exchange. Contributions to the land exchange campaign through December 31, 2022 will be matched up to a total of \$7,500. Those gifts need to be received between now and the end of the year to qualify for this match. Dave would love to have a more in-depth conversation with you and explain more about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You can reach him by email at dave@rainbowtrail.org or by phone at 719-429-1377. Help us make Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp our Home At Last!

A WHOLE NEW MINISTRY

RTLC Provides Family Camp for Families from Joshua Station!

For years, Rainbow Trail has had a robust and full summer schedule. Until around 2012, even week 10 of our summer was filled with 105 campers every year with a waitlist. Then, as the school districts across Colorado and New Mexico started moving their start dates back to start classes, week 10 attendance began to drop. As late as 2019, we had 9 campers and three adults that were a part of the week. The RTALC full-time staff approached the Board regarding next steps for week 10. Our choices were to either cancel the week completely and send our staff home early, or re-imagine the week in a new way. The staff and Board all agreed that we would be missing a ministry opportunity if we eliminated the week. So we set some criteria for ourselves for what this week needed to



be. We wanted to serve a population that was new to us, provide program that would stretch us and help us grow as an organization, and finally, that it would be great ministry.

After two years of exploring different organizational partners and working through a pandemic, Rainbow



Trail found an incredible partner in Joshua Station. Joshua Station provides transformational housing for those that have experienced homelessness. It is a two-year program where families are provided with housing and a mentor/coach during their time at Joshua Station; in return, they are

required to have a job and pay rent, and they agree to take courses such as financial management. When we first approached Joshua Station, we asked if they would be open to sending their youth to camp. They replied, "What about bringing our whole families?" We had not even considered whole families! What a wonderful idea! And the partnership was set!

On August 15, 11 families consisting of thirty people joined our staff for an amazing three days together. It was not always easy, but it was life changing for all. We hiked, built sand castles, wove baskets, wood carved, shared devotions, played bingo, and created community in a whole new way. One of the most powerful moment **(CONT. ON PAGE 2)**

Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp creates holy spaces that embody God's radical grace to affirm, empower, and transform all people to be Christ's light in the world

Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director
The fall schedule has been a freight train! We have barely finished this past summer and we are already deep into the planning for 2023. The brochure is being finalized and will go to press very soon. The land exchange is moving too, which has ramped up the work of our Board. And Hannah has planned a very full fall retreat season for all of us. There are a lot of balls in the air right now!!

We had an amazing summer. We were able to have all of our day camps in person, Bridging Borders trips were back on the road, and we had a full on-site schedule. In addition, we had an incredible week 10 with the families from Joshua Station. We have been trying to find the right program for week 10 and we think this is it! We also had our camp grandparents and a full allotment of adult leaders back in full force. Our summer staff was once again amazing. This was a younger team, but they grew quickly and became an amazing ministry team. They loved their campers deeply and they truly loved each other. We are excited to have many of them back next summer!

One of the key elements of our program is a quality Bible study that challenges all of us to make the world different once we leave camp. This year was no exception. We had an awesome Bible Study that helped us understand God's boundless love for us. This was a powerful study that reminded us of God's tremendous unconditional love for us. The writers did an amazing job of creating a study that I believe touched not only our campers but also our staff. Thank you to the writing team-- Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward, Pastor Nicole' Ferry, Pastor Adam Berndt, Pastor Jane Jebesen, and Pastor Brad Doty-- and for all of the extra time you commit to our ministry to make our program better. You have been a blessing to this ministry and to me! Others who made a huge difference in our ministry this summer through staff training are Julie Miller and Bishop Jim Gonia. Thank you all for giving so fully to this ministry and being flexible in sharing your knowledge and time with our staff!

I also want to thank all of our partner congregations for their support of Rainbow Trail. You, along with the Rocky Mountain Synod, have provided us with such a stable support base - especially over the last three pandemic years - that has allowed to fully live into our ministry. There are now over 85 partner congregations that contribute to Rainbow Trail. Thank you for seeing us as partners in your ministry and in the faith development of your youth and families. Thank you also to the Rocky Mountain Synod for naming outdoor ministries as an important part of your ministry as well.

As the Rainbow Trail community, you have continued to believe in and support Rainbow Trail in 2022. People have been so generous toward RTLCL. You have allowed us to focus on the critical things, such as training and preparing our staff, so the campers' experience can be the absolute best it can be. Thank you!!

I also want to thank our full-time team for their work this summer. All of our programs were back in motion and ALL of our programs experienced great success. Thanks to the full-time team for your passion, your love of this ministry, and your partnership in this ministry. I love you all!

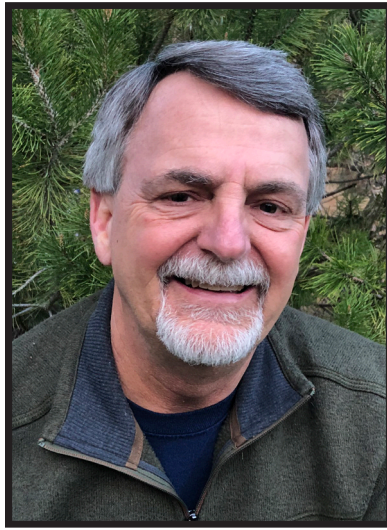
Registration for 2023 will open on November 1st at 12:01 am. Members of the churches of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1st, 2023. After that date, it is open registration. Rumor on the street is that early registration is going to be vigorous! Take advantage of this next two months of priority registration. This will ensure that your camper gets into the week of camp that they want to attend. If you wait until even late January, many camps will be full and your choices will be limited. Start making plans now!

You read the lead article - we are in the actual land exchange!!! With the signing of the Agreement to Initiate the exchange, things will move more quickly. It is no longer a linear process. Multiple steps can happen at the same time. These are exciting times! Please keep this process in your prayers. We will keep you informed as things progress. We do need to raise about \$15,000 to complete this whole process if you are interested in helping us finish this project. There are matching funds!

With Nell retired now, we went to South Carolina for our first post summer vacation ever! We are also planning to do our first fall vacation in October. We are planning to go experience the fall colors in Maine. It is so fun to have that time together to do things, now that we don't have to work around her school schedule. Thanks for another great summer. I have been blessed to serve you. We are living in the excitement of all that will be 2023! Come join us and be a part of it!

Until next time,

Dave



(CONT. FROM PAGE 1) of the experience was when we were leading devotions following playing bingo. Cam and Dave were playing their guitars upfront and everyone was singing a quiet song boldly. Two of the moms brought their babies up next to them and began to sway to the music as they snuggled their children and sang to God. It was powerful ministry!

We plan on serving the families of Joshua Station during week 10 for years to come. There are many people to thank that ensured this ministry happened. We are grateful for Benjamin Armas, who is our partner from Joshua Station, for his vision and partnership in this ministry. Four volunteers - Pastor Jane Jebesen, Pastor Nicole' Ferry, Lisa Regennitter, and Sonja Iverson - shared their wisdom and expertise to help our staff be the very best they could be. Wholly Kicks provided brand new shoes for all of the family members that attended camp. Scheels Sporting Goods from Colorado Springs donated 25 brand new sleeping bags that went home with our families, while other donors provided brand new pillows. Still other donors provided van rentals, fuel, and food for the trip to camp and back to Denver, while others covered the cost of food, staffing, and program for the whole week. If you want to be a part of making sure this week continues long into the future, you can make a gift designated to Joshua Station.



December 6, 2022

On Tuesday, DECEMBER 6, 2022, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations like ours. Last year, \$54.4 million was distributed to 3,063 different nonprofits throughout Colorado! RTLCL raised \$100,005 in that 24-hour period! With the encouragement of some of our donors, we have set our goal for 2022 at \$100,000. All funds raised will go toward our Annual Fund. You may wonder why we do Colorado Gives Day every year. The answer is that every donation given to RTLCL on Colorado Gives Day gives Rainbow Trail a chance at additional funds made available by Community First Foundation and 1st Bank. Every donor that gives to Rainbow Trail, no matter the size of the gift, puts Rainbow Trail in the drawing for monetary prizes. So, a \$10 donation

could earn RTLCL \$1,000 or more!

Additionally, at the end of Colorado Gives Day, \$1.6 million will be divided amongst the participating non-profit organizations. Each organization involved will receive a portion of the \$1.6 million based on their total donations that day. Each and every gift provides a percentage of the bonus fund to RTLCL. More than ever, we need our annual fund to sustain day-to-day operations. You don't need to live in Colorado to give on this day! Anyone can give from anywhere! No matter where you live, mark your calendars for Colorado Gives! The best part is you can pre-schedule your gift NOW and no longer have to wait for November 1st. You can also now give through Venmo. Be sure to go to rainbowtrail.org/co-gives to donate! There is also a quick link on our home page.

Thank You Dausses For The New Sixer



A HUGE thanks to Bill and Charlotte Dausses for their extremely generous donation of a pretty much brand-new six-wheeled utility vehicle. As some of you might know, for the past few years, we've been using a yellow six-wheeler for hauling bags during the beginning of the week registration, maintenance-related tasks as well as driving our beloved grandparents from location to location. It turned out to be one of the most useful and important piece of equipment on the entire site. Unfortunately, because of the amount we use it and harsh road conditions at camp, that sixer is now broken beyond repair, and we definitely felt its' absence during the summer. As amazing and useful as the old one, this new machine is newer and much better designed for our location and needs. We will take care of and cherish this gift for as long as it lasts us. Again, thank you, Bill and Charlotte, for your gift to our maintenance program, but also to the ministry of Rainbow Tail as a whole.

16th Annual Grace Race a Huge Success!



The 16th Annual Grace Race was blessed with a picture-perfect day and an enthusiastic crowd. Those participating helped make a difference that day by raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. 183 participants and volunteers came out for the race. There was also a great post-race party with burgers and fabulous music. Even with a rain storm while most were on the course, people stuck around and picnicked following the race and celebrated those who won medals. And right on cue, a beautiful rainbow appeared as runners were crossing the finish

line! The top female finisher was Mikayla Gallagher with a time of 18:27. The top male finisher and overall fastest time this year was Nick Hofer with a time of 16:42. The youngest registered race-day participant this year was 4-year-old Kennedy Smith, while the oldest registered race-day participant was 81-year-old Michael Chessnoe. All the top times for all the age groups are posted on our website. Our traveling trophy for the "Fleetest Flock," (that is, the ELCA church that had the most registered members of their congregation,) went to Augustana Lutheran Church, which boasted 45 members registered! The final totals are not in, but it looks like we will be able to send a check for around \$8,500 to \$9,000 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The 17th annual Grace Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, October 7, 2023 in Sloan's Lake Park starting at 4:00 pm. Put it on your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you there next year!

Cam(p) Vibes

By Cam Regennitter - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders

Prost Everyone! As I write this article, I can't help but mention how beautiful the trees are right now outside of our house. As they change into those vibrant yellow and orange colors, I thank God for providing such simple beauty into this world as the season changes. I love fall; it is my favorite time of the season. The cool weather, light glimpses of snow sneaking in, and football season is in full swing! (The Vikes are 3-1 so far, whoop whoop)

This summer was one of my best summers here at RTL. Being back to normal was the best feeling, and watching all the programs thrive never looked so good! On-Site had so much life this summer. We had a very new staff, lots of lifelong campers finally old enough to run the show. You could never tell how young they were; from day one, they were bought into this ministry and performed at an all-time high as a unit. Rainbow Trail easily has the best staff every summer, and I thank all of them for giving their summer to this place and our campers! Shoutout to Ashley, Ethan, Jillian, Sam, and Sadie for leading On-Site and Bridging Borders; this leadership team touched many lives this summer, and thank them for providing excellent leadership to this staff. Eight out of the ten weeks hit max capacity this summer, and it was so good to see all of our campers come back, who we may not have seen the last couple of years. You guys are so creative and passionate; the VODs and Village Videos were so good. I am excited to see what other ideas you continue to bring every summer!

Bridging Borders came back to life this summer as well! We sent three groups to the East to serve in the Appalachia region. One group went to Tennessee, and two groups went to Kentucky. The groups were assigned to their house improvement projects and got to meet and get to know the families that lived in them. Some groups worked on handicapped accessible ramps, and others learned how to do drywall! I love what these trips are about, relationships. Not just with each other or the families, but how our relationship with God comes into play. All groups returned not just exhausted and tan but also with joy-filled spirits and beautiful stories from their week.

For myself, life continues to stay busy! Delta moved in with the Bonsers and me, and as you can imagine, it has just been the best time in the 106 household. I thank God for having us do a ropes summer together back in 2018; it's been the best friendship ever since. It was great to have my little brother Reggie up as the ropes coordinator this summer; being able to have fun and bond for a whole summer is something I will never get sick of. Mom continues to thrive at the church and make everyone feel loved. Dad's magazine continues to grow and thrive. Check out "Colorado Springs Magazine" to see his great work and what's happening here in the Springs community! My sister Kirsten is also working for the magazine and just helped put on the most excellent party of the Top Doctors in Colorado Springs.

Thank you for your support and love over all these years. I love you all and hope you have a great holiday season! God Bless!

Cam



The Brak Pack

By Maggie Brakke - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

It is wild to me how time has been flying lately. Summer has come and gone, and wow what a summer it was. Backpackers came from near and far to experience Compass Points, and despite the unusually rainy season, it was a summer for the books. Many miles walked, many pounds carried, and even more laughs, blisters, fruitful conversations, and silly inside jokes. A special thanks to my summer directors, my Compass Points Coordinators, and my Young Adult Backpacking Speakers, Jenny Sung and Hannah Loffler-Kemp. More and more I see that any success I have is all thanks to the incredible leaders around me.

Day Camp was similarly a smash hit! With 28 partnering congregations we got to bring RTL to so many young ones down the mountain this summer. The enthusiasm of congregations paired with the flexibility and openness of the incredible summer directors and summer staff made each day camp fun, meaningful, and unique to each congregation. Thank you to all involved!

As we step into fall I am excited to be involved with some great retreats, as well as getting 2023 Day Camps and Compass Points scheduled and contracted. I am also so pleased to have been able to step away and rest a bit from a crazy summer season. I got to celebrate two dear friends' weddings this fall as well as spend some much needed time at home with my family. I will spend the rest of my fall, while not at work, dancing, enjoying time in my new apartment, making homemade pizzas with Anthony, and preparing for my brother's wedding in November.

Hope to see many of you up at camp this fall, and know I will be sending love down the mountain to you every time I step onsite.

Prayers of Peace and Good Courage to you,

Maggie

Rainbow Trail Welcomes Matt & Macy

This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed two new Program Assistants for the 2022-2023 retreat season. We can't wait for you to meet them!

They bring great passion to this ministry, valuable experience, and will be an asset to all we serve this retreat season. Come visit us this retreat season and get a chance to know these two!



Matt

Matthew Chapman grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina spending most of his summers playing sports and not attending faith based camps. Upon starting college he was encouraged by a friend to work at a summer camp named Lutheridge in Arden, NC and he has not looked back since then. He has spent the past 6 summers working there and has found a love for outdoor ministry. Having recently graduated from Appalachian State University (Go Mountaineers!), Matthew is looking to continue his passion of outdoor ministry by looking to get into it full time.



Macy

Macy Kennedy grew up in Cape Coral, Florida. She has spent seven summers working in outdoor ministry at various camps, including Luther Springs, Sky Ranch, and Upper Missouri Ministries. Macy is a candidate for Word and Service in the Florida-Bahamas Synod and attends Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. This is her internship year, and she will be working with Rainbow Trail and First Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs. At the end of this internship, she hopes to be ordained as an ELCA Deacon serving in outdoor ministry.

Want To Make A Difference?

Give a gift to Rainbow Trail and invest in the faith lives of thousands of kids. In today's economy there is no better return!

www.rainbowtrail.org

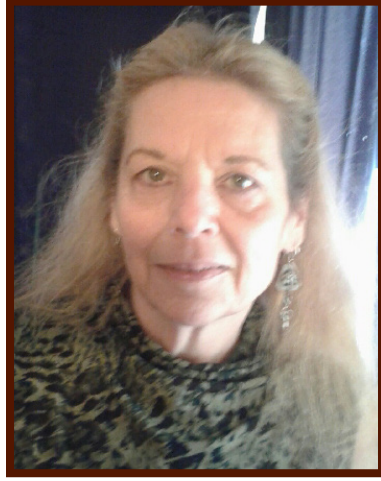


Online Anytime

Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Hello to my RTLC Family! What a glorious summer we had! I was so happy to see all of you that were able to make it up the mountain! I pray that you are all happy and healthy. The Fall season has kicked off with a great start. Labor Day Family Camp was just awesome. We also have two brand new PGA'S. Matt and Macy are two incredible young people. If you get a chance, come on up and meet them! My 12 year old dog Cleo that I rescued in May is doing sooo well! I wasn't ready for another dog so soon after Lucky but I got a call about this sweet girl and I just had to say YES!



So, I would like to give you a comfort food recipe this time. This is for Classic American Goulash. You will need 2lbs. Ground Beef, 2 onions diced, 1 Bell Pepper chopped, 1tsp. Kosher Salt, 1tsp. Pepper, 1Tbl. Minced Garlic, 8oz. Uncooked elbow macaroni 3c. Water, 1-29oz. Can Diced Tomatoes, 1-29oz. Can Tomato Sauce, 2tbl. Sugar, 2Tbl. Worcestershire Sauce, 2tsp. Basil and 2tsp. Oregano.

Brown beef, bell pepper, onions, and garlic till beef is no longer pink. Drain beef mix and return to pan. Season with salt and pepper. Add water, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, sugar, and seasoning. Stir and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Now add the pasta. Mix well; cover and simmer 15-20 minutes or till pasta is done. This makes a big pot of deliciousness! Serve with a salad and some really good bread and you have an awesome dinner for 8!

I really hope to see some of you during the retreat season, if not at my favorite of the year Advent Fest! So until we meet again, always remember... GOD IS GREAT!!!!

Love To All!

Chris



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

October 14-16



A weekend of singing, playing,
& learning in God's beautiful creation.
What could be better than
a weekend in the mountains?

HELP RTLC WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2022 of \$37,000 and we still think that goal is very attainable. With that kind of increase, not only can we continue to provide camperships but we can also possibly upgrade some of the equipment on our site. Here is how you can help. You will need to go out to Thrivent's website each quarter to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars. This is the only way to ensure that your Thrivent Choice dollars will make

it to Rainbow Trail each quarter. Go to <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/thrivent-choice/> and follow the steps to make your designation. If you have friends that are Thrivent members and who have not designated their Thrivent Choice dollars, please encourage them to designate those Thrivent Choice dollars to Rainbow Trail. We heard that there was still close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can make a world of difference!!

2022 SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

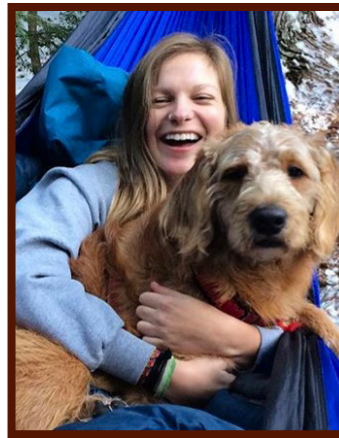
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

November 18-20

Join us for worship, learning, and a ton of fun in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.
Sign up NOW to reserve your spot at the retreat!

Hanging With Hannah

By Hannah Loeffler-Kemp - Director of Retreats



One whole year has gone by since I packed my bags and traveled around 1,100 miles from the lakes of Minnesota to the mountains of Colorado! This year has been packed with a variety of experiences, new relationships, challenges, and joys. This past spring, I tore my ACL while skiing and had to get surgery to reconstruct my ACL. It was a tough few months as I navigated the rest and healing, with finishing off the retreat season and transitioning to summer.

I am grateful for the support from my full time colleagues and friends during those few months!

I deeply enjoyed witnessing summer programming and engaging with the summer staff. I had the honor to be the content creator/speaker for the Young Adult Backing Trip through Compass Points. The original speaker was unable to come, so it was a last minute decision to be a part of this experience. My surgeon approved of the hike, and I was eager to head into the mountains! Young adult voices are so important to lift up in the world and we need to continue to create spaces for young adults to gather in intentional communities. I loved spending time with this quirky group of humans! The summer also allowed time for me to travel back to Minnesota and spend time with family and friends. I appreciate being able to have a few places to call home!

As the Aspens begin to turn gold, we have a busy fall retreat season ahead of us! We are in the midst of bringing groups back who participated with us pre 2020, along with groups retreating at Rainbow Trail for the first time. During our Men's Fly Fishing Retreat and Women's Retreat, adults will experience the intersection of creation and community. We are looking forward to endless fun and inspiring worships during our Confirmation Retreat, Senior High Retreat, and Adventfest.

To close, a little blessing from our time this summer: Blessed are the starry nights and the mountain sunsets. Blessed are your dusty hiking boots, campfire scented hair, and muscles that are sore from carrying packs for miles and miles. Blessed are the campers who experienced new challenges, created friendships, and engaged in a space where they could be their authentic selves. Blessed are the staff who prayed and played with their campers and each act of service. Blessed are the adult leaders and camp grandparents who provided comfort to homesick campers and encouragement to staff. Blessed are you, wholly loved and called beloved child of God. Blessed are you who abided in the mountains.

We can't wait to see you at camp again!

Hannah

Simonton Says

By Sands Simonton - Director of Site and Facilities

Greetings to you all of you from the site of Rainbow Trail! Another summer come and gone, as my grandma used to say. I couldn't be happier with how this past summer ended up. This year we were blessed with an amazing staff, amazing weather (lots of rain), and amazing campers and guests. This summer may go down as being one of my best, and I can confidently say that the staff that worked with me, as well as for me, had a huge roll to play in that. That said, I am very excited to get back into the retreat season and for the snow to fall again soon!



This is my second year on full-time staff, and I'm happy to say I am settling in nicely. I'm managing stressful situations with more ease, and I have a much stronger understanding of what it takes to maintain a site that caters to the quality and quantity of programming that we offer. I love this job and this place, if it wasn't already obvious. It's been a while now since I was a camper here, and the memory of what that feels like is getting further and further away. I'm truly happy to say that I find peace with that, knowing I'm the one creating the spaces for campers to experience those memories just like I did. That's a feeling that I will never take for granted. I can't wait to continue that for the summers to come.

The site of Rainbow Trail is in great shape, thanks to the staff of 2022. I'd like to thank the Maintenance and Camp Hand crews for helping me keep the place looking fantastic and functioning correctly. Every day for these staff members is extremely busy, and everyone meets my expectations. I, as well as the rest of the full-time team, expect a lot from our staff, and I have nothing bad to say about my employees. The Summer Facilities Director Will Johnson and the two Maintenance Assistants, Max Marold and Anna Saathoff were honestly incredible. We ran a tight ship, and we had a blast working and hanging out with each other every day. I look forward to more summers with each of them if they decide to come back.

Unlike last summer, thankfully, there were no catastrophic water leaks this year! Thank the heavens. In the world of maintenance, things went pretty darn smooth this summer. We did get a new Hobart dish machine installed earlier in the summer, and that certainly came with a handful of headaches. Still, after getting all the bugs figured out, we now have a brand new, state-of-the-art, shiny dishwasher in the dining hall which is very exciting. Otherwise, the summer consisted of many newly painted buildings, landscaping, new flooring in upstairs Columbine, and many more projects. My list of things to improve and work on never gets shorter up here, that's for sure. A big reason why we were able to keep the camp working and looking so good is because of all of your support and donations. This past summer Brad Niefeldt donated an equipment trailer to us so we can safely and successfully bring equipment into town for maintenance, as well as move things around with ease. So huge thanks for that, Paul Smith, and thank you for continuing to help us out with our chain saw and weed whacker needs which are always very appreciated, and Bill and Charlotte Dausses thank you both for donating a new six-wheel UTV to replace our old one. These donations, as well as all the others throughout the year, are massive contributors to our success in running our camp.

Memorial Day this year was also a huge success. Materials came in a little earlier this year, making it, so we had no shortage of things to accomplish. Almost everything big on the list was completed. Some of the major projects include replacing all the windows in Evergreen Lodge, rebuilding the split rail fence in front of Bristlecone Lodge and on the ballfield, installing a new giant cross in the outdoor chapel, and new decks on both sides of Blue Bells cabin and Geranium cabin, installing new logs around the mall and in front of Columbine Lodge, completing the electrical work in Bristlecone Lodge, building bunks in all the staff rooms in BC, putting up the tents and assembling the bunks for Compass Points, installing new flood lights and track lights in the Pavilion, spreading new sand in the volleyball court, cleaning all the packs and water bottles in Penstemon, wood chipping the ropes course and outdoor chapel, installing a new sound system in Aspen, cleaning arts and crafts, cleaning the cabins, and organizing the dining hall including washing all of the dishes, and much more. On behalf of the organization, I can't thank you all enough for the effort you put into making this place better. The passion that you have for improving this site is amazing, and believe me when I say that we are fully aware of how blessed we are to have the kind of support that you all offer. Memorial Day 2023 will be EVEN better now that I have two of them under my belt already. Last Memorial Day (2021), I think I could have planned some more things to keep everyone busy, while this past Memorial Day, I may have had too many things to do, hah! I look forward to next year's work weekend with a brand-new list of projects to tackle.

Don't flip the page because now you can hear about me and how I'm doing! Life is good here in Salida. Bode and I have been practicing his swimming skills in the river; He's getting better slowly but surely. Turns out the river gives pretty expert-level lessons. My house and my family are all doing great. We all love the winter, so we are getting ready for the ski hills to open back up. If I don't get at least 20 days on the hill this season, I'll be a sad man. I hope all of you are doing well and staying busy; I look forward to seeing each of you again the next time you find yourself in Custer County, Colorado!

-Sands

2023 Summer Schedule



The Rainbow Trail summer 2023 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$495 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which will be \$275. Family camp fees are \$495 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$375 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$250 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

May 26-29.....	Memorial Day Work Weekend
May 29-June 10.....	Staff Training
June 11-17.....	Junior High #1
June 18-21.....	Intro To Camp #1
June 18-24.....	Junior #1
June 21-24.....	Intro To Camp #2
June 25-July 1.....	Confirmation #1
July 2-8.....	Family Camp #1
July 9-15.....	Senior High #1
July 9-15.....	Into the Wild
July 16-22.....	Open Sr. High Compass Points
July 16-22.....	Confirmation #2
July 16-21.....	RTL South
July 23-29.....	Senior High #2
July 23-29.....	Open Jr. High Compass Points
July 30-August 5.....	Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
July 30-August 2.....	Intro #3
August 6-12.....	Family Camp #2
August 13-19.....	Beloved Community
September 1-4.....	Labor Day Family Weekend

Grade Levels as of Fall 2023

- Intro to Camp = entering 2nd - 3rd grade
- Juniors = entering 4th - 6th grade
- Junior High = entering 7th - 8th grade
- Senior High = entering 9th-12th grade

Please note: Lutherans of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1, 2023 This applies to all camps, including family camps.

2023 Memorial Day Work Weekend

Memorial Day has become as much a tradition at Rainbow Trail as anything else we do. We typically have over 120 people that come and join in this annual work weekend to get camp ready for summer. If the list of projects from last year is any indication (replacing every window in Evergreen Lodge; rebuilding the deck on both sides of Blue Bells cabin and Lupine cabin; installing new LED dimmable track and floodlights in the pavilion; rebuilding the split rail fence in front of Bristlecone Lodge and on the ballfield; installing a new cross in the outdoor chapel; installing new logs around the mall and in front of Columbine Lodge; completing the electrical work in Bristlecone Lodge; building bunks in all the staff rooms in BC; spreading new sand in the volleyball court), we'll be sure to have another busy and memorable weekend! The dates for 2023 are May 26-29, 2023. Call the Canon City office at (719) 276-5233 or email Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org to reserve your spot at this fun and rewarding weekend. This weekend does fill up quickly and typically has a waiting list. Reserve your spot today!



WANTED:RTL South AMBASSADORS WANTED

Normal, Everyday People who Love RTL South and Want to Serve as RTL South Ambassadors for their congregations. Ambassadors meet at RTL South for a retreat once a year to:

1. Find out what is new at Rainbow Trail
2. Build a display board for their congregation
3. Become equipped to pass along important information about what is happening at Rainbow Trail to their congregations.
4. Ambassadors are an important key to the ministry at RTL South

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for your congregation, contact Dave Jarvis at : 719.276.5233 dave@rainbowtrail.org.

TRAILBLAZERS

The following individuals are members of the 2022 Trailblazers Club. Trailblazers is an annual giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail alive and growing. To join, contact Dave at 719-276-5233 or check out the "Support Us" portion of our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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Bethany Lutheran Church - 40" TV and sheets
Bethany Lutheran Church - Work gloves and lightbulbs
Bethany Lutheran Church - Office and painting supplies
Bob and Joyce Witte - Backpacks and Tents
Bob and Joyce Witte - Bedding and Towels
Brad and Carissa Nietfeldt - Mac Notebook and Mac Desktop

Computers
Brad and Carissa Nietfeldt - 14' Flatbed Trailer
Carrie and Andrew Stephens - Roku Ultra Smart TV
Kari and Mitchell Kusek - Wheel Barrow
Nancy Dahlgren - Stamps
Scheel's - Sleeping Bags for Joshua Station Family Camp
Vince and Leigh Felletter - Nalgene water bottles and lighters

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Bishop Jim Gonja & Kim Gonja - Welcome Party for Summit Retreat
Bob and Andrea Mooney - Week 10-Beloved Community
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Mark and Diane Sather - Volleyball Sand
Miles and Kim Brown - Tires
Randy & Lisa Schrader - Commercial boiler for Aspen
Randy & Lisa Schrader - Commercial Hobart Dishwasher

Randy & Lisa Schrader - Ice machine
Randy & Lisa Schrader - Camp experience for youth from Denver Rescue Mission
Randy & Lisa Schrader - Week 10-Beloved Community
Randy & Lisa Schrader - Wool Blankets for Bristlecone
Ray and Nicolè Ferry - Trash cans and wheels
Samantha Johnson - Compass Points Schedules
Steve & Nancy Lord - Soker Campership Fund
Terry and Susan Pletkovich - Soker Campership Fund



Events Calendar 2022 - 2023

- November 1.....Registration Opens
- November 18-20.....RTLCL Senior High Retreat
- December 2-4.....AdventFest
- February 28.....Summer Staff Applications Due
- April 1.....Summer Volunteer Apps Due
- May 26-29.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 29-June 10.....Staff Training
- September 1-4.....Labor Day Family Weekend
- September 21-24.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
- October 7.....Grace Race

Memorial Day Donor

Are you considering a yearly gift to Rainbow Trail but don't know where you'll see a tangible return? Look no further! Each Memorial Day weekend Rainbow Trail hosts roughly 120 volunteers to make major improvements to our site and prepare for summer. What some might not know is that Rainbow Trail spends around \$20,000 in materials for the weekend! With the help of experienced contractors and careful planning, we believe we receive between \$40,000 and \$50,000 worth of labor in just three days! Rainbow Trail is seeking donors that are passionate about site improvements and would be willing to fund part or all of our annual Memorial Day work weekend. If interested, email dave@rainbowtrail.org.

Are You Willing?



If you could make a gift that literally impact generations of future campers at Rainbow Trail, wouldn't you jump at the chance to do that? Well, there is a very simple way you can do that. Rainbow Trail depends on the support of generous people to do its ministry. A very simple and easy way to make a difference is to include Rainbow Trail in your will as the beneficiary of an estate gift or as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. By naming Rainbow Trail in your will, you will become a member of the Sangre de Cristo Society. This group becomes the foundation upon which the future of the ministry of Rainbow Trail is being built. Your gift will reach beyond your lifetime and ensure that the Gospel will continue to be shared through this ministry for generations to come. Two great examples of this are the estates of Pauline Hammond and of Maxine Johnson who provided gifts that helped build our ropes course. If you have already included Rainbow Trail in your will, let us know so we can include you in the list of members of the Sangre de Cristo Society. For more information, please contact Dave in the Canon City office.

Craving Color?

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless, color version! Visit our website to find this edition and many previous editions of Rainbow Reflections in full color. You can also email Tricia at info@rainbowtrail.org to get on our e-newsletter list for more Rainbow Trail information!

We make every effort to list each donor, but mistakes do happen. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed you incorrectly, we apologize. Please call 719-276-5233 and let us know so that we can make corrections.

A different, yet significant way to support the ministries of Rainbow Trail

Needs List



These are essential items needed for our day-to-day operations. A designated monetary gift would certainly be welcome as well. You can bring these items with you any time you come to camp or call us to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support!

- White 20# copy Paper (Laser quality)
- Reams of colored copy paper
- Nalgene Water Bottles (40)
- Masking tape
- Scotch Tape
- Duct Tape
- Packing Tape
- Postage stamps
- 8.5x11 Yellow Tablets
- 8 ft. Rectangle "Lifetime" tables (5)
- Long barreled fire lighters (Bic)
- 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps)
- 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)
- 10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)
- 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables
- Rain Jackets & Rain Pants
- On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs
- Foam Brushes - 1"
- Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive
- 21 Gallons of Handsanitizer
- 2 Cases of Lysol or Clorox Wipes
- New Videographer Camera

Wish List

These are larger items that we haven't budgeted for, but would love to have. Contact us if you would like to donate any of these items, new or gently used. You can bring them to camp, or call to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support.



- Heavy Duty Cotton Work Gloves
- Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!)
- Sturdy Wheelbarrows
- New Full or single mattress pads
- New Queen sheets - white
- New Queen mattress pads
- New 3-piece towel sets (20)
- Shark Navigator vacuums (4)
- Free Standing Space Heaters (3)
- GoPro HERO7 Silver
- Freezerless Refrigerator
- Dish Cart
- Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs
- Skid Steer Tire Chains
- Used Day Camp Vehicle

Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTLCL's Needs or Wish Lists online. We've pre-selected items that we are looking for and provided links straight to great deals that we've found. There is also a Compass Points specific list online. You can even ship directly to us!

www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list

Administrative Office

107 S. 9th Street, Suite B
Canon City, CO 81212
Phone: 719-276-5233
Fax: 719-276-5235
Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm



Camp Office

3056 County Road 198
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Phone: 719-942-4220
Fax: 719-942-4000

Full-Time Staff

- Dave Jarvis, Executive Director.....dave@rainbowtrail.org
- Aurice Worley, Bookkeeper.....accounting@rainbowtrail.org
- Tricia Lindsey.....info@rainbowtrail.org
- Maggie Brakke, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp...maggie@rainbowtrail.org
- Hannah Loeffler-Kemp, Director of Retreats.....hannah@rainbowtrail.org
- Cam Regennitter, Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders.....cam@rainbowtrail.org
- Sands Simonton, Director of Site & Facilities.....sands@rainbowtrail.org
- Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....chris@rainbowtrail.org

Board of Directors

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www.rainbowtrail.org