



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

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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.

"We gather together to worship You, To love one another" Farewell Hugs to RTLC Legend: Grama Ruth loved us ALL

It is with heavy but grateful hearts that we bid farewell to Ruth Ericson, "Gramma Ruth" to hundreds if not thousands of campers and staff. Ruth completed her baptismal journey on Monday morning, January 16th, 2023, at home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She and her beloved husband, Dave, dearly loved Rainbow Trail, having attended camp together for 42 years. Then, following Dave's death, she continued to come to her "home away from home" for 7 more years, both as a family camper and as a Camp Grandparent.

Ruth was known and loved for her authentic and profound affection for every camper and staff member. For years, she could be found engaging in meaningful conversation with others on Col-



umbine deck, cheerfully helping out in the kitchen, interacting with kids at arts and crafts, singing with joy and enthusiasm during worship, and contributing in her quiet

and powerful way in Bible study. Hugs were central to Ruth's mission at camp. She always wanted to be sure that everyone felt seen, valued, and loved. Ruth embod-

ied love in all aspects of her life, whether it was serving meals, listening intently to the cares and concerns of others, freely sharing her strong and beautiful faith, or demonstrating fierce love for her devoted family. Kris, Ede, and Lisa, we share in your family's loss.

Ruth's favorite song was "Dance With Me," where we hear the words "We gather together to worship You, to love one another." These words could well be Ruth's mission statement for life. In short-worship God, love others. She taught this important message to everyone with whom she came into contact. Her love for others was passionate, her love for God was eternal.

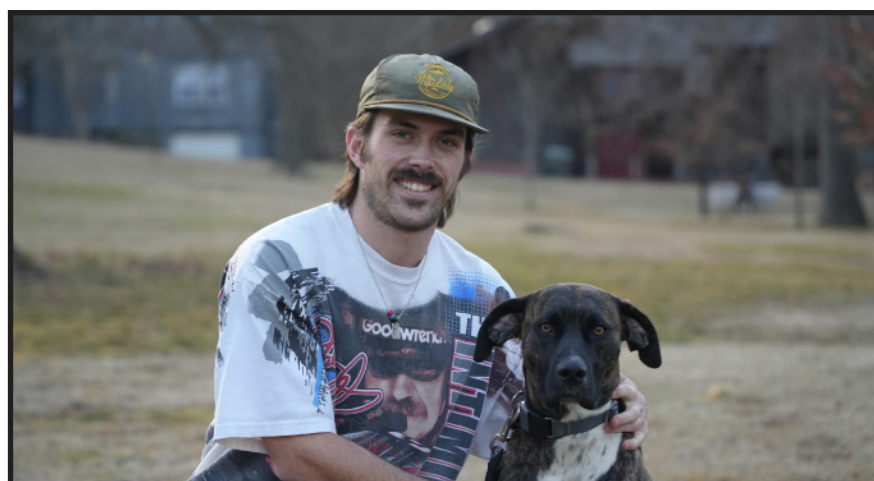
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Where There's a Will, There's a Way

RTLC Calls Will Johnson to be New Director of Compass Points and Day Camp Ministries

Rainbow Trail would like to extend a warm and hearty welcome to Will Johnson as he takes on the role of Director of Compass Points and Day Camp ministries. Originally from Austin, Texas, Will brings years of experience in outdoor ministries, all through Rainbow Trail, including serving as a counselor, as a summer Compass Points Director, and as our summer Facilities Director. Will's range of experience will help him step into this role quickly. Will joined us in early January and will be able to recruit with us as we look for our summer ministry team.

Will received his bachelor's degree in Supply Chain



Management from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. After camp was over last summer, he started a new job with a trucking company in Arkansas. However, when he heard about the Director of Compass Points and Day Camp

Ministries position opening, he felt the call to apply and to see what happened. This is a dream job for him, combining his faith and serving people with so many other things that he loves. Will

loves the outdoors and backpacking, fly fishing, music, rafting, cooking, and is ready to become a regular snowboarder at Monarch. Will also brings his dog Norman with him. Norman is a lover and has already embraced the camp dog life. Rainbow Trail guests and campers will be greeted with a big smile and a firm handshake when they meet Will, and he will help you feel right at home immediately. We are very excited to have Will join us as a part of our full-time, year-round staff! When you come to camp next time, be sure to find Will and introduce yourself!

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

It's only mid-January and things are off and running at a record pace. By the time you are reading this, we are already out on the recruiting trail, looking for our 2023 summer ministry team. Between Board meetings, the Bible Study Writers' retreat, and recruiting, we are sneaking in a few promotion Sundays at several churches. I love the beginning of a new year. It is fresh, it is full of optimism, and we are all so ready to go!!

We have had incredible registrations for our summer on-site programs. Five weeks are already full with three more getting close to full. We have over 940 campers already registered for this summer and it is still early. Don't wait to register! Take a look at which week will work for your child and register now. It will be a life-changing week for your kids! We also have 30 day camps scheduled that will be happening out in the congregations. There is still room for your senior high youth to go on a Compass Points backpacking trip or Bridging Borders service trip this summer. Contact Will Johnson or Cam Regennitter respectively for more information on these programs.

Many people think that church camp is a nice "add-on" in their child's summer. But a week at camp can be life changing and faith transforming. I hear from campers over and over again about how camp has solidified their faith and really equipped them to be Christ's light in the world. Camp changes people in some amazing ways. I want every child to experience that wonderfully loving and grace-filled community. Money should never be the reason any child doesn't come to RTALC. So, don't let that be a barrier. The first question to ask is "Do you want your child to go to camp?" That is a yes/no question. If your answer is yes, then, together, let's figure out a way to get them there. If you are in a position where finances will prevent you from sending your child to camp, please contact me—we'll find a way to get your child to camp! We have very generous donors that have given specifically to provide camperships for this exact reason. Do this for your child. If you want your kids or family to come to camp this summer, we will find a way to make that happen! We'd love to see you!

The land exchange is in full swing with much of the work happening this summer. One of the things that we need to do is remove the debris left by the previous owners of the Locke Park property so we are ready to transfer that property to the Forest Service. This will be a major undertaking where we will need dump trucks, CDL drivers, and probably a 4-day work weekend out on the property. If you know CDL drivers, someone that has access to dump trucks for three days, or are interested in joining for a really fun work project, let me know. We will be camping out, cooking on cook stoves, and making a difference! Look for details about the work weekend this spring. Please continue to keep this Land Exchange in your prayers.

I am humbled by the support that this community has shown this ministry. 2022 was another phenomenal year of ministry, and the financial gifts that we received from all you have set us up for a quick start in 2023. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will say there is no greater return on your investment than a gift to this ministry that is used to shape the faith life of a child. Kids are experiencing God's love in a huge and tremendous way. I truly do believe these experiences are life-changing. Campers leave camp changed to live God's grace in the world. Can you ask for more than that? We started our recruiting for summer staff in late January. We did a small loop through the Colorado schools during the week of January 22nd and then we'll head to the midwest on February 6th. I am optimistic about this year. We already have over 58 summer staff applications either completed or in process. Recruiting is back to our normal process including our west coast tour.

I was out at camp when we found out about Grama Ruth passing. I had been out running and the sunrise was unbelievable. Nell and I had talked to her on the Saturday, January 14th, so she was on my mind. When I got back to the apartment, Nell showed me the text from Ruth's daughter, Kris, that Ruth had died that morning. Rainbow Trail lost a giant. She loved everyone and her hugs were world renowned. She became a mom and a grandma to literally thousands of people. She so loved this ministry. Ruth, you will be dearly missed. Your legacy will live forever. Thanks for loving all of us unconditionally. Just like Jesus does.

I am so excited for the coming year. We have very full summer camps, a land exchange is in full swing and should be close to completion by the end of the year, an awesome and complete full-time ministry team in place, a strong and visionary Board, and an air of optimism about all that lies ahead. Please pray for this ministry and for our staff. We take great joy in serving you through RTALC. I am beginning my 35th year at Rainbow Trail. I could not have asked for a better place to serve and use all of my gifts. The RTALC community is our family. You have all become an integral part of our story. Thanks for being my partner all along the way! I am so excited for 2023!

Until next time!




CONT. RUTH

Ruth loved Rainbow Trail deeply, and was not about to let a simple global pandemic prevent her from attending. Even in 2020, Ruth and her daughter drove through the night in order to join a small group of staff members on the ballfield for a masked and socially distanced sunrise service during staff training. It nearly crushed her to not be able to hug those so dear to her, but she witnessed a beautiful sunrise with them, and sang songs of praise that fed her soul. In turn, her strong witness fed the souls of staff members who very much needed her reassuring presence. The Rainbow Trail family grieves with the Ericson family as they say goodbye to Ruth. Death has carved a canyon in between us, but it's only for awhile. Thanks and praise to God for the life of Grama Ruth Ericson! AbsOLUTELY!

THANK YOU, MAGGIE!

We are sad to announce that Maggie Brakke has finished her time as part of the Rainbow Trail full-time ministry team as of January 1st. Maggie started with RTALC as a Program Assistant in the fall of 2019. In January of 2020, Maggie was hired to lead our Compass Points (backpack) and Day Camp ministries. Maggie took over her programs as the pandemic became a



reality. She was part of a super creative team that developed unique approaches to all of our ministries, and she skillfully navigated two summers of fabulous ministry on the trail, online, on-site, and at dozens of congregations. Under her leadership, both programs have grown immensely. Compass Points has a national reputation for the high quality of its program and of its staff. Our Day Camp ministry is one of the largest in the country, serving over 30 congregations every summer. Maggie has seen to that! In addition to providing strong and effective programming, Maggie brought energy, passion, compassion, love for the out-of-doors, and a tender heart to our ministry. Her leadership and vision propelled those programs through some very challenging years, and she did it with competency and commitment. She will be dearly missed. Maggie, know our prayers go with you as you head back to Minnesota. We love you!

Colorado Gives... and Gives and Gives!!!



We experienced an incredibly magical day during our 2022 Colorado Gives Day. At the encouragement of several of our donors, we set our 2022 Colorado Gives Day goal at \$100,000. But what we didn't count on was the overwhelming generosity of the RTALC community. This year's Colorado Gives Day was incredible! In a short 24 hours on December 6, 2022, the Rainbow Trail community responded to the challenge, blew past our goal, and gave \$139,021! An impressive 331 donors participated in giving to Rainbow Trail that day. The response to this day of giving not only shows the incredible generosity of this community, but also shows that Rainbow Trail is a place where so many people invest their hearts. For that, we are truly grateful beyond measure, and hope you all will accept our deepest thanks. Your gifts have set us up for a great start to 2023. These funds help support the day-to-day operations of camp including program equipment, summer staff salaries, our full-time staff, and site and facilities maintenance, to name a few. In all, Colorado Gives Day raised \$53.2 million for 3,336 non-profits in Colorado. We are already setting a goal of \$105,000 for next year! We will let you know the date for 2023 as soon as it is announced. Thank you again to those who joined us in this Spirit-filled day and to those who gave gifts to help support this ministry and all those it impacts.

Camp Vibes

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

We are hitting the time of year when we start preparing for the summer season. As I write this article, Dave, Will, and I are heading west to Grand Junction to recruit at our final Colorado school. I enjoy these trips, about being on a mission to find the next generation of staff for this summer, meeting up with our alums, and remembering how they changed many lives during camp. You can ask me anytime, and I will always say we hire the best staff in the country. Every group brings something unique and new each summer, and by the end, there have always been life-changing experiences all around, and it starts with them and their hard work. So, with all that said, if you or someone you know would be a great addition to our summer staff, make sure they reach out to us before February 28th!



We also recently finished our Bible Study Writers retreat, where we bring up five pastors to help think of what we want the Bible study to be about, what we wish campers and staff to get out of it, and how to take that all down the mountain. It is a challenging process, but it sure is a fun one!

This summer will be my 9th summer on staff at Rainbow Trail and my 5th on full time. As I have seen many things over the years, met many people, talked with many staffers, played with many campers, I always like to remember how this place was for me as a camper! I grew up here and always felt like the people around me wanted to know who I was and make me feel God's love through the whole week—remembering how cool it felt that these college-age staff wanted to be my best friend! Not because they had to, but because they wanted to. I will always promise we do our very best for your campers to have the same feeling, knowing that they can come here, be themselves, grow in their faith, and have fun doing it! Thanks for trusting us with your campers; they change our lives.

For personal life, we have been going, going, going! It was so filling to spend time with my and Delta's families over the holiday season. We traveled to Texas for Thanksgiving and stayed in Colorado Springs for Christmas. I have grown to love the warm weather in Texas as much as Delta has grown to love the cold weather in Colorado. Speaking of Delta, it has been great having her in Colorado; we have been church shopping the past couple of months and are excited to find a place we can grow and meet new people. Penny is still small but has all the energy in the world. She's getting prepared for the summer season with the running and squirrel chasing she has been doing for the past couple of months. My sister is due in May; I am excited to have my first niece/nephew come into this world. They aren't finding out the gender until the baby is born; how exciting! Zach started a new job at 5 Star Nutrition, so tell him if you need the supplement hookup. Mom and Dad are preparing themselves to be future grandparents, and they will crush it.

Well, thanks for reading; I can't wait to see many of you this year!

Cam



Rainbow Trail hosts The Summit, RTLC's youth ministry retreat, each spring for your youth and family ministers. It's a chance for them to connect with each other and to reflect on this past year. And it is absolutely FREE for them. It is our gift! The Summit will be held April 24-26, 2023 at camp and is free to church personnel who work with youth in the Rocky Mountain Synod.

This is retreat for anyone working professionally in ministry with youth, young adults, children, and families. It is designed as a time of personal renewal, professional development, continuing education, and networking with other Youth Directors, Pastors, and Christian Educators .

Time will be spent in a peaceful mountain setting surrounded by God's creation and beloved people. Days will be filled with time to relax, play, worship and be engaged in conversation and learning.



Weeks are filling up but spots are still open in the following sessions. **DON'T WAIT! Register today, or you may not have a spot!**

Junior High #1 June 11-17

Senior High #2 July 23-29

Junior Camp #1 June 18-24

JH Compass Points July 23-29

Intro to Camp #2 June 21-24

Intro to Camp #3 July 20-August 2

Senior High #1 July 9 - 15

Young Adult Compass Points Aug 6-12

SH Compass Points July 16-22

Check www.rainbowtrail.org for up-to-date status of each week and register today!

SUMMER STAFF 2023



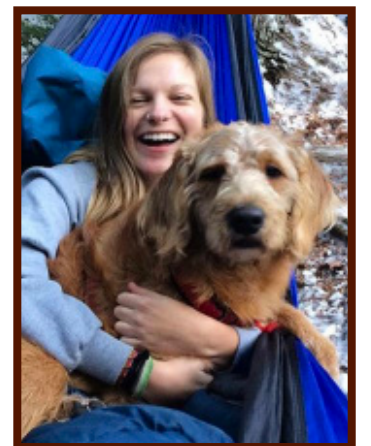
Do you know anyone interested in working at camp this summer? Recruiting for 2023 staff has already begun! If you know someone who loves kids, is passionate about Christian community, and would be a great fit for Rainbow Trail, encourage them to apply for a position on our summer staff! We will be interviewing for the next month and hiring in March. Send those interested to www.rainbowtrail.org/summerstaff for more information!

Hanging With Hannah

By Hannah Loeffler-Kemp - Director of Retreats

Happy New Year, RTLC community! I write this article from a cozy coffee shop in Colorado Springs, with a view of the mountain range from the window. The blue of Pikes Peak pops out with the contrast of the fresh snow. I love that I can see the view of Pikes Peak from both of my Colorado homes - Colorado Springs and Camp.

The second half of our fall retreat season contained many moments of rekindled relationships and joy. Youth from across the synod gathered for our Confirmation and Senior High Retreats. The theme of our Confirmation retreat was Beloved. Campers explored four different themes: Beloved Belonging, Beloved Behaving, Beloved Believing, and Beloved Beyond. Our talented Program Assistants led interactive content and shared inspiring stories through the weekend. The theme for our Senior High Retreat was Beyond Bumper Stickers led by Pastor Jay Gameline of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, CO. He guided the youth through conversations about how we can reimagine common phrases: "God has a plan," "Everything happens for a reason", "God won't give you more than you can handle." These "bumper sticker" phrases are not only too simple to describe God's place in the world, they can actually be destructive! The Way of Jesus is far more complex, inspired, and beautiful. Each weekend, the campers ended their time together by making the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads and saying the phrase, "This is God's world, we belong to God's people, you are a beloved child of God."



Deacon Sarah Bjornebo led our content during Advent Fest, she invited families to reflect on God's holy darkness. Our artists did a wonderful job working with the families to create beautiful pieces - stained glass, wooden toy cars, hand dipped candles, woven potholders, cribbage boards, and more. St Lucia visited the cabins and rooms early Sunday morning to deliver cinnamon rolls and hot chocolate. There was an abundance of love and peace throughout the weekend, as we gathered in a community surrounded by music, prayer, and a little bit of snow.

I spent the holiday vacation road tripping back to the midwest. Mason, Birkley and I spent time in South Dakota with Mason's family and then we headed to Duluth, MN to enjoy time with my family. Our days were spent going on snowy walks with my dog, catching up with camp pals, and delicious meals with family and friends. I am excited to continue engaging with retreat groups, summer staff, and families this spring and summer. I hope to see you on the mountain soon!

~Hannah

Program Assistant Internship

Applications now open!



The Program Assistant (PGA) internship is designed to equip and nurture young adults interested in full-time Outdoor Ministry through experiential learning and professional development.

- > Retreat Hosting, Promotion, Recruiting, Administrative, Special Events
 - > Training sessions each month lead by Full Time Directors to enhance practical experience
 - > Training Topics Include: Philosophy, Budgeting, Staffing, Program Development, Marketing, and more!
 - > 9 Month (late August-early May) Commitment
 - > Lodging, Food, Monthly Stipend
- Apply for the 2022-2023 season on our website. Applications due February 28th!

Great Additional Ways To Support RTALC

The support of our donors is key to our ministry thriving and growing. There are a multitude of ways that you can give to this ministry. Stocks, bonds, mutual and ETF funds, checks, online, and gifts to annual support or specific projects like the land exchange or camperships are just a few. However, there are some other tools available of which you may not be aware.

If you own an IRA and are over the age 70 1/2 you may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (ie a contribution to RTALC) directly from your IRA and not include the amount given as subject to income tax. And such charitable gifts reduce the amount of Required Minimum Distribution you must take for yourself every year! Because of recent law changes, it is always good to consult your tax advisor, but if you are eligible for this, it is a very good deal! Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are tax-advantaged investment accounts used for charitable giving. You can fund a DAF with cash or other assets and take a tax deduction for doing so. Usually, people opt to contribute their appreciated investments so they don't have to face the tax consequences of selling it themselves. Once inside the donor-advised fund, your contributions continue to grow tax-free until you elect to issue a grant to the IRS-approved charity of your choice. The beauty of donor-advised funds is they're available to anyone. Donor-advised funds are "designed to be a simple, turnkey way to execute your philanthropic wishes, whether you're giving \$500 or several million." You can give as much or as little (as long as it's at least \$50) as you want to one charity or dozens whenever you choose. Many charitable gift experts call donor-advised funds "flexible philanthropy."

Take advantage of these tools to help our ministry grow. Talk with your financial advisor and/or your tax consultant for more details. Or contact Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org and he can help you get connected to an expert.

Simonton Says

By Sands Simonton- Director of Site and Facilities

Hello from the site of Rainbow Trail! I hope everyone out there is enjoying the new year and hopefully some snow! Southern Colorado has unfortunately been pretty dry as per usual but at least there is snow up on the ski hills. There are lots of things going on up at the camp this retreat season so let's get into it. This year's retreat season has once again started off very strongly thanks to Hannah and the work she does during this time of year. I have always loved retreat season, but with Hannah running the show, I have enjoyed the retreats up at camp even more in the past couple years.



The site is in good shape right now all things considered. When I took this job I knew I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting myself into. I love the challenge of finding a problem and learning how to fix it. Winter seems to bring the most potential for problems to occur as I'm sure most of you out there know hah! My first summer, we had to work through a water main repair by our shower house, and last year our beloved summer staff and main retreat housing lodge BC froze and flooded. The beginning of January this year, unfortunately we discovered that BC had once again experienced a bad enough freeze to break a pipe and flood the building again. I couldn't believe it when I heard our cook Chris tell me over the phone. The damage is very similar to last year and the construction process will be under way by the time you are reading this. I'll admit that there were a couple days in there where I felt a bit defeated due to the fact that the well-being of our buildings is ultimately my responsibility and this sort of thing is the last thing I want to have happen. I want to say thank you to the Board of Directors, Dave and Hannah, and the rest of the Full Time team for helping me figure out the logistics moving forward and for understanding that unexpected things like this can happen. I came to peace with it rather quickly and got to work making things happen up there. I look forward to giving you all an update in our spring letter.

Other than the glooming storm cloud that currently surrounds BC, the rest of the site is in great shape! The camp has gotten maybe close to a foot total of snow fall this season. I'm hoping and praying that some weather comes in soon so Bode and I can play in the snow instead of the dirt and rocks! I have only plowed the roads at camp once this season and regrettably pushed a bit of dirt around too so I'm looking forward to a bit of road work in the spring. Just like every year, this year camp is going to see a lot of good improvements. I already have some much needed projects in mind for Memorial Day.

Our two PGA's Matt and Macy have fit in with us very well and they have both shown us that they have what it takes to help run and organize an year-round outdoor ministries camp. It makes my job easier knowing that I leave the site in such good hands each day after work. Other good news is we hired a new teammate Will Johnson! Will is going to be a great addition to the team and I can't wait to see where the Compass Points and Day Camp programs will go under his leadership. Last summer he worked as my Summer Facilities Director and has also been a Compass Points Travel Director in summers past. He's a good friend of mine and I can't wait to work more with him.

As for me personally, I am doing really well. Loving my life in Salida, I'm actually going skiing as soon as I'm done writing this! I had a fantastic holiday season with my friends and family as always. Bode is doing well too, my Uncle (also a vet) informed me that he's lookin a bit heavy in the mid-section so he's currently on a good diet. To everyone out there reading this I wish you a good rest of the winter season and hopefully we'll see each other up at camp soon!

~sands



...as of February 1st.

ALSO FOLLOW RTALC ON...



Thank You for Being Part of the Ministry of Rainbow Trail!

Rainbow Trail is blessed to have a great cloud of witnesses that give their time and talent to the ministries that happen. The staff at Rainbow Trail work very hard to offer quality programs, food, and facilities, but it would never happen without the amazing support and dedication of all these volunteers. We've made every effort to include all those who have volunteered in 2022; if we inadvertently left you off the list, please forgive us and call the camp office at 719-276-5233 so we can make a correction. Thank you for your amazing service to Rainbow Trail!

Presenters & Writers

RTLTC is blessed to work in partnership with several of the finest pastors, youth directors, and lay leaders in the Synod. These people provide much of the spiritual guidance during the year through Bible study and large group presentations. Your efforts help open the hearts of many in this special place!

Bible Study Writers

Rev. Adam Berndt
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward
Rev. Jane Jebesen
Rev. Nicole' Ferry
Rev. Brad Doty
Nellie Jarvis

Mens Fly Fishing

Retreat

Rev. Dave Risendal
Rev. Roger Thompson
Greg Felt - Ark Anglers

Senior High Retreat

Presenter

Jay Gamelin

Confirmation Retreat

Presenters

Matt Chapman
Macy Kennedy

Retreat Hosts

Hannah Loeffler-Kemp
Cam Regennitter
Maggie Brakke
Sands Simonton
Dave & Nellie Jarvis
Jack Noblett
David Rauscher
Macy Kennedy
Matt Chapman
Sam Walmer
Sadie Nutt
Evan Fowler

Haylee Hayden
Gabiella Johnson
Adam Schmuck
Anna Saathoff
Sara Larson
Megan Pierce
Zach Regennitter
Delta Wise
Matt LaJoy
Zach Lindsey
Annika Buhr
Macy Pedersen
Abby McKenna
Sara Weaver
Dalton Bunnell
Sam Johnson
Lindsay Smith
Kathryn Smith
Daniel Kirschbaum
Clay McCombe
Brynn Harnett

Staff Training Presenters

Rev. Brad Doty
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward
Rev. Jane Jebesen
Rev. Nicole' Ferry
Rev. Adam Berndt
Bishop Jim Gonia
Julie Miller

Raft Training

Arkansas River Tours

Camp Grandparents

Bob Witte
Joyce Witte
Bob Veuthey
Rick Green
Bill Dausses
Charlotte Dausses
Lisa Meyerdirks-Dietz
Cheryl Mahon
Jack David
Bonnie David
Cathy Jacob
Randy Adolph
Don Morris
Karen Pforr

Ruth Ericson
Kris Ericson
Janice Ehlers

Family Camp Presenters

Rev. Jane Jebesen
Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson
Nellie Jarvis – Art
Heidi Peterson - Art
Sands Simonton – Art
Richard Walker – Art
Jesse Crock – Art
Meg Erke - Art
Rev. Paul Oman - Art
Charlie Pineda – Musician
David Lee Brown - Musician
Nick Ehrhardt – Musician
Paul Bogart - Musician

Labor Day Leader

Rev. Julie McNitt

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Michelle Okes, President
Rev. Jane Jebesen, Vice President
Nicole' Ferry, Secretary
Bill Ernstrom, Treasurer
Austen Smith
Rev. Kathy Armstrong
Chris Lieber
Phil Dorth
Sandy Elvington
Rev. Kent Mueller

Ambassadors

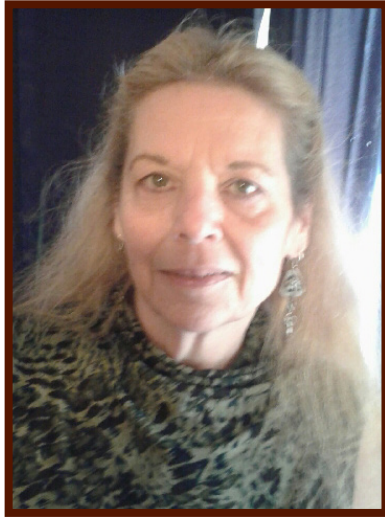
Ambassadors are our direct link to congregations. Rainbow Trail Ambassadors serve as information sources for those in their congregations, and keep the camp abreast of important events within the larger church. Their most important function, however, is helping to get information about camp out to the masses! We are grateful for your partnership and support!

Brandon Baker
Richard & Tami Baker
Cindy Budde
Andrea & Tom Croshal
Dave & Carissa Cruson
Bob & Holly Denning
Gerald Engleman
Ruth Ericson
Deidre & Tim Farrell
Michelle & Sam Garrison
Rebbie Garza
Denise Gergen
Cathy Goodman
Bud & Linda Grimm
Karel & Tom Hemler
Nancy Henning
Andrea & Derek Iverson
Wendy Jendro & Joel Brown
Steve Jurens
Dee Ann & John Lord
Jessica & Joel Maassen
Cheryl & Stephen Mahon
Holly & Nick Massie
Tanda & Tom McCombe
Kris & Greg McDaniel
Peter McNitt
Julie & Randy McNitt
Dawn & Brent Meyer
David Miller & Anne Wenzel
Gail & Mark Muehlethaler
Janice & James Mulvany
Chuck & Gayle Newell
Jill and Branden O'Brien
Corey & Katie Okes
Vicki & Stacy Padilla
Charlie & Claire Pineda
Kurt Rager
Lisa & Mike Regennitter
Rick & Becky Romano
Paul & Lisa Smith
Ana Tolentino & David Bolt
Robert & Denise Tristano
Kathy & Craig Twaddell
DeNae & Jim vanWestrienen
Kate & Eric Waggoner

Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Hello To My RTALC Family!
It is with a heavy heart that I begin this article. We lost a RTALC Icon this week. Mama (to me) Ruth Ericson has passed over the Rainbow Bridge to be with her beloved Papa Dave. When I stop and think about how many people's lives this wonderful woman has impacted, the numbers are astronomical! The love that Mama gave me is something that I will always cherish.



Kris Ericson was such a devoted daughter in the care given to Mama. Such a selfless person will receive a special place in Heaven! May we all send prayers to the Ericson Family!
The retreat season has gone very well this year. Hannah, you just keep doing what you do so well! We also welcomed a new full time staff member; Will Johnson is the new Compass Points Director! Welcome Will! I can't believe that Dave and the crew are heading out for Summer Staff Recruiting. How did that get here so fast? I can't wait to meet the new crew!
Well my friends, after giving it a great deal of thought and listening to my body's complaints, I have decided to step down as Summer Cook after the summer of 2024. If the Board decides it's a good idea, I will continue as the Retreat cook. I will turn 65 this year, and my body is saying it can't take Summer anymore! I hope you explore all of the awesome retreats that we have to offer! Maggie Brakke, I'm going to miss you!
Please reach out to someone you love and haven't spoken to in a while. You never know when that chance may be gone!
Here's to a year filled with Happiness, Health, Hope and Love.
ALWAYS REMEMBER... GOD IS GREAT!

Chris

Want To Make A Difference?

There are so many ways to give to Rainbow Trail and invest in the faith lives of thousands of children and families. Make a donation online, buy Rainbow Trail Blend through our online Popshop, volunteer, or take a look at our Needs & Wish List to get ideas for a lasting and important donation!

Donate

Online Anytime

www.rainbowtrail.org/donate

WANTED: RTALC AMBASSADORS WANTED

Normal, Everyday People who Love RTALC and Want to Serve as RTALC Ambassadors for their congregations. Ambassadors meet at RTALC 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 RTALC

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

Young Adult Backpacking Trips 2.0!

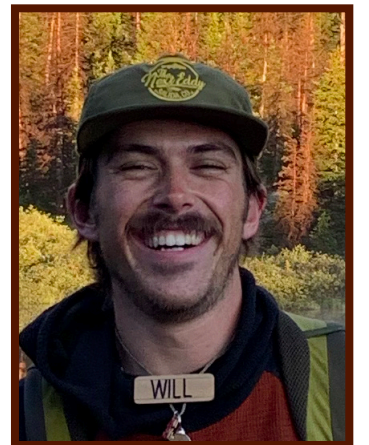


CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS! In an effort to more actively minister to young adults, our Compass Points program has partnered with the ELCA Young Adult Abide small groups to make a Young Adult backpacking trip! Young adults are craving more programming created especially for them and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to let go and live into some high adventure! We will be bringing in a speaker to work alongside our Compass Points Directors for our week-long backcountry experience! Ages 18-35 can register at Rainbowtrail.org or contact me directly at will@rainbowtrail.org. We look forward to having you here!

Into The Wilderness

By Will Johnson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

New year, new me! A year ago today, I was still in School at the University of Arkansas trying to discern over going back for another summer here at Rainbow Trail. I ended up deciding to come back as the summer facilities director under Sands and had another life changing summer! As I was leaving this past summer I was convinced it would be my last summer with Rainbow Trail and headed off to start a full time job as a Driver Manager/Dispatcher in Fayetteville, AR.



Fast forward 4 months and I'm packed up and moving to camp to start my dream job as the Director of Compass Points and Day Camp Ministries! This is an incredible opportunity and I couldn't have made it here without the support of the rest of the full time team and especially the former director, Maggie Brakke. In 2021 I was a compass points director under Maggie where I learned how to truly serve and guide others in God's wonderful creation. I've always had a passion for the outdoors and can't wait to help others find that same love in the beautiful Sangre De Cristo Mountains of Colorado.

Looking ahead to summer, we are preparing for 17 Compass Points trips and 30 day camps. These numbers are all subject to change as we are always looking for more trips and more day camps to contract with. The next few months for me will be Colorado and midwest recruiting and prepping for the summer season. In the meantime I will be more active on the Compass Points Instagram by making weekly posts that are informational and aesthetically pleasing! If interested, then go give "CompassPoints1" a follow on instagram.

Summer is coming fast and I am so excited to get to know you all! If you would like to get to know more about me or the programs then please don't hesitate to contact me at will@rainbowtrail.org.

COLORADO GIVES DAY

Thank you to all of those who gave on Colorado Gives Day, December 6, 2022

Abby Mudgett	Elizabeth and Tracey Cowling	Karen Lim	Nadia Bolz-Weber
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Elizabeth "Buffy" Nelson	Karel and Tom Hemler		Zach Regennitter

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 719-276-5233 or check out the "Donate" tab on our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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Virginia Crow
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The following individuals are members of the 2022 Pathfinders Club. Pathfinders is RTLC's next level giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail growing and expanding. These individuals have given \$1,000 or more to this great ministry. To join, contact Dave Jarvis 719-276-5233 or find out more and donate online at www.rainbowtrail.org/donate. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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These congregations have committed to partnering with Rainbow Trail by supporting the ministry through their congregation's budget.

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Ascension Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO	Community of Joy Lutheran Church Rio Rancho, NM	Immanuel Lutheran Church Greeley, CO	Spirit of the Mountain Golden, CO
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Atonement Lutheran Church Lakewood, CO	Cross of Hope Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM	King of Glory Lutheran Church Arvada, CO	St. Paul Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM
Augustana Foundation Fund Denver, CO	Decorah Lutheran Church Decorah, IA	King of Kings Lutheran Church Pueblo, CO	St. Paul Lutheran Church Calhan, CO
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Bethany Lutheran Church Fredericksburg, TX	First Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO	Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit Centennial, CO	St. Timothy's Lutheran Church Omaha, NE
Bethel Lutheran Church Aurora, CO	First Lutheran Church Longmont, CO	Mount of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Vail, CO	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Boulder, CO
Bethel Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Wichita, KS	Our Savior Lutheran Church Alamogordo, NM	Trinity Lutheran Church Fowler, CO
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Los Alamos, NM	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Glenwood Springs, CO	Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sioux Falls, SD	Trinity Lutheran Church Loveland, CO
Black Forest Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO	Grace Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Ft. Collins, CO	Trinity Lutheran Church Monument, CO
Christ Lutheran Church Highlands Ranch, CO	Holy Cross Lutheran Church Wheat Ridge, CO	Peace in Christ Lutheran Church Elizabeth, CO	Zion's Lutheran Church Trinidad, CO
	Holy Ghost Lutheran Church	Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA Denver, CO	

GIFTS IN KIND

Bethany Lutheran Church - 40" TV and sheets
 Bethany Lutheran Church - Office and painting supplies
 Bethany Lutheran Church - Work gloves and lightbulbs
 Bob and Joyce Witte - Backpacks and Tents
 Bob and Joyce Witte - Bedding and Towels
 Brad and Carissa Nietfeldt - 14' Flatbed Trailer
 Brad and Carissa Nietfeldt - Mac Notebook and Mac Desktop Computers
 Carrie and Andrew Stephens - Roku Ultra Smart TV
 Kari and Mitchell Kusek - Wheel Barrow
 Laura Wouters - Office Supplies
 Melissa Neff - 2 sets of 30 Colored Sharpie markers
 Nancy Dahlgren - Stamps
 Phil and Traci Dorth - Closing Banquet Groceries and Supplies
 Scheel's - Sleeping Bags for Joshua Station Family Camp
 Vince and Leigh Felletter - Nalgene water bottles and lighters

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Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Boeing
 Community First Foundation
 The Ewing Family Foundation
 Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.
 Medtronic Foundation
 Minneapolis Foundation
 Mount Calvary Legacy 125 Endowment Fund
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DESIGNATED GIFTS

Amanda Hoefs - Staff Devotionals
 Ben and Bev Larzelere - Larzelere Campership Endowment
 Bert and Dolly Lager - Soker Campership Fund
 Bill and Charlotte Dausses - Six Wheeler ATV
 Bill and Charlotte Dausses - Snowplow blade for six wheeler ATV
 Bill and Charlotte Dausses - Mattresses, pillows, and bedding for Columbine Lodge
 Bishop Jim Gonia and Kim Gonia - Welcome Party for Summit Retreat
 Bob and Andrea Mooney - Week 10-Beloved Community Joshua Station
 Bob and Margaret Curnow - Week 10-Beloved Community Joshua Station
 Cathy Jacobs - Thanksgiving Dinner
 Cheryl and Stephen Mahon - Soker Campership Fund
 Connie Stiert - Soker Campership Fund
 David and Carla Herbig - MESH pocket guides for staff
 Decorah Lutheran Church - Compass Points
 Faith Lutheran Church, Golden - Week 10-Beloved Community Joshua Station
 Greg and Shanna Murrell - Guitar Supplies
 Janet and Scott Harrison - Thanksgiving Dinner
 Joy Lutheran Church - Week 10-Beloved Community Joshua Station
 Julie and Scott Miller - MESH pocket guides for staff
 Marie and A.C. Serold - Soker Campership Fund
 Mark and Diane Sather - Volleyball Sand
 Miles and Kim Brown - Tires
 Randy and Lisa Schrader - Commercial boiler for Aspen
 Randy and Lisa Schrader - Commercial Hobart Dishwasher
 Randy and Lisa Schrader - Ice machine
 Randy and Lisa Schrader - Camp experience for Denver Rescue Mission and Joshua Station
 Randy and Lisa Schrader - Week 10-Beloved Community Transportation
 Randy and Lisa Schrader - Wool Blankets for Bristlecone
 Ray and Nicole Ferry - Trash cans and wheels
 Samantha Johnson - Compass Points
 Scheels - Compass Points Bear Bags
 Steve and Nancy Lord - Soker Campership Fund
 Storytelling Retreat Participants - Retreating
 Terry and Susan Pletkovich - Soker Campership Fund
 Tom Stephens and Mary Beth Frederick - Week 10-Beloved Community Joshua Station

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In memory of Bill Walker
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In memory of Valeda Abbey
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In memory of Wayne and Trudie Jarvis
 Dave and Nellie Jarvis

In honor of Al Gonzales
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 Ross Rieke

In honor of Pawnee's ministry
 Ashley Procanyn

In honor of Rosetta Bidne
 Beth Gonzales

In honor of Grandma Ruth Ericson
 Leif and Peggy Ericson

In honor of RTLC Staff
 Ray and Nicole' Ferry
 Suzan Lund and Joseph Moser
 Tonya and Andrew Fisher

In honor of the Saathoff family
 Kristen and Mike Saathoff

In honor of Stephanie Barker
 Sandy Barker

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the following friends of Rainbow Trail who gave a gift in 2022.

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| Dennis and Marie Ammon | Judith Gray | Michael Zumwalt | |

Blazing New Paths!

Trailblazers and Pathfinders are Rainbow Trail's annual giving clubs that sustain and allow our ministry to grow. For as little as \$10 a month, or \$120 a year, you can become a Trailblazer and make a huge difference in everything that happens here at camp! Pathfinders are those that would like to give a little more. For \$1,000 or more a year, you can become a Pathfinder and can make a bigger difference in this incredible ministry. From Day Camp to Bridging Borders to On-Site ministries to Compass Points to camperships, Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences. Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail needed to be reduced to \$15,250 for 2023. We need your help in covering that difference. You can join by simply making your gift to Rainbow Trail. If you are interested in knowing more about Trailblazers or Pathfinders, please contact Dave at the Canon City office (719-276-5233) or by e-mail at dave@rainbowtrail.org.

Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Wisely

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We exceeded our Thrivent Choice goal for 2022 of \$33,000 and have set a goal of \$34,000 for 2023. With that kind of support from Thrivent, 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 the Thrivent 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 close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can help make a world of difference!!

Remember Your Friends and Loved Ones in a Lasting Way

Want a great way to remember or honor a loved one... and make a difference in the faith life of thousands of children? We have a way! Rainbow Trail now has Memorial, Honor, and Thanksgiving packets that we can send you that make it easy to celebrate the life of someone you love. Memorial gifts can be made at the time of death of a loved one or friend, on the anniversary of the person's birth, or a couple on their anniversary. Thanksgiving and Honor gifts can be made at any time in celebration of a person, couple, or group of people. Marriages, wedding anniversaries, confirmations, and retirements are just some of the events that provide occasions for honor gifts. The packet includes a card to send to the family or individual, letting them know that you have made a special gift to Rainbow Trail and an envelope to mail your gift to us. We will list the names the memorialized/honorees in Rainbow Reflections along with those contributing the gift. If you would like a packet sent to you, email Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org and we'll send one out right



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!

Don't Forget *Rainbow Trail*
2023 Events Calendar

- 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
- October 6-8.....Womens Retreat
- October 13-15.....Fall Ambassadors Retreat
- October 20-22.....Confirmation Retreat
- November 17-19.....Senior High Retreat
- Dec 1-3.....AdventFest

www.rainbowtrail.org

**An Active Way to Support RTLC:
Thrivent Action Teams**

Thrivent Financial has moved to use Action Teams to encourage more people to be involved in more great projects. An action team is easy to organize. All that has to happen is a Thrivent member identifies a worthy project, finds a group of people to help with the project, and then goes to the Thrivent website and establishes the project in the system. Thrivent will provide \$250 in starter funds for the project in hopes that it can be used to generate more. For example, if your church wanted to buy something from the RTLC wish or need list, you could host a breakfast using the starter funds, and all the proceeds from your breakfast could be used to purchase that item for RTLC. Or you could do something similar to raise campership funds for your youth to go to camp this summer. Or you could use several action teams to buy materials for a congregational work weekend at Rainbow Trail. The sky is the limit for what projects can be done to help Rainbow Trail. Consider forming an action team and make a difference in this fun and worthwhile community effort! Contact Dave Jarvis if you have any questions or need more details.

**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) | 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables |
| Reams of colored copy paper | Rain Jackets & Rain Pants |
| Nalgene Water Bottles (40) | On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs |
| Masking tape | Foam Brushes - 1" |
| Scotch Tape | Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive |
| Duct Tape | 21 Gallons of Handsanitizer |
| Packing Tape | 2 Cases of Lysol or Clorox Wipes |
| Postage stamps | New Videographer Camera |
| 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) | |

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.



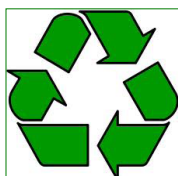
- | | |
|---|--|
| Heavy Duty Cotton Work Gloves | GoPro HERO7 Silver |
| Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!) | Freezerless Refrigerator |
| Sturdy Wheelbarrows | Dish Cart |
| New Full or single mattress pads | Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs |
| New Queen sheets - white | Skid Steer Tire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

Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTLC'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

Go Green



Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless version! By opting to receive it in an electronic form you will help us save printing and postage costs, save paper, and reduce waste. You will also get Rainbow Reflections with color photos and information about RTLC programs and events. If you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail contact at info@rainbowtrail.org and let us know that you would like to "Go Green."



Don't want to give up the paper, but like the idea of color pictures and a copy of the newsletter letter delivered to your inbox? E-mail "Get Both" to info@rainbowtrail.org. Be sure to include your full name and the e-mail address(es) that you would like to receive it at.

Craving Color?

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless, color version! E-mail info@rainbowtrail.org to opt for the electronic version of our newsletter! You'll save trees and receive a colorful newsletter right to your inbox!

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

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, Executive Assistant/Registrar.....info@rainbowtrail.org
- Will Johnson, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp...will@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

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