



Chatter!

VOLUME 56 NO.4

Crystal Lake reaches out to families affected by Katrina

When the world began to hear about the devastation wrought on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina, the Board of Directors and staff of CLC came together to think about what Crystal Lake could do to help. The brainstorming resulted in the following responses:

Housing – We are offering heated cabins and food to families or individuals affected by the storm who need a place to live this fall and winter. At the time of printing, no families had yet been identified to come and live at camp. If you know of anyone with a need for lodging, please contact CLC toll-free at 877-252-5437.

Clothing and Supplies – In the first week of September, unclaimed and unlabeled lost and found items leftover from the summer were boxed up and sent south along with items from camps all over the state of Pennsylvania.

Camperships – Crystal Lake is offering camperships to cover the cost of camp next summer for children from families affected by Katrina. If you know of a child who attends a Christian Science Sunday School and could benefit from this opportunity, please contact CLC.

If you would like to support the campership and housing efforts, you may mail checks in any amount to Crystal Lake Camps, 1676 Crystal Lake Road Hughesville, PA 17737.

Our love and prayers go out to all those from the Gulf Coast region.

This summer CLC's "best yet!" (again)

By Jessica Henderson, Camp Director

Campers, staff, and parents might describe this summer as amazing, uplifting, fantastic, awesome, out-of-this world, marvelous, incredible, inspiring, challenging, and memorable. And they'd be RIGHT!

I've heard some staff and campers calling this summer the 'best yet' and I'm tempted to agree, although I do recognize that each summer at Crystal Lake is special and unique. Nevertheless, here's why some feel that this particular summer could be considered another 'best yet!' Campers from 23 states as well as Mexico, Russia, England, and Grenada, were led by a strong staff under nearly ideal weather conditions. We had very little rain, and when we did it was often wonderfully timed to come down all at once while we slept snugly in our cabins. Sunny skies smiled on our outdoor activities all summer long.

On July Fourth, the staff decided to go all out with a re-enactment of US history. Instead of our normal American flag raising, one of our staff

members dressed up as a British magistrate, raised the Union Jack, and sang a rousing rendition of "God Save the King." A group of counselors who were dressed as British redcoats led a surprise water balloon attack while the rebel campers and remaining staff stole the Crown's colors right off the flag pole and retreated to the opposite end of camp. A great game of Capture the Flag ensued in which the Patriot campers soundly defeated the Loyalist counselors. In the evening, each of the cabins devised and enacted a historical sketch to share with the rest of the camp. We saw everything from George Washington crossing

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Summer 2006

We are pleased to announce the rates and dates for summer camp 2006:

Check our website for details on special programs, discounts, and camperships. www.crystallakecamps.org

DATES:

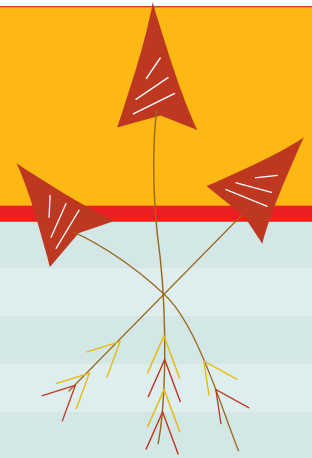
- Session 1: June 24 – July 8
- Session 2: July 8 – 22
- Session 3: July 22 – August 5
- Family Camp: August. 6 – 12

RATES:

- One session (two weeks): \$1095
- Two sessions (four weeks): \$1995
- Three sessions (six weeks): \$2995
- Family Camp: Adults, \$525
- Children 4-17, \$325, Under 4 Free

\$50 discount for additional members of the same family

KidsChatter



What is the 'Crimson Arrow' award?

Crimson Arrow is the first level in a series of awards that Crystal Lake campers can achieve by showing excellence in many areas of camp life. When all of the requirements have been completed, campers are invited to participate in a secret nighttime induction ceremony and their names are immortalized on a plaque in the Dining Hall. After completing Crimson Arrow, campers can start working towards the higher achievement levels of Bright Star, Tall Pine, and Eagle Feather.

In the word find below, search for the following terms which are all parts of the Crimson Arrow requirements:

ARCHERY ATHLETICS CAMPING ECOLOGY HANDCRAFT
INDIAN LORE RELIGION SERVICE SMALL CRAFT SWIMMING

I M M A T A N L H A A R C H E R Y N
I N D I A N L O R E A L S O S L F I
I C I S D I C G S P C L L E L O S R
R T A M S I I E E N H A R C R E G H
E L T A E A I L R E R Y V O E R E I
S Y H L D I G A V D E L S L L L R M
V N L L A A H G I G E H W O I L O S
M N E C C D O A C C S D I G G L N G
N S T R L I C N E N E E M Y I O E W
E G I A W N E E I D R L M G O A Y O
D G C F E C A M P I N G I I N N P E
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N W T S I W H N R H R A G T P I A H
L L H A N D C R A F T M C I S L M M
C L E O R N M S L I S E M A A L O I

Camper Profile

Name: Desiree "Desi" Jordan

Age: 10

Sunday School: Royal Oaks, Michigan

Years at CLC: 2 plus a few summers at family camp

Sports: Enjoys tennis, basketball and track. (She runs the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay for her track team 'Go Lightly Gators')

Favorite food: Spaghetti with parmesan cheese

Kids – would you like to go to camp next summer?
You can email camp@crystallakecamps.org anytime for more info!

This Summer CLC's Best Yet (again): *Continued from Page 1*

the Delaware to Woodstock. A celebratory bonfire wrapped up the evening.

Our brand new climbing tower proved to be a big hit with campers of all ages. The structure was completed just in time for the opening of camp and offered a challenge to experienced rock climbers and novices alike. The kids in the Rock Climbing class practiced their climbing and belaying skills and then took some field trips to local climbing spots.

Our CITs were involved in a unique cultural exchange this summer, thanks to CLC alum Tom Reed of West Chester, PA. Tom arranged for a group of Amish teens to come to camp for a sharing of customs and ideas. The following week, the CITs traveled to Lancaster County and spent a couple of days living and working at an Amish farm. They enjoyed digging up their own potatoes for dinner, milking cows, sleeping in a hayloft, and playing volleyball over a net stretched between two Amish buggies. They also read and discussed two

sections of the Christian Science Bible lesson with a group of Amish folk.

We had a wonderful treat during Session 3 when Christian Science Lecturer Emilio Castroman visited camp to lead an interactive lecture activity with the whole camp. His dynamic style and memorable stories captivated the children, and he delighted the Spanish speakers in the audience with his integration of many Spanish words and phrases throughout the lecture.

We had yet another successful family camp this summer, with 16 family groups establishing new friendships, playing, relaxing, adventuring, laughing, and making music together for a week. A highlight of family camp was an outstanding talent show, which included a karate demonstration, gymnastics, a song in sign language, and a hilarious performance of an original composition called 'The Dining Hall Blues.'

This year, the whole camp enjoyed being

involved in the filming of our new video, which is being produced by John and Allison Abdelnour of Foresight Multimedia. The video will be available in November, so be in touch if you would like a copy to share with family and friends.

All of the camp activities this summer took place against the backdrop of this year's metaphysical theme of God's shepherding. In her Miscellaneous Writings, Mrs. Eddy tells us, "He guards, guides, feeds, and folds the sheep of His pasture; and their ears are attuned to His call." (p. 150:31-2) Weekly testimony meetings were filled with evidence that campers and staff alike were protected, directed, nurtured, and cared for throughout the summer.

Thanks to all who contributed to the successful activities at camp this year. We are all looking forward to another 'best yet' summer in 2006, with another exceptional staff, great activities, new friends and more spiritual growth. We hope you'll join us!

An Outpouring of Generosity

A donor sends 17 children to camp from northern Ohio

In the small rural town of Elyria, Ohio, there is a Christian Science Sunday School that is vibrant and filled with energy. Jeannette Bemis is the innovative teacher who drives around the countryside each week in a big van, picking up children from various towns and neighborhoods nearby. Most of the students come from families who do not attend church, but that doesn't matter. Many of the 35+ students have perfect attendance.

Jeannette and her fellow teachers have started something. Not only do the local children enroll in Sunday School, but after a certain period of time they can become a part of the 'Key Way Club.' The club has youth officers, and their primary focus is learning about God. Secondary - but just as important - is FUN. The group plans outings and activities year-round including pizza dinners, movie nights, trips to water parks, and now – camp.

Crystal Lake Camp Director Jessica Henderson was invited to visit Elyria last winter to present an informational show at the church. At least 30 children and 20 adults attended the presentation, which was held in the church edifice following a Sunday Service. The children got very excited about the idea of going to camp, but knew that most of their families would not be able to afford to come. This didn't stop the idea from progressing and unfolding. The Sunday School teachers were open and listening, knowing that God supplies all needs.

Sure enough, their prayers were answered. The weekend that Jessica visited Elyria, a call came in on her cell phone. It was a man from one of the neighboring communities who had been to the camp

in earlier years and wanted to support the effort to send local children. He knew the value of the camp experience and how it can transform the lives of young people. He put forth an extraordinarily generous offer: he would pay the complete tuition for any child who regularly attended the Elyria Sunday School and wanted to come to Crystal Lake Camps.

The response to this offer was overwhelming. Not four or five, but seventeen children wrote detailed letters to the donor, explaining why they wanted to go to camp and requesting scholarships for the summer. He approved all of their applications and the rest is history, as they say.

Most of the children attended camp for just two weeks, but camp's impact on them will be felt for a lifetime. They met others from all over the United States and even other

countries who also loved learning about God. Since many of them were relatively new to Christian Science, they gained a whole new perspective on their religion as they lived in an environment where spiritual discovery is an ongoing, natural part of daily life.

One of the Elyria Sunday School teachers wrote camp with feedback after the children returned home. She said: "Never have I seen such enthusiasm and spiritual growth.... This I attribute to all the good, healing work done at camp."

All of the children are filled with gratitude for the opportunity they had this summer and are already talking about next year. We know that they were blessed by this experience and hope to see them again in 2006!

Wish List

Do you have any of the following items you don't need anymore? Camp would gratefully receive donations of:

- Truck
- Van (7 or 12 passenger)
- Four wheeler/ATV
- John Deere mini-dump
- Golf Cart
- Mountain Bikes
- Canoes/Kayaks/Sailboats
- Horseback riding equipment (saddle, bridle, etc.)
- Pottery Wheel
- Musical instruments
- Table Top Games (ping pong, foosball, etc.)
- Commercial kitchen equipment (NSF approved)
- Power tools,
- Furniture (sofas, dressers, lamps)

If you can donate any of the items above, please call us at 877-CLC-KIDS (252-5437) to arrange for pickup/delivery. Thanks!



Gratitude for Summer Camp 2005

"I was there for two weeks and I had a wonderful time. I want to thank everyone who took care of me." - A camper, age 6

"I cannot tell you how thankful I am. You saved us (my sister and I) from an extremely boring summer." - A camper, age 14

"We had no idea that camp could go so well! My daughter just loved it and is homesick – for camp!" - A parent



Upcoming Events at CLC



Women's Renewal Weekend: October 21-23, 2005

Treat yourself to a relaxing and energizing weekend this fall! Come alone or bring a friend, sister, daughter, or mother to join an amazing group of women in the quiet woods of Pennsylvania. We'll have a wide range of outdoor activities such as canoeing, hiking, and the high ropes course, as well as indoor options including candle making, soap making, singing, and a book discussion on 'The Color of Water' by James McBride. You're also free to curl up with a book by the fire or just relax and chat with new friends. The best part is that all meals are lovingly prepared for you! Cost includes meals, lodging, and all activities Friday afternoon – Sunday afternoon.

Cost: \$175 for women 18 yrs +

Volunteer Work Weekend: May 19 – 21, 2006

Come help us get camp spruced up for the summer! Projects will include setting up the Arts & Crafts center, preparing the stables for our horses, cleaning summer cabins and clearing the paths in camp. We'll put you up in one of our heated cabins or Laughlin Lodge and we'll provide hearty meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. All you need to bring is a little elbow grease and a desire to help!

To register for any event
or to get more information,
call us toll-free at
877-252-5437 or email
camp@crystallakecamps.org.

Family Open House Weekend: May 27-30

Bring your whole family to CLC for part or all of Memorial Day Weekend and get a taste of summer camp! The weekend includes many fun activities for all ages, including canoeing, archery, horseback riding, arts and crafts, games, and more.

This is a great way for kids to get comfortable with camp before going on their own as summer campers. Families considering Crystal Lake for their children for the first time stay and eat FREE for the whole weekend!

Summer Camp: June 24 – August 12
(see page 1 for details)

2006

CLC's Youngest Camper



Sky Bella Henderson was born on May 8, 2005 and spent a fun first summer at CLC. Here's what she has to say for herself:



"Hi. My name is Sky. My mom is the Camp Director at Crystal Lake, and my dad is the LT/CIT Director there. This summer was really great because I got to do so many fun things like take my first swim in the lake, ride in my jog stroller all over camp, and get held by lots of nice babysitters. I can't wait to come back next year when I'll be a whole year old. Hope to see you there!"

Crystal Lake Camps
1676 Crystal Lake Road
Hughesville, PA 17737

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