

TALES FROM THE CAMPSIDE

Sharing the latest news, info, and updates from Camp Challenge camp and retreat center in Bedford, Indiana



Upcoming Events

- Sep 11-12 CWC Fall Prayer Retreat. All women welcome. Cost: \$40 per person. More info at gocampchallenge.com/camps/cwc-retreat
- Sep 25-26 Men's Retreat. Speaker: Luke Zeller. All men invited. Cost: \$40 per person (\$30 for under age 18). More info at gocampchallenge.com/mens-retreat
- Oct 19-23 Fall Work Camp. Come and go; free lodging and lunch provided daily. Call camp office or email brian@gocampchallenge.com to RSVP

Summer Camp Recap!

What an amazing summer! During Mission Camp in early June, more than 70 volunteers helped us prepare the facilities and grounds for the summer camp season. Over the rest of June and July, over 100 staff and volunteers welcomed 512 campers during our 7 youth camp sessions, an increase of 16% since summer 2013. We had campers from as far away as Arizona and even Saudi Arabia! We are especially thankful for the opportunity to minister to the 35 campers who did not have a home church, more than triple the number last year. Also, through our scholarship fund, our generous donors and church partners were able to provide registration fee assistance to 56 campers who otherwise would not have been able to attend camp.

Our theme this year was ASTRONOMICAL, based on Psalm 8:3-4: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

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CAMP CHALLENGE

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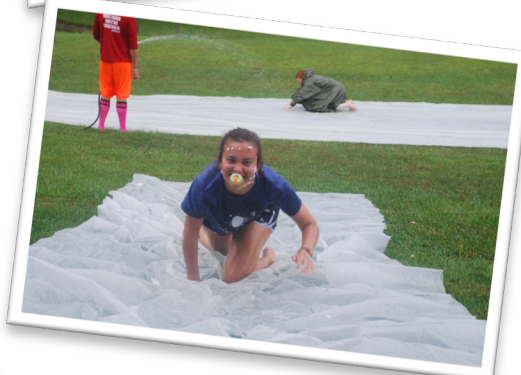


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human beings that you care for them?" Our fantastic weekly program directors emphasized God's huge love for us even in our smallness amid his vast Creation. Some camps experienced this vastness first-hand, viewing craters on the moon, the brightness of Venus, the bands of Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn, thanks to the assistance and equipment of Bedford's local astronomy club!



Although we love having fun and experiencing new things, our ultimate goal is for our campers to experience the life change possible through a relationship with Jesus Christ. 95% of campers reported their relationship with God changed in a positive way because of their time at camp. We are excitedly looking forward to how God may continue this work through camp ministry in 2016—check the last page for next year's camp dates!





Camper Connection: Maggie and Gracie Ledbetter

Board member Stephenie Knoll interviews campers (and twin sisters!) Maggie and Gracie Ledbetter about their experiences at Camp Challenge.

A few weeks ago, I was sitting in a pew at Church at the Crossing, watching baptisms and listening to testimonies. Each moved me to tears, but there were two that particularly stirred my heart – Maggie and Gracie Ledbetter. The “Ledbetter Twins,” as most people refer to them, shared how they made the decision to make a public declaration of their faith during an evening of worship at Camp Challenge. As a camp director and member of the Board of Directors of Camp Challenge, my desire, as well as the desire of those that serve with me, is that God will use that camp to create an environment that grows faith in our children.

I caught up with the Ledbetter girls and asked them to share a little more about their experience and love for Camp Challenge. I wish I could put into words their maturity and bubbling enthusiasm. As most twins do, they share a lot of the same opinions, talk over each other, and finish each other’s sentences. These are beautiful girls.

S: So, when did you two start going

to Camp Challenge?

M: Maybe first grade.

G: (Looking to mother, Lynn) Is that right, Mom?

M: And we only did like two years at the first camp and we liked it so much we went to the longer camp.

S: You went to the Young Explorer’s Camp and then the longer camp?

M/G: Yeah.

S: What is your favorite thing about camp?

M: I like how in the morning, the afternoon and the evening, we all get together and worship and nobody really judges you and you can discuss anything. I just like the worship we do.

G: Yeah, we go to the one in the morning and we sing and talk about our lesson. We have this Bible study thing where we go on our separate ways and read what they told us to read, and we do that three times a day – one in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one close to night.

S: What about your cabins? Did you feel like you got really close to the girls in your cabin?

M/G: Yeah!

M: During naptime we would discuss our lesson and I guess over time you just get really close because you do a lot of activities together and you get



Stephenie Knoll, pictured here with her family, is a Camp Challenge board and program committee member and has directed Young Explorers camp for the last 4 years.

comfortable with them even though you have no idea who they are at the beginning.

G: You sit with them at lunch, too.

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M: Yeah you spend a lot of time with them and you grow to where you like spending a lot of time with them. And it's fun learning where they are from and about their family.

S: Even though people often confuse you, and think you are the same person, you're really, really different, right? One of the things I noticed though in your baptism testimony, is you both made the decision to be baptized at Camp Challenge. Did you tell each other, or do it together? How did it happen?

G: We did the walk-through...

M: Stages of the Cross

G: Yeah, Stages of the Cross. They took us through the woods and they had the counselors dressed up as people before Jesus died. Josh (Mifflin) was Jesus. They had people shouting and the soldiers and after that...

M: A lot of people were very emotional and there was the pond and the cross and we went there and one of the counselors started

playing songs on the guitar and it was just kind of silent and we all prayed together and...

G: And then this one guy, he told everybody, "If you want to get baptized, then you can all come up here. " So we kind of made a circle and prayed and then we sang songs after that, too.

S: So you two made these decisions, but completely separately? Did you talk about it later?

G: Yeah.

M: I didn't actually find out until we got home when I told my mom and then Grace told her and she said, "So you both..." and I went, "What??"

S: That's neat.

M: Uh huh....

S: What would you like people to know about camp?

G: That you can be yourself. It doesn't matter what you dress in, and it doesn't matter who you're friends with, you get to have fun and be yourself.

M: And you're free to worship how you want. You don't have to worry about anyone making fun of you and you can just be yourself. You also have freedom to move around or stay with your friends.

S: If someone asked what your dream would be for Camp Challenge, or what would you love to see at Camp Challenge, what would you say?

G: I guess like... I don't know why, but there are a lot of kids from Church at the Crossing, and some kids from other churches. What would be cool is if a lot of other people from other churches come, too.

M: Yeah, so we can meet new people. We could interact with other churches and meet someone new.

S: How long do you think you'll go to Camp Challenge? Would you like to be a counselor?

M/G: Yes!

M: Definitely.

I'd say the future of Camp Challenge looks pretty good.

Camp Challenge Jobs and Internships!

Need to fulfill some volunteer hours? Required to complete a practicum or portfolio for your major? Hoping to develop your work history? Want some hands-on experience in your area of interest? Camp Challenge is always searching for highly responsible, spiritually

mature, and independently motivated individuals to help accomplish its mission. Whether through a semester-long internship (on- or off-site) or summer employment, Camp Challenge can help you accomplish your goals. Ministry, marketing, counseling,

communications, nonprofit administration, multimedia design and production, outdoor education, environmental management, sales construction, event planning, IT... the possibilities are endless! Contact us today to begin a conversation about how we can work together!

Real Talk: Camp Edition

What are people saying about this year's summer camp at Camp Challenge?

Camp Challenge is one of the most amazing places anyone could go to. You meet lots of nice people, and you get to interact more with God. The activities are fun, worship is awesome, and interacting with your cabinmates help you become a team. God impacted me more because I felt like he was speaking to me that week. He moved me that week during the Wednesday night worship by bringing back memories of all the things I have done and then washed them away. God formed me into a better person, helped me to grow, and so did the people that were there. I strongly encourage more people to go to Camp Challenge and witness this themselves.

Alex Thompson, camper

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. A small little verse that sometimes pushed me, calmed me, lifted me and comforted me this week at Camp Challenge 5th and 6th grade camp. What an awesome promise that this little verse gives. This week that verse helped me with energy, to stay positive, to push myself physically more than I believed I could, to know how to comfort homesick, sadness and grief, to give encouragement and to stay cool on humid days. Each time I felt challenged, that verse leapt to my mind and all that happened this week was from Christ Strength. I'm thankful that He

allowed me to spend time with the most precious girls, amazing leadership, and in the breathtaking beauty of His creations.

Marcie Arango, counselor

My darling son, Justin, was one of them [campers that decided to follow Christ at camp]. So proud of him and excited to see what God has in store for him! Thank you for all you do week after week for these kids! What a blessing you guys are.

Jennifer Kirk, parent

It was an awesome experience to be there, and see how God moved myself and others as well. It showed me that I am not alone in any situation I may face. God always says to me that I am there with you always and I am never leaving you. We were all here to help one another to move forward in our faith. God is amazing, and a great friend.

Kayla Bailey, camper

Thanks for all you did for the girls this week! Annie and Lilli told stories all the way home! They had us laughing quite often as they were telling about all the fun they had at Camp Challenge. They also told us about everything they learned and how they grew closer

to God. Thanks to you and the rest of the staff, Annie and Lilli had an amazing week! One they will never forget!

Lori Cushman, parent

My experience was amazing. I got to get closer to God, and learn things about Him that amazed us all. I met so many great people there. I even met my girlfriend there. But anyway, there were so many great leaders there as well. They will listen to whatever problems you have or if you are struggling. They even help you get more in depth with God. I learned how He created the world and us. I learned how He still does miracles and stretches all of us. Thank you for allowing me to have this experience, and I hope I can go again.

Aaron Thompson, camper

All of our children enjoyed the time they spent at Camp. They said their teachers were great. They came home singing songs and telling us what they had learned about God. May God bless all for the great job you all are doing in the name of the Lord.

Old Paths Church of God

Reported that this was "the best year yet!" THANK YOU!

Kathy Fehn, parent



2016 Camp Dates!

May 21-22, 2016: Staff and Volunteer Retreat

June 2-5, 2016: Mission Camp

June 9-11, 2016: Young Explorers (1st – 3rd Grade)

June 12-17, 2016: Senior High

June 19-24, 2016: 7th & 8th Grade

June 26-July 1, 2016: 4th, 5th, & 6th Grade

July 10-July 15, 2016: 3rd & 4th Grade

July 17-July 22, 2016: 5th & 6th Grade

July 24-28, 2016: Adventure Camp (6th-12th Grade)

July 28-30, 2016: DistinXion Basketball Camp (2rd-11th Grade)

From the Director's Desk

Our summer camp season has come to a close and although we are already looking forward to a busy fall, it is energizing to reflect on the positive and exciting stories from this summer: counselors celebrating decisions that campers made to follow Jesus, campers sharing how Camp Challenge is their favorite place in the world, and parents with tears in their eyes expressing their appreciation for scholarships that made it possible for their children to attend camp. Stories like these are why I am so thankful to serve at Camp Challenge and why I am so grateful that Camp Challenge has been here for many camp seasons.

Our Mission Camp was a big success again this year. We transformed one of our older cabins (Cabin #3) into a family cabin complete with

wood paneling, new windows, air conditioning, and queen-sized bottom bunk -- ready and waiting for your family's weekend getaway! We also added a new tower to the paintball field and refreshed many camp areas with paint and stain. And when we finally got a break in the rain, our new basketball court surface was poured. It was badly needed and it looks great!

Late in the summer we hosted DistinXion's overnight basketball camp. I was very impressed with the leadership of Luke Zeller in making that camp excellent. The camp was not just about basketball, but was also focused on building character and presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ to campers. We are thankful for the opportunity to continue this new partnership

with DistinXion and offer this camp again next summer.

To our volunteers and summer staff: THANK YOU! Our Lord uses outdoor ministry to change lives and it is not possible without those that give of themselves during the summer months.

To our camper parents, grandparents, and church leaders: thank you for seeing the value of Camp Challenge and for making sure campers have the opportunity to attend.

To our summer campers: thanks for coming to camp. I hope your summer was made better and your relationship with God made stronger because of your time at Camp Challenge, and we can't wait to see you back again next year!