

TALES FROM THE CAMPSIDE

Sharing the latest news, info, and updates from Camp Challenge



CAMP WISH LIST

Contact Brian or Emily for more details on any of these items!

- New basketballs and volleyballs
- Good quality A/V equipment or donations toward A/V equipment
- Volunteers to build a fence near the pool
- Volunteers for the next Campers on Mission week Apr 26 - May 2
- Volunteers to get paintball field, which was unused in 2020, in working order again for 2021
- Funding for a ministry intern
- New friends!! Use our facilities and/or NEW FULL HOOK-UP RV SITES for your family reunions, church retreats, camping getaways, and, as always, send your campers!

YOUNG ADULT CAMP!

Calling former campers! Is there a better way to kick off 2021 than coming back to Camp Challenge? We don't think so! We are inviting young adults out of high school through age 30 to reconnect with God, friends, and Camp Challenge at our first-ever Young Adult Camp! Bring your coziest blanket, your favorite game, and be ready for a community-filled weekend January 8-10! Cost is \$100 per person and includes lodging, activities, and Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Register today at gocampchallenge.com!

P.S.--we hear that covering someone's Young Adult Camp makes a great Christmas present!



CAMP CHALLENGE

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PROGRAM REPORT!



The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we approached summer camp this year, but through careful planning, wonderful staff and volunteers, and a lot of prayer, we were able to have a shortened camp schedule that was still safe for everyone. We held four weeks of camp in July hosting 318 campers! Our theme for the summer was Chosen, based on Ephesians 1:4-6. Campers explored what it means to be chosen by God. They learned that God has a specific plan for their lives, and He loves them as a specially created individual. We saw a lot of life change this summer, and we are incredibly thankful to all who volunteered, sent their camper, or prayed for us during this season!

This year we also held our first-ever Fall Retreat here at Camp Challenge. We were so excited to have over 70 campers register! The weekend was a little chilly, but our campers and volunteers had a great time enjoying the fall weather here at camp! The theme verse for the weekend was Romans 8:15. We looked at the power that being a part of the Family of God has in our lives and how we can access that power. We loved being able to see our campers again, and we are looking forward to hosting this event again next year!

We are excited to start preparing for 2021! Next year's theme is Follow and Share from Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." We are looking out towards our communities and exploring how we share the Gospel with the people around us, even while we are young! If you are interested in working on staff or volunteering with us next summer, please reach out to Emily at emily@gocampchallenge.com for more info!



11 new camp sites with full hook-ups on the East Hill are now available to our partners and friends for their RV camping adventures! These sites, serviced by a brand new septic system, also fulfill a dream 60 years in the making—**WATER ON THE EAST HILL!** Sayin' it louder for the people in the back—**EAST HILL BATHROOMS!** Contact Brian to book a site or your group camping event!



GIVING TUESDAY!

Giving Tuesday, a global day of charitable giving following Thanksgiving, is December 1! This year, we are raising funds to replace Hobart the dishwasher. He's so old no one can remember exactly when he joined the team, but he's been around at least 40 years! Stressful mid-camp breakdowns 3 of the last 4 summers and a call this spring from our equipment rep informing us they couldn't continue to service him because replacement parts are no longer manufactured made the decision to retire him necessary. A replacement unit will cost around \$11,000 which is a significant amount, but those \$25, \$50, or \$100 donations really add up when a large number of people give. Just send a dollar for every dish, cup, or fork you and your kids have gotten dirty at camp over the years and we'll hit our goal quicker'n you can say "HOT PLATES!"

CAMP CHAMP: EMILY FERRELL

What is your role at Camp Challenge?
I am the new Assistant Director.

What kind of things does that entail?
I oversee the programming that happens here at Camp. In the summer, I handle registration and work with directors to manage staff and volunteers. I also coordinate year round events such our upcoming Young Adult Camp!

How did you originally get involved with Camp? As a camper, I attended Camp Challenge every summer from grades 1-12. Camp was a safe place for me where I could be vulnerable with God about where I was in my faith and allow Him space in my life to make corrections. I could always count on the Spirit of God to move at Camp in mighty ways.

Why do you choose to stay involved at camp? I served as a CIT for many summers, and basically was always looking for a way to come back to camp and serve. I consider myself so blessed to have been hired

because honestly, this is my dream job! I love being at Camp Challenge and working every day to further the ministry of camp!

What is your favorite thing about working here? Camp is such a unique ministry experience. Campers use the seeds of faith that have been planted by their churches, pastors, teachers, and parents, and allow it to grow fruitfully and be harvested here at Camp. Knowing that the work that I do here every day allows someone else the opportunity to experience this life change is truly the biggest blessing I can imagine.

What is your best memory at Camp? I have so many good memories here at camp including stories of my own personal "harvest" of faith. But when I think about why I loved camp, and continue to love it today, it is very clear to me that the community that I experience here is heavenly, literally. The Family of God, the Kingdom, the Church at large,



Meet
the
folks
that

make Camp Challenge go!

whatever you want to call it, grows here! I have met friends to last a lifetime, but bigger than that, I continue to be reminded of what a healthy Christian community looks like!

What would you say to other people considering getting involved in camp ministry? I would say this—it is exhausting, but I have never felt more full! God is still moving at Camp Challenge, and when you actually get to see God move with such might in the lives of young students, you will never be able to look at the love of God the same! This work is so valuable to the Kingdom, and I promise you do not want to miss out what God is doing here!



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Camp Challenge exists to develop followers of and leaders for Jesus Christ by encouraging disconnection from everyday distractions and reconnection to God through His creation.

2021 CAMP DATES!

Registration opens January 1, 2021!

June 10-12, 2021:	Young Explorers
June 13-18, 2021:	Senior High
June 20-25, 2021:	6 th , 7 th , & 8 th Grade (I)
June 27-July 2, 2021:	3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Grade
July 11-16, 2021:	4 th , 5 th , & 6 th Grade
July 18-23, 2021:	6 th , 7 th , & 8 th Grade (II)

Facilities available to rent for your own camp or event during select summer dates—contact Brian for more details!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

2020 was so very challenging and also a success story! Early in 2020 the board of directors had decided it was time to hire a 2nd full-time employee. The search began for an assistant director and we had so many good applicants. Emily fit perfectly with what we were looking for in an assistant director and she accepted the job offer.

Before she could even start everything went sideways with COVID-19. I did not think summer camps would happen this year. The board had many discussions on if we could or should host camps in the summer. Many – sometimes strong – thoughts and opinions were shared. In the end an overwhelming vote was cast in favor of hosting summer camps in whatever way was allowed by the state of Indiana. Around 80%

of Indiana camps completely cancelled their summer sessions, but we were able to modify our schedule and we safely held camps in July. I'm so thankful that we were able to give campers a place to get away.

A few weeks ago, we were able to host a fall retreat for older students. It was an awesome weekend and campers are already asking for a spring camp. Another success in a hard year!

From a financial perspective we took a hit, like many others. Camp attendance was down and donations are well behind previous years. Our board of directors has worked over the past several years to improve the financial stability of the camp and I am so thankful for that.



Because of the wisdom of the board and generous donations by many people, we had an emergency fund in place for tough times like those brought by COVID-19. Praise be to God for that. On the flip side, we have used our emergency fund and we now need to replenish it as both COVID-19 unknowns linger and

to prepare for future emergencies. Our year-end fundraising effort will be focused rebuilding our emergency fund. I see this as the most critical year-end need we have had during my tenure. In our year-end letter (coming soon) I will be asking people to go above and beyond to help Camp in this way... will you partner with us?