

Fraggle reflects

This past summer, a parent came to camp a few days after his daughter had left to pick up a backpack she had forgotten. When he arrived at camp, I introduced myself to him and he went "You're the Camp Director? I had wanted to speak with you." I asked if there was anything I could help him with.

He responded, "I just wanted to tell you that you guys change lives, you know that? My daughter is usually so quiet, but when we picked her up last Saturday she talked the whole way home, telling stories about people with these crazy names - she seems so confident and excited, and can't stop talking about how she wants to be an L.I.T. when she's old enough, even though she's only 10. She is a totally different kid, and I just want to thank you for what you guys do here."



In 2024, we served the largest number of campers in recent memory and had a staff of over 70 people from across the globe. We had new and exciting activities, told stories, sang songs, and helped every camper feel that camp magic. Camp Silver Creek invites campers to be part of a community who welcomes them just as they are.

And we reflect on summer 2024 and work towards summer 2025, I think back to the words of this parent from time to time, because they represent exactly why everyone involved with camp keeps coming back each year:

"You guys change lives, you know that?"

So in 2025, let's keep changing lives together.

In the spirit of camping, Fraggles

Become A Monthly Donor!

Have you noticed that CSCAA doesn't charge its members dues? That's because we want to encourage all alumni to get involved, regardless of their income.



However, we do incur some expenses over the year. Meals are provided for meetings, and workdays, funds are donated to Camp to help pay for trainings, retreats and end of the parties, holiday postcards are

bought and mailed, and this newsletter has to be printed.

Where does this money come from? Gracious donors like you. Can you spare us the cost of a cup of coffee once a month? It would be greatly appreciated!!

Please scan and click on the QR symbol above to go to our donation page. It will only take you a few minutes to choose your amount, sign up and help support us in all we do.

Who's in charge (?)

Your current CSCAA officers are Jim Trett, Chairman; Jerry Woodcock, Vice Chairman; Jo Jablo, Secretary and Robert Braendle, Treasurer. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have any questions!!

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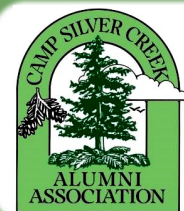
2024 Camp Silver Creek Attendance		
CSC	Registrants	Registrations
Traditional	618	645
Teen	214	235
LIT	25	25
TOTALS	857	905
(Full = 1224 campers)		
Family Camp		
		43 -approx. 150
Greider	Registrants	Registrations
	224	483
Salem Refugees		
	21	34
TOTALS	245	517
86.17 % full (Full = 600 campers, new cap)		

Upcoming events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

Feb. 12, 2025

CSCAA Winter Meeting



CAMP SILVER CREEK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Summer memories.....



Hello, my name is Jim Trett and I am honored to be the new Chairperson of the Camp Silver Creek Alumni Association. I look forward working with our new Board of Directors to continue our service to the camp we all love.

I will be joining our mostly new Board members in working on several projects of the CSCAA. Jerry Woodcock is our new Vice-Chair, Jo Jablo has agreed to once again serve as Board Secretary (THANK YOU Jo) and Robert Braendle will serve as Treasurer. This group is very excited to serve the association going into the future.

A little about me. I became part of the Camp Silver Creek Family when I attended camp for the first time at age of eight. I remember being homesick the first night, but by the next day I was hooked. After becoming too old to be a camper. Carl Grieder, a man I greatly admired, then reminded me I could apply to join the kitchen staff and the adventure continued. I then was able to become a counselor and then a Unit Director. I also was Director of the Councilor in Training Program which is now called the Leader in Training Program.

As we begin this new chapter of our history, we will continue to pursue our goal to support, preserve and strengthen YMCA Camping at Camp Silver Creek by providing camperships for kids to attend camp. I have seen the positive impact we have. In the spring of 2020, I was approached by the Y to provide camperships to children impacted by the Beachie Creek and Lionhead fires that devastated the North Santiam Canyon. As I now live in Detroit I am still hearing about their great experiences. Plans for our annual golf tournament, our primary fundraiser, are already well underway.

On a sad note, for the Association and me personally is the passing of one of the founding members of the CSCAA Mike Smith. Mike served this group from its beginnings to just very recently and was a large part of our success. Personally, Mike and I knew each other while growing up in Keizer. We graduated from North Salem High School and worked together at camp when he was Camp Director in 1972.

Again, I look forward to serving the Board and you all as members of the Camp Silver Alumni Association as we strive to continue to make YMCA Camp Silver Creek the very special place we love.

Happy HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL

The Camp Silver Creek Alumni Association mission is to support, preserve and strengthen YMCA camping at Camp Silver Creek. The CSCAA comprises any Camp Silver Creek alumni, staff (current and former), and community members who believe that camp is an essential part of childhood.

Get more involved with the CSCAA by emailing contact.cscaa@theyonline.org

Remembering...

Michael Guy Smith

Dear CSCAA and extended family,

Last month we lost a dear friend, passionate Y and CSC advocate. Michael G. Smith, a CSCAA founder will be in many of our hearts forever. Following is his poem, inspired while on a trail beyond Hemlock years ago.

Out beyond the hemlock grove, the salmonberry under.

Bordered. fern-edged, crystal flowing, singing waters wander.

In harmony, our souls attuned that dappled shaded song.

Beneath the sunlit canopy, our hearts were joined in revelry,

our spirits full of love and free of doubt,

we sang along.

Will others ever pass this way, have they come before,

can we clear a path for them, or teach them to explore?

Perhaps the best we'd hoped to do is lead them to the Ring,

let them taste the wellspring

And teach them how to laugh and sing.

msmith

5-23-90

You can access his obituary at

[Michael Guy Smith Obituary - The Statesman Journal](#)



Pool replacement update

There is a lot of interest in the status of the Camp Silver Creek swimming pool replacement project Here is an update as of November 2024.

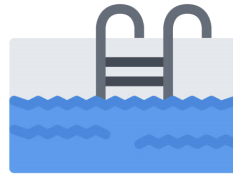
A small group was assembled to take on the project consisting of YMCA professional staff and other interested parties. We hired a company called Rimor LLC to draw up a plan so that all the interested contractors would be bidding from the same sheet of music so to speak. It cost \$14,500 to create the drawings and technical data sheets necessary for this to move forward. \$7,000 came from the CSCAA which was approved at the annual meeting this past summer and \$7,500 was provided by a donor.

It took a while to decide what we want in a pool at camp given the normal programs that we provide. How big, how deep, should it be ADA compliant, and so on. In the end we decided on a pool that is 80 feet long and 25 feet wide. The deep end and the shallow end will be swapped around so that when you enter through the gate you get to the shallow end first as well as the shower area. The shallow end will be a zero-depth entry and in full compliance with ADA requirements.

A fully automatic cover will be installed so that a single individual will be about to open and close the cover.

The design will be reminiscent of the typical style and colors when camp was built and first opened in 1938. The fence will be replaced

with columns and wrought iron bars to allow visibility from the outside. There will be cubbies to store towels and other gear. Lighting will be available to illuminate the pool at certain times during evening hours when desired.



The final approval from our group should happen this week. At that time the plan will be submitted to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) for their review. From there the plan will be submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office. They have the final say as to whether it complies with historic requirements.

If all goes well, we can submit it to the YMCA board and once past that hurdle, move right into fundraising and expansion of the written plan to include time tables and permitting from the various agencies that will need to put their stamp of approval on the documents.

This is when CSCAA comes into play. A Capitol Campaign will be held to raise the necessary funds needed for the pool. Board members and camp staff are anxious to play a vital part in this effort.

Expect an "ask" in the coming year as we work to provide a new pool so all future campers can enjoy the water activities, we all have in the past. As you reflect on your past summers at Silver Creek, remember that any donation, large or small, will help to provide a new pool for campers for years to come.

Needless to say, there are a lot of things that still need to be accomplished but we are hopeful that there will be a new pool at Silver Creek for the summer 2025 season.

Work Party 2024

Thank you to everyone who joined the work party! Teams of volunteers and staff cleared trails to overnight spots, battled bees, restored the campfire circle and rock bridge to Hemlock Spot, and set up the camp store. Even more alumni joined for dinner and a rollicking campfire.

Special thanks to alumni **Vic Lippert, Jo Jablo, Jerry Woodcock, Brad Huggins, Johanna Burgess, Noelle and Natalie Garrett, Guy Greider, Chelsea McGough, Jeremiah Rasca, Jim Trett, Emily and Asher Roemeling** and every staff member for coming together. A special shout out to the volunteers who picked up staff members at home or the airport and made it possible for them to join the fun.

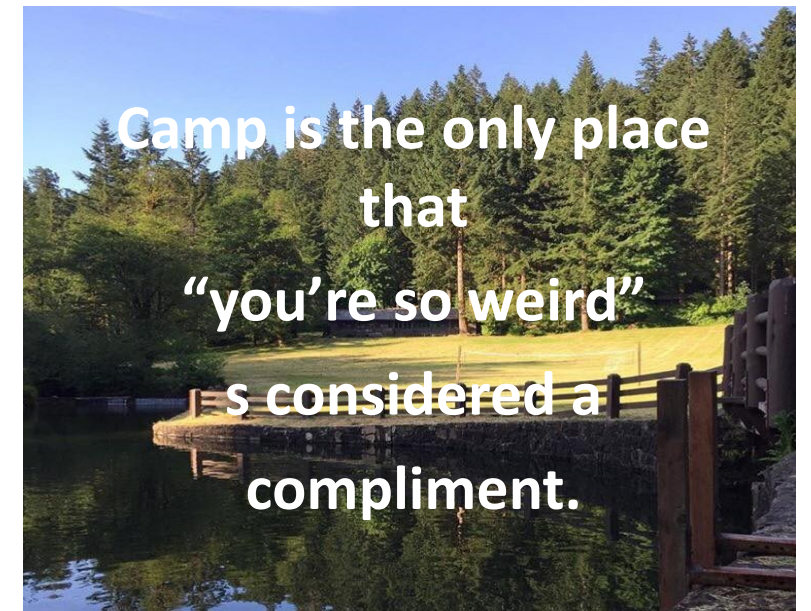


Alumni enjoyed a campfire following the work day on June. For many of us, it was our first campfire in many years and brought forth many happy memories!!

Social media presence

CSCAA has an Instagram page, and lots of great photos from past summers have been posted. We encourage you to visit us at [campsilvercreekalumni](#) to enjoy these pictures, and we hope you share some of your own photos!!!

Also, follow us on facebook at [YMCA Camp Silver Creek Alumni](#), and camp in general at [YMCA Camp Silver Creek](#).



Golf Tournament

On July 28 golfers gathered at a new site for the 27th CSCAA John Mistkawi Memorial Golf tournament. Creekside Golf Club welcomed golfers and volunteers to their facility to combine their efforts in support of the important mission of sending kids to camp - regardless of their family's financial situation.

Thanks to a full set of teams and many wonderful sponsors, over **\$44,000** was raised this year and handed over to the camp scholarship fund.

For the fourth year in a row, **Donofrio Dealerships** stepped up as our Title Sponsor. Their donations served as a great base to build off of. Also thanks to **Northwest Natural** and **Great Harvest** for the delicious bagged lunches they provided and to **Dennys on the Green** for a great dinner! **Jeff Glodt and Grain Station** provided the drinks for the afternoon.

Other major donors include **Bark Boys, DSP, North Core Excavation, Dutch Brothers, Bliss-Sequoia, Mike Riddle Construction, Banner Homes, Cascade Tires and PGE.**

The Camp Store once again allowed golfers to direct their monies to benefit program support at camp and raised over \$2000. This has been a great way to target specific needs at camp and is a feature that will continue at future tournaments.

Committee chair Hector Garcia and the Golf Tournament Committee worked tirelessly to make the tournament happen. "It was wonderful to see so many golfers and sponsors participate in raising money for camperships for 2025. And I want to thank everyone on the committee who worked so hard to have a successful event." said Garcia.