



CAMP SILVER CREEK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Summer of 2021

This summer was hectic between being in the middle of a pandemic, not being able to operate last summer and having a nationwide staff shortage. Even with all of that, we were able to offer all 9 weeks of camp this summer and had no COVID-19 cases! We also passed our ACA accreditation!!

Our staff did an amazing job this summer! They worked hard, and focused on ensuring the kids had an experience to remember. It was so important to have campers back this summer and we had a great time seeing many returning families, as well as many new families! We had so many creek walks, hikes, crafts, skits and songs that helped to bring back the camp magic was vital to our summer success!

Canyon Campers

This summer the YMCA and the CSCAA worked together to provide a healing environment for the youth who were affected by the canyon fires of 2020. Camp Silver Creek and Camp Greider are places where kids can find safety and know that being themselves is accepted and encouraged no matter what they are experiencing in their life.

Canyon Campers goal was to provide youth that were impacted by the wildfires through a fun and safe camp experience. Whether it's catching their first fish at Camp Silver Creek, getting a bullseye at the Camp Greider archery range, or learning something new about science and nature, kids at YMCA camp leave with lasting impressions. Funds raised through this campaign not only paid for a camp session but also provided the necessary supplies (sleeping bags, shoes, spending money) for any child who needed it.

Kudos to Erin Chambers, Tamera O'Connor, Jim Trett and Guy Greider for their hard work in putting this together. The program will continue in 2022. If you wish to help out please go to <https://operations.daxko.com/online/2250/OnlineGiving/Donation.mvc>.

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@gmail.com

CSCAA Annual Meeting

The annual CSCAA meeting at Camp was held on August 11, 2021.

Vice President Crystal Cram welcomed everyone and everyone did introductions. She thanked the retiring board members: Nick Benevidez, Meredith Connally, Megan Crane, Leslie McCollum, Joe Rasca, Pat Schrader, and Allison Wyatt. She also thanked several folks who had provided extra help getting ready for camp.

Emily Witczak and Erin Chambers were nominated and voted in as new board members. New officers were elected as follows: Jeremiah Rasca – Chair; Crystal Cram – Vice Chair; Emily Roemeling – Treasurer, and Jo Jablo – Secretary.

Jeremiah gave a brief talk about his vision for CSCAA for the next few years.

Mike Smith gave a short explanation of the Golf tournament, our main fundraiser event for camperships, and shared a sheet with each year's proceeds. In total, over \$420,000 has been raised and has been used to help send over 1200 kids to camp. Tournaments #18 through 23 have been chaired by Jerry Woodcock. Jerry has given a great deal of time and effort to this and in appreciation. Guy presented him with a thank you, which turned out to be a child's fishing pole. After Jerry said he would donate this to camp, Guy gave him his real thank you, a Sonic fly fishing pole and a Spectrum reel. Jerry expressed his thanks and said he couldn't wait to use it.

Guy then presented Jo Jablo with a gift card to Bauman's Nursery as a thank you for being "the glue that holds us together."

Mariah updated us on camp this summer. Despite all of the challenges, it has been a good summer and the kids are having fun and we have a waiting list. The biggest challenge was staffing due to the late hiring date, but hopefully that won't be an issue next year.

Jeremiah shared the financial statement with us. Our current balance is \$17,203.56. There have not been any inhouse fund raising in the last couple of years and that needs to be addressed in the near future.

Meeting dates for this next year were announced: Nov. 17, Feb. 16 and May 16. Place and time TBA.

Connie explained about the proposed committees and said that these were a good way to get folks other than board members involved. An explanation was given of the roles of the CSCAA, the Y board, the Camp board and how these committees could compliment them. A general discussion followed. It was voted to establish the committees as present. Jeremiah will ride herd on the chairmen to get them going.

Bullphrog Speaks

Hello to all who join us in loving camp! For those who may have missed working with me in my various incarnations at camp, I've been involved with Silver Creek since 1994. I've officially worked for 6 different camp directors and have worked in many different positions over the years. Most recently, I served as the LIT director this past summer, leading the next generation of camp staff.



Following my induction as Chair, I made a call to the attendees of the annual meeting to be more of an association of action and service. Too long has the Alumni Association been primarily a check writer for camperships, and a day of work up at camp. We are looking at opportunities for alumni to be more involved at Camp throughout the summer, whether it's coming to teach/re-teach about something at camp, or share a long-lost campfire song or skit.

I would like to recognize the venerable Jim Trett, who, in addition to being the mayor of Detroit and first aid trainer extraordinaire, introduced a new generation of campers (and some staff) to "Skippy" and "Thar's a Barr!". Jim, Thank you for your energy and love of camping.

We all have what we remember as "traditions" at camp. As alumni, we can share those memories with current camp staff and, who knows, maybe it will be the next big thing at camp. I hope to see you out at Camp next summer!

Cheers,

Bullph

Upcoming events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

February 16, 2022

CSCAA Board Meeting

August 15, 2022

CSCAA Golf Tournament

24th Golf tournament a success



August 16 saw golfers and volunteers once again joining together in support of the important mission of sending kids to camp - regardless of their family's financial situation. Held at Salem Golf Club, we had a full tournament, and thanks to the collaborative effort and contributions of many, we were able to write a check to the YMCA for \$50,180

which will help send over 260 kids to camp!

A big shout out to our Title Sponsor **Donofrio Dealerships**, and our presenting sponsors **Ruth Aschkenasy**, **Oregon Cascade Plumbing** and **Emery & Sons Construction**. Their donations served as a great base to build off of. Also thanks to **Northwest Natural** and **Great Harvest** for the delicious bagged lunch they provided and to **Whisky Brown** for a great dinner! **Jeff Glodt and Grain Station** provided the drinks for the afternoon.

A new feature was added to the course this year; the Camp Store. Located on the 12th Hole, the Camp Store allowed golfers to purchase specific items for camp. Money raised here will go directly toward the purchase of these items. This fundraiser was well received by all and will be incorporated in future tournaments.

This year we welcomed **Hector Garcia** as the new chair of the tournament. Hector did an outstanding job, and was backed up by an awesome committee who worked tirelessly to make the tournament happen. Previous chair of many years Jerry Woodcock is still part of the committee and continued to help everyone stay on track.

"I just want to thank everyone who participated in this year's tournament, as well as everyone on the committee who worked so hard to have a successful event." said Garcia. "It's wonderful to see so many folks committed to providing an opportunity for kids to experience the awesomeness of Camp Silver Creek."



Nominations for the Heart & Soul Award

The "Heart & Soul" award is given annually in recognition of volunteers who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, commitment and service to YMCA Camp Silver Creek. Nominations are confidential. If you wish to nominate an individual you may do so by sending your nomination in letter form, citing the merits of dedication, via email to: Mike Smith at mgsmithbuilder@gmail.com and/or Jeremiah Rasca, CSCAA President at jeremiah.rasca@gmail.com.

Nominations need to be received by March 1, 2022. Endorsements are welcome. The selection committee, consisting of the President of the CSCAA and the past recipients of the award, will review the nominations and make the award decision which will be announced in the future, probably at the spring CSCAA annual meeting (TBA).

Previous recipients: (2013) Scotty Washburn, Mike Smith, John Mistkawi; (2014) Dick Simpson; (2015) Chuck Hudkins, Joel Woodcock; (2016) Jerry Woodcock, Cliff Lawrence; (2017) Kevin Couey, Vic Lippert, Dan Moore; (2018) Tobin Knowles; (2019) Kris Rus-som.



Skippy was so excited to come back to camp this summer!!

Board Member Nominations

It's time to nominate alumni to be board members for the class of 2021. Board members serve for three years. They are expected to attend meetings to the best of their abilities and be willing to help out with related activities.

If you know of someone that you think would be a good candidate for the CSCAA board, please send their name to Jeremiah Rasca, CSCAA President at jeremiah.rasca@gmail.com

YMCA Camp Board

The YMCA Camp Board will meet quarterly with the next meeting on November 16th via zoom. We are making an effort to include more voices from Camp Greider. The roll of the camp committee will be under review in the coming months. Medical protocols will be examined at Camp Silver Creek. Camp Silver Creek and Camp Greider will both be hiring new directors for summer 2022.

Introducing: CSCAA Committees

During the August 2021 CSCAA annual meeting, it was decided and approved by the board to form various committees to aid in accomplishing goals set by the CSCAA. The current committees were decided upon based on the need to both support and grow the CSCAA and Camp Silver Creek.

The **Leadership/Mentoring Committee**, led by Crystal Cram (Pretzel) and Amanda Hampton (Zen) main goal is to support the current staff at Camp Silver Creek while bridging the gap between current camp staff and alumni. Right now they are creating a mentorship program that matches alumni with current staff members to mentor in preparation for the summer.

The **Fundraising Committee** is currently led by Jerry Woodcock. The focus of this committee is to raise funds that can be used to support the needs of the CSCAA and camp. It was decided to hone in on three types of fundraising; small, medium and large. Small- setting up an ongoing Venmo account to donate to. Medium- the public online tshirt fundraiser that can be found at bonfire.com. Large- organizing another large scale event to run alongside the CSCAA Golf Tournament.

Our **Fishing Committee** is led by Mark Bradly. As many know, Camp Silver Creek has a beautiful lake for campers to fish at each summer. The focus of this committee is not only to raise the funds to stock the lake, but to provide for and support the fishing program at camp.

Board Orientation Committee, led by Guy Greider focuses on the education and support of new board members. The Board Orientation Committee is to create an informational packet for new board members. This would contain contact information, by-laws, calendars and partnership information.

A huge thank you to Connie Strong for all of her hard work in getting these committees organized and up and running. If you would like to be a part of any above committee, please contact Jeremiah Rasca at jeremiah.rasca@gmail.com or myself, Crystal Cram at cram.crystallee@gmail.com.

T-shirt Fundraiser raises \$341

A second T-shirt fundraiser was held in late August featuring new camper artwork for 2021 and several new items. **\$341** was raised and donated to the campership funds.

Once again, Sam Lewis orchestrated this sale. She did a fantastic job and is currently working on another sale with new designs in the future. "A big thank you to everyone that bought something or shared the fundraiser with their friends or family" Sam said.

Sales are ongoing so please check out the website at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/ymca-camp-silver-creek/>

