

Annual Report of Operations for 2019 - Camp Colorado

Prepared for the Western Plains District Conference by Elizabeth Lucore, Board Chair
May 2020

In 2018, the Church of the Brethren camping program posted it's highest attendance in several years, with 113 campers. I'm excited to say that in 2019, we were steady on with 112 campers across all age groups. Thank you for sending your camper to Camp Colorado! Numerous volunteers served as counselors, directors, volunteers, drivers, parents, cooks, nurses and spiritual leaders to make it a wonderful camping experience for our youth. We are grateful for the nine brave adults who served as camp managers as we continue to explore what it means to be without one single employee to serve at Camp Manager all summer. Thank you for the support we receive from the district, its outdoor ministries staff, and your individual congregations! Through your sharing of time, resources, and campers, Camp Colorado continues to live into its purpose of providing space for everyone to draw closer to Christ through worship, community, and immersion in God's creation.

The Camp Colorado Board of Directors and its committee members spend many hours each year planning and implementing the work of the camp. We meet monthly for one hour, and each committee meets monthly for one hour. The Board is organized into three committees: Governance, Leadership, and Operations; Facilities, Grounds, and Equipment; and Resource Development, Outreach, and Volunteer Relations.

Some of the highlights of their work in annual year 2019 include:

- **Governance, Leadership, and Operations:**

- Enlisted the support of several individuals to serve for a portion of the summer as our Camp Managers. In 2019, these volunteers were Bud and Susan Taylor, Al and Mary Ann Dutrow, Harry and Phyllis Hochstetler, Phil and Ann Stover, and Greg Land. The Board is grateful to have so many willing and capable individuals for this critical role.
- Established technology standards, Google Drive structure, account access procedures, and training.
- Revised and issued 2020 Rental Contracts. Provided communications to our rental groups regarding COVID-19 decisions and new regulatory requirements for staff vetting.
- Drafted a Camp Manager Manual to provide guidance and standards for those serving as Camp Managers.
- Drafted a Wedding Rental Policy and clarified Camp Colorado's position, procedures, and requirements for such groups.
- Updated all Camp Policies required by Colorado Childcare regulation.
- Cultivated relationships with individuals to encourage their consideration of board service. This year we welcomed Greg Land, Les Shenefelt, and Adam Wagoner to the board. Emily Tyler agreed to stay on for another term.
- Coordinated with sister committees regarding new Fingerprinting and Background check regulations, and Capital Campaign process

- **Equipment, Facilities and Grounds:**

- Rec hall upper deck and stairs rebuilt after snowfall crushed the previous deck. New deck will handle significantly more snowfall.
 - Stairs to cook's quarters rebuilt. Replaced due to age.
 - Planning for replacement of lodge roof and addition of a basketball court
 - Evaluation of current properties as it relates to the Capital Campaign projects
- **Resource Development, Outreach, and Volunteer Relations:**
 - Established reader-friendly format for our quarterly online newsletter.
 - Created an Instagram account to connect with more youth year-round.
 - Launched online Camp Store. It closes on May 31st, but will reopen as items are created and shipped out.
 - Frequent updates to our website www.campcolorado.org for information distribution during COVID season, with continued ability for online registration for youth camps.
 - Adjusted website for online donations made through our website to improve ease of use for our donors.
 - Ongoing public relations to advertise our rental opportunities for outside agencies over the limited camping season. The camp is available for private renters during the months of July, August and September.

It is difficult to prepare an Annual Report for 2019 without mentioning the impact of COVID-19, most of which is yet to be fully understood. Even before this pandemic was well known to us, the Board had embarked on a significant journey of envisioning the future of the camp, and participating with Camp Mount Hermon and the District's Outdoor Ministry Team to develop a camp sustainability plan and an accompanying capital campaign. With the social and financial landscape twists and turns with COVID-19, some of these plans have been put "on hold". But our board has continued investing our own funds to secure the architectural services of Dave Lee and Associates, as we put these visions down on paper in the form of a new camp building. When the district body is once again able to move into a time of fundraising to support Outdoor Ministries, our board will be ready to move! We are excited to share the renderings of this building with you in the near future as part of the district-wide Capital Campaign sometime soon. COVID-19 can keep us from physically gathering at the campgrounds for the 2020 camping season, but it has not stopped us from dreaming for both Camp Mt Hermon and Camp Colorado.

Thankfully, despite the stressful waves of COVID-19 news and then cancelled camps, our financial health is a stable buoy. In the last several years, our goal has been financial self-sustainability, and we continue on that course. With the cancellation of June CoB camps, we have lost income but we also have decreased expenses. Camp rentals have ranged from 33-38% of our income. It was 33% in 2017, 38% in 2018, and 34% in 2019. The high mark was in 2018 when BVS filled three weeks that are typically hard to rent. Donations from our broad base of supporters is also steady, making up 24% of our income in 2017, 21% in 2018, and 21% in 2019. In this behind-the-scenes financial tour, I think it is interesting to point out that we benefit from a financial gift each year from the Western Plains district. With that support, we have

ended in the black each of the last three years. In 2018 and 2019, even without the district gift we would have shown a net income at year's end. So even as we value our strong ties to the work of the Church and very much appreciate the financial support we receive annually, we also challenge ourselves to be in the position of a resource for the district with fiscal planning and frugal management.

Although there will be no campers scrambling over rocks or singing up to the pine trees of Camp Colorado this summer, our hearts will yearn to be there. The importance of camping and the spiritual rejuvenation that can come when we spend time in God's creation is more important than ever. In that vein, the board is working on some personalized surprises for the campers and staff who are staying safe at home. Will you join us in "bringing" Camp Colorado to your town? Maybe you can participate in some of the social media events our public relations committee will be hosting. Perhaps there are some pine trees near your home that you can take a moment to visit, breathe deep, and pray for the health of our camp and our campers. Maybe you can even go camping with your family somewhere close to home, have a campfire and share memories about a special day you once enjoyed at Camp Colorado.

Thank you for the many ways you have supported Camp Colorado this year, whether through a recurring financial gift made simple on our website, volunteering some of your time to make camp happen, or through your prayers. All are needed. We appreciate the support of our district churches to both Camp Colorado and Camp Mt Hermon. Along with energetic campers, we rely on all of you to serve as cooks, nurses, counselors, CIT's, directors, spiritual leaders, board members, caretakers, and most importantly volunteers for the "behind the scenes" work. When camp opens next, we hope you'll consider serving in one of these ways. Until then, let's revel in the wonder of God's creation wherever we find it, bless each other as we go, and live refreshed by the imaginings of future camping days to come.

Church of the Brethren Sponsored Campers by Camp and Year

Camp	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pre-Junior	21	18	No Camp	No camp	19	27	22
Junior	20	24	24	30	23	24	35
Junior High	15	29	36	33	24	23	15
Senior High	45	45	41	36	36	39	40
TOTAL	101	108	101	99	102	113	112
Work Camp	87	48	45	40	54	40	45

2019 – 2020 Board Members

Elizabeth Lucore, Board Chair
 Jerry Bowen, Board Vice Chair
 LeAnn Harnist, Treasurer
 Rosi Jones, Secretary

Stephanie Guyer: Resource Development, Volunteer Relations, Outreach Committee Chair
Peter Samland: Equipment, Facilities, and Grounds Committee Chair
Bud Taylor
Emily Tyler
Wes Hoffert
Les Shenefelt
Adam Wagoner
Greg Land
Howard Duncan, Ex-Officio
Marla Ullom-Minnich, OMT representative

Committee Members not on the board:

Governance, Leadership and Operations Committee Chair: Cyndi Delaney
Governance, Leadership and Operations Committee: Carine Ullom
Facilities, Grounds and Equipment Committee: Brad Wertz