



Family Camping at Camp Mennoscah

Cancellation of the youth summer camps was a disappointment for everyone. Some families dealing with cabin fever found an outlet by coming to Camp Mennoscah for the day, overnight or for a short staycation. Some families used this opportunity to introduce future campers to Camp Mennoscah. Grandparents found Camp Mennoscah a perfect place to bring the grandkids for the day to run, hike and play in the river; and sharing an experience of something they did during the summer when they were young.



Debbie Schmidt's family looks forward to gathering. Men and Boys Retreat and summer camp have

always been an important part of summer plans as well. This summer upended their plans. When they are all together—they are 15 people, it's hard to find outdoor accommodations close by that works for everyone. When Debbie heard that Camp Mennoscah was open for overnight camping to small groups, she immediately called to schedule a weekend.

“We had a great time! Fishing, camp fires, sitting in lawn chairs with our feet in the river (adults), playing in the river (kids), cooking together. It certainly took the sting out of aborted plans and missed gatherings. We had the privilege of a visit from our raccoon neighbors to boot!

It was great to experience family, nature, and togetherness in this great setting!”

The Peters family decided to come to Camp for a staycation. Renae said they found “Camp Mennoscah a safe and sacred space for our family, reminding us that God Is, relationships are valuable, and God's creation is incredibly beautiful. Our younger daughter enjoyed learning how to canoe and our older daughter enjoyed a bit of a "First Camp" experience. We are grateful to the camp staff for their safety precautions and hospitality. We appreciated the sunrises over the prairie, lizard sightings, floating down the river, Kansas sunsets, and flickering campfires.”



Johann Reimer remembers coming to Camp Mennoscah. Now he is looking forward to his family experiencing summer camp at Camp Mennoscah. “We had a wonderful time at Camp Mennoscah. It was fun to be able to walk around the entire camp and show our kids where they will be able to come for summer camp in a few years. We were grateful to use the canoeing equipment and had a ton of fun canoeing up the river. The bathroom was amazingly clean and it was so nice to have it available for us to use. It was a wonderful relaxing few days spent in nature. We appreciated the opportunity to use the camp.”



Continued Family..page 2

Camp Mennoscah's Wish List for You

Every newsletter has a wish list for Camp Mennoscah. This issue, Camp Mennoscah also has a wish list for you, the people who are so important to Camp Mennoscah's ministry.

- Love and joy to keep your heart and mind happy
- Health to keep you strong for adventures
- Faith in God to hold you safe
- Hope to give you creativity and a path forward
- Memories to sustain you until we see you back at Camp Mennoscah!



Making Things New!

Camp Mennoscah has been renewing the campgrounds! The year started with adding a wildflower garden around the kitchen and new entry. Compost was used and some cantaloupe plants snuck into the garden, too.



In July, the First Mennonite Youth Group of Newton, KS, volunteered at Camp Mennoscah. This was their annual mission trip, rescheduled to a location closer to home. The 16 youth and sponsors tackled three projects: new swing sets, amphitheater renovations, and the trail bridge renovation.

Old swing sets were disassembled for recycling, new swing sets were put in place and mulch spread. The old trail



bridge was torn out and a new foundation built, one that is strong and wide enough for the mower and Gator. At the campfire area, excess water has made the amphitheater too swampy to be used. Drain tile was added and work started for replacing the crumbling stone seats.



The swing sets are essentially ready to go, but the amphitheater and trail bridge renovations still have work to be done—and some funds needed.

We can't wait to have these exciting projects finished!



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For their 55th and 60th anniversaries, Howard and Neva Kaufman took the family to larger cities to engage in touristy things, but hotel living and restaurant dining gets tiresome. As the 65th rolled around in 2018, they thought, "Everyone likes Camp Mennoscah! Let's celebrate 65 there!" What began as an every-five-year celebration has become an annual event. Berni Kaufman wrote "One weekend a year, we follow no schedule, no television and enjoy life as it unfolds. In addition to playing and eating, 2020 included honoring an eighth grade and college graduates



and Howard and Neva's 70th wedding anniversary. The 16 of us, from 2 years to 92, are thankful for God's creation and love of family. What a privilege to celebrate both at Camp Mennoscah."

Camping areas and cabins are open to guests/groups/families for overnight stays and day visits. Spend time in the river, have a campfire cookout, and enjoy the open spaces of the tallgrass prairie and the Ninnescah River! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 to make a reservation. We can't wait to see you!

Camp Mennoscah Maintenance Wish List!

We want your Camp Mennoscah experience to be the best! Here are some items that will help us keep the facilities and camp grounds looking great. Items can be purchased at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), your favorite local store, or wherever you find them. **Thank you!**

- Skid Loader (in good shape)
- Box Blade for tractor - 6 ft.
- Posthole digger for tractor – 3 point
- Trailer – 7'x12'-16' double axle (able to carry Gator, mower or small tractor)
- 50 ft - 3/4" garden hoses (never-kink) several needed
- New Stihl chain saw, professional-commercial 18-20" bar
- 1/2" Air Impact Wrench - 1000 ft. lbs. or more
- 1/2" drive metric deep sockets
- 1/2" hand ratchet
- 3/8" hand ratchet
- 1/4" hand ratchet
- New or good used Gator, UTV
- LED work light on a stand
- New or used in good shape-30" LP gas stove
- New – 30" electric stove (White)
- Extension cord 50 ft. 12-3 wire

Camp in a Box

By Delon Martens

While there is no way to replicate the onsite, in person camping experience that Camp Mennoscah provides each summer, the “Spirit of Mennoscah” does live on in the *Camp in a Box* that was provided to many would-be campers this summer. I was able to deliver two to my youngest grandchildren, and upon doing so, they were excited and enjoyed looking at everything that was in the “box.” My granddaughter, who would have attended First Camp, wanted to engage in activities immediately but was put off till later by her father. A couple of days later I



received a picture of her completed lizard craft project along with a big smile of her with her name tag.



Her brother, a Junior Camper, echoed his delight in also making the beaded lizard. While I don't know the exact extent my grandkids engaged with everything that was in the box, I do know they enjoyed the many reminders of all aspects of camp that were missed by not being on the camp grounds.



A great big THANK YOU needs to go out to the program directors, summer staff, camp board of directors, and others who put these boxes together. Their efforts in providing faith formation and giving campers a feel for Mennoscah were a success.

While it didn't provide camper-to-camper and camper-to-counselor interaction, there is no doubt



it did provide interaction between campers and their parents as they engaged in the devotions and activities. It also provided interaction between campers and God, and after all isn't that what camp is all about—growing the relationship between campers and God? I believe it is and it was done well!

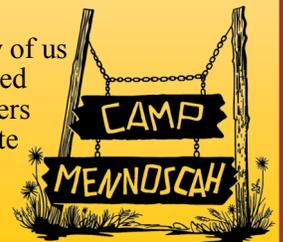
Summer Staff on the Summer

This camp season there were a lot of firsts. First time sending out a camp in a box rather than having campers come to camp. First time making videos to post on Facebook to try and express the camp experience through videos. For me, it was the first time I went canoeing! Though there were a lot of firsts, there was a lot of love and Jesus in everything we did. This whole summer was filled with uncertainty with how things were going to go, but with that came a lot of patience and peace as we figured it out. There were some scary moments, but there was also courage as we kept going. This summer has taught us a lot. If we are ever feeling uncertain about something, give it to God. Pray about it and God will give you what you need, or God will give you tools to get where you need to be. --Sarah Booth



When the summer staff arrived at camp this summer, we knew we were going to be making videos and that we were going to send out Camp in a Boxes, but we didn't know how to accomplish those goals. Despite the uncertainty, we started working. We brainstormed silly ideas, we worshiped God, and we had moments of uncertainty. In all of those moments, God was present.

This wasn't the camp experience any of us wished for. The staff would have loved to see all of the campers and volunteers this summer, but we hope that, despite the circumstances, you felt God's presence this summer. --Anna Lubbers





Camp Mennoscah

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Upcoming Events

Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats

October 30-November 1 & November 6-8

Limited numbers each session with
masks and physical distancing.

Work and Play Day

October 10



Mennonite
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Maintenance-Preventive or Predictive by Gardell Stucky, Maintenance Director



There are basically two kinds of maintenance—preventive and predictive. Preventive maintenance is to prevent failure before it happens. Predictive maintenance is done while things are being used. Camp Mennoscah has an equal share of both. You have to remember that despite the fact that some things at

camp are not being used (or used as much) they are always in a continuing state of regression. Seen or unseen elements are taking their toll on things not being used. For example, a house that sits unused will eventually break down from factors like sun, weather, rodents, insects, etc.

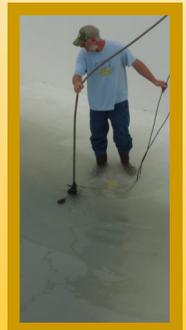
It is pretty common knowledge that mechanical things (motors, compressors, etc.) stay “healthier” when they are running at normal speeds or parameters. If they sit for long periods of time, some items (seals, bearings, armatures, piping, etc.) start to break down prematurely.



Predictive maintenance ensures that equipment requiring maintenance is only brought down when it is needed, usually before failure. This creates a reduction in the total time and cost spent maintaining equipment.

An example at camp that I would like to use is the filter circulating pump at the pool. Because of the pandemic, this pump has now been sitting for a year. It will then sit almost another year before being brought back into service. The seals are maybe starting to dry out. I can't run the pump because it needs the water flowing through it to keep it lubricated. The motor is acquiring rust from sitting which may affect the life of the motor. You hope it will be okay next summer when you start the pump. It is kind of a no win situation. (Oops! Maybe there is another kind of maintenance — preventative, predictive or PLEASE!)

It has been a little different thought process to maintenance these past few months at camp. Do you replace because of age, use, or both? Funny thing—because of our predicament with this pandemic, cost and availability have also entered into the equation!



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