



## Ninnescah News

### Summer Camp 2016

By Olivia Bartel

The summer is a blur. It's often this way, with so much going on that very little sticks in my memory by the end of the eight weeks of summer camps. I can quote numbers (535 campers, 185 volunteers, one emergency room visit that was actually sort of fun but sorry about the stitches), but real stories are scattered and half-formed.

To hear the good stories, talk to a camper. Maybe ask what was the weirdest or fun-est thing that happened. Who was the best counselor? What meal was the messiest? Who did they make friendship bracelets or lanyards for?

We do a lot of silly things at camp. You'll surely find something to talk about.

One week had 99 campers—second only to our Senior High Camp with 113. There was the week that had horrible humidity and heat, but the best baked goods ever. There was the week we set up a plastic tarp for a slip-n-slide where rain had created a muddy gully. (Why in the world haven't we done this before?) There were campers who stopped to say hi to me, even when they hadn't the slightest idea who I was. Campers played Gaga Ball, Spike Ball, and all-sorts-of-ball. Input sessions on the Holy Spirit went amazingly well for what I thought was a tough theme. God's ever-mystifying creation was experienced as mosquitoes arrived in hordes, disappeared, and then reappeared even bigger and badder.



See inside for  
Summer Staff  
reflections!

I bemoan that we only have one week with these kids. We hear campers tell how important it is to them to come to camp and sometimes about how they are treated so much more nicely here than at home. Sometimes what campers tell us has to do with their faith and God, and sometimes just about building community and making friends.

We don't keep a tally of conversion experiences or "God moments," nor do we expect campers or staff to go home being able to clearly articulate what makes being at Camp Mennoscah so meaningful. We do expect campers to go home changed, though we're probably deluding ourselves that everyone finds Camp Mennoscah to be the indescribable, yet infinitely sacred place we believe it to be. However you might figure it, we call this summer a success. We'll see you again next summer!

### We need to rejuvenate Work and Play Camp!

Please join our group of dedicated attendees and find out how much fun this camp is! You can pick and chose tasks and there is always plenty of good food to keep you energized! Feel free to join us for the entire time from Sept. 20 to 23 or come for a day or two.

Our website has more details! Hope to see you there!





## Summer staff reflections

This summer has been a huge blessing to me. I loved watching the campers laugh, play, and interact with each other. One of my favorite things about Mennoscah is how accepted and loved EVERYONE is, despite where they've come from or what they've been through. Each week, I had the awesome opportunity to watch friendships (new and old) blossom and grow. One of my favorite memories of the summer was at Junior High 2 when we sang "Lord, You Are Good" at evening worship. It's a pretty high energy song, and man they got INTO IT! It was fantastic!! In that moment, all I felt was pure joy. God's joy.

--Keri Kauffman, Journey Mennonite Church (Hutchinson, KS)/Taylor University



As I reflect back on this past summer, the joy and fulfillment I feel is overwhelming. The memories of campers and staff alike flood my brain with emotion I cannot comprehend. I have learned so much being out at camp the past two summers; learning from those much younger, and those older too. It is simply amazing what a 10-year-old can teach you about the Holy Spirit or what a 24-year-old can teach you about the love of God. Camp challenges you, teaches you, and helps you grow. As for me, camp will always be near to my heart and a place I consider my home.

--Amy Wedel, Zion Mennonite (Peabody, KS)/Bethel College



This summer has been simply indescribable. I never imagined being able to work in a place that filled me with such love and joy and brought me so close to God. I think one of the most meaningful experiences for me this summer was during one of the Pre-Junior camps and it really shows what camp does for these kids. I was helping a little girl read through and fill out her camper evaluation and I asked her what her favorite part of camp was. She motioned me to come closer because she didn't want to say it out loud so I got closer and she cupped her hands around my ear and whispered, "Learning about God." It was incredible and filled me with warmth to know that this little girl had experienced God in such a way and was able to feel the love of the spirit. Overall, an amazing experience. I give it an 11/10.

--Kate Jolliff, First Mennonite Church (Newton, KS)/Bethel College



*From the Board*  
**Thank you to all the youth campers and their families for coming to Camp Mennoscah Summer Camp. Special thanks to the churches and camper sponsors who helped make it possible for them to come.**

**Many supporters of the summer camp program quietly move behind the scenes providing goods and services and helping get ready for the most important visitors at summer camp, our campers. We appreciate all you do.**



This summer I learned so much about how God can move through people. The best feeling in the world is when a camper comes up to you and says that they had their first God moment during worship. Just knowing that something that I helped to lead had such a great impact on so many kids lives is something that makes me overjoyed! There is an atmosphere at camp that is very unique and it opens so many campers up to be themselves with no judgement. This is what makes camp so special to a lot of people. During worship so many campers would just raise their hands and close their eyes and worship God with unbelievable passion and watching them worship so hard made me so grateful that I was able to be a part of Camp Mennoscah.

--Kyndell Hightree, Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church (Harper, KS)/Hesston College



One thing that I learned this summer is how amazing God's love is! It didn't matter what was going on, God always found a way to shine through. The campers had so much positive energy that was always refreshing after a long day. The summer went by way faster than I wish it would have. I can honestly say that I wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else this summer! I would just like to thank everyone who was out at and supported camp this summer for making it so amazing!

--Adam Voth, Hope Mennonite Church (Wichita, KS)/Bethel College





## Camp Mennoscah

PO Box 65  
9458 SE 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Murdock, KS 67111

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### *Join the Fun!*

You are invited to the Annual Meeting  
Sunday afternoon, September 20 at  
Camp Mennoscah.

*All ages are welcome.*

Activities start at 3:30. Play disc golf on  
the new course, tour the new bath houses,  
join the scavenger hunt! After a short  
meeting at 5, join us for a simple meal  
and fellowship at 5:30.

RSVP appreciated to (620)297-3014  
or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org)

### Camp Sing 2015



### Family Camp 2015



[www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org)

