

Spring 2015 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter
April 1, 2015

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40th Annual Spring Work Weekend at Canyon Camp - May 2-3, 2015

Scouters, former Staff, and all friends are asked to help at Canyon Camp on Saturday and Sunday May 2nd and 3rd. This will be the 40th annual Kiwanis work weekend at the camp.

Volunteers are needed to work together with area Kiwanis's as we open camp and prepare for another summer of outdoor programming and adventure for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

You are invited to join us in helping prepare camp for the summer season. We will be doing the usual spring maintenance including painting, plumbing and wood construction projects. No matter the skills you possess, our primary work criteria is enthusiasm for service to the Scouting program! Bring your favorite gloves, painting equipment, and tools and we will definitely find a project for you!

The Monroe Kiwanis Club will provide meals throughout the weekend. Whether you can stay only a few hours or all weekend, you are welcome to join us May 2-3 for the fellowship and fresh spring air.

Please call or email Lee Binkley with your questions and to let us know how many volunteers we can expect!

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2015 Wednesday Family Visitor's Nights at Canyon Camp

We all carry wonderful memories of Family Visitor's Nights at Canyon Camp. Although the 2015 summer season has been shortened by one week, there are still four opportunities to visit camp on a Wednesday evening. The staff will report to camp for our set-up and training on Sunday, June 12th. Scouts and leaders will

join us on Father's Day, June 21st. The schedule for Family Visitor's Nights follows:

Week 1 - June 24th

Week 2 - July 1st

Week 3 - July 8th

Week 4 - July 15th

Please consider making a visit to camp on one of our family nights. You are sure to greet old friends and rekindle fond memories along the banks of the mighty Coon Creek!

**2014 Canyon Camp annual activities recapped by Lee Binkley
(delivered at a Monroe Kiwanis Club meeting)**

My presentation today is a bit fragmented and somewhat out of order, but this is by design.

Kiwanians of Monroe – I would like thank you for the opportunity to update you on the happenings at Canyon Camp since my presentation to you last year.

May – On May 3rd and 4th of this year we held the 39th Annual Kiwanis Spring Work Weekend at Canyon Camp. The primary focus of the event was to upgrade and improve staff housing for the summer camping season. Once again the Monroe Kiwanis Club sponsored the event with financial support to purchase food and building materials. Through the generosity of this club along with four individual donations we were able to “rehab” cabin #7, “the Swamp.” The project involved cutting the building at the window line, raising the roof 18”, and installing new windows, doors, and siding. This along with the traditional spring cleanup projects put us in good shape to move toward summer programming.

Order of the Arrow - Canyon Camp hosted the spring conclave of Wulapeju Lodge #140. The Order of the Arrow is an honor Camper society of Boy Scouting. Its primary focus is service to fellow man. Approximately 150 Arrowmen attended the weekend event. During the weekend many Scouts and Scouters obtained their Ordeal membership. Part of the ordeal is to give a day of word service while maintaining complete silence. Many projects were completed to continue the preparation of Canyon Camp for the summer season. Many members also earned the Brotherhood membership rank. This is a sealing of one's membership and continuing a pledge to a life of service. The honorary degree of Vigil was also bestowed upon several members.

Opportunity – Many youth and adults have been given great opportunities and memories while participating in events at Canyon Camp in the past year. Both before and after summer camp many local school districts used Canyon Camp for outdoors education and training opportunities. Among those were Darlington, Cuba City, Albany, Monticello, Shullsburg, and Freeport Jr. ROTC. Hundreds and hundreds of youth and adults have used the camp throughout the past winter for weekend camping, the U.S. Grant Pilgrimage, and summer camp. A special

event was held at camp this past August 14th – 17th. The Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society held their annual summer youth leadership program at Canyon Camp. With staff and youth 170 participated in the event. The Midwest chapter hosted this event with participants coming from as far as New York and California, and even Canada. The camp kitchen has never prepared so much food in each 24 hour day – 4 meals per day. Lots and lots of food all prepared with traditional Vietnamese recipes and tradition.

Attendance – The Canyon Camp staff directors reported to camp on June 12th with the balance of the staff checking in for the summer on June 15th. Staff Week was started with our traditional family potluck dinner. Camp was set up and staff training was conducted throughout the week with campers reporting for week #1 on Father’s Day, June 22nd. Five weekly sessions were conducted for Scouts and leaders. By summer’s end 660 participants had enjoyed a week of experiences and memories.

Staff – A staff of 41 was assembled to carry out the summer program, 9 of which were 1st year members. The staff is divided into two departments, the program staff and the business (support) staff. Together the staff taught 46 merit badges as well as the traditional rank advancement skills. Staff members also worked together to provide the O.W.L (Outdoor Wilderness League) program for older Scouts and leader, Pioneer Potpourri, a make and take series of activities, and adult leader training. Program areas were open for instruction and free time activities. These areas include Shooting Sports, Nature, Scoutcraft and Outdoor Skills, Handicraft, Eagle Required, and Aquatics.

New – Many new merit badges were offered this past summer at camp. Included were Climbing, Sustain-ability, Oceanography, Movie Making, Theatre, Chess, and Scouting Heritage. Additionally the aquatics area offered a new activity, stand up paddle boarding, which turned out to be very popular.

Weather - No report seems complete without a weather update. The overall summer weather at camp was much the same as here in Monroe – Great! The summer did start with a few challenges however. We experienced 3 floods in four day during our staff setup and training week. The bad news is that it made our setup a challenge, to say the least. The good news is that there was no damage to the camp. Additionally our first two Wednesday nights, family nights, had to be held indoors. All in all a good summer of weather.

Integration – We are always striving to keep a balance of the traditional outdoors skills and experiences yet stay contemporary with today’s technology. This summer we had the experience of using two drones in camp. The drones were used to make videos of camp activities which will be used for promotional materials for the 2015 season.

Recognition – The summer session ended with an end of the year recognition dinner for the staff. One of the awards presented is the Spirit of Canyon Camp Scholarships. To be eligible for a scholarship a staff member must have served a minimum of 3 years on the camp staff, be enrolled in a post graduate program at either a technical school or college, and have demonstrated a willingness to go “above and beyond” for the Scouts and leaders that attend Canyon Camp. This year there were 17 eligible staff members. Ten scholarships were awarded in the

value of \$300 each. The funding for these scholarships is made possible by friends and alumni of Canyon Camp. Through the generosity of Ron and Jennifer Spielman ten different prints are available for minimum donations. The prints are a result of Monroe's own Elaine Bethke, wife of Kiwanian Bill Bethke. To date 123 scholarships, at a total value of \$39,300, have been awarded since 1992.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) – NYLT was held at camp for ten days at the end of July and early August. The training event was staffed by over 30 volunteers for nearly 60 participants. Participants from around our 12 county council came to camp to learn leadership skills and techniques to take back to their local troops. Having trained youth allows a troop to be strengthened as well as fellow Scouts in a troop.

Events – The Monroe Kiwanis has again sponsored our fall work day...the 36th Annual Kiwanis Woodcutter's Ball. The primary focus of the event is the supplying of wood for winter heating in our cabins. Hundreds of Scouts and leaders will use the Founder's Lodge and Jamboree cabins to experience camp in the late fall, winter, and early spring. Please put May 2nd and 3rd on your calendars for our spring work days – The 40th Kiwanis Work Weekend. Continued support for these events has been in excess of \$50,000 from the Kiwanis Club of Monroe.

Investment – Our collaborative effort with the Monroe Kiwanis for nearly 40 years has impacted thousands of youth as well as adult leaders. Your club has also sponsored Troop 101 of Monroe for nearly a century. Canyon Camp and Scouting have been the recipients of a tremendous relationship with this club. We truly appreciate the efforts of dedicated Kiwanians. Thank you for your continued support.

You will notice that each of the topics started with a large letter of the alphabet. For those of you that are more observant than myself you have possibly noticed that those letters special something very special. Yes, **Monroe Kiwanis!**

Tom Howe to speak on the Civil War

Don't forget that Tom Howe, former Staff member, educator, historian, and author, will be speaking on topics he knows well – the Civil War and Green County, WI. Tom will speak at the Monroe Theatre Guild, 910 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI, at 7 PM. The date and topic for Tom's presentation is:

The Last Act: Green County Men and the End of the Civil War

Tom is part of a larger series of events called Bugles, Bayonets, and Beyond: Green County and the American Civil War that commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. This event is organized in part by former Staff member Ron Spielman with support from the Monroe Arts Center and the Monroe Theatre Guild.

Send us your fondest memories of the people you worked with at Canyon Camp!

Our associations with others during time spent at Canyon Camp have significantly impacted us all. Whether you served on the Summer Camp Staff, are a Friend of Canyon Camp or a year-round volunteer, tell us your fondest memories of the people you worked with, a special feeling you have from that friendship or an enduring relationship with someone you met at Canyon Camp. We are really interested in capturing your fondest memories of others and sharing them in future Newsletters as good news. Please send your memories as an email to Mike Beeth at: beeth2@gmail.com