

**Fall 2015 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter**  
**October 31, 2015**

**In this Newsletter:**

- **2016 Staff and Friends Reunion set for July 6-7, 2016 at Canyon Camp**
- **15 young men join the Canyon Camp Staff!**
- **Fall Woodcutters Ball – October 10 at Canyon Camp**
- **2015 Summer Camp Report – by Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds**
- **5 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2015 Camp Staff members**
- **Dan Dick and Alex Semenchuk re-launch a promotional web site**

**2016 Staff and Friends Reunion set for July 6-7 at Canyon Camp**

The Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends will gather July 6-7, 2016 for our next reunion -- so save the date!! You and your family are welcome to join us at this reunion as we celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> year of great summer camp programming at Canyon Camp!

This reunion is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday July 6-7 so you can see Camp in operation with Scouts, sing songs in the Dining Hall with the current Staff, and partake once again in the Wednesday Visitor's Night and Indian Dance pageant. While we will have plenty of time to reminisce with alumni and friends at Camp once more, we are also inviting former Scoutmaster's to come and re-union with us at Canyon Camp! Scoutmaster's Rod Simenson (Freeport), Dave Griffin and Art Whipple (Monroe), John Eversoll and Glenn Shaw (Elizabeth), Red Tyler (Savanna), Leon Bauer (Kieler), and Robert Fetty (Chicago) are just a few of the folks we expect to join us at this reunion. We are intent on getting as many alumni, friends, and past Scoutmasters to join us at the reunion on July 6-7, 2016 - so please feel free to forward this message to anyone you know who brought Scouts to Camp or helped in other ways.

The reunion will start with a welcome and Scoutmaster's coffee at 9 AM on July 6 and conclude after lunch on July 7. In addition to reminiscing, we will provide updates on Camp issues and you will have the opportunity to visit program areas, tour the (not so new) Wiley property or just wander the grounds. Throughout the reunion there will be an auction of items related to Camp - including benches made by John Weber and a bench made and signed by the late Dr. Harold Held, and we will experience the barbecue dinner and the Indian Dance pageant along the banks of Coon Creek.

You can camp overnight at the unimproved Wiley property – portable toilets and water will be provided - bring a camper or tent if you like. A block of rooms has also been reserved at the [Country Inn and Suites](#) in Stockton with a special rate for those who would like to sleep in a real bed! When making your reservation mention you are with the "Canyon Camp Staff Reunion" (815-947-6060).

Experiencing Canyon Camp vibrant and filled with Scouts engaged in learning outdoor skills is sure to bring back fond memories of our days working together as a Staff and our interactions with so many of those who are the friends of Canyon Camp!

A registration form for the 2016 reunion will be sent at a later date. For now, be sure to mark your calendars for the July 6-7, 2016 Reunion of Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends!

### **15 new members of the Canyon Camp Staff**

Fifteen young men joined the Canyon Camp Staff for their first year on the staff in 2016. Andrew Brown, Jordan Colmark, Riley Cox, Matthew Duff, Benjamin Engelkens, Samuel Hildebrand, Jeremy Luse, Ian Marx, Nathan Merema, Dalton Miles, Eric Miller, Carter Semenchuk, Hayden Urish, Matthew Wasson, and John Wurtzel served in a variety of positions on the Staff. Welcome to these newest Staff members and congratulations of providing a great summer camp experience and imparting through the Spirit of Canyon Camp to hundreds of Scouts who attended summer camp.

### **Fall Woodcutters Ball – October 10 at Canyon Camp**

Don't forget the Kiwanis Woodcutter's Ball on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The traditional Continental Breakfast will be from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Enthusiasm for supporting Canyon Camp is the most important thing for you to bring to the Woodcutters Ball – although there will be work Projects from 9:00 – 1:00, a lunch and social time from 1:00 – 2:00, and additional work projects continuing through the afternoon. We can use support and enthusiasm from everyone – so why not come to Camp on Oct. 10?

### **2015 Summer Camp Report - “Where Boys Become Men” By Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds**

WOW! What a summer! It does not seem possible that a year has passed since we shared with you the summer of 2014. The 2015 season will certainly be one to remember. This is especially true for the 40 member camp staff that worked long and hard each day to carry out yet another successful camp experience for Scouts and leaders. The staff went above and beyond in effort to make sure that every Scout received attention and the chance to pass every merit badge was greatly appreciated.

The “staff week weather curse” returned right on schedule. The directors reported to camp on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The remaining staff reported on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup>, we received approximately 6” of rain. Over the next we had additional rains of 2”, 2”, and 5”. The 5” rain came

with a burst of 70 mph. winds to add to the excitement. Once again we can all be thankful that no one was injured.

There are numbers that will remain in camp history for the summer of 2015. They are:

- 4 – The numbers of days it took to be able to cross the ford to access the farmhouse and barn. Also the number of weeks of traditional Boy Scout summer camping allowed this year.
- 814 – The number of Scouts and leaders that participated in 4 weeks of summer camp. Yes, you read this correctly! Our smallest week minus the camp staff was 195. And yes, the dining hall was crowded.
- 122% - The attendance with staff above our capacity.
- 120 – The number of Cubs and parents that attended our Tiger/Wolf/Bear Cub Camp.
- 85, 560 – The approximate number of plates washed in the dining hall. Thank you Kitchen Staff. A job well done!
- 40 – The size of the 2015 Camp Staff.
- 15 – The number of first year staff members that learned very quickly the philosophy of “That Little Scout That Follows Me.” A group that worked like veterans by the end of the first week of camp.
- Finally... 18 – The number within our director core who put in many tireless hours making sure that all areas put forth the best program possible.

Additional highlights of the 2015 season...

- Over 90 NYLT (National Youth Leader Training) staff & campers
- New merit badges included Salesmanship, Nuclear Science, Pulp & Paper, Personal Management, Family Life, Game Design, and Fingerprinting. It was special to offer Fingerprinting as former staff member, Fred (Brian) Cass, returned to camp each Tuesday to teach some very large groups of Scouts. Fred is now the Chief of Police in Mount Carroll, Illinois. Thank you, Fred!
- Additional stand-up paddleboards and kayaks were added to the Aquatics program.

Camp has been a busy place since the Boy Scouts and Cubs have left camp. The Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society held their training August 13<sup>th</sup> -17 with over 200 participants. The Darlington, WI cross country teams held a mini-camp August 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>. Shullsburg and Cuba City Schools will use camp in September for outdoor education classes.

Canyon Camp continues to provide special memories for youth as well as adults. All in all, 2015 has been a great year for Canyon Camp!

**5 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2015 Camp Staff members**

The Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program began in 1992 with staff alumni contributing funds for the first scholarships. In recent years an endowment has been accumulated to generate a majority of the scholarship funding distributed each year.

There are now four named scholarships awarded each year: Troy Larson Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2005, Dennis Pratt Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2006, Lee Binkley Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2007 and Ronald Spielman Spirit Scholarship first awarded at the 2012 Staff Dinner.

At the 2015 Staff Dinner Camp Directors Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds presented five new scholarships:

- Troy Larson to Tristan Fox, attending Illinois Wesleyan
- Dennis Pratt to Mark Schaer, attending University of Illinois
- Lee Binkley to Alexander Semenchuk, attending University of Minnesota
- Ron Spielman to Aaron Pacheco, attending Arizona State University
- Spirit to David Drefcinski, attending University of Wisconsin Platteville

Through 2015 scholarships totaling \$41,550 have been awarded to 128 recipients. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to over \$70,000 with an ultimate goal to exceed \$125,000 in the endowment.

Scholarship funding comes from staff alumni, Scouters, and Friends of Canyon Camp. Individuals making tax-deductible contributions may select prints of pen and ink drawings of Canyon Camp scenes. To date, artist Elaine Bethke of Monroe has generated ten different prints:

Canyon Camp Bells  
Held Nature Center  
Stagecoach Trail Sign  
Jamboree Cabin  
The Chapel  
Vickery Health Lodge  
Rawleigh Headquarters Building  
Hess Farmstead Barn  
Founder's Lodge  
Dining Hall Historical Signs

If you are interested in supporting the Spirit Scholarship Fund please contact Ron Spielman @ 608-325-6490 or spiel335@tds.net

### **New webs site promotes Canyon Camp**

Dan Dick and Alex Semenchuk (re)launched a website: [Canyon Camp, BSA](#). The goal of this website is to promote the beauty of the facilities at Canyon

Camp for year round use. Dan and Alex's web site should be attractive to troops interested in the Scouting programs offered during the summer and the facilities available to non-scout groups during other times of year. If your group is looking for a place to hold an event --- why not choose Canyon Camp? Dan and Alex welcome any and all suggestions to make their site better.