

**Fall 2016 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter
October 18, 2016**

In this Newsletter:

- **10 new Staff Members at Canyon Camp**
- **2016 Staff and Friends Reunion Report**
- **Fall Woodcutters Ball (October 8) was a success!!**
- **Canyon Camp 2016: 80 years of creating a lifetime of scouting memories - by Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds**
- **6 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2016 Camp Staff members**
- **Greeting Orion – from the blog of Dave Olson**

10 become new Staff Members at Canyon Camp

Joshua Cox, Garrett Duff, Benjamin Ewald, Ethan Gray, Connor Kloss, Stephen Reifsteck, Samuel Saylor, Leanna Schwartzlow, Matthew Tremblay and Drew Wyss joined the Canyon Camp Staff for their first year in 2016. They received a special dose of the Spirit of Canyon Camp as they participated with our Alumni and Friends Reunion held in July. New Staff and old gathered in the Dining Hall to share in singing songs and reminiscing about what it means to be on the Canyon Camp Staff.

2016 Staff and Friends Reunion Report

The Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends gathered July 6-7, 2016 to celebrate the 80th year of great summer camp programming at Canyon Camp!

Kevin Lamm – if the sleep deprivation don't get you the colonoscopy must.

Fall Woodcutters Ball held October 8 at Canyon Camp



The fall Woodcutters Ball was a great success with 26 different projects completed and absolutely spectacular weather. A special Thank You to the Monroe Kiwanis Club for 38 consecutive years of providing the food and materials for the Woodcutter's Ball. The photo above shows a large crew of wood cutters. Keep in mind there are projects for all skill levels and levels of enthusiasm. Be sure to plan on attending the 2017 Spring Work Weekend next year – May 6-7 at Canyon Camp.

Canyon Camp 2016: 80 years of creating a lifetime of scouting memories
By Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds

Yes, 80 years! Canyon Camp was dedicated on July 12th, 1936 and 80 years later we continue to share the “Spirit of Canyon Camp” with another generation of campers. With Scouts, leaders, Cubs, and parents attendance was over 700 for the season. It was great to have 5 sessions rather than the 4 we faced in 2015. Numbers in the dining hall were great and all had a great time.

Once again we were fortunate to assemble a great camp staff...42 members strong. Although young, (each year the staff looks younger for some reason) the group really worked well together. Staff week was once again an opportunity to pass on the history and lore of Canyon Camp to many new staff members. Additionally we shared camp history with the campers at each Sunday night campfire. We continue to operate the camp staff using the patrol method. Many names of the past were used this year to designate the Rawleigh, Koenig, Gustufson, Strohecker, Held, and McCulloch patrols. Once again the staff gave of their free time to make sure every effort was given for Scouts to have every possible opportunity to complete their advancement goals.

Additional highlights of the 2016 season...

- Over 90 NYLT (National Youth Leader Training) staff & campers
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!
- New black powder guns were added to the shooting sports area.
- The First Class area and the Canyon Ranger programs have been revamped and are now the Canyon Ranger Program.
- Tubing on the Apple River, “Are you tougher than a Boy Scout,” and the Canyon Camp Triathlon were added for the O.W.L program participants. Very popular!

Canyon Camp continues to provide special memories for youth as well as adults. All in all 2016 has been a special year for Canyon Camp.

6 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2016 Camp Staff members

The Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program began in 1992 with staff alumni contributing funds for the first scholarships. At the 2016 Staff Dinner Camp Directors Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds presented Spirit Scholarships to:

- Brandon Chiodini: University of Illinois – Urbana: Spirit Scholarship
- Aaron Pacheco: Illinois State University: Spirit Scholarship
- David Drefcinski: Immaculate Heart of Seminary in Winona, MN: Troy Larson Scholarship
- Dawson Laubenstein: St. Ambrose: Dennis Pratt Scholarship
- Kyle Marx: Northern Illinois University: Lee Binkley Scholarship
- Tristan Fox: Illinois Wesleyan University: Ron Spielman Scholarship

Through 2016 scholarships totaling \$43,950 have been awarded to 134 recipients. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to over \$80,000 with an ultimate goal to exceed \$125,000 in the endowment.

There are 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.

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.

Greeting Orion – from the blog of Dave Olson
(Check out more of Dave's writings at <https://bushpilotblog.wordpress.com/>)

The inspection done and the crew gone home,

I slept on a rough plank dock beneath the wing.
Bedroll laid out on a mattress of red life jackets,
A hasty tarp pulled on top at one a.m. when rain spit down for half an hour.

By three in the morning the sky was clear again.
It was still dark, and the wind had calmed.
I rolled over, faced east and — There you were!
For the first time since late March your three-star belt, your scabbard and shield.

“Hello old friend Orion,” I said aloud to the night.
I’ve missed you through these long bright months of spring and summer.
And now it is September, and you are back.
No frost yet, but at dusk the high peaks to the southwest were all white.

Orion, I greet you gladly, but I know what you bring.
Soon you and I will be out in the dark morning, my thick fur hat scrunched down tight,
Nose-hairs frosted, cheeks stinging, fumbling with headlamp and numb fingers,
To warm an icy lump of engine and wrestle with stiff wing-covers.

Orion! A familiar sharpness surges in. The season tilts.
Brother, Old Hunter, climbing into the sky.
May I say, my friend, on this mild night – that you’re looking pretty good?
Somehow softer, less stern? Have you mellowed since I saw you last?

We all do, I guess. And this is nice here, isn’t it?
This gentle warm night, this quiet brown-water pond,
This trusty red plane on its fat white floats,
All tucked up easy against the smooth flank of the mountains.

I smile, close my eyes and drift off again.
Deep growl of a truck, shifting and accelerating, heading for the Yukon.
At sunrise I will fly north to Yellowknife,
And from there northeast to home, and the start of autumn.

Orion is back. Old friend, brother hunter, arm raised, belt cinched,
Good Sirius panting happy at his heels.
But hey – who would want Summer to last all year?
Not you, Winter Star Man, and not me either.

Parker Lake, outside Fort Nelson B.C. 7 September 2016