



Rainbow Reflections

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Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
107 South Ninth Street, Suite B
Canon City, Colorado 81212

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Rainbow Trail is operated and maintained under authority of a USDA Forest Service Special Use Permit. Rainbow Trail is located in the San Isabel National Forest, USDA.

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RTLC South: A Dream in the Making Rainbow Trail On-Site Program Goes to New Mexico

It was a dream for over two years, but on Sunday, July 16, 2017, RTLC South became a reality.

The Rocky Mountain Synod is the largest geographic Synod in the ELCA. It stretches as far north as the northern border of Wyoming, as far south as the Mexico border, as far west as the western border of Utah, and includes all of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and the El Paso area of Texas. For kids from the El Paso area to attend camp at the closest ELCA camp, they would need to drive 10-12 hours. It just wasn't a feasible option.

In the spring of 2015, the leadership of the Border Conference of the Rocky Mountain Synod approached Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp about the possibility of bringing camp a little closer for the people in the southern New Mexico and El Paso region. Kristi Koppel and Laura Carson, Co-Deans of the Border Conference, were

the driving force behind getting this movement started.

After visiting several potential locations, Aspendale Mountain Retreat Center, a Baptist Encampment located in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, was selected for the inaugural week of camp in the area.

On the Saturday before camp, Rainbow Trail loaded a trailer full of recreation equipment, guitars, song sheets, and program materials, as well

as a van full of 10 staff, and headed south for their week of camp. Dave Jarvis, the Executive Director of Rainbow Trail, was part of the leadership team for the week and handled the behind-the-scenes logistics to ensure that the week ran smoothly.

The staff helped lead worship at two congregations in Alamogordo, New Mexico before heading to Aspendale.

Upon arriving at the site, the



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- * Schedule and Fees for Summer 2018
- * Recent RTLC Improvements
- * RTLC Even More Accessible

Rainbow Trail staff unloaded their trailer and walked the site to make it their own. They named areas that were familiar from their site up north such as the fire circle and made up names for new areas such as the Gratch (the gravel patch).

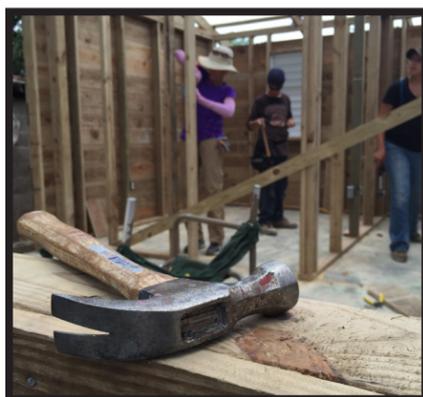
At 3 pm, the first junior high and senior high campers arrived and the camp week began. The first night was a little rough because, for 31 of the 43 campers that attended, this was their

RTLC SOUTH, PAGE 2

Kids at Heart

Adulting can be hard. There are bills to pay, the grass to mow, work to attend to, and kids to take care of. The most difficult part of being an adult has to be when parents leave their kids at camp for a week. Not necessarily because these parents will miss their kids so much during the days apart, but rather because the adults want a camp experience for themselves. Rainbow Trail is making an effort to serve the needs of adults and spark the adventurous spirit inside those who have more years than traditional camper.

Not only does On-site programming at Rainbow Trail already offer two weeks of Family Camp during the summer and a Labor Day Weekend Family Camp, but the other



RTLC programs are also building programming for non-traditional aged campers.

Compass Points has already implemented "Into the Wild," a backpacking trip designed for graduating high school seniors, into its



programming for multiple years. Now, RTLC is offering an open registration trip for adults during the summer! Any interested adults can sign up for an incredible week in the mountains, led by our talented summer guides!

Bridging Borders, Rainbow

Trail's service trip ministry, is also broadening programming to Spring Break trips, college group trips, staff alumni trips, and adult trips. You and your closest friends can serve alongside our Travel Directors building houses, helping with hurricane relief, or even helping build relationships and build a medical clinic in Riobamba, Ecuador.

You don't have to join a pre-scheduled trip in order to enjoy and serve on these life changing trips. Your congregation, your Bible study, your Thursday night Yoga group, your fantasy football league, and even your child's friends' parents can gather a group for a charter trip. Contact us at 719-276-5233 or online at rainbowtrail.org for more info!

Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

Through the ministries of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, God claims us, Christ transforms us, and the Holy Spirit sends us for faithful service.

Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director

This has been a very different fall for me. Usually there is an enormous amount of preparation for the next year – brochures, postcards, updating applications, creating the 2018 budget, producing videos, and things like that. But in September, the RTALC Board granted me some sabbatical time to take this fall. So, on October 16th, I took my first two weeks off to just be. This was a big change for me, and as much as I have resisted taking the time, I have really appreciated it and enjoyed doing some things at home that there has never been time for. It has also given some time to reflect on what I get to do here day in and day out. Grateful is the only word that comes to mind. I feel so blessed that this is what I get to call my life's work.

We had another amazing summer. We were blessed with a very safe summer and no threat of fires. The summer staff was outstanding.

There were a lot of new faces but they quickly became the face of RTALC. They loved kids whole-heartedly and were faithful witnesses for Christ. I loved this group. I loved their energy, their persistence, and their sense of adventure. They were just fun to do ministry with! I want to give a special shout out to the team that went to Ecuador with Nellie and me, as well as the RTALC South gang. Both of those experiences will be memories for a lifetime!

There are so many people that helped make the summer of 2017 as powerful and successful as it was. Once again, we had an awesome Bible Study that helped us all understand how to "Break the rules" for the sake of love. The writers did an amazing job of creating a study that was so timely and impacted real life. Everyone is wearing their delta shaped necklaces from summer as a reminder. Thank you to Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward, Pastor Nicole' Ferry, Pastor Dave Risendal, Pastor Jane Jebsen, and Pastor Michael Tassler for all of the extra time you commit to our ministry to make our program better. You have been a blessing to this ministry and to me!

I also want to thank all of our partner congregations for their support of Rainbow Trail. These congregations have become the financial foundation upon which we are able to build this ministry. There have been several new congregations that have joined this group in 2017. They have given, and given very generously this year. Because of their support, along with our many donors, RTALC continues to grow and serve in new ways. There are now 65 partner congregations that contribute to this ministry. Thank you for seeing us as partners in your ministry and in the faith development of your youth and families. Invite your congregation to be a partner if they aren't already!

I also want to thank our Synod office folks for supporting Rainbow Trail in so many ways. Deacon Erin Powers joined us for our end-of-staff training banquet and worship service in which Erin commissioned our summer staff for their ministry. Bishop Jim Gonia joined us again to close out our summer at our closing banquet and to lead Eucharist at worship. Thank you both for knowing the power of outdoor ministry and seeing it as a vital part of the ministries of this Synod.

Finally, I want to thank our full-time staff for their love and dedication to Rainbow Trail. I love this crew! They ALL truly view what they do as ministry. Whether it is Chris in the kitchen, Tammi and Aurice in the office, or Ben, Sam, Jordan, and Kyle on the trail, on our site, or out at congregations, you all represent this ministry so well. Thanks for being my partner in ministry!

There is some new movement in the land exchange process. We are hoping to officially submit our land exchange proposal this fall. The Forest Service then will decide if they have the personnel to manage our land exchange. The Rainbow Trail Board is exploring taking a Legislative route (through the U.S. Congress) if the local Forest Service does not have the capacity to handle our exchange through the normal Administrative route. If we go that direction, there will be approximately \$60,000 in additional funding that would be needed to cover that process. So there are some options for us in the relatively near future. We will keep you informed as things progress.

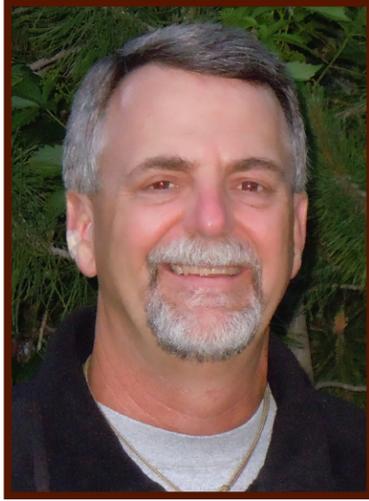
Our LOM (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries) conference is being held in Breckenridge this fall. LOM also hosts a Leadership Training Event for outdoor ministry professionals that is held just prior to the conference. Rainbow Trail has the honor of hosting that event this year. Jordan Jensen, our Director of Retreat Ministries, has done an outstanding job of coordinating our end of things so that it will be a wonderfully successful event. We are excited to have so many outdoor ministry professionals on our site and to have the chance to share a little bit of the magic of our mountain!

Nell and I have a new pup! As most of you know, we lost Roxy in June of 2016. We went more than a year without a dog in the house. Anyone that knows us knows that we are dog people. Nell asked what I wanted for my birthday this year and I said a new dog! We picked up Dakota in Houston, Texas the day before Hurricane Harvey moved into that area. We left Denver at 9:30 am on the Friday right after camp was over and were back in Denver by midnight the same night. Dakota has been a joy. Part of my sabbatical time is getting to be with her and train her so she is ready for a 1,000 kids next summer!

We just received the very sad news that Grandpa Fred Ehlers passed away on Tuesday, October 31st. Grandpa Fred has been a part of our ministry for the last eight years. Fred came to camp as a Camp Grandpa in 2010 for one week. Over the years, Fred embraced the role, and this past summer Fred was with us for four weeks. He loved kids, loved getting to know their names, and loved sharing the love of Jesus with them. Fred found out in early October that he had stage 4 pancreatic cancer. We went to spend time with him on Monday. We talked, we prayed, and we sang several songs including Song of Blessing that we close every week of camp with. It was hard to fight back the tears when the words of that song become real. Fred, we love you and you will be dearly missed.

Thanks again for the opportunity to continue to serve you through this amazing place. We are hoping that 2018 will be a banner year for Rainbow Trail. Come join us for the journey!!

Dave



RTLC SOUTH, CONTINUED

first week of church camp. Most of the campers didn't know the songs or even the patterns and routines of camp life, but by mid-week, everyone was on board and singing boisterously.

All campers had the opportunity to contribute to the life of camp by planning and leading worship with their village under the guidance of their counselors. They also provided very creative all-camp activities each night for everyone to participate in.

Campers participated in numerous camp activities including hiking, daily Bible Study, leading worship, doing archery, participating in both low and high ropes, playing Gaga Ball and 9 Square In The Air, and creating arts and crafts. The power of the week, however, was the relationships that formed between campers and staff as well as with the 11 Pastors and Adult Leaders that attended camp with their kids.

Since everything was new, everything that was done established a

new tradition. At our closing worship on Friday morning, we talked about the fact that these campers had been risk takers and were willing to take a chance for all of those campers that will come behind them.

The campers came from all over the Border Conference Region. The group was comprised of campers from both Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations from El Paso, Texas, and congregations from Las Cruces, Hobbs, Alamogordo, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. New relationships were built between congregations that came from the same town. Friendships were formed between youth groups that promised to get together after camp.

There is already talk of RTALC South 2018. This week is becoming a tradition we expect to continue for a very long time. Special thanks to Kristi Koppel and Laura Carson for their bigger vision of camping ministry in the Border Conference and for them never giving up on that dream.

11th Annual Grace Race a Huge Success

The 11th Annual Grace Race was blessed with a picture perfect day and an enthusiastic crowd. Those participating helped make a difference that day by raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. 160 participants and volunteers came out for the race. Erin Powers, from the Rocky Mountain Synod, joined us representing the ELCA World Hunger Network offices in Chicago. There was also a great post-race party with burgers and fabulous music. People stuck around and picnicked following the race. The top female was Nicole Goetzl with a time of 23:13. The top male finisher and overall fastest time this year was Steven Kohuth with a time of 19:53. All the top times for all the age groups will be posted on our



website. The final totals are not in but it looks like we will be able to send a check for about \$6,500 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The 12th annual Grace Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, October 6, 2018 in Sloan's Lake Park starting at 4:00 pm. Put it on your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you there next year!

Grace Race Sponsors

Luther College Sponsors

Dave and Nellie Jarvis
Jim & Judy Myra
Rick & Jill Reed

Augustana University Sponsors

Dave and Nellie Jarvis
Dave and Carissa Cruson
Nicole Grinager

Congregation Sponsors

Abiding Hope, Littleton, CO
Atonement Lutheran, Boulder, CO
Augustana Lutheran, Denver, CO

Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO

Bethlehem Lutheran, Longmont, CO
Evergreen Lutheran, Evergreen, CO
Holy Love Lutheran, Aurora, CO
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Littleton, CO
Mt. of the Holy Cross, Vail, CO
St. Peter Lutheran, Greenwood Village, CO
Trinity Lutheran, Monument, CO

City Market, Canon City, CO

Brand Evolutions West, Golden, CO

Thrivent Financial Action Team

Register for 2018 Summer Camps Starting November 1, 2017



Registration for 2018 opens November 1, 2017 for Rocky Mountain Synod congregations. Register early as camps will fill quickly! We encourage you to register online at www.rainbowtrail.org even if you're outside of the RMS. You'll be put on the waitlist in the order received for January 1st, when registration opens to all. You can also download the registration form and mail

it in. A big thank you goes to Matt Olin who used his artistic gifts and creative talents to design an incredible brochure and postcard again this year! Brochures have been mailed to congregations and postcards were mailed to all who attended camp this past summer. Those interested in Family Camp and Labor Day can register online as well. Please don't wait to register! We look forward to spending summer 2018 with you!

Golden Opportunity Provides Drastic Site Improvements



Last year Rainbow Trail was presented with an incredible opportunity to make major site improvements thanks to a large donation and matching funds from various other gracious donors. We exceeded the money we thought we would raise and promptly begun improvements in time for summer. The spring was filled with contractors and volunteer groups alike. Everything kicked off with the removal and installation of a new Poly-Crete floor for the kitchen. The new floor has been a huge upgrade to the original floor which had been installed over hardwood floors and was beginning to crack at all the board joints. This floor may just outlast the building!

Other huge transformations that took place were the remodels of Calypso, Geranium and the installation of a new wood floor in Purple Aster. The renovations in these cabins have breathed new life into them, and made them some of our nicest lodging on-site. We were also able to replace both the hot water heater and booster water heater in Aspen. There are already plans to continue cabin remodels this winter and spring with the hope of all cabins being upgraded and heated by summer 2018. Thanks to all that donated to this incredible cause and also to those work groups that gave their time and energy to make some much needed cosmetic and infrastructure changes.



Simply Sam

By Sam Berglund - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

This September has been a whirlwind up here at camp, retreats coming and going and summer 2018 bookings in full swing. I can't believe the summer season has already come and gone here in Hillside, it feels like just last week we were preparing for staff arrivals and scheduling Day Camp teams and Compass Points trips. But regardless of the quick turnaround, there is truly no other place I would rather be and I feel blessed to live and serve in a place and community with as much love, laughter and genuine passion as this place.



This past summer was another one for the books. Our Compass Points program continued to offer kids and adults a space in God's wild country: exploring the trails, testing their limits and growing spiritually in a safe place, apart from everyday pressures and distractions.

We look forward to another full summer of trips on the mountain and are already taking bookings for the 2018 season, as well as offering new open trips for individuals interested in the Compass Points experience. I'm particularly excited about the Adult Open trip we have planned for the summer, offering the same Rainbow Trail experience to adults that are ready for a week of their own in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

The Day Camp program this year was as full as ever, sending groups all across the Rocky Mountain Synod and beyond to provide the camp experience to a vast array of church communities. The Day Camp program provides a unique opportunity for churches to connect within their congregations and local communities with the energy and programming that come with camp staff. We are continually blessed with how many different church communities we get to be a part of every single year, and staff always return to us rested, well-fed and full of kid quotes and stories from the week. Although it seems that last summer just ended, our 2018 Day Camp schedule is nearly full already and we look forward to working with a vast array of churches again this summer.

Although it feels like we dove straight into a busy retreat season, I enjoyed a much-needed week of rest and adventure in the boundary waters which I'm convinced needs to be on everyone's bucket list (You won't regret it). I loved every minute of the quiet beauty in northern Minnesota and can't wait to plan another trip. Currently I'm getting ready to spend a week back in Montana for one of my best friend's weddings and although I'm not particularly excited to ride a snowy chairlift in a bridesmaid's dress (she's getting married on a local ski hill), I look forward to seeing old friends, being back in Montana, and celebrating this very exciting next step in her life.

Already the air is crisp here in Salida, the leaves are red and the peaks are fully covered with snow, and I can't believe it was only a month ago that summer came to an end for us here at Rainbow Trail. I am so blessed to get to work in a place that provides as many opportunities for God's work as this place does. Prayers for this busy time for all of us is greatly appreciated and as always thanks for a great summer and I look forward to seeing you up here on your next visit on the mountain!

24 Hours to Give Where You Live!



On Tuesday, **December 5, 2017**, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for nonprofits like ours. Last year \$33.8 million was distributed to 2,111 different nonprofits throughout Colorado! RTLC raised \$80,622 in that 24-hour period. Our goal this year is to raise \$85,000. All funds raised will go toward the Annual Fund.

Since we are still in the middle of the land exchange process, some people have shifted their annual fund donation toward the Land Exchange Capital Appeal. But we still need our annual fund to sustain day-to-day operations. You don't need to live in Colorado to give on this day! Anyone can give from anywhere!! No matter where you live, mark your calendars for Colorado Gives!

December 5, 2017

WELCOME DAKOTA!

We would like everyone to meet Dakota! A pure-bred Golden Retriever, Dakota joined the RTLC dog pack this fall as a part of the Jarvis family. Dave and Nellie flew into Houston the day before Hurricane Harvey made landfall, and then flew out the same day to bring Dakota home. She's incredibly loving, sweet, and adorable. She can't wait to melt your hearts at camp! Just give her that chance. Photo credit: Mike Saathoff



RTLC Searching for 2018 Camp Nurse

We were blessed with an outstanding nurse in 2016 and 2017, namely Sara Tinklenberg. She did a great job of keeping our kids and staff safe while they were at camp. Sara has taken a full-time nursing position so she will not be able to return for another summer. So, we are looking for a camp nurse for summer 2018. Ideally, we would love for them to serve the whole summer, from May 28-August 19, 2018. We do need an RN to meet state and ACA standards. If you or someone you know is interested, please have them contact Dave by email at dave@rainbowtrail.org or call the Canon City office at 719-276-5233.

Just Jordan

By Jordan Jensen - Director of Retreats



Happy fall, everyone!

It has been a busy one up at Rainbow Trail. We have had groups on our site every weekend since the end of summer. Outside of my time at camp, I have been sure to take advantage of the beautiful weather and the sight of the changing leaves. It was the perfect backdrop for my recent adventures out west as well as the engagement pictures that Ben and I took at the beginning of October. We had a blast being outside and hiking all over Mueller State Park with our photographer. We can't wait for our wedding next fall!

It feels like the summer came and went in a flash. The three months started with a good two weeks of staff training and a last minute trip to the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico where we helped

dig a trench to run a waterline to our host church. I was even able to be a part of a few weeks of camp in between preparations for the fall retreat season. I felt thankful to have the opportunity to work so closely with staff. Although the summer was packed full of programming, I still had the chance to spend some time with family.

Three of my cousins, my aunt, my mom, my sister, and my sister's friend came out to Colorado, from Iowa, for an entire week. My three cousins got to experience a week of camp while the rest of us explored Colorado. We visited Rocky Mountain National Park, The Incline, Garden of the Gods, and ate all of the best foods in Colorado Springs. It was great to show some of my favorite people around the state that I love. I am so thankful for their willingness to make the trip and explore!

Luna has been another great exploring buddy this summer and fall. Not only is she fearless, she also pushes me to get outside. After multiple hikes and trips to the dog park, she has far surpassed me in speed and agility. My once clumsy puppy is now a (almost) graceful dog. She loves her role as "camp dog" and is always more than happy to greet campers with a wiggly backside and a lick on the cheek. Come visit her soon!

Blessings to you all on your coming holiday travels. I wish you the best this season as we all continue to figure out how to love others and walk humbly with Him. As I continue to look upon my experiences at Rainbow Trail, I am constantly reminded of the amazing community it has given me. Thank you all for being a part of it!

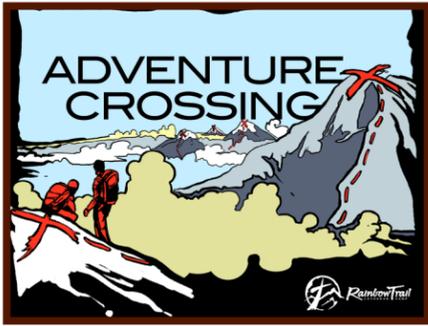
Day Camp Vehicle Needed

Did you know that Rainbow Trail drove over 70,000 miles last year? Do you have a gently used minivan you're considering trading in or selling? Why not donate it to Rainbow Trail and watch it live on for many more years? RTLC is in need of a reliable minivan that can seat a minimum of five people and their luggage. If you think you've got a vehicle that might benefit RTLC, email kyle@rainbowtrail.org or call (303) 902-5940. Remember, donations are tax deductible!

Upcoming Events

RTLCL Senior High Retreat

November 17 - 19, 2017



Join us at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp on November 17-19, 2017 for a weekend in the wilderness filled with fun camp activities, a thought provoking study, enthusiastic RTLCL staff, delicious home-made meals, and serenity that only the mountains can offer. Along with the Rainbow Trail staff, this weekend will be led by the Director of Mission, Youth, and Family Ministries at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, Scott Moore.

The study, "Adventure Crossing", will center around the idea that we all have a piece of God that is unique to only us. Our individual stories are unlike anyone else's, however they are interwoven in the stories of everyone we meet. The question we must ask

ourselves is, "How does my story intersect God's story?"

Senior high youth will have the opportunity to dance, hike, craft, play, and laugh with each other as they learn and enjoy God's creation. Do not miss out on this opportunity to dive into meaningful time together. Sign up soon!

The retreat fees are \$135 per youth and \$100 per adult with a non-refundable \$35 per youth deposit. This all-inclusive fee covers, food, lodging, all activities, staff leadership and an awesome t-shirt and other giveaways to take with you. You can find all the registration details and other information online at rainbowtrail.org/senior-high-gathering. Register now to be a part of this unforgettable, spirit-filled weekend!



Adventfest

December 1 - 3, 2017

Don't get caught up in the hectic holiday hustle and bustle. Come get away and retreat to RTLCL, and celebrate the real reason for the season: Jesus. Adventfest is a great way for families to prepare for the arrival of our Lord. The worship services will focus on the four Sundays of Advent and will be led by Pastor Russ Britton.

There will also be time for kids and adults to create great Christmas gifts. Adult crafts for this year include stained glass, woodcarving, dipped candle making, wooden lamps, pinecone Christmas wreaths, pottery glazing, aspen log candle holders, loom woven potholders, and woven baskets. Adults and kids ages 13 and older are able to participate in two crafts during the weekend. Each craft costs \$12.00 for instruction and materials. Kids' Korner includes a variety of things including sledding (weather permitting), crafts, cookie baking, and games! Kids' Korner is for kids ages 4-12. Babysitting will also be available during the weekend. The cost of both Kids' Korner and babysitting is \$15.00 per person for the weekend. In addition, you can cut your Christmas tree off of RTLCL's site for only a \$10 Forest Service permit fee.

This has all the makings of a great family tradition!

Adventfest starts on Friday evening and runs through lunch on Sunday. This is a great weekend to relax and truly enjoy the season with your family. The cost of this weekend of fellowship and renewal is \$80 for adults and \$40 for kids ages 4-12. Kids 3 and under are free (crafts are additional).

Registrations are due no later than November 24th. Space is limited and a 50% non-refundable deposit is due with your registration. You can register online!



Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Greetings to my RTLCL family! I am so happy to be writing my second article for you. Usually at this point in time I can talk about things slowing down and being calmer. That is SO not the case this Fall! The craziness of summer followed right on through. This summer was very busy as always. But when I think about it, I realize how fortunate I am to see all my returning kiddos' and my family campers. It's like having 3 family reunions every year! The loving hugs keep my motor running! This was a very eventful spring and summer for me. I have a new fella, a new truck and bought my house! I feel that I am truly blessed. There are several people I would like to send special thanks to. Dawn Meyers, thank you so, so, much for purchasing floor mats for the kitchen! Grandma Ruth and Kris Erikson, thank you for all the love, support and help you gave to me in the kitchen this summer. Without you my sanity may have been in question! Finally to all the volunteers who gave of themselves and their time to brave the craziness of our camp kitchen, thank you, thank you, thank you! Ok, so let's get to the part you really want to read; helpful hints and recipes! Did you know Basil plants will repel mosquitoes and flies? Just keep a couple of plants around the house. Bay leaves should be placed in all kitchen drawers and in the flour and sugar containers to keep crawling insects away. Mice can't stand the smell of fresh peppermint. Plant it around the outside of the house to keep them away. Oil of Peppermint placed on a piece of cloth and placed in their favorite location will also work. For my last hint, it concerns those pesky ants. To keep ants away, place whole cloves or sage around the windows and doors or anywhere else they appear. This works great! Now on to the good stuff, recipes! I am giving you the three most requested recipes from this summer. As you know after our kitchen went nut free I had to put on my thinking cap and come up with a substitute for Snicker Bars. What I came up with was a granola bar that was very well received and is super easy to make! You will need, 2/3 cup oil, 1 & 1/4 cup honey, 1 Tbl+ 1 tsp cinnamon, 2/3 cup packed brown sugar, 1 & 1/2 cup your choice of dried fruit, and 3 & 3/4 cups quick cook oatmeal. Spray a 9x13 pan with no stick spray. combine oil, honey, cinnamon and brown sugar in a pot on the stove. Bring to a full rolling boil. Boil for 2 minutes without stirring. Combine fruit and oatmeal in a large bowl. Add honey mixture and stir till well blended. Spread evenly in pan and press flat. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20-25 minutes or till light brown. Cool for 30 minutes. Carefully remove from pan in one piece. Cut to desired size and individually wrap. Bars freeze quite well! Because you are not at camp, you may add nuts, chocolate chips or whatever strikes your fancy! The next recipe is one that Ben Jarvis brought back from a Day Camp a few years ago and has been a staff favorite ever since! Banana Cookies, you will need, 1/4 cup butter, 1/2 cup Crisco, 3/4 cup granulated sugar, 1 egg, 1/2 tsp. Vanilla, 2 mashed ripe bananas, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. Baking soda, 2 1/2 cups flour. Cream shortening and sugar together. Add egg, vanilla and bananas. Mix well. Combine dry



ingredients; add to creamed mixture and stir. Drop heaping teaspoons of dough onto parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes; only edges should be brown. For the frosting (yes I said frosting!) you will need, 1/4 cup butter, 1/4 cup 1/2 & 1/2 you may substitute evaporated milk if you don't have the 1/2 & 1/2, 1/4 cup + 2 Tbl brown sugar, 1/2 tsp. Vanilla and 2 1/2 cup powdered sugar. Melt butter in a saucepan; add 1/2 & 1/2 and brown sugar. Bring to a boil and cook for 1 1/2 minutes. Remove from heat; add vanilla and enough powdered sugar to make a frosting that's a little runny. Spread warm frosting on warm cookies. Might want to make a double batch of these because they will go fast! And finally, one for the upcoming holidays. Caramel Corn; you will need 6 qts. Popped corn (if you are short on time use store bought) 2 sticks butter, 1/4 cup lite Caro Syrup, 1/4 cup molasses, 2 cups packed brown sugar, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp vanilla and 1/2 tsp baking soda. In a medium pot melt butter; add Caro Syrup, molasses, brown sugar and salt. Bring to a full rolling boil. Then cook for 5 minutes without stirring. Remove from heat; add vanilla and baking soda. Mixture will foam up. Carefully pour over popcorn (this stuff is molten hot!) mix until well coated. Bake at 250 degrees for 45 minutes, stirring 1/2 way through. Remove from oven and stir a couple of times while cooling or you will have one giant popcorn ball! Wishing you and your's a blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. Don't forget my favorite retreat of the year; Advent Fest! Always remember, God Is Great!

Till Next Time,

Chris

Be a Difference Maker!

Trailblazers and Pathfinders are Rainbow Trail's annual giving clubs that sustain and allow our ministry to grow. Your gifts help us cover the expenses of the day-to-day operations of camp. For as little as \$10 a month, or \$120 a year, you can become a Trailblazer and make a huge difference in everything that happens here at camp! Pathfinders are those that would like to give a little more. For \$1,000 or more a year, you can become a Pathfinder and can make a bigger difference in this incredible ministry. From Day Camp to Bridging Borders to On-Site ministries to camperships to helping start RTLCL South week in southern New Mexico, Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences. We need your support more than ever.



Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail has been reduced in recent years. You can join by simply making your gift to Rainbow Trail. If you are interested in knowing more about Trailblazers or Pathfinders, please contact Dave at the Canon City office (719-276-5233) or by e-mail at dave@rainbowtrail.org.

Jam Session

By Ben Jarvis - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders

It has been an eventful summer and fall here at camp. There is so much to be excited about and thankful for. We had more campers on-site this summer than we've ever had. We sent multiple trips to Ecuador to work with Marco on his dream of constructing a medical clinic for his community. Our staff led dozens of Day Camps with congregations across the Synod. Our Director team led teams on trail and on the road through our Compass Points and Bridging Borders programs. Finally, RTLCSouth was a huge success, as Dave and Ali led a team of staff to New Mexico for a powerful and Spirit-filled week.

The biggest blessing in all of this was working alongside some absolutely incredible women and men that said "yes" to a summer of ministry. Our staff this summer was wonderfully talented, selflessly dedicated, and incredibly caring. Week after week throughout the summer, I was moved by these fun-loving individuals, as they gave 100% of themselves to their campers. They showed God's love to one another and to me. Summer at camp can be challenging. It's comprised of long hours, exhausting schedules, and constant mindfulness. But if I had to nail down one thing I love about summer, it is that I get to work with inspiring people in a beautiful place, spreading the love of such a graceful God.

Fall has been a whirlwind. Jordan has filled the retreating schedule to the brim with wonderful groups using our site during these non-summer months. It's a good thing that we have Daniel and Faith joining us for these 9 months as our Program Assistants. We will need their help! They also have a wealth of experience from working at other camps, which will provide us with a new perspective and a healthy re-evaluation of how we do things here at RTLCS.

On a personal note, it is a fun time of life for me right now. Jordan and I are engaged and in the midst of planning for our 2018 wedding. We've already gotten some of the major planning out of the way, and we are starting to look at details more closely now. I've also attended multiple weddings this fall, some of which are camp couples' weddings, and I will attend more before the end of the year. It feels a bit like shopping for ideas for our wedding, while supporting close friends, of course. At any rate, amidst the planning, anticipation, and celebration, it's a very fun time of life.

I've got much to be thankful for. While not everything in life always goes perfectly, friends are good, love is good, and God is good. Hope to see you at camp in the near future. Until then, blessings to you and yours.



Rainbow Trail Welcomes Daniel and Faith!

This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed two new Program Assistants for the 2017-2018 retreat season. We can't wait for you to meet them! They bring amazing gifts to this ministry, valuable experience, and will be an asset to all we serve this retreat season. Come visit us this retreat season and get a chance to know these two!



Daniel Kirschbaum

Daniel grew up in Tomah, Wisconsin and has been in love with outdoor ministry his whole life. Daniel spent five summers on staff and was a lifelong camper at a camp in Wisconsin. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin Madison in May, he is beyond excited to be exploring the mountains, Colorado, and Rainbow Trail! He loves board games, hiking, canoeing, and worship music and can't wait to see where God takes him in the next few years!



Faith VerBruggen

Faith has traveled to Rainbow Trail all the way from Green Bay, Wisconsin and can't wait for a year in the mountains of Colorado. Faith loves camping ministry, and can't imagine a better life than being outdoors while sharing the love of Jesus with others. Some of Faith's favorite things are sunsets, coffee, musicals, good books, Chacos, and time spent with family and friends. A recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay, Faith hopes to continue on in camping ministry, and eventually use her degree in Psychology to create camp programming dedicated to sharing the love and hope of Jesus with those struggling with depression and anxiety.

HELP RTLC WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2017 of \$42,000 and we still think that goal is very attainable. With that kind of increase, not only can we continue to provide camperships but we can also possibly upgrade some of the equipment on our site.

Here is how you can help. You will need to go out to Thrivent's website each quarter to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars. This is the only way to ensure that your Thrivent Choice dollars will make it

to Rainbow Trail each quarter. Go to <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/thrivent-choice/> and follow the steps to make your designation.

If you have friends that are Thrivent members and who have not designated their Thrivent Choice dollars, please encourage them to designate those Thrivent Choice dollars to Rainbow Trail. We heard that there was still close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can make a world of difference!

Gifts that Give Back

The holidays are upon us! We wanted to remind you of some awesome ways to contribute to Rainbow Trail through your gift giving this season.

If you purchase any gifts on Amazon, you can buy the same gifts on AmazonSmile.com. When you do this, a percentage of your total purchase goes toward a non-profit of your choosing, including Rainbow Trail!

Another great gift idea is to order Rainbow Trail Blend coffee on our website! This is the same local, fresh-roasted coffee that we specially selected with Mission Coffee Roasters, and that we brew at camp. It even comes in a beautifully designed bag! But the best part is that all coffee sale profits go to camperships to help kids come to camp or other special causes within this ministry.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Hannah Harman & Leo Walter's wedding
Laurie Mohler

In Honor of Kristin Lynn
Barbara Exley

In Honor of Johanna Crock & Tyler
Warner's wedding
Laurie Mohler

In Honor of Tom's 90th Birthday
Dave Guinn

Help Us Light Up Our Site!

Retreating at Rainbow Trail has taken off in a pretty significant way since adding a Director of Retreat Ministries to the full-time team. While this is a great addition to the ministry happening here, it has shown us some of the needs that we have overlooked in some of our main buildings. The main room of Columbine is used often in retreat season as a meeting space, a game space, and as a worship space. The multi-use nature of this room is wonderful, but the lighting in this room lacks the same versatility. In an attempt for our site to provide our growing retreating program every accommodation and quality space, the lights in Columbine will be changed to dimmers. But this project is a bigger undertaking than it may appear at first glance.

A few years back, all light bulbs onsite were changed out to CFL bulbs. As those bulbs start to go out, they are being replaced with LED equivalents that will last for years to come and cut down even greater on energy consumption. If we were to purchase LED bulbs for all of our buildings, it would cost between two and three thousand dollars! To help cushion the expense and to assist us in transforming some of our spaces at RTLCS, we are asking for donations of dimmable LED light bulbs. In an effort to keep things consistent, we have selected two readily available light bulbs that can be donated and brought with you the next time you come to camp. Check out our Needs and Wish list either in the newsletter or online for more details.

SPECIAL REQUEST!

Rainbow Trail is in the beginning stages of remodeling Bristlecone. We are hoping to replace all 10 matching dressers in the downstairs rooms and add more beautiful camp photos on canvas prints throughout the building. If you are interested in contributing, please email ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org for details.

Sight to Site

By Kyle Larson - Director of Site and Facilities

Happy fall! I hope everyone is enjoying the best season of the year! We've had a strange short fall this year at camp with snow early in the season and a lot of wind. Those two coupled together certainly made for a short few weeks of fall. The site already looks like the middle of winter!



It seems like just days ago that I was preparing for our annual Memorial Day work weekend. As always, we had incredible volunteers and contractors who gave of their time to make our site shine before summer. This year was particularly special because we had 142 people; that's the largest crew we've ever had! There was certainly no lack of work to be done and everyone seemed to find a project that worked well with their skills. This year we added a new deck to the back side of Bristlecone lodge, replaced both first and second bridges, remodeled and updated Purple Aster, remodeled one of the bathrooms in Golden Banner, installed new track lighting in Aspen, and changed the hill above the volleyball court into stair stepped terraces. Those are just the big improvements that happened; there was also normal site cleaning, wood chipping, firewood splitting and so much more going on. If you haven't been to RTLCL since last year, I hope you can find some time this winter to come and check out all the improvements. We're blessed to have such talented people who give of their time and skills to constantly make our site better. Plans are already underway for next year!

Summers seem to go by faster and faster with each passing year. This year was no different but it was in large part due to the great staff who poured themselves into this ministry 100 percent. I've been a part of many summer staff communities but this year was something special. They all seemed to form as a family almost immediately and that made the summer one of the best I've been blessed to witness. A key piece of why it was so great was the work of Chad Nelsen, Sands Simonton and the whole camphand crew. They all did a phenomenal job of not only making sure things in the background were running smoothly but also being a welcoming presence for all who were a part of summer 2017. Thanks for all your work and laughs this summer guys! Hope to see you all next summer!

Life post summer for me has been a good mix of relaxation and finishing up my house in Salida. The week after camp I was lucky enough to be part of a group that went to the Boundary Waters for a bit of rest and relaxation. It was great to be out in creation and completely disconnected from the outside world. I hope that trip is the first of many for me. In other news, I'm FINALLY rounding the corner on the total renovation of my house. Things are really coming together and I should (fingers crossed) have my final walkthrough done before Christmas. What an incredible Christmas gift that would be!

Till next time

Kyle

2017 Memorial Day Work Weekend

Memorial Day has become as much a tradition at Rainbow Trail as anything else we do. We typically have over 120 people that come and join in this annual work weekend to get camp ready for summer. If the list of projects from last year is any indication (building a new loft in the Arts and Crafts room in the Pavilion; installing log siding, new ceiling and new lighting on both sides of the interior of Purple Aster cabin; remodeling the handicap accessible bathrooms in Golden Banner; building a new deck on the backside of Bristlecone Lodge; installing new track lighting in Aspen dining Hall; building a new retaining wall by the volleyball court; building new first and second bridges, and much more), we'll be sure to have another busy and memorable weekend! The dates for 2018



are May 25-28, 2018. Call the Canon City office at (719) 276-5233 or email Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org to reserve your spot at this fun and rewarding weekend. This weekend does fill up quickly and typically has a waiting list. Reserve your spot today!

Memorial Day Donor

Are you considering a yearly gift to Rainbow Trail but don't know where you'll see a tangible return? Look no further! Each Memorial Day weekend Rainbow Trail hosts roughly 120 volunteers to make major improvements to our site and prepare for summer. What some might not know is that Rainbow Trail spends around \$20,000 in materials for the weekend! With the help of experienced contractors and careful planning, we believe we receive between \$40,000 and \$50,000 worth of labor in just three days! Rainbow Trail is seeking donors that are passionate about site improvements and would be willing to fund part or all of our annual Memorial Day work weekend. If interested, email kyle@rainbowtrail.org or call (303) 902-5940.

OPENING NEW DOORS TO ACCESSIBILITY

Rainbow Trail has always been a place that is welcoming to all. However, because of the ruggedness of our site, we have not been as accessible as we've wanted to be for those in wheelchairs. In 2017, RTLCL took some major strides forward in opening our site to everyone. Both of the bathrooms in Golden Banner are being remodeled to meet current ADA code and will be ready for next summer. Also, this past summer, Rainbow Trail bought a brand new all-terrain motorized wheelchair that can maneuver on all of our trails, as well as in our buildings. We were able to purchase this chair with help from grants from the Augustana Lutheran Church and the Bethany Lutheran Church Foundations. If you know people that have hesitated about coming to Rainbow Trail because of our lack of accessibility and rough terrain, spread



the word that things are improving and we will continue to work to make our site available to all who want to come! Contact Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org if you need more information.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

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Augustana Foundation Fund, Denver
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Bill & Charlotte Dausses
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Rocky Mountain ELCA
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Dave Young

2018 Summer Schedule

The Rainbow Trail summer 2018 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$445 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which will be \$230. The week of August 12-18 has a special rate of \$425. Family camp fees are \$445 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$335 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$230 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

- May 25-28.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 28-June 9.....Staff Training
- June 10-16.....Junior High #1
- June 17-20.....Intro To Camp #1
- June 17-23.....Junior #1
- June 20-23.....Intro To Camp #2
- June 24-30.....Confirmation #1
- July 1-7.....Family Camp #1
- July 8-14.....Senior High #1
- July 15-21.....Confirmation #2
- July 22-28.....Senior High #2
- July 22-28.....Open Sr. High Compass Points
- July 29-August 4.....Open Jr. High Compass Point
- July 29-August 1.....Intro #3
- July 29-August 4.....Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
- August 5-11.....Family Camp #2
- August 12-18.....Mixed Junior #3/Junior High #3
- August 31- September 2.....Labor Day Family Weekend

To find out more about these camps, our summer brochure can already be found at our website, www.rainbowtrail.org. You can also find a full set of our registration policies on our website.

Grade Levels as of Fall 2018

- Intro to Camp = entering 2nd - 3rd grade
- Juniors = entering 4th - 6th grade
- Junior High = entering 7th - 8th grade
- Senior High = entering 9th-12th grade

Please note: Lutherans of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1, 2018 This applies to all camps, including family camps.



Events Calendar 2017 - 2018

November 17-19.....	RTLCL Senior High Retreat
December 1-3.....	AdventFest
February 28.....	Summer Staff applications due
April 1.....	Summer Volunteer apps due
May 25-28.....	Memorial Day Work Weekend
May 28-June 9.....	Staff Training
August 31- September 3.....	Labor Day Family Weekend
September 7-9.....	RTLCL Staff Alumni Retreat
September 20-23.....	Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
October 6.....	Grace Race

PATHFINDERS

The following individuals are members of the 2017 Pathfinders' Club. Pathfinders is RTLCL's next level giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail growing and expanding. These individuals have given \$1,000 or more to this great ministry. To join, contact Dave Jarvis 719-276-5233 or find out more and donate online at www.rainbowtrail.org/donate. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

Challenger Peak \$1,000-1,499

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Brenda & Lon Sears

Mt. of the Holy Cross \$10,000+

Kevin & Nette Werling

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of Dave Ericson

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Ruth Ericson
Nicholas Hughes
Dave & Nellie Jarvis

In Memory of William Mohler

Bonnie Mohler
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Dennis Graber
Our Savior's Lutheran Church,
Alamogordo, NM
Sharon Schiltz

In Memory of Joyce Quist-Mathis

Mary Ehlers
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PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

These congregations have committed to partnering with Rainbow Trail by supporting the ministry through their congregation's budget.

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Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS
All Saints Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, MN
American Lutheran Church, Grand Junction
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Ascension Lutheran Church Women, Colorado Springs
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Atonement Lutheran Church, Lakewood
Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver
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Christ the King Lutheran Church, Durango
Christ the Savior, Aurora
Christ the Servant, Louisville
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Evergreen Lutheran Church, Evergreen
Faith Lutheran Church, Golden
Faith Lutheran Church, Security
First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs
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First Lutheran Church, Longmont
Glory of God Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glenwood Springs
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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS
Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, TX

Holy Love Lutheran Church, Aurora
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Thank you to the following friends of Rainbow Trail who gave a gift in 2017.

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TRAILBLAZERS

The following individuals are members of the 2017 Trailblazers Club. Trailblazers is an annual giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail alive and growing. To join, contact Dave at 719-276-5233 or check out the "Support Us" portion of our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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Wayne & Joan White
Joshua Woolley
Laura Wouters
Terry & Holly Wubbena
Dee Yocum
Gene & Angie Youngmann

A different, yet significant way to support the ministries of Rainbow Trail

Needs List



These are essential items needed for our day-to-day operations. A designated monetary gift would certainly be welcome as well. You can bring these items with you any time you come to camp or call us to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| White 20# copy Paper (Laser quality) | Long barreled fire lighters (Bic) |
| Reams of colored copy paper | 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps) |
| Avery 5366 Labels | 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps) |
| Avery 5164 Labels | 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables |
| Nalgene Water Bottles (40) | 6 or 8 ft. rectangular white Lifetime tables |
| Masking tape | 25-gallon Rubbermaid tubs (24) |
| Scotch Tape | A "new" economic car for Day Camp |
| Duct Tape | Foam Brushes - 1" |
| Packing Tape | Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive |
| Postage stamps | Matching Dressers for BC- call first (10) |

Wish List

These are larger items that we haven't budgeted for, but would love to have. Contact us if you would like to donate any of these items, new or gently used. You can bring them to camp, or call to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support.



- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Heavy Duty Cotton Work Gloves | New high chairs (3) |
| Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!) | Free Standing Space Heaters (3) |
| 12 Large Canvas Print Photos for BC | GoPro HERO4 Black |
| Sturdy Wheelbarrows | Vermeer Brush Chipper |
| Jump Drives | Freezerless Refrigerator |
| New Full sheets - white (16) | Dish Cart |
| New Full or single mattress pads | Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs |
| New Queen sheets - white | Non-Insulated Holding Cabinet for Kitchen |
| New Queen mattress pads | 120 Volt Ice Machine |
| New 3-piece towel sets (20) | Skid Steer Tire Chains |
| Digital camera (min 12 megapixel) | Commercial Washers (2) and Dryers (2) |
| 5-gallon shop vacuums (3) | |
| Shark Navigator vacuums (4) | |

Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTLCL's Needs or Wish Lists online. We've pre-selected items that we are looking for and provided links straight to great deals that we've found. You can even ship directly to us!

www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list

Administrative Office

107 S. 9th Street, Suite B
Canon City, CO 81212
Phone: 719-276-5233
Fax: 719-276-5235
Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm



Camp Office

P.O. Box T
3056 County Road 198
Hillside, CO 81232
Phone: 719-942-4220
Fax: 719-942-4000

Full-Time Staff

Dave Jarvis, Executive Director.....dave@rainbowtrail.org
Tammi Schneider, Executive Secretary.....info@rainbowtrail.org
Aurice Worley, Bookkeeper.....accounting@rainbowtrail.org
Sam Berglund, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp...samantha@rainbowtrail.org
Jordan Jensen, Director of Retreats.....jordan@rainbowtrail.org
Ben Jarvis, Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders.....ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org
Kyle Larson, Director of Site & Facilities.....kyle@rainbowtrail.org
Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....chris@rainbowtrail.org
Faith VerBruggen, Program Assistant.....faith@rainbowtrail.org
Daniel Kirschbaum, Program Assistant.....daniel@rainbowtrail.org

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www.rainbowtrail.org

We make every effort to list each donor, but mistakes do happen. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed you incorrectly, we apologize. Please call 719-276-5233 and let us know so that we can make corrections.