



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.

Address Service Request

Breaking the Ministry Mold

RTLTC Explores New Ministry Opportunities Across All Programs

Our ministry opportunities at Rainbow Trail continue to keep us busy and full of life in a constantly changing and endlessly needing world. Sometimes these opportunities are a result of conversations and relationships with the incredible people we have in our community, sometimes they're a creative solution to a changing need we see at camp, and sometimes these opportunities find us. We're so blessed to be a part of these various programs, and this current season is no exception.

In January, the full time staff team was asked to lead a daycamp-like evening for a large group of women at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. We led 80 women in worship, communion, a unique version of prayer around the cross and various arts and crafts. The evening was filled with stories, great conversation and the Holy Spirit in a way we could have never expected. The Christmas and New



Year season is particularly dark for a lot of the women in the correctional facility and an evening of camp left many of the women in lighter spirits. Our team has been buzzing ever since, with talk about how we can implement this program in the various prisons around Canon City and even potentially making it a part of our summer programming in the future. Prison ministry has been on all of our hearts for several years

with it being such a big community around our office, we've been looking for opportunities like this in order to serve and address such a large part of our local community and we are grateful that this could be another opportunity for breaking the ministry mold in the years to come.

Another ministry that has been on our hearts this season is Adult Ministry. Adults are such a huge part of our camp family:

dropping off kids, leading retreats, participating in service projects, donations etc. Yet, we haven't had many opportunities to serve this part of our ministry specifically until now. We've begun implementing adult opportunities into our summer and retreat programming. Compass Points has brought back an Adult
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Capturing Creation

New On-Site Photography Program Beginning Summer 2018

Rainbow Trail's physical site is situated in one of the most gorgeous regions of Colorado. Countless campers, staff, and visitors have marveled at the beautiful environment that God has blessed us with in the Sangre de Cristo range. Periodically, the full-time staff at Rainbow Trail reviews all aspects of our current programming, as well as critically examining what we could be doing better. As we reflected on the variety of programs offered in RTLTC's On-Site program, we discussed how we might be able to help campers

further connect with the magnificent wilderness around us. We wanted to provide an opportunity for campers not only to capture the stunning scenery and immense joy experienced at camp, but also to explore a different kind of art and to discover a passion for the radiance of the world that surrounds them. The idea of creating a Photography Program was born.

Much like other programs at RTLTC, villages will be able to schedule time in their day for photography. They'll learn about basic photography composition, capturing stories and

God at work in photos, and even contribute some of their work to the weekly "My Week at Camp" video created by our summer videographer.

As campers take their new knowledge of photography down the mountain, we pray they'll have experienced another way to worship God. We hope they'll come to know more than just the beauty of the Sangres, but that they also discover another way to practice their faith. We want them to see that photography can be a medium through which we can tell stories and relate to one another.

It can be the artistic tool which allows us to share our perspective of how God is at work in this world.

The program will have 15 uniform, easy-to-use, Canon cameras, which villages will use around our site during their scheduled photography sessions. We have already received a few donations designated to purchasing cameras and starting the program this summer. If you would also like to contribute to this new RTLTC program, simply mark your donation for the Photography Program.

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

It's good to be back!! With a couple of weeks off for some Sabbatical at the end of each month this fall, I am fully back to RTLCL as we start the new year! It has been a very busy month for me with promotions, the Bible study writers' retreat, preparations for recruiting our summer staff in Colorado and the Midwest, and helping lead worship at the women's correctional facility.

We have had amazing early registrations for our summer on-site programs. Four weeks are already full with two more getting close to full. We are running around 35 campers ahead of this time last year. Our summer camper weeks will fill quickly. Don't wait to register! Take a look at which week will work for your child and register now. It will be a life-changing week for your kids! See if week 10 will work for your schedule. It is one of our best weeks of the summer! And bring a friend with you to share the experience. We also have 35 day camps scheduled that will be happening out in the congregations. There is still room for your senior high youth to go on a Bridging Borders service trip or a Compass Points backpacking trip this summer. Contact Ben Jarvis or Sam Berglund respectively for more information on these programs.

Many people think that church camp is a nice "extra" in their child's summer. But it is so much more. The Rev. Dan Bollman, who was the Synod staff person who related to Outdoor ministries under bishop Bjornberg, used to say, "Camp is not a nice-ity, it is a necessity in the faith development of our youth." I hear from campers over and over again about how camp has solidified their faith and really equipped them to be Christ's light in the world. Camp changes people in some amazing ways. I want every child to experience that wonderfully loving and grace-filled community. Money should never be the reason any child doesn't come to RTLCL. So, don't let that be a barrier. The first question to ask is "Do you want your child to go to camp?" That is a yes/no question. If your answer is yes, then, together, let's figure out a way to get them there. If you are in a position where finances will prevent you from sending your child to camp, please contact me—we'll find a way to get your child to camp! We have very generous donors that have given specifically to provide camperships for this exact reason. Do this for your child. If you want your kids or family to come to camp this summer, we will find a way to make that happen!

We have begun our recruiting tour to find our 2018 summer staff. We have already visited the Colorado state schools and have talked with some great candidates. We will be heading to the Midwest on February 1st for two weeks. Ben, Sam, and I will be traveling together this year. I ask for your prayers as we travel. I also ask for your prayers for the whole selection process. We are anticipating a strong group of returning staff from last summer's crew that will make a solid foundation for this summer. This is always a fun time of the year as the summer ministry team starts taking shape.

The strategic plan development process continues. The RTLCL Board has taken the results from the listening posts and surveys and has begun to shape a new mission statement for this organization. The Board has spent major time on this process at their last two meetings. The majority of our spring retreat will be in strategic plan development. Once the new strategic plan is developed and finalized, a new site plan will evolve from that new strategic plan. We will keep you up-to-date as things progress.

2017 was another great year for our ministry. Our programs continued to be very full; we had an amazing summer staff; we continued to systematically upgrade our site through the golden opportunity program; and we had phenomenal support for this ministry—through financial gifts, prayer, and the gift of people's time. None of this would have happened without you. We strive to make the best use of your gifts and to be an excellent partner with the congregations in the geographical area of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Thank you all for another incredible year of support for this ministry and for me as your director. I am reminded every week of every summer that what we do changes lives and makes the world different.

We do take your support of this ministry very seriously and I believe are excellent stewards of your gifts. I am pleased to announce that, as the end of 2017, Rainbow Trail is 100% debt free!

Rainbow Trail lost a great friend and partner this fall in Grandpa Fred Ehlers. Fred battled pancreatic cancer this fall and passed away on October 31st. Fred loved kids and loved camp. He had a gift of knowing every campers' name by Sunday night and remembering it all week. That is something I don't think I'll ever master. Fred was a great friend to me and to our staff. He seemed to always take the staff who moved to Colorado Springs after graduating under his wing and make sure they were taken care of. Fred came as a Grandpa four weeks his last summer. I hope he realized the impact he had on this ministry and on us. Fred, you will be dearly missed!

I am so excited for this coming year and all the possibilities. Please pray for this ministry and for our staff. We take great joy in serving you through RTLCL. I am beginning my 30th year at Rainbow Trail. I can't really believe it. This has been a journey I couldn't have ever imagined. Thanks for being my partner all along the way! I can't wait to see what God has planned for us in 2018!

Until next time.




BREAKING, Continued from Page 1

Open backpacking trip, open to adults over the age of 25 for a week of backpacking, camping, whitewater rafting, and spiritual renewal led by a synod pastor during week 8 (July 29-August 4th). Bridging Borders is offering a staff alumni trip during week 7 (July 22-28th), building, renewing, and serving in Ecuador, but Bridging borders is open for all adults. And as always, our retreat season is continually looking for Adult groups to spend a weekend fly fishing, skiing, relaxing or improving our site with our various men's and women's retreats, and work weekends. Whether you're looking for a week in God's wild country, a week of service in Ecuador, or a weekend helping us make exciting improvements to our site, there's plenty of spaces available for all of these forms of ministry and we look forward to walking alongside you in your very own (and well deserved) week at camp.

Our Bridging Borders



program is also looking to expand it's ministry to offer mission opportunities during the spring break season. Spending a week intentionally serving a near or far community during the school year brings incredible memories, rest, and life-changing experience to school groups, families, youth groups and congregations and we're beyond excited to see what happens within this new reach of Bridging Borders ministry.

If you know anything about the Rocky Mountain Synod, you know that it is the largest geographic Synod in the ELCA and it covers vast territory. For campers from El Paso to come to Rainbow Trail, it is about a twelve hour trip, one way. Last summer, we started RTLCL South. We took over a Baptist camp and made it our own. We took a staff crew of 11 people and we provided camp for the churches in New Mexico that was in their own backyard. There were 43 campers and 10 adults that joined us from Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches in the area. Campers had amazing experiences in a different setting. We will be doing it again this summer!

Rainbow Trail continues to be blessed with exciting opportunities and programs that push our ministry beyond the mold. We are ever grateful to the communities and people that God has put into all of our lives that continue to push us beyond our comfort zones and into exciting new ministries every day.

Help Us Light Up Our Site!

Retreating at Rainbow Trail has taken off in a 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 year 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 \$2,000-\$3,000! To help cushion the expense and to assist us in transforming some of our spaces at RTLCL, we are asking for donations of dimmable LED light bulbs. In an effort to keep things consistent, we have selected Phillips 60 watt and 100 watt dimable LED 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.

Bristelcone Renovation Update!

In the Spring of 2015, Rainbow Trail decided to explore the option of remodeling Bristlecone Lodge by drawing up a new floorplan that would better serve the needs of summer and retreat season. With the majority of the Golden Opportunity site updates wrapping up, the renovation of Bristlecone will finally become a main priority for 2018. Due to the size of the building, the renovations won't happen overnight. We are still weighing options and trying to figure out the best way to be good stewards of the money we have for the renovations. As we move forward, keep an eye on our facebook page for updates and ways you can get involved! If you're interested in contributing to the renovations, email dave@rainbowtrail.org.

Simply Sam

By Sam Berglund - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

Hello everyone and happy 2018 to you all!

I just got back from visiting my sister in Portland, OR and seeing my all time favorite musician Chris Thile live taping his new show "Live from Here" for NPR. I could talk for pages about how amazing the bluegrass was, but I'll save that for another time and a pot of coffee next time we meet up.

It's always nice to be traveling, but I'm glad to be back for one of my favorite times of year here at camp: RECRUITING SEASON. I absolutely love the buzz around this place during this part of our year. There's something about dreaming up the summer staff team that makes all of us excited and looking forward to connecting with all of our people.

We're constantly getting applications from new people we haven't met yet, old people we can't wait to catch up with, and other people that we didn't even expect to hear from. I would be lying if I said I didn't read every application that is sent in the day it arrives. I love it all so much and have no self control when it comes to personal statements. We have so many different roles for high schoolers to college kids, so make sure you start bugging your favorite young adult to get their application in and be a part of an incredible faith-centered, loving, always laughing, inspirational, unforgettable, and all encompassing summer staff team for 2018! (shameless plug)

Life outside of camp for me has been really fun. There has been no snow at all which is a bit off-putting when you live in a mountain ski town. But with all of the beautiful weather, I'm hoping to spend some much needed time on local trails, taking advantage of the unheard of accessibility for this time of year!

My downtime lately has been filled mostly with my etsy shop, I'm constantly making new t shirt designs and products to sell at a monthly storefront I've been a part of in Buena Vista. The shop has been a huge creative release for me, I love keeping busy and working with local artists to create new and unique things in my off time. I'm so blessed to live and work in such a creative and inspiring community!

I've been dreaming a lot lately about where Compass Points and Day Camp can extend in order to spread our ministry across communities, opportunities and synod lines. Earlier this January, the full-time team spent an evening leading an adult-version of Day Camp for the Denver Women's Correctional Facility and it was incredibly eye-opening for me to see not only how the prison system actually works but also the huge opportunity there is for ministry in communities that aren't directly in front of us. The 80 women we worshipped with were from so many different walks of life and experiences yet we all came together as God's people to pray, sing and take communion in such an intentional and spiritual way it was impossible not to feel completely full of God's love and ongoing work in every individual person present. I left the prison with hundreds of ideas spinning around my head of ways in which we could include this as another part of Day Camp ministry. Isn't it funny how you can delicately set up the meaning and ministry of one part of your job and then God comes in with a wrecking ball and a whole lot of inspiration for bigger and better goals? Ya me too.

Well that's it from me, I hope this finds you happy and healthy in this brand new year and I hope to catch up with you all when you come visit us up on the mountain this season.

God's Peace,




Weeks are filling up but spots are still open in the following sessions. **DON'T WAIT! Register today, or you may not have a spot!**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Junior High #1 June 10-16 | SH Compass Points July 22-28 |
| Junior Camp #1 June 17-23 | Junior #2 July 29-Aug 4 |
| Intro to Camp #2 June 20-23 | Intro to Camp #3 July 29- Aug 1 |
| Senior High #1 July 8-14 | JH Compass Points July 29-Aug 4 |
| Into the Wild July 8-14 | Adult Compass Points July 29-Aug 4 |
| Senior High #2 July 22-28 | Family Camp #2 Aug 5-11 |
| RTL South (NM) July 15-20 | Junior/Jr High #3 August 12-18 |

Check www.rainbowtrail.org for up-to-date status of each week and register today!

Jam Session

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

Happy New Year to all! I hope this finds you all well rested and renewed from a holiday season filled with love, laughter, and memories.

I'm writing this just days prior to our annual staff recruiting trip to the Colorado state schools, and then to the Midwest. While I'm ecstatic to see our summer team start to take shape, I am not prepared for the frigid weather of Minnesota. Perhaps this January of so many days above 60 degrees has me spoiled.

This month, we also had our annual Bible Study Writers' Retreat at camp. Our 5 writers have already make significant strides on our Bible study for the coming summer. The theme this year mirrors that of the ELCA Senior High Gathering, "This Changes Everything!" Although I'm sure there will be some overlap in terms of content, I am so excited to see how this study will take shape with our campers. We are focusing on topics such as grace, mercy, generosity, and humility. I am amazed every year how campers and staff alike, show such authenticity in their Bible study conversations. I believe that this raw, genuine, courageous sharing not only helps us to understand each other better, but also ourselves and our God. I imagine this summer will be no different in that regard. Thank you in advance to our Bible study writers for providing a tool through which our staff can facilitate these types of faith transforming experiences.

In case you haven't read the front page of this edition of Rainbow Reflections, we are also starting a Photography Program at RTL. Just like archery, guitar, and woodcarving, campers can now schedule an hour of photography during their week at camp. The article on page one has much more detail, but I'm very excited to see this idea come to life. Some of the photos taken by campers will even end up in the weekly videos produced by our summer videographer. On-Site isn't the only program navigating new opportunities, however. New retreats, Prison Day Camp, RTL South, and Adult Trips for Compass Points and Bridging Borders all fill the full-time staff with so much excitement for this ministry. It's energizing and invigorating to see fresh programming and new passions being implemented across programs at Rainbow Trail. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the incredible donors and supporters of all we do at RTL. Without all of you, this would not be possible. This fact is always so evident on Colorado Gives Day. This year, I got to create many videos asking people why they give to RTL. The responses were both humbling and emotional. Thank you, again, to all who gave!

In my personal life, I am in the heart of wedding planning. With Jordan and my wedding scheduled for this fall, and 3 months of summer camp before then, many decisions must be made this spring. I've truly loved the process of planning and preparing for our special day, though. It's been a practice of patience, but more importantly, a really fun celebration of our future together. I've got a lot to thank God for these days. It's important to know God is there in the darker days as well. May we always lean on Christ as our teacher and redeemer, so that we may see good and be love.

As always, it's a pleasure and honor to be a part of this special community we call Rainbow Trail. Thank you to the amazing staff and friends I get to work with and thanks to all of you inspiring people who are a part of this place.

Peace,



ANONYMOUS SHEET DONATION

Just after Christmas, Rainbow Trail received 16 sets of full-sized sheets from an anonymous donor. We would love to know who sent these our way in order to thank them for their generosity. The white sheets are already being added into our rotation. If you know of who donated these sheet sets, let us know by calling our main office at (719) 276-5233 or emailing jordan@rainbowtrail.org. Thank you!

Compass Points

Wilderness Faith Adventures



Are you and your friends looking for a faith-filled week backpacking and whitewater rafting in God's wild country? Join us in the Compass Points program for a week at camp you won't forget! Open trips are a great way to meet new people and explore God's creation in a welcoming and encouraging community. All skill levels welcome!

Check out our website for more information at www.rainbowtrail.org/compass-points or contact Sam at sam@rainbowtrail.org to learn more today!

- Senior High Open #1 (*NEW): June 24-30th
- Into the Wild: July 8-14th
- Senior High Open #2: July 22-28th
- Junior High Open: July 29-Aug 4th
- Adult Open (ages 25 and over,*NEW): July 29-Aug 4th

Join us for a week of incredible experiences and amazing ministry!

Just Jordan

By Jordan Jensen - Director of Retreats



What an amazing winter it has been! A lovely Adventfest at camp kicked off an eventful holiday season with fellowship, crafting, and worship around a 20-foot Christmas tree. The rest of December was a time for rest and renewal as I had much of the month off! I used my time for seeing friends up in Denver and traveling home for the holidays.

Back home in Iowa, I was able to see my entire family and even took Luna along for the ride! Although the temperatures were in the negatives, time with my family and old friends was well worth the trip. Some of our many Christmas traditions include: Christmas Bingo, Christmas Eve candlelight service, LOTS of food, drinks and conversation, secret Santa exchanges, and a "surprise" set of pajamas the night before Christmas. I could not have had a better ten days.

After returning to Colorado, I have since enjoyed the outrageously warm weather. Our staff celebrated the New Year with our summer workers at RTLCL and then drove out to the mountains for some hiking, coffee drinking, and games. How lucky are we that we like to spend time with each other outside of work too?!

Sticking to New Year resolutions has never been my strong suit, but after looking forward to the changes 2018 will present, I am feeling optimistic. This year I have chosen to focus on gratefulness. What amazing opportunities we have been given if we choose to acknowledge them! My hope is that being grateful becomes a habit and that I learn to practice it daily. To kick things off, here is a list of things that I am grateful for this winter: a warm home, a loving family, a cuddly dog, hot tea, sunny days, and never-ending support from those around me.

I hope you will join me this year in being grateful for what God has provided us. Give your own list a shot!

Until next time,



There are some exciting things coming up in retreating in 2018!

The Summit, our youth ministry retreat, will be held April 16-18 and is FREE to church personnel who work with youth in the Rocky Mountain Synod. This year's focus is on self-care in ministry, and how we can learn to recharge and take care of ourselves in order to better serve the world. At The Summit, we are looking forward to offering a time of personal renewal, continuing education, and networking with other Youth Directors, Pastors, and Christian Educators.

Looking for some time in the mountains? Join us for a ski retreat! Enjoy some time of fellowship at Rainbow Trail and spend your days at Monarch Mountain. We will provide meals and housing, and coordinate with the ski hill to get you the best prices we can. Discounted group ski rates are applied to all ski groups 20

people and larger.

Keeping our site beautiful is one of our passions, but we can't do it alone! If you or a group of people have an interest in volunteering, or have skills relating to site updates, we would love your partnership in keeping RTLCL beautiful and accessible to all. As thanks, we offer free housing and meals to groups helping to improve our site.

Contact Jordan Jensen at 719-276-5233 or Jordan@rainbowtrail.org for more information on any of these opportunities.



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Program Assistant

Internship Positions

Have **YOU** ever considered Outdoor Ministry as a career? Maybe you know someone who might be interested in Outdoor Ministry. The Rainbow Trail Program Assistant Internship is designed to allow people to work in and learn about all aspects of Outdoor Ministry, create your own OM philosophy, gain valuable knowledge, serve wonderful people, and live at Rainbow Trail. For more information, email Ben Jarvis at ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org.

Sight to Site

By Kyle Larson - Director of Site and Facilities

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that it's already the end of January 2018. This year is already off to a fast start and there's certainly no end in sight. While it still [kinda] feels like winter outside, things at camp are starting to feel like summer. We joke about how there really are only two seasons at camp; summer and fall. Winter and spring always seem to be filled with anticipation, excitement and preparation for the coming summer.

With summer coming fast, this time of year is one of my favorites. Doing interviews and talking to people about camp is one of the best parts of my job. Soon Dave, Ben and Sam will be out on the road doing interviews for our summer team. I'll also be hitting the road and doing interviews for our summer maintenance crew. I'll be doing interviews February 12-14 this year. I try to do as many interviews in person as I can, so I'll be all over Colorado and New Mexico. If you know anybody who might be interested in being a Camphand, send them my way!

In early January, we had our annual Bible study writers retreat. This has become something that we all look forward to, as it really begins the summer season for us. We start to see the study take shape and think about the ways it will impact how summer plays out. This year's study will no doubt be great and centers around the same theme for the ELCA National Youth Gathering; "This Changes Everything!" I'm excited to see all of the way the Spirit moves in kids this summer and also truly how present God is in all the ways that we can change the world. It's going to be a great study!

Outside of interviews, staffing, and Bible study planning, there's always plenty of things that fill my time. Last year about this time, we were just kicking off our Golden Opportunity projects. What a HUGE success that was and continues to be. While most projects have been completed, there are still a few cabins that remain untouched. I'm hoping for another busy spring filled with work groups so that we can finish up all the cabins and have them ready for the summer! If you haven't been to camp recently to see all the changes that have occurred over the last year, I'd encourage you to come check it out!

Things for me personally are going great. I was able to spend some much needed time with family and friends over the holidays which was a lot of fun. In bigger news, if you've been following along on my house remodel adventure, you'd know that it's been about TWO AND A HALF YEARS since I began the project. I'm excited to say that as I write this, I'm awaiting one of my final inspections with an anticipated finish day in mid-February! It's been a trying journey, but incredibly rewarding on the other side of it. I owe a huge thank you to all my friends and family that have helped me along the way. I couldn't have made it happen without you all.

As I finished up 2017, I also finished up my fifth year at Rainbow Trail! Time truly has flown by, but that's because I've had an incredible team to work with and a great community surrounding me. Thanks for all the support over the years. I can't wait to see what God has in store for 2018!

Until next time,

Kyle



Thank You for Being Part of the Ministry of Rainbow Trail!

Rainbow Trail is blessed to have a great cloud of witnesses that give their time and talent to the ministries that happen. The staff at Rainbow Trail work very hard to offer quality programs, food, and facilities, but it would never happen without the amazing support and dedication of all these volunteers. We've made every effort to include all those who have volunteered in 2017; if we inadvertently left you off the list, please forgive us and call the camp office at 719-276-5233 so we can make a correction. Thank you for your amazing service to Rainbow Trail!

Presenters & Writers

RTLCLC is blessed to work in partnership with several of the finest pastors, youth directors, and lay leaders in the Synod. These people provide much of the spiritual guidance during the year through Bible study and large group presentations. Your efforts help open the hearts of many in this special place!

Bible Study Writers

Rev. Michael Tassler
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward
Rev. Jane Jebson
Rev. Nicole' Ferry
Rev. Dave Risendal
Nellie Jarvis

Youth Directors' Retreat

Presenter

Rev. Rich Melheim

Confirmation Retreat

Presenters

Rev. Brigitte Weier

Men's Fly Fishing Retreat

Presenters

Rev Dave Risendal
Rev Roger Thompson
Rev John Schaumburg
Greg Felt - Ark Anglers

Staff Training Presenters

Dave Kirberg
Rev. Michael Tassler
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward
Rev. Jane Jebson
Rev. Nicole' Ferry
Rev. Dave Risendal
Bishop Jim Gonia
Deacon Erin Powers
Julie Miller

Raft Training

Arkansas River Tours

Staff Banquet Cooks

Dave, Susan, Claire, & Lauren Fisk
Elijah Fisk
Howard, Ben, & Noah Bonser
Pam and Eric Anderson
Brett, Jennifer, Elizabeth, & Sarah Palmer
Dave Cruson
Jackie Honold
Gustav Meyners
John & Kim Olson
Kalie Saathoff
Van Mohlis
Lauren Bender
Stacey & Kenneth Struessel

Camp Grandparents

Fred & Janice Ehlers

Jack & Bonnie David
Ruth Ericson
Kris Ericson
Mary Koepp
Becky Nyby
Bill & Charlotte Dausses
Tim & Lisa Smith
Joyce Witte
Rick & Jill Reed
Charlie & Linda Kelly
Pat Holland
John & Kim Olson
Adele Vickers
Gary & Bev Oppedahl

Family Camp Presenters

Rev. Dr. Hans Wiersma
Rev. Mark Hanson
David Lee Brown – Music
Heidi Peterson – Art
Nellie Jarvis – Art
Kyle Larson - Art
Jesse & Lindsay Crock – Art
Paul & Jana Oman - Art
Charlie Pineda – Woodcarving

Labor Day Leader

Rev. Julie McNitt

Thanksgiving Contributors

Lynn LaGree
U.S. Foods
City Market - Turkey
Bob & Aurice Worley - Turkey
Sara Marietta – 2 Turkeys
Ben Jarvis – Turkey
Chris Seaman - Turkey
Jay Davis - 4 Turkeys
Dave & Nellie Jarvis – 4 Turkeys
John & Pam Marietta – 2 Turkeys

Thanksgiving Volunteers

Dave, Susan, Claire, & Lauren Fisk
Elijah Fisk
Dave & Nellie Jarvis
Dena Wangerin
Colleen & Jim Doughty
Mark & Heidi Peterson
Mari Peterson
Sam Simonson
Brett, Jennifer, Sarah, and Elizabeth Palmer
Howard Bonser
Jay Davis
Susan Lee Lindenmuth
Pam Caprio
Karen, Nick, Nikenzie, Natalia, Niley, & Nora Sartori
Linda and Harry Stanley

AdventFest Leaders

Rev. Russ Britton
Jordan Jensen
Faith Verbruggen
Nellie Jarvis

Miles Brown
Claire Pineda
Charlie Pineda
Sam Berglund
Daniel Kirschbaum
Ben Jarvis
Kyle Larson

Ambassadors

Ambassadors are our direct link to congregations. Rainbow Trail Ambassadors serve as information sources for those in their congregations, and keep the camp abreast of important events within the larger church. Their most important function, however, is helping to get information about camp out to the masses! We are grateful for your partnership and support!

Dawn & Shannon Ambrosio
Jerry & Joan Brown
Cindy Budde
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Memorial Day Work

Weekend Volunteers

Memorial Day weekend brings our annual Work Retreat. Families come to help Rainbow Trail prepare for the busy summer season. Work projects range from general cleaning of cabins and lodges to building steps, decks and bridges. Retreat participants complete projects that would take full-time staff weeks to finish, and the site always looks spectacular for the coming summer season.

Linda & David Asselin
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Tim Plumb
Lisa & BJ Schnitzler
Gary & Kay Schritter
Paul & Lisa Smith
Jeff & Julie Spilker
Dodie Thompson
Chris & Gail Tucker
Howard Bonser
Jess & Maria Wischart

Retreat Hosts

Our retreat groups are sometimes too large for full-time staff to handle on their own. Thankfully, we can call upon former Rainbow Trail staffers and friends who are willing to give of their time and energy to make these larger retreats a huge success. Your servant hearts are a blessing to this ministry!

Daniel Kirschbaum
Faith Verbruggen
Jordan Jensen
Ben Jarvis
Sam Berglund
Zach Lindsay
Shannon Lavelle
Kalie Saathoff
Karyn Saathoff
Sands Simonton
Delta Wise
Asta Jensen
Brittany Mohler

Eric Schoer
Katie Scherr
Nicole Grinager
Tabi McCombe
Emilee Velander
Hector Calar
Cam Regennitter
Lauren Wubbena
Sherry Morris
Chris Seaman
Kyle Larson
Chad Nelsen

If you would like to volunteer at Rainbow Trail in 2018, to help with a program, be a Retreat Host, or do a camp improvement project please contact us at 719-276-5233

GOOD-BYE GRANDPA FRED

Rainbow Trail lost a dear friend this past fall. Grandpa Fred Ehlers had been coming to RTALC for years, first as a parent, and then as a camp grandparent. He was loved by both kids and staff. He always took time to get to know each camper by name, and he made it his business to intentionally care for summer staff. Since 2010, Fred served 21 weeks as a camp grandparent, playing and praying and fully participating alongside kids. Thank you for your dedication to loving everyone at RTALC, Fred. Rest in peace... you will be missed!

Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Hello to my RTALC family! Many things have happened since my last article; some very happy, some very sad. I had to put my old boy Chunk to sleep in October. Hardest thing I've ever done. Now I have a new dog named Lucky! I know you will all love him as much as I do! This Fall was a continuation of the summer. Busiest retreat season ever! Thank you, to all those who gave of their time to help out; we couldn't have done it without you! In my mind (scary thought) I am already starting to prepare for the upcoming madness of summer. It never fails to amaze me how quickly the time passes. For those of you not aware, I have saved MANY recipes to my boards on Pinterest; including gluten free, vegetarian, vegan and dairy free, baked goods, appetizers and more. These will help me to increase the options of appealing meals for you. This newsletter is jam packed so I need to control my ramblin's.

So here are some hints and recipes! If plastic has burned on an appliance you can remove it with lighter fluid. I didn't know that you could store many sandwiches in the freezer for up to 2 weeks! The best fillings are cold cuts, meatloaf, chicken, peanut butter(no jelly), tuna and beef. Did you know if you place half an apple in your stored potatoes they won't sprout because the apple absorbs the moisture before they can?!

So now to the recipes. I made these Red Velvet Brownie Cookies this summer and boy were they a hit! You will need: 2/3 cup softened butter, 1 1/2 c. brown sugar, 2eggs, 1tsp. Vanilla, 1tsp. Distilled white vinegar, 1Tbl. Red food coloring, 1 1/2c. Flour, 1/3c baking cocoa, 1/4tsp baking soda, 1/2tsp salt, 2c chocolate chips. Preheat oven to 375F. With a mixer combine butter&sugar till creamy. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add vanilla, vinegar& food coloring. In a separate bowl combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add to creamed mixture slowly till well blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Chill dough for at least 1 hour. Roll dough into 1 inch balls and place on cookie sheets. Bake for 7to9 minutes. DO NOT OVER BAKE! Let cool on pan 2 minutes then move to a rack to cool. Just a thought; if you make a double batch, you can put one batch of unbaked dough balls in the freezer to have on hand for an emergency chocolate cookie fix! This next recipe is great for Sunday brunch. Easy Baked Doughnuts. You will need: Preheat oven to 400F. 2c Bisquick, 1/3c milk, 1egg, 2Tbl granulated sugar, 1/2tsp ground cinnamon. Coating: 1/2c melted butter, 1c white or cinnamon sugar. Mix baking mix, milk, egg, 2Tbl sugar& cinnamon in a bowl ;with a whisk beat vigorously. Drop by spoonfuls onto baking sheets. Bake until lightly browned; about 7 to 9 minutes. Have bowl of melted butter and bowl of sugar ready. Drop doughnuts into butter then put in sugar and lightly press till well coated. Just a warning, these little buggers are addictive!

So until the next issue or you come to camp and give me a hug, always remember, GOD IS GREAT!!!

-Chris

LEELAND & ELLEN SOKER ANNUAL CAMBERSHIP FUND

Addison Choi
Abbie & Steve Freeman
Evergreen Lutheran Church
Emma Lathrop
Cheryl Mahon
Nocturnal Knitters

Jo Ann Soker
Michelle & Robert Szydowski
Christie Kurth
Kenneth & Donnell Lambertus
Gary & Cheryl Jebson
Stephen & Eileen Shannon

New Online Popshop Goes Live March 1st

You have been asking for it, and we are finally going to be able to deliver. A new online Popshop will be up and flying by March 1st this spring. We have switched our on-site store to a new and more efficient system. Our hope is to have one to two people roaming the store with tablets, in addition to the counter person, that you can check out with on Saturday mornings at the end of camp. This system also ties to a great online version of our store that will have accurate inventory of what is available.

Since all on-site transactions can be done from an iPad interface throughout the store, we are in need of 2 new or like-new tablets for the upgrades to our Popshop! Ideally, these tablets would be 9.7" Apple iPads. Please call our office or email dave@rainbowtrail.org if you are interested in donating this crucial technology or if you have any questions.

This has been a massive undertaking. We are going to roll items out by department so there will literally be new items out on the online store every week leading up to the summer season. You will also be able to order your favorite camp gear after you leave camp, for Christmas or birthday gifts, or whenever you feel like it. We are excited about this new addition to our store! Look for announcements via email and social media as we roll things out!

FOLLOW RTALC ON SOCIAL MEDIA**Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
September 20-23, 2018**

Step out of the stresses of ordinary life and into the refreshing waters of the Arkansas River. This weekend of great fly fishing, hanging out with the guys, and amazing worship and conversation is led by Pastors Dave Risendal and Roger Thompson. Their deep love of fly fishing and the gospel will help you re-center and deepen your faith. Expand your fly fishing skills with instruction from Ark Anglers Fly Shop, fly tying workshops, and advice from

seasoned fishermen. Whether you are an experienced angler or just want to try fly fishing, this is a weekend you won't want to miss! The \$195 program fee includes meals and lodging. Rental equipment and professionally guided fishing are available at a great price! Invite your friends and join us for an amazing weekend.

Online Registraion & More Information
rainbowtrail.org/retreats/mens-retreats/fly-fishing

COLORADO GIVES DAY

Thank you to all of those who gave on Colorado Gives Day, December 5, 2017

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Margaret & Norm Aarestad
Rebecca & Philip Tedeschi
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Marty Youngmann

Colorado Gives... and Gives!



This year's Colorado Gives Day was incredible for RTL! In a short 24 hours on December 5, 2017, the Rainbow Trail community responded to the challenge and gave \$77,266! An impressive 290 donors participated in giving to Rainbow Trail that day. The response to this day of giving not only shows the incredible generosity of this community, but also shows that Rainbow Trail is a place where so many people invest their hearts. For that, we are truly touched, and hope you all will

accept our deepest thanks. These funds help support the day-to-day operations of camp including program equipment, summer staff salaries, our full-time staff, and site and facilities maintenance, to name a few. We are already setting a goal of \$85,000 for next year! We will let you know the date for 2018 as soon as it is announced. Thank you again to those who joined us in this Spirit-filled day and to those who gave gifts to help support this ministry and all those it impacts.

Blazing New Paths!

Trailblazers and Pathfinders are Rainbow Trail's annual giving clubs that sustain and allow our ministry to grow. 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 Compass Points to RTL South to camperships,

Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences. Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail has needed to be reduced to \$19,500 annually. We need your help in covering that difference. 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.

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 719-276-5233 or check out the “Donate” tab on our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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\$500-\$999

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PATHFINDERS

The following individuals are members of the 2017 Pathfinders Club. Pathfinders is RTLCLC'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 Club**\$1,000-\$1,499**

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Mt. of the Holy Cross \$20,000 plus

Janice Ehlers
 Nette & Kevin Werling

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

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

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Littleton
 Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS
 All Saints Lutheran Church,
 Albuquerque, MN
 American Lutheran Church, Grand
 Junction
 Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado
 Springs
 Ascension Lutheran Church Women,
 Colorado Springs
 Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder
 Atonement Lutheran Church, Lakewood
 Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver
 Augustana Foundation Fund, Denver
 Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills
 Village
 Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation,
 Cherry Hills Village
 Bethany Lutheran Church,
 Fredericksburg, TX
 Bethel Lutheran Church, Aurora
 Bethel Lutheran Church, Colorado
 Springs
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos
 Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado
 Springs
 Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church,
 Santa Fe, NM
 Christ Lutheran Church, Highlands

Ranch
 Christ the King Lutheran Church,
 Colorado Springs
 Christ the King Lutheran Church,
 Durango
 Christ the Savior, Aurora
 Christ the Servant, Louisville
 Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Rio
 Ranch, NM
 Cross of Christ Lutheran Church,
 Broomfield
 Cross of Hope Lutheran Church,
 Albuquerque, NM
 Evergreen Lutheran Church, Evergreen
 Faith Lutheran Church, Golden
 Faith Lutheran Church, Security
 First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs
 First Lutheran Church, Gypsum
 First Lutheran Church, Longmont
 Glory of God Lutheran Church, Wheat
 Ridge
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
 Glenwood Springs
 Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder
 Grace Lutheran Church, Colorado
 Springs
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat
 Ridge
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Overland

Park, KS
 Holy Ghost Lutheran Church,
 Fredericksburg, TX
 Holy Love Lutheran Church, Aurora
 Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church,
 Lakewood
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Littleton
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 Centennial
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 Mount Calvary Lutheran Church,
 Boulder
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 George, UT
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 Collins
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 Elizabeth

Prince of Peace Women of the ELCA,
 Colorado Springs
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 Denver
 Rocky Mountain Synod
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 Canon City
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 Golden
 St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Arvada
 St. Luke Lutheran Church, Albuquerque
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albuquerque
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Calhan
 St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greenwood
 Village
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Marble
 Falls, TX
 St. Philip Lutheran Church, Littleton
 St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,
 Northglenn
 Tabor Lutheran Church, Pueblo
 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
 Boulder
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Fowler
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Monument
 Zion Lutheran Church, Trinidad

RTLIC Vehicle Fleet Additions!

Over the past few years, Rainbow Trail has received many generous donations to our vehicle fleet. These vehicles travel thousands of miles every summer, safely transporting our Day Camp teams across state lines and home to RTLIC. We want to extend a deep and sincere thank you to Josh and Alissa Plumley and Carl and Katie Edstrom for the most recent donations of fleet vehicles.



The Sienna and Equinox will be put to great use. It is because of generous donations like these that our vehicle fleet is the best it's ever been. Thank you, again!

CAMPERSHIP MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF GRANDPA FRED EHLERS

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Kame Jorgensen	Dave & Nellie Jarvis
Cynthia Murren	Janice Pavell
Robert & Loretta Linza	Nathan Budge
Jean Houston	Bill & Donna Jones
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Cheryl Graham	Jared & Angela Mendenhall
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AIG Matching Grants Program
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Colorado Capital Mangement
Community First Foundation
DST Systems
OtterCares Foundation
South Zumbro Lutheran Church WOW
Thrivent Financial – Thrivent Choice
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Koppel
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GIFTS IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Hannah Harman & Leo

Walter's wedding

Laurie Mohler

In Honor of Johanna Crock & Tyler

Warner's wedding

Laurie Mohler

In Honor of Beth Harrison & Evan

Smith

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In Honor of Harriet Loebel

Lon Loebel

In Honor of Samantha Berglund

Sandra Berglund

Campership Fund In Honor of Our

Parents

Todd & Jill Grivetti

In Honor of Tom Guinn's 90th

Birthday

Dave & Kim Guinn

In Honor of Kristin Lynn

Barbara & Chuck Exley

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Chuck & Lee Danielson
Trudy Dierschow
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CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the following friends of Rainbow Trail who gave a gift in 2017.

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Rainbow Trail 2018 Events Calendar

- February 28.....Staff Applications Due
- April 16-18.....Youth Ministry Retreat
- May 25-28.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 28- June 9.....Staff Training
- June 10- August 19.....Summer Camps
- Aug 31-Sept. 3.....Labor Day Family Weekend
- September 20-23.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
- October 6.....Grace Race 5k (Denver)
- October 12-14.....Fall Ambassadors Retreat
- October 19-21.....Confirmation Retreat**
- Nov 30-Dec 2.....AdventFest

www.rainbowtrail.org

An Active Way to Support RTLC: Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Financial has recently eliminated their chapter system and replaced it with an Action Team approach that they believe will encourage more people to be involved in more projects. An Action Team is easy to organize. All that has to happen is a Thrivent member identifies a worthy project, finds a group of people to help with the project, and then goes to the Thrivent website and establishes the project in the system. Thrivent will provide \$250 in starter funds for the project in hopes that it can be used to generate more. If your church wanted to buy RTLC something off the wish or need list, you could host a breakfast using the starter funds and all the proceeds from your breakfast could be used to purchase that item. Or you could do something similar to raise campership funds for your youth to go to camp this summer. Or you could use several action teams to buy materials for a congregational work weekend at Rainbow Trail. The sky is the limit for what projects can be done to help Rainbow Trail. Consider forming an Action Team and make a difference! Contact Dave Jarvis if you have any questions or need more details.

Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Wisely

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2018 of \$35,000 and we think that goal is very attainable. With that kind of support from Thrivent, 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 the Thrivent 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 close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can help make a world of difference!

Craving Color?

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless, color version! E-mail Tammi at info@rainbowtrail.org to opt for the electronic version of our newsletter! You'll save trees and receive a colorful newsletter right to your inbox!

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

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 | 10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps) |
| Nalgene Water Bottles (40) | 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables |
| Masking tape | Rain Jackets & Rain Pants |
| Scotch Tape | 25-gallon Rubbermaid tubs (24) |
| Duct Tape | On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs |
| Packing Tape | Foam Brushes - 1" |
| Postage stamps | Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive |
| 8.5x11 Yellow Tablets | 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 or single mattress pads | Dish Cart |
| New Queen sheets - white | Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs |
| New Queen mattress pads | Non-Insulated Holding Cabinet for Kitchen |
| New 3-piece towel sets (20) | 120 Volt Ice Machine |
| Digital camera (min 12 megapixel) | Skid Steer Tire Chains |
| 5-gallon shop vacuums (3) | Commercial Washers (2) and Dryers (2) |
| Shark Navigator vacuums (4) | |

Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTLC'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. There is also a Compass Points specific list online. 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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
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| Tammi Schneider, Executive Secretary..... | info@rainbowtrail.org |
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| Sam Berglund, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp... | samantha@rainbowtrail.org |
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| 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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