



# 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

Volume 36, Number 3 Fall 2024

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.

## Rhythms of Faith

### RTLC Part of a Select Group of Camps to Initiate Project

We've said it for years. "Take it down the mountain!" It is really THE goal of summer camp at Rainbow Trail: To take what we've learned and what we've practiced and bring it home! Down the mountain! Into our communities! And this past summer, RTLC was honored to be one of a select benchmark group of outdoor ministries that helped identify the most promising strategies that are currently learned and practiced at overnight Christian summer camps that influence faith practices in the home.

The Rhythms of Faith project aims to strengthen the partnership between families, churches, and camps, and to empower parents and caregivers in family faith formation by leveraging the power of camp experiences to establish rhythms of faith through regular Christian practices.

The project is a five-year initiative led by Wheaton College's HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development, in partnership with Sacred Playgrounds. It is funded by the Lilly Endowment's Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative. The project involves scholars and practitioners from Lutheran, United Methodist, and Evangelical traditions. This work of this initial benchmark group will help inform the next stages of the 5-year research project (see [rhythmsoffaith.com](http://rhythmsoffaith.com)), which they



hope to share with camp, church, and academic communities through presentations, publications, and training materials.

Rainbow Trail interviewed and was chosen as one of eleven outdoor ministries that were selected across Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM), United Methodist Camping and Retreat Ministries, and Christian Camp and Conference Association (CCCA).

Once selected, RTLC worked directly with Sacred Playground's director Dr. Jake Sorenson. Jake surveyed parents of our 2023 campers and was part of a four day on-site visit to see our program in action. He led focus groups with

campers, summer staff, camper parents, and adult leaders & pastors during his time with us.

A narrative of Jake's visit was posted on the Rhythms of faith website. We felt the narrative perfectly captures our program and our ministry. Here is a short excerpt: "Parents joined in the closing worship service, as campers and staff sang their favorite camp songs and walked through what they learned in Bible study. Dave addressed the parents, thanking them for trusting camp with their children and reminding them of the parent devotional they had received in the mail. He encouraged them to walk through it with their children in

the coming week. He also addressed the campers: "I saw the real you here. Will that real you go home with you?"

"It was an open question and one that the campers had struggled to answer during my focus groups with them. They loved camp. They wanted to keep coming back year after year, and several indicated a desire to serve on camp staff. They felt like their faith came alive here in ways that were difficult in other spaces. There was clear evidence from the observations of church leaders and parents that faith and leadership skills developed at camp continued to bear fruit in the weeks and months after camp. But the campers struggled to imagine how they could experience something like camp in any other space."

The entire narrative can be found on our website under About Us. Look for Rhythms of Faith Narrative.

We are excited to be part of this important work. The project seeks to help parents and congregations maximize the impact of the deeply transformational experiences shared at camp, and to help campers continue the lessons learned so that the spiritual and lifestyle seeds planted at camp may grow, especially once they go down the mountain!

Rainbow Trail strives to provide the very best site, staff, food service, and program that we can. RTLC is a part of organization called the American Camp Association (ACA). ACA aims to improve the quality of camp programs and increase the number of people who participate in them. The ACA's purpose is to: ensure high quality programs, advocate for camps, provide pertinent information to camps about laws, regulations, and other public policy issues that affect the camp community, and to accredit camps. The ACA is the only nationwide accrediting organization for camps. The ACA's accreditation standards focus on health, safety, and risk management practices.

Every five years, Rainbow Trail goes through the process to be reaccredited with the ACA. There are 266 standards that our program is should be evaluated on during our ACA visit. The visits are a



full day of walking our site and watching our program and staff in action and then walking through all 266 standards with the team of visitors.

The day of the visit is the easy part. The preparation of the paperwork and reviewing our answers to every standard took months of reviewing

updating, and scanning documents. We began preparation for our visit back in January. Rainbow Trail has the equivalent of five full 4-inch binders of written documentation in our responses to the standards. Areas that are covered include camper development, core philosophies and outcomes, risk management,

administration, human resources, staff hiring and training and qualifications, healthcare, site and facilities, transportation, camper supervision, food service safety and procedures, program design and development, trip and travel programs (Compass Points and Bridging Borders), aquatics (rafting), and specialized programs (high ropes).

We are pleased to announce that in July, Rainbow Trail received a perfect score on our visit this summer. I hope that gives you great comfort in knowing that we meet the highest standard of the camping industry and continue to make our program and facilities the best that they can be!

A big shout out to all of our full-time staff who invested their time and energy into the process. ACA is a ton of work, but we believe it makes us better in all aspects of our ministry!

## Perfect!

### RTLC scores Perfect Score on ACA Accreditation

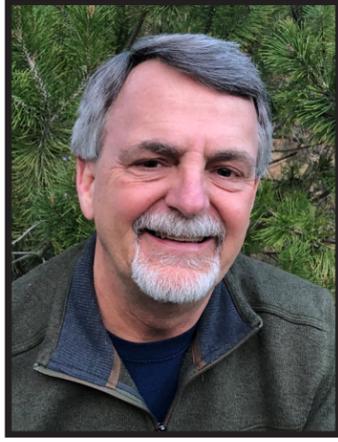
#### Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp creates holy spaces that embody God's radical grace to affirm, empower, and transform all people to be Christ's light in the world

## Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director

September was a blur!! There were so many good things happening that kept us super busy. Following Labor Day Family Weekend, we began preparation for Delta and Cam's wedding. I had the honor of officiating for them. A week later, another wedding at camp! What a pleasure to witness, host, and officiate. Then Will and I hosted the men's Flyfishing retreat which was fabulous. The next week we completed our 2025 preliminary budget so that our Board could set fees for next summer at our recent Board meeting. And we just hosted another marvelous Grace Race at Sloan's Lake Park. The postcard and brochure for next summer are finalized and being printed. These really are the joys of a vibrant and robust ministry!



We had an awesome summer. Our teams led 28 day camps, 2 Bridging Borders trips, 9 Compass Points backpack trips, and we served over 1,000 campers on-site this summer. In addition, we once again had an incredible Week 10 with our Joshua Station family camp. The Joshua Station program continues to grow and blossom. They were able to do pottery, go rafting, make jewelry, do high ropes, and develop trusted relationships through conversation and worship. We also welcomed well over a hundred camp grandparents and adult leaders throughout the summer. Our summer staff was once again amazing. This was a younger group, but they grew quickly and became an incredible ministry team. They loved their campers deeply and they truly loved each other. We are excited to have many of them back next summer!

One of the key parts of our program is a quality Bible study that challenges all of us to make the world different once we leave camp. This year was no exception. We had an awesome Bible Study that helped us understand who we are Created To Be. This was a powerful study that reminded us that we are beloved children of God, always and forever, no matter what! The writers did a superb job of creating a study that I believe touched not only our campers but also our staff. Thank you to the writing team-- Pastor Nicole Ferry, Pastor Adam Berndt, Pastor Jane Jebson, Pastor Pam Challis, and Pastor Brad Doty-- and 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! Others who made a huge difference in our ministry this summer through staff training are Julie Miller and Pastor Jared Parker. Thank you all for giving so fully to this ministry and being flexible in sharing your knowledge and time with our staff!

I also want to thank all of our partner congregations for their support of Rainbow Trail. You, along with the Rocky Mountain Synod, have provided us with such a stable support base - especially over the most recent years - that has allowed to fully live into our ministry. There are now over 86 partner congregations that contribute to Rainbow Trail. Thank you for seeing us as partners in your ministry and in the faith development of your youth and families. Thank you also to the Rocky Mountain Synod for naming outdoor ministries as an important part of your ministry as well.

As the Rainbow Trail community, you have continued to believe in and support Rainbow Trail in 2024. People have been so generous toward RTALC. You have allowed us to focus on the critical things, such as training and preparing our staff, so the campers' experience can be the absolute best it can be. Thank you!!

I also want to thank our full-time team for their work this summer. All of our programs were so strong and so solid this summer. And retreating is growing! Thanks to the full-time team for your passion, your love of this ministry, and your partnership in this ministry. I love you all!

Registration for 2025 will open on November 1st at 12:01 am. Members of the churches of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1st, 2025. After that date, it is open registration. If the last few years have taught us anything, it is that people jump on registration early in order to secure their preferred weeks. At Labor Day Family Weekend, people were talking about setting alarms to wake up at midnight to register their kids. For those of you in the Rocky Mountain Synod, take advantage of this next two months of priority registration. This will ensure that your camper gets into the week of camp that they want to attend. If you wait until even late January, many camps will be full and your choices will be limited. Start making plans now!

Two of our dear full-time staff are leaving us by the end of the year. Aurice Worley who has been our Bookkeeper extraordinaire for the last 22 years, will be retiring at the end of October. Aurice has been my right-hand person in the office for all of these years and she will be dearly missed. Sands Simonton, who has served as our Director of Site and Facilities for the last 4 years, will be leaving at the end of the year. Sands has skillfully continued the strong leadership for this aspect of our ministry and those skills and his fun personality will be missed. I appreciate and love you both!

The land exchange continues to progress quickly! The field work for the land exchange is completed. The appraisals for both pieces of property occurred at the end of July and we just received the values for both properties. Our Board is now finalizing the configuration of our new site! The site survey and the completion of the Conservation Easement still need to be completed. Please keep this land exchange in your prayers. It has been a journey!! The hope is still that we will own our site in June of 2025! Then we can celebrate!

At the end of summer, Nell and I took a week and went down to Taos, New Mexico. We stayed in a beautiful little Casita Air BNB, ate amazing food, had heart-felt conversations, and watched the wonders of God in the thunder and lightning storms that rolled over us. It was a great time for both of us. But the best news we recently found out is that we are going to be grandparents in March of 2025. We can't wait!! We are already switching plans on home upgrades to be ready for the arrival. Get ready to see photos next summer!

Thank you all for another great summer. I have been blessed to serve you. We are living in the excitement of all that will be 2025! Come join us and be a part of it!

Until next time,

*Dave*

December 10



ColoradoGivesDay.org

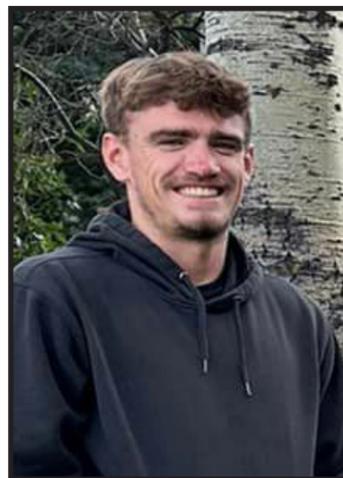
## December 10, 2024

On Tuesday, DECEMBER 10, 2024, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations like ours. Last year, \$54.2 million was distributed to 3,682 different nonprofits throughout Colorado! RTALC raised \$171,982 in that 24-hour period! With the encouragement of some of our donors, we have set our goal for 2024 at \$150,000 with a challenge goal of \$175,000, and super challenge goal of \$200,000. We have never gone over \$200,000 on Colorado Gives Day. All funds raised will go toward our Annual Fund. You may wonder why we do Colorado Gives Day every year. The answer is that every donation given to RTALC on Colorado Gives Day provides Rainbow Trail with a chance to receive additional funds made available by Community First Foundation and 1st Bank. Every donor that gives to Rainbow Trail, no matter the size of the gift, puts Rainbow Trail in the drawing for monetary prizes. So, a \$10 donation could earn RTALC \$1,000 or more! There are also special prizes if we have more than 25 new donors this year.

Additionally, at the end of Colorado Gives Day, \$1.4 million incentive fund will be divided among the participating non-profit organizations. Each organization involved will receive a portion of the \$1.4 million based on their total donations that day. Each and every gift provides a percentage of the bonus fund to RTALC. More than ever, we 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 Day! Be sure to go to [rainbowtrail.org/co-gives](http://rainbowtrail.org/co-gives) to donate! There is also a quick link on our home page. If you're worried about forgetting, fear not! You can make your donation for Colorado Gives Day starting November 1, 2024 and it counts to our Colorado Gives Day total! Our theme this year is "Music That Takes You Home." We will focus on the music that reminds you of camp. We'll be creating a new Spotify playlist with all of your suggestions, and will be sharing recordings of some of our favorite musicians from camp like David Lee Brown, James Hersch, Nick Ehrhardt, Paul Bogart, Charlie Pineda, and a few other nice surprises. Mark your calendar now: December 10, 2024 for Colorado Gives Day!

## Rainbow Trail Welcomes Reggie & Eli

*This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed two new Program Assistants for the 2024-2025 retreat season. We can't wait for you to meet them! They bring great passion to this ministry, valuable experience, and will be an asset to all we serve this retreat season.*



**Reggie**

Zach (Reggie) Regennitter grew up in Falcon, Colorado and is excited to be this year's Program Assistant. Reggie was on staff for three summers as a camp hand and ropes coordinator! Reggie is excited to be back at the place he loves. He is excited to spread God's unconditional love to everyone that comes up and to have great conversations! Reggie loves spending time with loved ones, playing NCAA football, and watching the Vikings win in his free time.



**Eli**

Eli Christensen grew up in the Texas Hill Country in Kerrville, TX. He graduated in August 2024 from Texas A&M University with a degree in University Studies of Global Arts, Planning, Design, and Construction and minors in Urban Planning and Parks Recreation and Tourism Sciences. He worked at Cross Trails Ministry in Kerrville, TX for 3 summers as well as a summer on staff at Outlaw Ranch in Custer SD, serving as the Off-Site Assistant Program Director on his last summer at Chrysalis. He has grown up around camps and is excited to take this next step to learn more about the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries world.

# The 18th Annual Grace Race A Huge Success



The 18th Annual Grace Race was blessed with a picture-perfect October day and an enthusiastic crowd. Those participating helped make a difference that day by raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. We had 125 participants and volunteers come out for the race. It was a little bit toasty out for running and walking but that didn't wilt people's attitudes! There was a great post-race party with burgers and a fun playlist that added to the festivities. People stuck around and picnicked following the race and celebrated those who won medals. The top female finisher was Amelia Stratton with a time of 20:26. The top male finisher and overall fastest time this year was Howard Ritter with a time of 20:19. The youngest registered race-day participant this year was 6-year-old Lillian Epperson, while the oldest registered race-day participant to complete the course was 83-year-old Michael Chessnoe. All the top times for all the age groups are posted on our website. Our traveling trophy for the "Fleetest Flock," (that is, the ELCA church that had the most registered members of their congregation,) went to Augustana Lutheran Church again, which boasted 30 members registered! The final totals are not in, but it looks like we will be able to send a check for around \$8,000 to \$8,500 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. This will push our total giving to ELCA World Hunger through Grace Race to over \$100,000! The 19th annual Grace Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, October 4, 2025 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!

## CAMP Vibes

By Cam Regennitter - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders  
SKOL! SKOL! SKOL! As the Vikings

start the football season on a better note than I could ever imagine, I must celebrate while things are good! The fall season is in the air and has been moving fast. I recently married Delta in September, and time has flown since then. Between the wedding, honeymoon in Costa Rica, and camp life, we already catch ourselves in our favorite season.



Our On-Site program had a successful summer, serving 1,047 campers. Many of our weeks were at total capacity, and we saw an increase in adult leaders, pastors, and grandparents joining us weekly. Each week was full of growth in faith and friendships, and they were all fulfilling in their ways, from creative VOD themes and passionate staff witnesses, to fun all camps and raging camp dances. Additionally, campers from Denver Rescue Mission attended weeks 1, 2, and 5. It's heartwarming to see them return each summer and to build relationships with them. Those campers and adult leaders are becoming a part of the RTALC culture and changing it in beautiful ways. Week 10 continues to grow as well! Joshua Station joined us and brought even more families. We had a total of 83 family members, volunteers, and staff. Never in my mind three years ago did I think this is what this program would grow into.

The Bridging Borders program had to get creative this summer, which was more rewarding than ever. On the first trip, we sent a group of 6 staffers up to Joshua Station to volunteer for a week. Our staffers joined their staff and jumped in where they were needed. Helping in the kitchen, doing landscape work, hanging with families, and their ministry was required everywhere else. That only helps the relationships to grow as we continue to find different ways to serve this community. On the second trip, I and two summer directors attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We served as servant companions and led service projects within the New Orleans community. Some projects included construction projects on churches, park clean-ups, and helping lead The Whole Gritty City Project, which included leading 750 volunteers. It was fulfilling to see our RMS friends, get to know new congregations, and build relationships with the people of New Orleans.

This is my official thank you to so many people! Thank you to those over the summer who supported, volunteered, worked, and just talked with me about camp, life, God, and what life is like! I increasingly appreciate the RTALC community and pray that everyone finds a community like this.

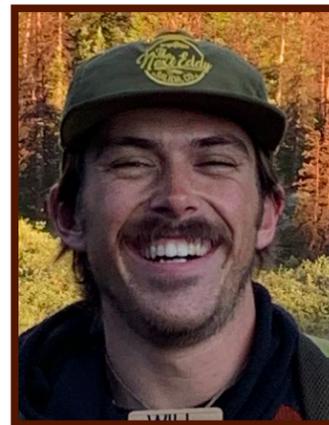
Peace!

*Cam*

# Into The Wilderness

By Will Johnson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp Ministries

Wow! Another summer has come and gone! As summer comes to an end I feel nothing but joy and gratitude as we enter into the fall and retreat season. So far it has already been a great fall with Labor Day Family Camp, celebrating Cam and Delta's wedding, and getting to host and lead the new Backcountry Fly Fishing Open!



The Backcountry Fly Fishing Open has definitely been one of many highlights this fall. My old friend and RTALC alumni Hank came down and spent the week here and participated in the trip. We caught countless fish, had great conversations, and ate some delicious food all in great company with everyone on the trip. I also helped host the Men's Fly Fishing Retreat, and got to spend a weekend with my Aunt and Uncle and show them around camp and Salida. What a great and busy Fall it has been!

Reflecting back on this summer, our Compass Points Program got the opportunity to lead 9 high adventure trips throughout the Sangre De Cristo Mountains! What a blast! We served congregations from Texas, Minnesota, South Dakota, Virginia, and young adults from all over. This summer was full of card games, peaking mountains, and singing camp songs until the sun came up. A special thanks to my summer directors that made such an incredible summer come to life in the mountains.

Day Camp was a great success this summer and we got to serve 28 congregations from all over including New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas. Many lives were touched and changed due to the amazing work that our staff put in every week, a big thanks to everyone who helped make our ministry come to life this summer!

Thanks everyone for a great summer and if you ever find yourself in Salida, hit me up to go fishing! -Will

## 2025 Summer Schedule



The Rainbow Trail summer 2025 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$530 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which will be \$305. Family camp fees are \$530 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$395 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$265 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

- May 23-26.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 26-June 7.....Staff Training
- June 8-14.....Junior High #1
- June 15-18.....Intro To Camp #1
- June 15-21.....Junior #1
- June 18-21.....Intro To Camp #2
- June 22-28.....Confirmation #1
- June 29-July 5.....Family Camp #1
- July 6-12.....Senior High #1
- July 6-12.....Into the Wild
- July 13-19.....Open Sr. High Compass Points
- July 13-19.....Confirmation #2
- July 20-26.....Senior High #2
- July 20-26.....Open Jr. High Compass Points
- July 27-August 2.....Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
- July 27-30.....Intro To Camp #3
- August 3-9.....Family Camp #2
- August 10-16.....Joshua Station Family Camp
- August 29-September 1.....Labor Day Family Weekend

### Grade Levels as of Fall 2025

- 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, 2025 This applies to all camps, including family camps.

## Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Hello to my RTLC family!

What a glorious Summer and Fall! It was strange knowing that this was my final Summer. It was a very bittersweet experience! Have no fear; I will be here for Staff Training, God willing! It doesn't seem possible that it's been 21 Summers. I'm still going to be doing retreats! I will also be working on my cookbook and manuals for the Kitchen. It was a great summer with a beautiful staff. Working with my girls again for the 3rd year in a row was such a blessing! Annika, Addie, and Kendall, thank you for the love and laughter over the last three years. It has been an honor and a privilege! Our weddings this Fall, Delta and Cam and Abby Mudgett, were perfect! For Delta and Cam, the weather was perfect! I asked Delta if her Wedding was what she envisioned, and her response was, "It was everything I dreamed of!" Blessings to you and Cam! Abby's wedding was a little bit more nail-biting! Right before the service the sky darkened and the winds were blowing! But God loves his children and gave them Sunny skies and a peaceful breeze for the Ceremony in the Chapel of the Pines. Abby, you were just Beautiful!

The retreats have been coming fast and furious. Delta is doing an excellent job as Director of Retreat Ministries. You go, Girl!!! If you haven't met our PGAs yet, let me tell you Zack and Eli are both very enthusiastic about their positions and dedicated to doing a good job! Sands Simonton will be leaving us on Dec.31st.

I will cry! All will miss you!

So, I have gotten a lot of requests for the Banana Cookie Recipe and here it is!

### Banana Cookies with Brown Sugar Frosting

¾ cup butter  
¾ cup brown sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 eggs  
2 medium mashed bananas  
¼ teaspoon sea salt  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
¾ teaspoon baking soda  
2 ¼ cup all-purpose flour

**Frosting**  
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons Brown Sugar  
¼ cup butter  
¼ cup heavy cream  
½ teaspoon vanilla extract  
½ cup powdered sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, bananas, and vanilla until combined. In a separate bowl combine salt, cinnamon, baking soda, and flour. Add this to the banana mixture gradually until combined. Drop by spoonfuls onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment or spray the pan lightly.

Bake for 8-10 minutes or until the edges are lightly browned. **DON'T OVERBAKE!!!**

While the cookies are baking, prepare the frosting. In a medium saucepan combine brown sugar, butter, and heavy cream. Bring to a boil; remove from heat and stir in vanilla and powdered sugar until smooth. If you get lumps you can get rid of them with an electric mixer. Spoon onto cookies while still warm and let set until frosting firms up. Writing these articles for you all has been a delightful experience! I hope you have enjoyed our time together as much as I have.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER!  
And always remember GOD IS GREAT!!!!!!

-Chris



Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp  
**Senior High Retreat**  
November 22nd-24th,  
2024

Don't miss this opportunity to be immersed in community on the mountain, in which we will discover and affirm the gifts that God has given us.

Email [delta@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:delta@rainbowtrail.org) for any questions!

## LOM AUCTION COMING IN NOVEMBER!

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) is the ELCA churchwide expression of outdoor ministries that connects and supports the 119 Lutheran outdoor ministries sites across the country. For many years, LOM has had an auction at its national conference that has been a major source of income for its annual budget. Part of the auction has moved to a virtual format. Rainbow Trail wants to invite you to participate with us in the silent auction from November 6th - November 13th. Bidders can participate from anywhere as they seek to win camp experiences, travel packages, handcrafted art, and other unique items. You'll notice that one of the many items available for bidding is a 2025 week of summer camp registration with us at Rainbow Trail. Be on the lookout on RTLC social media for more information on how to access the auction. See you at the auction!

## Words with the Wise

By Delta Regennitter - Director of Retreats



Hey y'all! Fall finally made her debut across the Sangre de Cristo mountain range and buried us in yellow-gold aspen leaves. Peak colors were seen at our annual Women's Retreat from September 27th to the 29th, but the leaves are already falling, and winter is hiding just around the corner. Having been in this role for just over a year now, I can say that each season brings its own type of beauty to camp, especially considering I am from a state that only has one season (summer). But let's jump back a bit since I haven't written to you all since April! We had a couple of retreats in May. One of which, our board retreat on May 9th, surprised us with 4 feet of snow and a power outage! After that, we jumped right into summer camp 2024, starting with director training on May 20th.

I was able to spend a considerable amount of time up at camp this past summer and connect with our amazing summer staff. Working with them gave me a resurgence of energy. Seeing camp through their fresh and excited eyes was so revitalizing. I can see why Dave has been doing this for 36 summers. They bring such charismatic energy to camp that we long for by the time May rolls around. In between weeks at camp, I had two bridal showers, one in Texas and one in Colorado, and my bachelorette party in Breckenridge! I also had the opportunity to finally be a part of our Joshua Station Family Camp and visit Joshua Station in Denver. That was probably one of my favorite weeks at camp. As our friends from Joshua Station headed down the mountain, summer camp came to a screeching halt. During our all-staff vacation week, I spent each day preparing for our wedding. Retreat season started like the beginning of a track race, running at a full sprint.

Our two new interns for the year, Eli and Reggie, moved in the following Monday. They drank from the firehose and led the Cañon Exploratory School for a day retreat. The very next day, we hosted our annual Labor Day family camp. The following weekend, I like to say we had a 'triple retreat weekend.' We welcomed back a contracted retreat that attends every year; meanwhile, Will hosted his first-ever backcountry fly fishing retreat, and on Saturday, we led the Grandview boys varsity soccer team in high ropes.

On the weekend of September 14th, we hosted Cam and my wedding. I have to say, truly, it was the best day of my entire life. It took SO much planning to get married where we work and during my busiest season, but it was incredible and came off without a hitch. Our wedding was a camp wedding through and through. Dave officiated and carved 130+ name tags for each and every guest, Pastor Nicolé (also the best marriage counselor ever) blessed our reception meal, and Leah and Jordan Jarvis were my day-of coordinators; I could see Ben Jarvis videoing at the ceremony like he used to when he was my boss here, ten summer staffers came back to work the wedding, Chris cooked six meals across the weekend, and Kyle and Sandy built us a custom ceremony cross and reception bar. We were married on the ballfield facing Eagle Peak, which had already started to change colors. The reception was down at the Pavilion under twinkling lights. We have a guy who comes out and attaches a large event tent to the side of the pavilion covering the basketball court. That was the dance floor. Our guests were almost perfectly divided into three Hogwarts-like long tables: my family, Cam's family, and our camp family. Seeing everyone from each world collide into one big family was something rare to happen again that I'll cherish forever. I have to give a special shout-out to Mark and Heidi Peterson, who came up and helped so much over the weekend. We couldn't have done it without them. Also, Charlie Pineda sang us a beautiful song at our reception dinner. It's God's awesome plan who you meet here at camp one random day, and suddenly, they're helping you make your wedding dreams come true. My family from Texas loved it up here, and while we finished with a big cookout and worship at the "fircle" on Sunday morning, I cried. With Cam and Dave on guitar and Zach Lindsey on cajon, it warmed my heart to have my mom and dad sit there and sing camp songs for the very first time. I could go on forever, but I'm eternally grateful to this place and these people. Little 16-year-old camper Delta would be just dying on this day.

Cam and I left that Sunday for a week-long honeymoon in Costa Rica. During this time, we hosted our annual Men's Fly Fishing Retreat. Dave said it was one of the best yet! We returned from Costa Rica and went straight into the Women's Retreat with speaker Missie Bonser. We had previous staff members Traci Dorth and Erin Farrell help as well with crafts and yoga. It was a stunning experience. Since then, we've hosted the sweet King of Kings church families, and now we have a Confirmation Retreat this weekend! New Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni is our speaker this year, so I'm excited to meet her and welcome her to Rainbow Trail! As usual, we have a retreat every weekend until AdventFest, December 6th to 8th. It's my favorite retreat, and we still have room, so I highly recommend signing up now!

PHEW, that was long-winded, but I had to catch y'all up on the past six months, and it's been a pretty packed six months at that. I just wanted to end by saying how grateful I am for each of you for introducing yourselves to me over the summer and talking to me about wedding things. I feel honored to be a part of your world here. Thank you for your love and support! See y'all soon!

-Delta

## Simonton Says

By Sands Simonton - Director of Site and Facilities

Hello there RTL community! I hope you're all having a great day wherever you are. Bode and I are up here at camp enjoying the fall colors and it makes me so happy that the weather is finally cooling off. We have successfully started the retreat season once again and we are all super excited. I have a lot to talk about in this report including some personal news about my exit from Rainbow Trail, which will be pretty difficult, but I'll go over all of that at the end. For now let's talk about camp!

This past summer went pretty darn well. The site is in really good shape going into the Fall. My team of Maintenance and Camp Hand employees was smaller than in the past which meant we had to work a little harder but at the end of the day, we had another amazing summer of ministry. One of the reasons I have loved working here, is our ability as a team to keep pushing forward and to keep finding solutions to challenges. I want to thank all of my employees from the summer from the bottom of my heart. The three assistants Kenzie Ross, Zach Burggraaf and Lindsay Smith who all shared the same job and did a great job navigating that and keeping the camp functioning well. All three of them learned a lot and grew so much as people and I'm very proud of them. The three Camp Hands also crushed it this summer. Without the Camp Hands doing what they do, it'd be incredibly difficult to run the summer smoothly so a huge thank you to them as well. I feel so blessed to have gotten to work with the team that I did. We kept the site very well maintained and looking fresh all summer which is of course my number one goal!

Okay now let's talk Memorial Day! I'll start by saying I am extremely happy with how this Memorial Day turned out. I felt as though everyone had something to do the entire weekend, and the site really benefited. This year we didn't have a lot of massive projects. Our largest project lead by Phil Dorth, was a new tongue and groove ceiling in Eagle Peak's main room. Now all of the Eagle Peak's ceilings are new and it will hopefully last a long time. Aspen was the target of some new upgrades and necessary repairs as well, Dave Fisk helped us get rid of the old booster for the dishwasher and upgraded it to a tankless water heater. This makes it so we always have hot water to that machine which is very handy. Dave also replaced the baking station window in the back of the kitchen for Chris, as well as a few smaller projects. The new projector screen was rewired by our resident electrician Ben Green who recently came out and completed that project which is awesome! During the weekend he also helped install a new fan above the walk-ins/pantry as well as up in dry storage. Both fans will increase air circulation and keep the temperature stable in that building. Moving along to Holling, we had Bob Dugan remodel one of the closets (the old kitchen bathroom) into a much more usable storage space for all our merch. As always there was a large team of people working popshop too. A few more very notable projects include, the replacement of the flag pole at the welcome sign with a tree from my parents property down the road. We cleared the scrub oak away from it, and put new flags on it, it looks great. We also finally installed the wood burning stove up in the Juniper apartment. Mike Di Lisa lead this project and did a great job. Of course many smaller jobs were completed as well, from cleaning and organizing, to small repairs that the site always needs due to the constant use it gets. As a whole, we got so much done during the weekend, and everyone seemed to have a fantastic time working with each other and enjoying the camp experience. I couldn't be happier with how it went.

I want to thank Dave Fisk one more time. Over the past many years he has helped me and this camp out so much. Each year he takes a week off from his summer to come out and help with projects at camp. Sometimes it's not easy for me to find time for the more involved repairs the camp needs during the heat of the summer so having someone else here to help with that is a game changer. I also want to thank Bill and Charlotte Dausses for their contribution towards our new golf cart. I'm sure most of you got to see the cart in action up at camp and let me tell you, it is the most handy thing to have during the summer. It's maybe our favorite vehicle so thank you so much. And finally, I just want to thank the entire the full time team, Dave, Nell, Will, Cam, Delta, Chris, Aurice and Tricia for being my second family and for giving me the best support system I could have ever asked for. I learned so much from all of them and had the privilege to share some pretty special memories with them. Chris is an angel and I have always loved her and what she does. Shes been a great friend ever since I started here. I've known Cam and Delta since we were campers. They've always supported me no matter what, and I'll always love them. Will and I both worked maintenance and have worked on fulltime together long enough for us to have formed a super strong bond. We've become lifelong friends and I am so blessed. How do I even go about thanking Dave and Nellie. They have been role models for me my entire life. I want to thank both of them, especially Dave for giving me the opportunity to live this life and become the person I am. I can remember sitting next to Nell as an intro camper over 20 year ago. Thank you to each of them from the bottom of my heart.

As most of you know by now, I decided to give my notice to Dave and the board with December 31st being my exit date. It saddens me beyond words to leave this place, but I have decided that it's time for me in my life to look for new things and new adventures. I can't even begin to describe how I feel about my time here. 5 summers and 4 full years flies by when you're having fun I guess. It will forever be the most impactful and incredible experience I'll have in this life. The people I now know, the skills I now have, and memories that I've made, are things that mean so much to me. I'll miss this job so much and I wish the absolute best for this organization. Thank you for everything RTL.

Love,

-Sands



## 2025 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 2024 is any indication (installing new benches at the Fircle and the outdoor chapel; building a new deck railing for Eagle Peak Lodge; gutting and installing the new ceiling in the main room of Eagle Peak Lodge; replacing screens on all of the cabins; installing a new wood burning stove in upper Juniper apartment; installing new windows in the Aspen Kitchen; installing a new tankless water heater in Aspen for the Dishwasher; installing a new arts and crafts sink in the pavilion; log oiling the benches, crosses, pavilion, and the great I AM; repairing the upper deck of Juniper Lodge; and remodeling the popshop storage closet), we'll be sure to have another busy and memorable weekend! The dates for 2025 are May 23-26, 2025. Call the Canon City office at (719) 276-5233 or email Dave at [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto: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!

## HELP RTL WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2024 of \$35,000 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!!

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1. Find out what is new at Rainbow Trail
2. Build a display board for their congregation
3. Become equipped to pass along important information about what is happening at Rainbow Trail to their congregations.
4. Ambassadors are an important key to the ministry at RTL

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for your congregation, contact Dave Jarvis at : 719.276.5233 [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org).

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Give a gift to Rainbow Trail and invest in the faith lives of thousands of kids. In today's economy there is no better return!



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Susan and Dave Fisk - Log oil for new benches in outdoor chapel  
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King of Kings Lutheran Church - Pueblo, CO  
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Lutheran Church of Hope - Broomfield, CO  
Mount of the Holy Cross Luth Church - Vail, CO  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Greeley, CO  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - Ft. Collins, CO  
Peace in Christ Lutheran Church - Elizabeth, CO  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Denver, CO  
Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA - Denver, CO  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church - Canon City, CO  
South Zumbro Lutheran Church - Kasson, MN  
South Zumbro Lutheran Church WOW - Kasson, MN  
St. Luke Lutheran Church - Albuquerque, NM  
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Albuquerque, NM  
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Calhan, CO  
St. Peter Lutheran Church - Greenwood Village, CO  
St. Philip Lutheran Church - Littleton, CO  
Tabor Lutheran Church - Pueblo, CO  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Boulder, CO  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Fowler, CO  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Monument, CO



# Events Calendar 2024 - 2025

- November 1.....Registration Opens
- November 22-24.....RTLCL Senior High Retreat
- December 6-8.....AdventFest
- February 28.....Summer Staff Applications Due
- April 1.....Summer Volunteer Apps Due
- May 23-26.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 26-June 7.....Staff Training
- August 29 -September 1.....Labor Day Family Weekend
- September 18-21.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat
- October 4.....Grace Race

## 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 [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org).

## Are You Willing?



If you could make a gift that literally impact generations of future campers at Rainbow Trail, wouldn't you jump at the chance to do that? Well, there is a very simple way you can do that. Rainbow Trail depends on the support of generous people to do its ministry. A very simple and easy way to make a difference is to include Rainbow Trail in your will as the beneficiary of an estate gift or as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. By naming Rainbow Trail in your will, you will become a member of the Sangre de Cristo Society. This group becomes the foundation upon which the future of the ministry of Rainbow Trail is being built. Your gift will reach beyond your lifetime and ensure that the Gospel will continue to be shared through this ministry for generations to come. Two great examples of this are the estates of Pauline Hammond and of Maxine Johnson who provided gifts that helped build our ropes course. If you have already included Rainbow Trail in your will, let us know so we can include you in the list of members of the Sangre de Cristo Society. For more information, please contact Dave in the Canon City office.

## Craving Color?

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless, color version! Visit our website to find this edition and many previous editions of Rainbow Reflections in full color. You can also email Tricia at [info@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:info@rainbowtrail.org) to get on our e-newsletter list for more Rainbow Trail information!

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.

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)  | 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)       |
| Reams of colored copy paper           | 10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)     |
| Nalgene Water Bottles (40)            | 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables |
| Masking tape                          | Rain Jackets & Rain Pants              |
| Scotch Tape                           | On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs   |
| Duct Tape                             | Foam Brushes - 1"                      |
| Packing Tape                          | Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive  |
| Postage stamps                        | 2 Cases of Lysol or Clorox Wipes       |
| 8.5x11 Yellow Tablets                 | 5X8 note pads Junior legal             |
| 8 ft. Rectangle "Lifetime" tables (5) |  |
| Long barreled fire lighters (Bic)     |  |
| 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps)     |  |

## 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           | Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs |
| Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!) | Podcast Gear                           |
| Sturdy Wheelbarrows                     | Skid Steer Tire Chains                 |
| New 3-piece towel sets (20)             | Used Vehicle For Day Camp              |
| Shark Navigator vacuums (4)             | Apple Studio                           |
| Free Standing Space Heaters (3)         |  |
| Dish Cart                               |  |

## 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. There is also a Compass Points specific list online. You can even ship directly to us!

[www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list](http://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

3056 County Road 198  
Westcliffe, CO 81252  
Phone: 719-942-4220  
Fax: 719-942-4000

### Full-Time Staff

- Dave Jarvis, Executive Director.....[dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org)
- Aurice Worley, Bookkeeper.....[accounting@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:accounting@rainbowtrail.org)
- Tricia Lindsey, Executive Assistant/Registrar.....[info@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:info@rainbowtrail.org)
- Will Johnson, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp...[will@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:will@rainbowtrail.org)
- Delta Regennitter, Director of Retreats.....[delta@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:delta@rainbowtrail.org)
- Cam Regennitter, Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders.....[cam@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:cam@rainbowtrail.org)
- Sands Simonton, Director of Site & Facilities.....[sands@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:sands@rainbowtrail.org)
- Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....[chris@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:chris@rainbowtrail.org)

### Board of Directors

- President.....Michelle Okes, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO
- Vice President.....Austen Smith, Lafayette, CO
- Secretary.....Brad Doty, St. Philip Lutheran, Denver, CO
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- .....Rev. Jane Jebsen, Faith Lutheran, Golden, CO
- .....Rev. Nicolé Ferry, Bethlehem Lutheran, Los Alamos, NM

[www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org)