



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 38 , Number 3 Fall 2026

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.

A New Digital Home for RTALC! New Website Set To Launch This Month

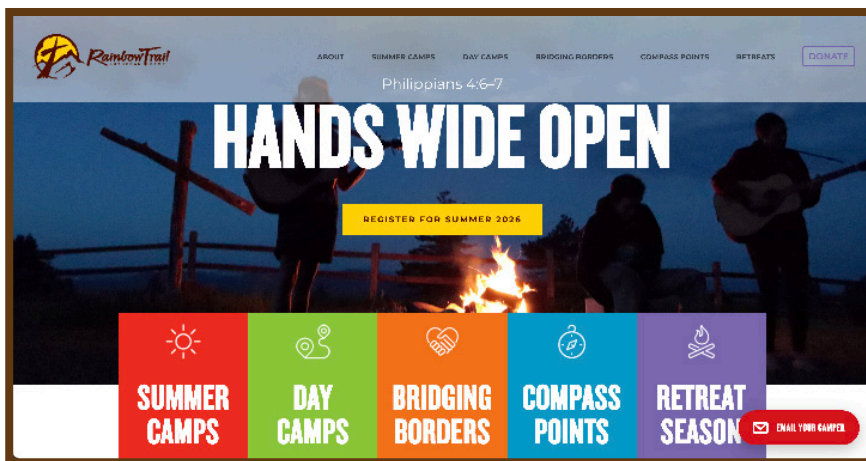
This October, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is excited to launch a brand-new website!

For more than 60 years, RTALC has been a place where people come to unplug, reconnect, grow in faith, build friendships, and experience God's creation. While so much of what makes Rainbow Trail special happens here on the mountain, we know that the first step for many people happens somewhere else: online.

Our new website is designed to make that first step easier.

Whether you are a first-time camper looking for information about summer camp, a parent getting ready for your child's week at Rainbow Trail, a church leader searching for a retreat, a senior high camper looking for a volunteer opportunity, or a longtime camp family wanting to reconnect, the new website will provide a clearer and more engaging way to discover everything RTALC has to offer.

This project has been about more than simply giving our website a fresh look. We have been working to create a digital



home that better reflects who Rainbow Trail is today while also helping us tell the story of where God is leading us in the future.

The new site will make it easier to explore our summer programs, retreats, Bridging Borders trips, day camps, Compass Points, and other opportunities to connect with RTALC. It will also give us a better place to share stories, photos, upcoming events, and the many ways our community is living out the mission of Rainbow Trail throughout the year.

And while the website is changing, the way you register for camp is not. CampBrain will continue to be our registration and application platform. When you are ready to register for a summer program, retreat, or when you need to complete a staff application, you will still use CampBrain. The new website will help you find the information you need and then direct you to CampBrain when it's time to register or apply.

One of the most exciting parts of this new website is the opportunity to better

tell the stories that make camp what it is. A website can provide information, but our hope is that it will also give people a glimpse of the community, relationships, faith, adventure, and joy that happen here.

As we look toward the future, communication will continue to play an important role in connecting people to camp. The new website is one piece of a larger effort to strengthen how we communicate with campers, families, churches, alumni, donors, and supporters throughout the year.

We are incredibly excited to share it with you this October. When it launches, take some time to explore, look around, and see what's new. You may even discover a new way to be part of the Rainbow Trail community.

The website may be new, but the heart behind it remains the same: creating spaces where people can encounter God, experience community, and discover the joy of being together.

Starting To See The Light

RTALC makes great progress as we move toward the end of the Land Exchange Process

It was a busy and active summer for the Land Exchange process, and we are continuing to knock items off the timeline.

Following the public comment period back in April, the Forest Service sent formal responses to those who submitted comments about the Land Exchange. Rainbow Trail also sent responses because we felt it was important for them to hear directly from Rainbow Trail as well so that they knew we had read their comments and addressed their concerns.

A great deal of Rainbow Trail's work this summer was finalizing all the documents that needed to be posted on the Forest Service website for the Land Exchange. We made final changes to the Conservation Easement to ensure the needs of our neighbors to the north were met for roads and access. All documents were submitted on August 27th.

Probably the most challenging area remaining is receiving concurrence from the State Historic Preservation

Organization (SHPO). Following an extensive study, SHPO concurred with our assessment that RTALC's buildings would not qualify for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This was good news in that it will free the RTALC Board to make future decisions regarding camp structures without government restrictions due to historic preservation. However, they unable to concur that Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (the camp itself) is not eligible for the NRHP, and they feel that it is eligible as a "property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The SHPO is asking for a Resolution of this Adverse Effect before they will concur. To that end, RTALC is currently crafting a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the SHPO, the Forest Service, and Rainbow Trail that will include projects RTALC will complete to

capture the rich history of Rainbow Trail. This is actually a rather cool guarantee that the history of the camp—not its buildings—will be honored and preserved.

One of the last big hurdles is a 45-day objection period. The objection period began September 2nd and will run until October 16, 2026. This is really a "speak now or forever hold your peace" step. As of this writing (October 7), there have been no objections posted on the Forest Service website. If there are no objections, the timeline for completion will be shorter.

Based on the newest Land Exchange timeline, we could complete the land exchange and own our site in February or March of 2027. As you may know, 2027 is also Rainbow Trail's 70th anniversary. That could be quite the celebration in 2027!!

We ask for your continued prayers and financial support for the exchange

process. All of this additional work has been expensive. Your contributions at this stage will help us see this process to fruition. If you haven't given to the land exchange yet, consider making a special gift for the future generations that will be a part of this ministry. This is a project that the RTALC community has rallied around. Any remaining funds after the completion of the exchange will be used for the first major project in the new master plan. If you want to know more, Dave Jarvis would love to have a more in-depth conversation with you and explain more about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You can reach him by email at dave@rainbowtrail.org or by phone at 719-429-1377. Help us make Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp our Home At Last!

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

Full Circle

By Dave Gunnlaugsson - Executive Director

"How was your first summer?" This is the question so many have been so gracious to ask. I find myself stuttering as I answer every time. It was good, it was incredible, everything went great, amazing, busy, so fast, incredible staff, exhausting, better than expected, we made it, we did it, God was so kind to us! These are just a few of the many things I find myself saying as I try to put into words four unbelievable months in just a few thoughts. Honestly, it was so much more than I could have expected! Amazing campers, incredible staff, wonderful adult leaders, and tremendous weeks of family camp! While there are endless stories to share, perhaps this simple moment captures it best. I was sitting on the plane to fly back to Wisconsin after summer. Exhausted, thankful, humbled, and tears in my eyes. I was so thankful to be finished. To have made it. Yet even more thankful for the amazing group of summer staff who gave everything they could this summer. Until the very last hours of camp, they loved kids, encouraged each other, served, and gave all they have. Many of them were leaving to catch flights, start classes, travel overseas, begin internships, and yet they never quit! They could have done anything this summer; concerts, parties, travel, the beach, friends. And yet here they were loving campers to life all summer, supporting each other, and saying yes to a call so much bigger than all of us! That's what I will remember and cherish about my first summer. An amazing group of staff who believed in each other and said yes to Jesus every day as they poured their lives out serving others!

Perhaps one of the pieces that made the summer so incredible was the amazing Bible Study put together with such love and grace by our Bible Study writers. Our theme, "Hands Wide Open" created a space for campers to have opportunities to be present with one another and God. They took a look into the many layers of anxiety and then met those with thankfulness, prayer, and worship. It really was a powerful summer. I had one young camper say to me, I've never prayed so much in my life. I'm so thankful for our staff who prepared so hard for this study and for our writing team who gave so much to put it all together. Thank you to the writing team-- Pastor Nicole' Ferry, Pastor Rod Hank, Pastor Jane Jebesen, Pastor Pam Challis, and Pastor Brad Doty. You are a gift to RTALC and to our community. I was so thankful as well for the many ways in which ministry is happening at RTALC. Each week we had 3-4 Day Camp Teams traveling across the Synod, Compass Point Trips hiking throughout the Sangres, Confirmation, Senior High, Family, Junior and Junior High, and Intro weeks happening on site. Hundreds of campers and young people being encouraged and loved each week. Our staff was willing to jump into whatever was needed. It really was an amazing thing to experience and watch happening each week.

A big thank you as well to our full time team who gave of themselves each week to make it all happen. If you know or have contact with Tricia, Ruth, Cam, Delta, Will, or Matt, make sure to send them a thank you or a word of encouragement! Also, a big thank you to all of you who have continued to stand with and support RTALC over so many years, especially during this time of transition at RTALC. Your prayers, encouragement, support, and willingness to come alongside this ministry have been so unbelievable! Thank you so much for everything you have done to support me and RTALC in this first year.

I also want to give a big thank you to Dave Jarvis and the RTALC Board as well, who have been so incredibly supportive and willing to answer the phone at any time to help us through this first summer. Their continued love and support for staff, the RTALC community, and me has been a gift! Thanks, Dave and the Board for everything! So much more to share, but the Fall is calling! The 2027 theme is in the works, and retreats are happening every weekend. We have four incredible Program Assistants that have joined us! Grace Race this weekend. Church visits most weekends! Our first ever Rainbow Trail Worship Night with our Senior High Campers! Exciting ministry every day! I'm so thankful for all that God is doing and the opportunities we get to offer each day!

I remember sharing a moment with a new staffer this summer during staff training. As his tears fell, we shared a hug, and he looked at me and said, What is this place? I've never felt so loved and supported in all my life. I'm so thankful that RTALC continues to be that place. A place of love, grace, community, joy, worship, growth, humility, hard work, encouragement, and Jesus! Thank you, God, for a wonderful summer and a beautiful ministry to be a part of! May we continue to live with hands wide open and our eyes on you!

-Dave



A Note About 2027 Summer Fees

We are super excited as we begin planning for the summer of 2027. As you will see over the next few weeks, there has been a fairly significant change in fees for next summer. It is going to be roughly a 20 percent increase across the board. This is something the board and I have been working and praying through over the past several weeks. In 2026, we experienced a significant increase in insurance (being in a forest fire area), gas prices, summer staff salaries, and other categories as well. In light of these increases we needed to make the larger increases to help cover these fees. We certainly understand this has been a bigger jump over previous years. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. We also want everyone to know that we would never want these increases to keep anyone from camp. I want to encourage you to check out our Campership programs that are available for everyone on our website. As a reminder, 2027 registration opens on November 1, 2026, and camp deposits will be at \$130 this year. Thank you again for your understanding and support of Rainbow Trail. We look forward to another wonderful summer with your families and children!

Rainbow Trail Welcomes Addie, Kathryn, Kendall & Georgi

This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed four new Program Assistants for the 2026-2027 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.



Addie

Addie Flesch is from Greenwood Village, Colorado, and graduated from St. Olaf College in May 2026, where she majored in Religion and Psychology and minored in Environmental Studies. She was on staff for five summers, first as a Kitchen Assistant ('22, '23, '24) and then as a Compass Points Guide ('25, '26). She sees the evidence of God so clearly in creation and, during retreat season, hopes to create moments for guests to slow down and take it all in. In her free time, she enjoys being outside, watching documentaries, and embracing sarcasm. She's been enjoying her time as a Program Assistant and getting a glimpse of what full-time ministry is all about.

Kathryn

Kathryn Smith is a Colorado native from Cherry Hills Village, Colorado and just graduated from DePauw University with a degree in Economics and minors in French and Geology. She worked on staff for five summers as a camphand ('22), counselor ('23, '24), and ropes coordinator ('25, '26). She is thrilled to be a program assistant and meet more people through this wonderful retreat ministry. In her free time she loves to ski, read, be active, and do fiber arts! Kathryn loves to talk about all things faith, and can't wait to explore ministry more fully during this season!.

Kendall

Kendall Flesch is from Greenwood Village, Colorado. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2025 with a degree in Environmental Studies and minors in Economics, Political Science, and Geography. During her four summers on staff, she served as a Kitchen Assistant ('22, '23, '24) and Travel Support Director ('25). She spent the past year serving through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, teaching English in Szarvas, a small town in Hungary. When not PGA-ing, Kendall enjoys reading, baking, and spending time outdoors: skiing, hiking, and camping. She is looking forward to doing ministry in the mountains this year and connecting with guests.

Georgi

Georgi Ward is from Greeley, Colorado and will be starting at Colorado State University next fall to study music therapy. In May 2026, she earned her associate of arts degree. She worked on summer staff as the guitar instructor in 2025 and a counselor in 2026. Georgi has loved camp and its ministry for years and is so excited for opportunity to pour into it in a way she hasn't before! In her free time, Georgi loves to play guitar, be outdoors, play volleyball, and spend time with family and friends! She is so excited for everything this PGA season will hold!!

Want To Make A Difference?

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!



www.rainbowtrail.org

Online Anytime

2027 Summer Schedule

The Rainbow Trail summer 2027 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$650 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which will be \$330. Family camp fees are \$650 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$480 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$320 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

May 28-31.....	Memorial Day Work Weekend
May 31-June 12.....	Staff Training
June 13-19.....	Junior High #1
June 20-23.....	Intro To Camp #1
June 23-26.....	Intro To Camp #2
June 20-26	Junior #1
June 27-July 3.....	Confirmation Camp
July 4-10.....	Family Camp #1
July 11-17.....	Senior High #1
July 11-17.....	Into the Wild
July 18-24.....	Open Sr. High Compass Points
July 18-24.....	Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
July 25-31.....	Senior High #2
July 25-31.....	Open Jr. High Compass Points
August 1-7.....	Mixed Junior #3/Junior High #3
August 1-4.....	Intro To Camp #3
August 8-14.....	Family Camp #2
August 15-21.....	Joshua Station Family Camp
September 3-6.....	Labor Day Family Weekend

Grade Levels as of Fall 2027

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, 2027 This applies to all camps, including family camps.



December 8, 2026

On Tuesday, DECEMBER 8, 2026, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations like ours. Last year, \$56.6 million was distributed to 4,623 different nonprofits throughout Colorado! RTALC raised \$212,017 in that 24-hour period! With the encouragement of some of our donors, we have set our goal for 2026 at \$200,000 with a challenge goal of \$225,000. 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 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, 2026 and it counts toward our Colorado Gives Day total!

SUMMER STAFF 2027



Do you know anyone interested in working at camp this summer? Recruiting for 2027 staff has already begun! If you know someone who loves kids, is passionate about Young Adult Christian community, and would be a great fit for Rainbow Trail, encourage them to apply for a position on our summer staff! Applications open November 1st! Send those interested to www.rainbowtrail.org/summerstaff for more information! Applications are due **February 28th**.

CAMP Vibes

By Cam Regennitter - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders

SKOL! There is something about fall that always makes me slow down and take a look back. Maybe it is the changing leaves, the cooler mornings, or the return of football on the weekends. For me, fall has always been a season of reflection. And after another summer at Rainbow Trail, there is certainly a lot to reflect on.

This summer was another reminder of why I love this place so much. There is something special about watching campers arrive at the beginning of the week, often a little nervous or unsure, and then seeing them leave with new friendships, new confidence, and a deeper understanding of who God has created them to be. From worship around the campfire to late-night conversations in cabins, from messy games to quiet moments on the mountain, God continues to show up in all the little moments that make camp what it is. Oh, and having the best staff in the world adds to the fun.

Most of our On-Site weeks were full this summer, which was an exciting reflection of the continued growth and reach of our program. We welcomed a growing number of campers from outside of Colorado, especially during our Junior High and Senior High weeks. It was exciting to see camp continue to reach families and students beyond our local communities. We also welcomed more Denver Rescue Mission kids than ever before across several different weeks this summer. We are incredibly grateful for how that partnership has grown and for the opportunity to provide these kids with a week of camp, community, and fun. It has been amazing to see the ways God continues to work through that relationship. We also had another great week with Joshua Station. What started as a special partnership has become an important part of what we do at RTALC. Each year, that week reminds us of the unique opportunity we have to create a space where families can experience community, the outdoors, and the love of Christ. We are grateful for the continued trust and relationship we have built with Joshua Station and look forward to seeing that partnership continue to grow.

Looking beyond this summer, there are also some exciting things happening at RTALC. We are getting ready to launch a brand-new website this fall! This has been a project that has taken a lot of time and energy behind the scenes, but I am excited about what it will mean for our campers, families, volunteers, and supporters. Shout out Matt Oline with the help and guidance for this project!

And, of course, life outside of camp continues to change as well. Pierce is now a little over a year old, which is hard to believe. This past year of fatherhood has gone by incredibly fast. He is growing, learning, and developing more of a personality every day. Delta and I continue to figure out this whole parenting thing one day at a time, and we are incredibly grateful for the joy he has brought into our lives.

As I look toward the rest of this fall, I am grateful. Grateful for another summer at Rainbow Trail. Grateful for the staff, volunteers, campers, families, and supporters who make this ministry possible. Grateful for the opportunity to step into a new role and help shape what comes next. And most of all, grateful that God continues to use this little piece of the Colorado mountains to change lives.

There is always something new happening at camp. New campers, new staff, new ideas, new challenges, and new opportunities. I am excited to see where God takes us next.

Until next time, SKOL VIKES!

Cam



Keeping The Book

By Ruth Bolkema - Bookkeeper

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11-13

We are familiar with this book of Ecclesiastes, A Time for Everything. A verse or more is selected to be reviewed and discussed, put into place with a topic or circumstance in mind. It's used to support the reason for a topic. Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp has lived in the verses of 1 – 8. Change is always difficult and we felt it. The struggle and joy. Despair and celebration.

However, there are other verses that are tucked in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 that need to be addressed. Vs 11 - 13 “Has made everything beautiful in its Time...” “I know there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God.”

Change can be painful. Gut wrenching, crying “what have I done?” And the answer isn't what we have done but what is being done through us for His good. Maybe it's creating an experience that can be used later. Being proof that you survived once again. Or it could mean that the struggle created a “beautiful in its Time.” Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp went through changes with the adjustment of a new executive director. Different path to the mountain. Different path leader. Same mountain camp. We toiled on learning the differences between routine, personalities, and new processes. What was the result? I believe we are starting to see that there is food and drink and satisfaction in the distance. Being the witness that we survived and we now have an experience that can be used at His beautiful time – not ours. We have the reward to find satisfaction, but His reward is to watch how we grew in the changes. We may not have always leaned on Him, but He was still present through the change.

There are many gifts from God and growth is one of them, regardless of how it was obtained. We struggled up the path to the mountain but this next season the path is clearer. Visions of what the camp can be for the guests, big or little. Ideas and perseverance to show them that Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 can be theirs as well because we experienced it. Happiness and Life. Food and Drink. Satisfaction and Toil. Change. “Everything beautiful in its Time...”

-Ruth

HELP RTLC WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2026 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!!

WANTED: RTLC AMBASSADORS

Normal, Everyday People who Love RTLC and Want to Serve as RTLC Ambassadors for their congregations. Ambassadors meet at RTLC for a retreat once a year to:

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.

Ambassadors are an important key to the ministry at RTLC. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for your congregation, contact Dave at : 719.276.5233 daveg@rainbowtrail.org.

Be A Difference Maker!

Trailblazers and Pathfinders are Rainbow Trail's annual giving clubs that sustain our ministry and allow it to grow. Your gifts help us cover the expenses of the day-to-day operations of camp. For as little as \$10 a month, or \$120 a year, you can become a Trailblazer and make a huge difference in everything that happens here at camp! Pathfinders are those that would like to give a little more. For \$1,000 or more a year, you can become a Pathfinder and can make a bigger difference in this incredible ministry. From Day Camp to Bridging Borders to On-Site ministries to camperships, Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences. We need your support more than ever. Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail has been reduced in recent years. You can join by simply making your gift to Rainbow Trail. If you are interested in knowing more about Trailblazers or Pathfinders, please contact Dave at the Canon City office (719-276-5233) or by e-mail at daveg@rainbowtrail.org.

Words with the Wise

By Delta Regennitter - Director of Retreat Ministries



Hey y'all! Happy Fall :) Fall around here is synonymous with retreat season, so for me I'm a busy bee this time of year! With that being said, my letter to y'all will be a little shorter than usual because I'm currently in the thick of it (but I love it). The most exciting thing to update you all on is that I have not two, but FOUR Program Assistants (PGAs) this season. I cannot even begin to explain how incredible it has been, not only with the extra hands but with the community that we've built together this past month. Camp finally feels lively like it does during the summer months. All four interns have worked for us before for multiple summers: Kathryn Smith (5 summers) Georgi Ward (2 summers) Addie Flesch (5 summers) and Kendall Flesch (4 summers). These girls work HARD and have so much fun. Their enthusiasm for the job is infectious and they love to be together even in their off time. If you're wondering why we have four this year it is because we have not yet hired a head cook. As most of you know Chris Seamen retired in May after 20+ years at RTLC. We love her dearly and still see her in Westcliffe, and ask her questions about her recipes since she basically created them ALL haha. But Packer Dave considered this as a solution to have more interns so we can rotate working in the kitchen at each retreat. We've had six retreats already and it's worked fairly well so far. I've been the head cook twice now and have such a newfound respect for the work that's done in there. I am also creating the menus each week, checking inventory, and ordering the food. It's been an honor to explore the ministry of cooking! I made my first batch of camp bread from scratch this week which was a feat! Two of the PGAs, Kendall and Addie, worked in the kitchen for three summers and I've been extremely grateful to utilize their knowledge. Kathryn is ropes course certified too which helps so much with how often we run the course in retreat season. And Georgi has a gift with her voice and guitar abilities. It's magical to be able to listen to her sing and play at worship under the crisp fall night sky! I love these four girls so dearly and can't wait to see the impact they have on retreat ministry.

The retreats we've had so far have been: Labor Day Family Camp (where we hosted 140 family campers)! Another camp wedding (my personal favorite) for Maddie Parker and Ben Hizer who both worked for us. The Hizers got married on the ballfield on Saturday September 12th and Dave Jarvis married them. About 10 alumni came and worked that weekend too and since we are all friends with the couple we got to join them on the dancefloor in our staff uniforms at the end of the night and had such a blast. After that was our annual Men's Fly Fishing Retreat led by Pastor Dave Risendal, then the Women's Retreat led by Dee Ann Lord. We then hosted Canon Exploratory Middle School, hosted the Grace Race 5k in Denver, then went right back to camp for a mid-week retreat with Augustana Lutheran Church. This weekend is the Confirmation Retreat, and after that is King of Kings Lutheran Church, Joy Lutheran Church Women's Retreat, Fiber Arts, Senior High, and lastly- Adventfest! We'll also be heading to Giddings, Texas (close to where Matt, Will, and myself are from) for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Conference which is always a great time to reconnect with others in outdoor ministry. We've become good friends with a lot of the folks who come to the conference so it will be fun to see them again.

Personally, Cam and I bought our first home this past summer and moved in July. This house was a miracle and such a blessing. I'm having fun finding things on Facebook Marketplace and scoring at Goodwill to fill this house. Pierce is now almost one and a half years old. He is still in the 98th percentile in height, is aaaalmost walking, and says “mama, dada, ball, whoa, yeah, hot, no, boy, and most importantly... JEEP.” He is obsessed with cars and specifically Jeeps LOL. I am sensing a jeep themed birthday in his future. We hope to see you this season, and I hope you all get to experience a fall day at camp soon!! If you want to follow all the PGA and retreat season fun, follow them on Instagram [@rtlc_pgas2026](#) (they're so much better at posting than I am!)

Bye y'all! -Delta

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

Senior High Retreat

November 20th-22nd, 2026

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 for any questions!

If these retreats don't appeal to you, bring a group to RTLC and you can customize your own retreat! Contact delta@rainbowtrail.org to book your retreat today!

Talking Turman

By Matt Turman - Director of Site and Facilities

Hellllooooo Rainbow Trail family!

I hope everyone reading this has had an amazing fall and an even more exciting summer. Camp was alive this past year with all the new changes and it was a memorable time for everyone. From the new boss, new maintenance crew, new day camp vehicles, new campers, and a whole new summer staff to work with there was excitement from Memorial day through week ten.

The memorial day work weekend was a great success, thanks to a full camp of volunteers we were able to complete some exciting new projects. To start I have to thank all of the volunteers and memorial day contractors leading crews who helped make the weekend possible. We installed insulation underneath Aspen to retain heat in the winter months (Dave Fisk). Installed two back up generators, one on our pump house and one for the fridge and freezer in Aspen which will protect our inventory during a longer power outage. (Fisk and Ben Green). Installed snow brakes on Holling lodge and Golden Banner, and made gutter repairs around the site (Tyler Loffer). Built a new Gaga Ball pit and installed new counter tops in Columbine (Kevin Cross). Built a cleaning closet for the girl's side of the shower hosue (Phil Dorth). Installed new bathroom doors in Golden Banner, new facia around old cabins, and repairs to the Golden Banner ramp (Mike and Chris DiLisa). New back porch railing for Aspen (Nick Hughes). With the help of volunteers we were able to paint porches, work on resealing a section of the Pavillion, completed trail maintenance, cleared trash off of the old camp bus, patched holes in the shower house, filled a 30yd dumpster with trash from site, replaced lattice around the mall, repaired the Aspen loading dock, resealed fircle benches and much more! Once again a heartfelt thank you is in order for the contractors that gave a holiday weekend to keep the site and facilities in top shape, to the Rainbow Trail summer and full time staff that volunteered that weekend, and lastly the army volunteers who believe in the ministry of Rainbow Trail.

Plans for memorial day 2027 include redoing the ceiling in Paintbrush, insulating under Golden Banner, installing a new deck behind Juniper, redecking the high ropes course, installing energy efficient windows in cabins across the creek, and potentially beginning clearing plots for new builds as we look forward to the land exchange!

The summer was a wonderful time as well and I owe much to an incredibly energetic camp hand team, Matthew, Blake, Bear, and Chapman, our maintenance assistant Alex Brown, and the crew's summer facility director Bri Engel. Without them the site would not have been able to function day to day, and behind the scenes they worked tirelessly to make camper dreams come to life while keeping the site in top shape. The campers were as hilarious and creative as ever, and it is always a privilege to serve them as they encounter God and live into the community that's all around them at camp. Dave also did a great job stepping into the executive director role and helped lead the summer staff to discover gifts they didn't know about themselves, dig deeper into their fath, and show campers never ending grace. Rainbow Trail is in good hands, and there are many more memorable years to come for the next generation of campers.

In the same breath I have to reluctantly inform the Rainbow Trail community that this was my last summer and I am leaving my position as site and facilities director at the end of the 2026 calendar year. I will be moving to the upper peninsula of Michigan to live with my girlfriend Charlotte as we look to start a new chapter of our lives together, and I am pursuing general contracting in construction and remodeling work. It has been an immense joy and privilege to serve in this role for Rainbow Trail, and the people that I have met during this time will remain with me forever. The community is ultimately what brought me back here. The shared belief in changing lives, the kindness to strangers, the opportunity for growth in faith, are all things that make Rainbow Trail so special. To me it was a place where I felt a sense of belonging and calm that I couldn't find anywhere else in the world. A place where everyday I went to work I would dream that a camper coming to the site for the first time would feel the same way, that they could be themselves, and feel loved. In the time of transition the site will be in good hands with the current full time team and Program Assistants as we find a new Site and Facilities Director. I want to thank the full time team for all the kindness and support they showed me as I learned the ropes. To Delta for always reminding me of home and bringing out a smile. To Cam for his friendship and being there for me when I was in tough situations and had a tougher question. To Ruth and Tricia for always showing me kindness and letting me bug them for a few minutes when I drop by the office. To both my bosses the Daves and their mentorship, showing me what it means to be a leader and taking care of those around you. To Chris and all the jokes we had in the kitchen. Lastly to Will and his friendship over the years. Countless memories and laughs with one of my oldest and closest friends, and I'll always be grateful we had the chance to serve side by side during some of our best years.

I need to wrap up this article as I'm getting tearful saying goodbye to a place that I have loved and has shown me so much love. As I write this there are still a few months to go and lots of work to do. I'm looking forward to serving the community for my remaining time and I pray I get to come back and serve this camp again someday. Until then, if you don't see me, I'll see ya!

Many thanks to all and with all the love I have,



-Matt

2027 Memorial Day Work Weekend



The Memorial Day Work Weekend has become as much a tradition at Rainbow Trail as anything else we do. The hearts and service of the weekend volunteers kick off each summer and really bring camp to life! We are so thankful for them! This year, Rainbow Trail saw 75 people join this annual event to help get camp ready for summer. Preparing the site before campers arrive ensures that we're able to give them the best chance to encounter God in the beauty of Hillside, Colorado. We accomplished many site improvements to help with the safety and function of the site while also maintaining its appearance. We officially installed two backup generators for the most important parts of the site--the water system and the Aspen fridge and freezer. Being on our remote site when we face power loss makes it difficult to function. With running water and preserved food, prolonged power outages now become much more tolerable. We installed insulation beneath Aspen to help keep the dining hall warm and cozy in the winter. We built a new cleaning closet for the shower house, installed snow brakes on Holling and Golden Banner, made gutter repairs, built a new gaga ball pit, repaired the ramp and hung new doors in Golden Banner, installed and painted fascia around old cabins, rebuilt the back porch railing for Aspen, resealed the Pavilion, Fircle, and Columbine porch rails, painted porches, cleared trails, spread wood chips, refurbished memorials, replaced lattice, fixed fences, cleaned up the bus, and the list keeps going! We'll be sure to have another busy and memorable weekend next year, and those dates are May 28-31, 2027. Call the Canon City office at (719) 276-5233 or email Dave at daveg@rainbowtrail.org to reserve your spot at this fun and rewarding weekend! We are so thankful for all you do and can't wait to see you next Memorial Day Weekend!

Into The WIllderness

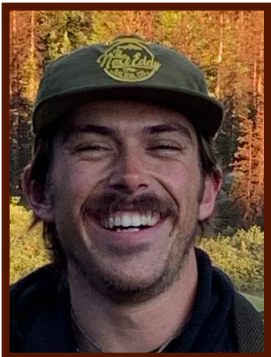
By Will Johnson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp Ministries

Hello and happy fall everyone! Just these last few days we got our first dusting on the Sangres here in the wet mountain valley and it couldn't be prettier! The white caps of the sangres sitting over the speckled orange from the aspens changing is surely a sight to see this time of year. I wake up everyday in the wet mountain valley and it never ceases to amaze me how grand and beautiful God's creation is. What a blessing it is to live in such a wonderful place!

Reflecting back on my summer, it was one for the books! Our Compass Points program had 11 trips which is fewer than usual, however, it was some of the richest ministry I've seen in my time here! It felt rich for a multitude of reasons. One of those reasons was the level of hospitality we were able to provide due to the great investments we have made for the Compass Points program over the last few years. Examples of these investments include the new Osprey internal frame backpacks we received in 2024, the 10 Nemo 3 person tents we got in 2025, and the new cookware, stoves, and hammock rain flies we got this last season. It's been such a blessing to build out this program to a professional level so that we can spend less time worrying about equipment failures or discomfort of our packs, and more time focused on our guests' experience. This helped us out tremendously this year because we were a little short staffed so it was great to have the confidence in our equipment that we needed so that we could focus on providing everyone with the RTALC experience. Also, a huge shout out to Carley Malm, Hunter Resley, and Ashley Kleen for helping guide 5 trips this summer despite not being on our full summer staff. We couldn't have done this summer without you guys and know you're always welcome at Eagle Peak Lodge! Another reason this summer was so rich was because of the return groups and campers we had this summer. It's been incredible to watch campers and church groups fall in love with the program and come back year after year. Examples are Triumphant Love Lutheran from Austin, TX, West Nidaros Lutheran from South Dakota, and Decorah Lutheran from Iowa. It has been so great to serve you guys for multiple years and to continue to grow and partner together. Overall, I have loved leading and seeing the development of the Compass Points program and it brings so much joy to my heart to serve these groups year after year! I'm so proud of our staff that makes this program possible every year and I can't wait to see how we continue to grow this area of our ministry!

Now for Day Camp. Day Camp this summer served 26 congregations ranging from 5 different states! Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Kansas! I was also really proud of our day camp program because of the continuous efforts from our Day Camp Travel directors and how well they coordinated with our day camps. Our overall day camp numbers jumped up to 985 this year which is slightly higher than last year! Woohoo! I just want to say thanks again to the staff and volunteers of all of our day camps across the country! It's such great ministry and I love that we can provide the Rainbow Trail experience where ever we go!

Overall, this was such a great summer! I really was blessed with such a wonderful staff and I loved all the groups we got to host. It's always a great feeling being able to look back on a summer and feel fulfilled and grateful for what the Lord has provided for me and so many others that come to RTALC. Soon I'll be back in Texas where I get to see my family for the holidays and I can't wait! Hope everyone has a great rest of their fall and as always, all are welcome to come hang in Eagle Peak Lodge if you're ever up at camp!



-Will

TRAILBLAZERS

The following individuals are members of the 2026 Trailblazers Club. Trailblazers is an annual giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail alive and growing. To join, contact Dave at 719-276-5233 or check out the “Support Us” portion of our webpage at www.rainbowtrail.org. Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church - 16 reams of Astrobrite colored paper
Laura Wouters - 80 Forever Stamps
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Suzanne and Clay Johnson - Joshua Station
Michelle and Dave Okes - Joshua Station
Charlie and Claire Pineda - PGA Expense
Charlie and Claire Pineda - Staff Contingency Fund
Bill and Charlotte Dausses - Commercial Washers and Dryers
Bill and Charlotte Dausses - Celebration for Chris
Kiesha Priem and Aaron Steger - Ladder for Ropes Course

ORGANIZATIONAL

PARTNERS

Benevity Community Impact Fund
Cross of Glory Holy Closure
Expeditors International of Washington, Inc
Gideons International, Royal Gorge Camp
Martin/Martin

Naos Design Group
Mount Calvary Legacy 125 Endowment Fund
Scheels
Thrivent Financial

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church Littleton, CO
All Saints Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM
Ascension Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO
Atonement Lutheran Church Boulder, CO
Augustana Lutheran Church Denver, CO
Bethany Lutheran Church Cherry Hills Village, CO
Bethany Lutheran Church Fredericksburg, TX
Bethel Lutheran Church Aurora, CO
Bethel Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Longmont, CO
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Los Alamos, NM
Black Forest Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO
Centennial Lutheran Church Englewood, CO
Christ the King Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO
Christ the King Lutheran Church Durango, CO
Christ the Savior Lutheran Church Aurora, CO
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Louisville, CO
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Broomfield, CO
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM
Evergreen Lutheran Church Evergreen, CO
Faith Lutheran Church Golden, CO
First Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO
First Lutheran Church Lake City, MN
First Lutheran Church Longmont, CO
First Lutheran Church Sioux Falls, SD

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Glenwood Springs, CO
Holy Cross Lutheran Church Wheat Ridge, CO
Holy Ghost Lutheran Church Fredericksburg, TX
Holy Love Lutheran Church Aurora, CO
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church Lakewood, CO
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Littleton, CO
Immanuel Lutheran Church Greeley, CO
King of Kings Lutheran Church Pueblo, CO
Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church Centennial, CO
Mount of the Holy Cross Luth Church Vail, CO
Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church Ft. Collins, CO
Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA Denver, CO
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Canon City, CO
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church LaSalle, CO
South Zumbro Lutheran Church Kasson, MN
South Zumbro Lutheran Church WOW Kasson, MN
St. Luke Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM
St. Mark Lutheran Church Aurora, CO
St. Paul Lutheran Church Calhan, CO
St. Peter Lutheran Church Greenwood Village, CO
St. Philip Lutheran Church Littleton, CO
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Boulder, CO
Trinity Lutheran Church Fowler, CO
Trinity Lutheran Church Monument, CO



Events Calendar

2026 - 2027

November 1.....Registration Opens/Applications Open

October 9-11.....Confirmation Retreat

November 20-22.....Senior High Retreat

Dec 4-6.....AdventFest

February 28.....Summer Staff Applications Due

April 1.....Summer Volunteer Apps Due

May 28-31.....Memorial Day Work Weekend

May 31-June 12.....Staff Training

September 3-6.....Labor Day Family Weekend

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 daveg@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 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)

Reams of colored copy paper

Nalgene Water Bottles

Masking Tape

Scotch Tape

Duct Tape

Packing Tape

Postage stamps

9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps)

6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)

10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)

Rain Jackets & Rain Pants

On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs

Foam Brushes - 1"

Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive

2 Cases of Lysol or Clorox Wipes

Rubber Made Bins With Lids (10 gallon, 14 gallon, 18 gallon)

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

Sturdy Wheelbarrows

New 3-piece towel sets (20)

Shark Navigator vacuums (4)

Dish Cart

Podcast Gear

Used Mini Van For Day Camp

Apple Studio

3m kn95 industrial respirator masks (50)

tyvek suits various sizes (5-10 of each size)

2",3",4" chip brushes (25 each or variety packs)

floor jacks for the 15 pas vans (2) 5 ah, m18 milwaukee batteries (2)

3 ah m18 milwaukee batteries (4)

4 ah ridgid 18v batteries (4)

loppers in various sizes (10)

over ear protection (10)

push lawn sweeper with 7 cu ft hopper

Shop Online

It’s easy to give a gift from RTALC’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

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

Full-Time Staff

Dave Gunnlaugson, Executive Director.....daveg@rainbowtrail.org

Ruth Bolkema, Bookkeeper.....accounting@rainbowtrail.org

Tricia Lindsey, Executive Assistant/Registrar.....info@rainbowtrail.org

Will Johnson, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp...will@rainbowtrail.org

Delta Regennitter, Director of Retreats.....delta@rainbowtrail.org

Cam Regennitter, Assistant Director.....cam@rainbowtrail.org

Matt Turman, Director of Site & Facilities.....matt@rainbowtrail.org

Board of Directors

President.....Rev. Jane Jebsen, Faith Lutheran, Golden, CO

Vice President....Rev. Nicolé Ferry, Trinity Lutheran, Monument, CO

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.....Julie Miller, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO

www.rainbowtrail.org