



# 2023 Camp Season

We had an excellent turnout for our Encampment Retreat in March. Junior High and High School students came for an overnight retreat. It was a great time of spiritual growth and fun.



As the weather began to warm up and summer began, we welcomed our summer staff to camp to start training for a full summer. We had an incredible bunch of servants who worked hard to take care of camp this summer.

We had about 1,200 people at camp this summer!

Serving every one of them was a blast. We saw eight campers baptized in the camp pool and many great moments of spiritual growth. Many volunteers came and gave their time to pour into the lives of all the campers, and we are so genuinely thankful for each one of them. This summer, the camp was busy with campers worshipping God, growing in their faith, and having a ton of fun with friends, new and old. This summer, all camp sessions learned what it meant to “reverse.” They learned how there are lots of reversals in scripture from what the world says. Matthew 5:6 says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” That is not what the world today tells us. The world says things will satisfy us or be successful in a career, but that is not what Jesus said here. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Wow, what a challenge for us. It was a great summer!



The fall has been filled with weekend retreats most weekends. It is fun to host each group.

They are all different yet mostly the same in that they are here to enjoy time in nature and with each other, grow in Christ, and have fun.

We are thankful for this beautiful place where so many can be still and enjoy the presence of God.





Fireside Hall got a new roof during our Workday on November 4. Thank you to the crew that worked so hard on it. It has more to be done to be completed, but a good amount of it is finished. This project was funded by an individual donor that we also greatly thank!



A new chest freezer was donated by John and Marilyn Schwartz. Thank you!



## Memorial Gifts

### In Memory of Robert Kahler:

Nanette LaGrange

### In Memory of Richard Saevre:

Tj and Ruth Mohr

### In Memory of John McCoy

Gail Horst

Vince Funk

Donald and Pam Gastineau

Scott Deblieck

Robert and Marlo Winters

Roger and Connie Curry

Christopher and Dawn Bode

Marilyn Barnes

Dennis and Maria McBride

Gary and Judy Ferris

Craig and Teresa Keller

Rae Carlson

Rafferty Funeral Home, LLC

Craig and Cherrie Seger

Andrew and Sharon Tyrrell

Charles and Judy McCoy

Jeffrey and Luann Culver

### In Memory of Boyce and Naoma Humphreys:

Bruce and Nelda Meador

### In Memory of Donna Potter

Gildardo and Debra Calderon

Ken and Monica Clarke

James and Caroline Murphy

### In Memory of Peggy Krebs

Laura Dawson

Loren and Peggy Andersen

Genevieve Sager and

Sharon Johnson

Carol Behrens

William and Loetta Holton

Lonny and Lori Boerema

### In Memory of Robert Onderbeke

Lois Onderbeke

### In Memory of Lois Onderbeke

Lonny and Lorraine Boerema

Max and Lisa Onderbeke

Anonymous

### In Memory of Tim Carmichael

Beverly Young



Donating to Rock River Christian Camp in someone's name can be done by sending a check with it marked in memory, or you can give at [rockrivercc.net/donate](http://rockrivercc.net/donate). We know that Rock River has impacted many lives for Christ and that it would have meant a lot to them to see Rock River Christian Camp continue to change lives today.

You can also give a gift in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary, or just because. We would be happy to share those gifts in the following newsletter.

## GIVE TO THE CAMP

Rock River Christian Camp, as an extension of the local church, exists to glorify God by impacting all generations for Christ in a natural setting.



*I've been this camp so many time the people are so sweet and I'm so happy that I've sent my kids hear and they have made good friendships and they will never forget this thank you RRCC - Nicole*

*Amazing place, the people who is serving in there is doing a great job. My daughter really enjoyed her time every year - Laura*

## GIVE TO THE GENERAL FUND

The General Fund keeps our general operations of the camp going. This helps keep the lights on, insurance paid, and buildings heated. There are several ways you can give to the camp during this holiday season. Go to [rockrivercc.net/donate](http://rockrivercc.net/donate), send checks directly to the camp, or you can give them to the camp on Facebook. No matter how you give, we are so very grateful for your generosity and for keeping the ministry of Rock River Christian Camp going. The QR Code to the right is a fast way to donate to the camp today!



## GIVE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The camp Scholarship Fund is a great way to help others attend camp who otherwise might not be able to participate. Every year we have campers that need financial assistance to attend camp. In the last several years, the requests have been between \$3,500 and \$5,000 each year. We do not want anyone to not come to camp because they are unable to afford it. You can help! Give to the Camp Scholarship Fund today!

## GIVE THROUGH THRIVENT



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.™*

If you are a Thrivent Member, you can support RRCC with Action Points and Choice Dollars! If you have questions on how to give to RRCC or be a part of Thrivent Financial, you may contact Brian Wynn, our local agent, at 815-970-3680 or [brian.wynn@thrivent.com](mailto:brian.wynn@thrivent.com). Please reference Rock River Christian Camp when you talk with Brian.

### Help Us Save Resources...

Would you like to receive "The Rock" newsletter by e-mail instead of the mailed paper copy? Please contact the camp office and let us know what changes we can make. However, we do want you to read the newsletter, so please continue to get the mailed copy if this is how you will most likely read it.

Thank you

# Stock Donations

Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to Rock River Christian Camp. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction. You do not pay capital gains tax on

these donations, and you take a charitable deduction in the amount of the fair market value of the shares.



If you are interested in learning more about donating your investments, please contact the camp office, and we can share the steps to donating your investments today.

# Golf Benefit

The Annual Golf Benefit for the camp was canceled this year due to inclement weather. We were very sad not to meet together and enjoy the day golfing with friends; however, many of the golfers and sponsors contributed to the camp, and we were able to raise 3,675.00 for the camp. Thank you so much for your support!



**Mark German D.D.S.**

# Upcoming Events

ROCK RIVER CHRISTIAN CAMP

# ENCAMPMENT RETREAT

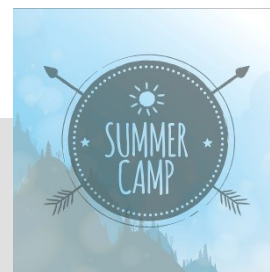
6TH-12TH GRADES

January 13-15, 2024

COST: \$85

[WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM](http://WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM)

Check-in Saturday @ 5:00 P.M. / Check-out Monday @ 1:00 P.M.  
RRCCOFFICE@GMAIL.COM 815-493-6622  
16486 W IL ROUTE 64, POLO, IL 61064



Teddy Bear - 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>  
June 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

Edge – 9<sup>th</sup>-Just Graduated  
June 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

Equestrian – 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (Girls)  
June 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

Elevate – 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

Embark - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>  
July 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Adventure – 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>  
TBD

Boys Paintball – 7<sup>th</sup>-Just Graduated  
July 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>



# S.A.W. Program

Servants At Work is a program for those 13 to 18 years. Participants serve at camp for a week and/or weekend helping out in the kitchen, dining hall, canteen, and on various service projects. They join the summer staff for daily devotions, learn the importance of serving others, and make new friends along the way. For each week served, participants receive \$170.00 towards a week of camp or prorated for the number of days worked or hours may be used for school community service hours. If you do not need any of these options, then your hours are simply volunteer. To be considered for the S.A.W.



program, you must return a completed S.A.W. application to the camp office by May 1st, 2024. Acceptance to the program is based on availability, need, and prior service experience. Spots are limited, so apply early. If you are interested in serving as a S.A.W. this summer, you may fill out the S.A.W. application under the "Camp Programs", then "S.A.W. Program" tab on the camp website, or you can contact the camp office so we can send it to you.

2024

Rock River  
Christian Camp

# HIRING SUMMER STAFF

Must be 16 to apply, some positions need to be 18+

[WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM](http://WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM)

Lifeguards, Kitchen Assistants,  
Cleaning, High Ropes Facilitators, Weed  
Trimming, and much more...

16486 W IL Route 64, Polo, IL 61064  
rccoffice@gmail.com  
815-493-6622

We are looking for staff to work at camp for summer 2024. Our staff live here at camp for the summer, meals are provided, earn some money, make life-long friendships, and the reward will last a lifetime.

We need maintenance and kitchen staff. Our staff will be trained, depending on the position, to be lifeguards, high ropes course facilitators, archery facilitators, paintball referees, food handlers, and more. All staff will help with keeping the camp facilities clean each day. We are a team that works hard but has a lot of fun together while working.

Please consider the opportunity to work at camp for the summer. If you would like this opportunity, please go to [www.rockrivercc.com](http://www.rockrivercc.com) to apply today or email the camp office at [rccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:rccoffice@gmail.com) to get an application sent to you.



Have you ever thought about being a camp counselor for a week of camp? Each summer, we have about 100 people volunteer be camp leaders (Faculty). We have a few camp sessions that could use your help, and it is so rewarding in many ways. One of our faculty said, "It is my favorite week of the whole year!" You have just as much fun as the campers. The campers need you! The campers really learn a lot from the faculty, and they look up to you. Consider this for next summer. You are needed! Such a great way to give time and help others come to know the love of Christ! If this interests you, please contact the camp office. Note: We check references and run background checks on anyone that would like to volunteer and serve.

## Summer Camp Faculty





# Earth Lodge Project

The Earth Lodge is one of our most used buildings on the camp property. It was built in 1985 and has been a great place for people to stay in all year round as it is heated and air-conditioned. Being built into the ground makes it a unique building. It has been a building that we rely on greatly.



In 2019, the Earth Lodge roof began to have a leak. We unearthed the roof to find out where the leaking was coming from. Insurance only covered a small amount and it was not anything close to what it would take to put a new roof on the Earth Lodge. At that time, we then put a giant tarp on the roof to cover it temporarily. The beginning of 2020, COVID hit. At that time, we had to stop all fundraising for special projects

and focus on finances for the camp's general fund. Without camp for the rest of 2020 and half of 2021, it made the camp's finances difficult. From that point until now we have seen the costs for everything increase tremendously which made all extra money given just help us keep up with those increases. We are to a point that we cannot keep tarps for a roof on the Earth Lodge much longer and so we need to raise funds to get a new roof on the lodge soon. The estimated cost for supplies for this project is \$82,000. The plan is to add the shell for a second level with a roof made of trusses with a steel roof. We will need to upgrade the heating unit for this building when we do this renovation as well. We need your help to complete this project. We do not want to take out a loan for this project if we do not need to, so we would like to raise the money to get this project completed.



The Earth Lodge has been upgraded a little since it was built. We changed the flooring in the main area and painted the walls. New windows were added and a steel roof was added to the original roofing. We have put all new toilets in each bathroom this year as well.

Please consider giving an end-of-year gift to the camp to help with the Earth Lodge roof project. Gifts can be given on the camp website or by mailing a check or cash.





# Fall at Camp







Rock River Christian Camp  
and Retreat Center  
16486 W IL Route 64  
Polo, IL 61064

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Polo, IL 61064

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rockriverchristiancamp



@rockrivercc



- Laundry Soap
- Pool Sticks (Billiard)
- Packaging Tape
- White Copy Paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- Black Sharpie Markers (Fine Point)



- Amazon Gift Cards
- Walmart or Sam's Club Gift Cards
- Staples Gift Cards
- Automatic Transfer Switch Generator  
(Est. Cost \$20,000)

