



# Inland Stream

Inland West USA Mission Center News

## There's just something about camp

*Debbie Selzer, Mission Center Executive Assistant*

I never went to camp as a kid. I wasn't a part of a church community growing up and didn't have any friends who invited me. I had heard about kids going to camp but never thought I was missing out on anything. In fact, I didn't fully realize the power of camp until I became an adult.

My first camp experience and first time at a Community of Christ campground was cooking at Camp Genesis at Samish Island Campground in 1992. After that, volunteer camp cooking became something I did with regularity, and eventually it became a way of life as our family lived and worked at campgrounds from 2004 to 2010.

While you aren't completely involved in camp activities as a cook, you do have a unique vantage point to observe. At that first Camp Genesis, the kid in me saw a bit of what I had missed. In the years that followed, I enjoyed the interaction with campers, asked them questions as they went through the line, and just kept my eyes and ears open. As campers walked through the food line for each meal, I saw a remarkable progression from initial excitement and unfamiliarity at the first meals- to sleepy breakfasts where energy levels lag- to watching new friendships form and the silliness that goes along with familiarity - to the hesitancy to say good-bye to everyone and return home.

On arrival, you can almost see the question marks in their eyes, even of those who are old pros at camp. Who's going to be in my cabin? Will I like my counselor? Will I get a top bunk? By the time we served their last camp meal, I could hear the camp language being spoken, laughter ringing as they recounted funny parts from last night's campfire, and plans being made for next year at camp.

Through my years of being a camp cook and my more recent experiences of directing the Cheney Kids Camp, I no longer feel like I missed out. I've had the chance to watch unique communities form right before my eyes, even in as short of time as a weekend.

There's just something about being away from home, learning new things, and forming positive relationships that strengthens your faith. There's just something about this sacred community of youth and the adults that have the privilege to minister to them – including the ministry of filling hungry stomachs.

That's the power of camp.



# Saying "YES" to Youth Empowerment and Support

*John Chatburn, Mission Center President and Financial Officer*

Community of Christ has a long tradition of camping ministries. For many of us it is the place where we had our first spiritual experience and made life-long friends. Our mission center is blessed to have the Youth Empowerment and Support (YES) Fund to assist youth in participating in our camping program as well as Spectacular and the International Youth Forum (IYF).

Over the past several years contributions to the YES have decreased and the number of youth the YES Fund supports has increased. While the YES Fund is not in danger of being depleted in the near future, I would encourage you or your congregation to consider making a donation to the YES Fund to insure its long-term viability. You can make a contribution to the YES Fund by designating your contribution on the left hand side of your offering envelope.

**Look for YES Fund applications & more information on the updated YES Fund policy at [www. cofchrist-iwest.org](http://www.cofchrist-iwest.org). Learn more about SPEC at [www. cofchrist.org/spec](http://www.cofchrist.org/spec).**

This year many youth in our mission center will have a very unique opportunity. This is a year in which youth will be able to participate in both an International Spectacular and an IYF. Additionally, for this year (and for all coming years) those that have completed 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be eligible to attend Spectacular (previously 10-12<sup>th</sup>) and we are fortunate to have the YES Fund to support this increased number of youth who are eligible.

Because of the unique nature of Spectacular and IYF, as well as the large financial commitment the church is making on behalf of the youth, we are putting a new structure in place to help congregations be connected to the special spirit that manifests at Spectacular and IYF and to help strengthen the connection of the youth to the communities who have contributed funds to enable this experience.

For youth going to Spectacular and IYF the Mission Center will pay for airfare as it has done in the past for those youth that are active in the life of the church with a few new requirements.

We are asking those youth who receive funds for airfare to do the following:

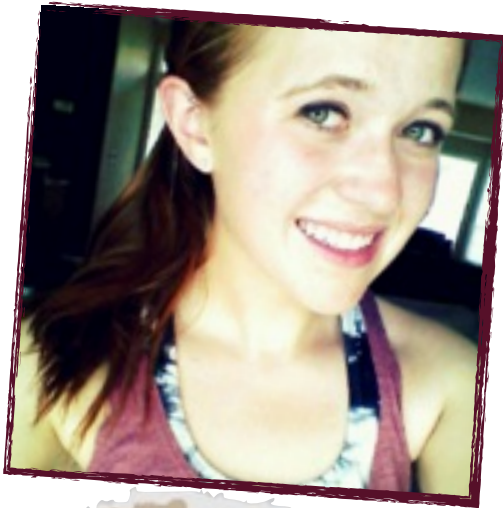
- Share their experience with their congregation
- Share their experience in writing so it can be shared with the Mission Center.
- Participate in a 10 hour service project connected to the congregation.

For youth who need additional support, the YES Fund will cover up to half of their Spectacular/ IYF registration fee if they are willing to engage in a 20 hour mission project.

Additionally, we typically have youth who do not have a previous connection to the church who wish to participate in these events. The YES Fund is able to cover airfare for new friends of the church (or previously inactive church members) if they are willing to complete both sharing requirements and both service requirements (i.e. the 10 hour service project and the 20 hour Mission Project). The YES Fund also continues to be available to assist youth in attending our youth camps at various venues in the mission center. The nuts and bolts of the new YES Fund policy are available at [cofchrist-iwest.org](http://cofchrist-iwest.org)

My experience at the 1997 Spectacular and IYF is a large part of why I am active in the life of the church and why I chose to go to work for the church. I am excited about the possibilities for our youth at this life-shaping event. Don't miss an opportunity to ask them about it when they get home!

**Congratulations to Boise's Ashley Andersen**, who created the winning design for the Northwest SPEC delegation theme t-shirt!



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Back

How would you describe SPEC to someone who has never been before?

**"SPEC is a close-knit community formed in a week and half through sports, competition, prayers, worship, laughter, tears, crafts, ice cream, and sweat!"**  
Erica Volz (Whitehall)

**"An amazing community of people that desire nothing more than to be a good friend to you "**  
Annie Sacry (Whitehall)

**"An unmatched sense of community"**  
Carrie Tovey (Boise)

How has your life benefited from the SPEC experience?

**"I've strengthened my faith and became more independent."** Caitlin Evans (Whitehall)

**I feel like I got to know myself and others better.**  
Hunter Crown (Buhl)

**"I met people that I would never have met before."** Zach Andreasen (Ogden)

**"I think of life with a new perspective."**  
Rece Ward (Billings)

# 2014 Inland West Reunions



**Create  
Shalom:**  
Abolish Poverty,  
End Suffering

**Samish Island Reunion**  
June 21 - 28  
Samish Island Campground  
Bow, WA

**Echo Valley Reunion**  
June 26-July 2  
Echo Valley Campground  
Avon, MT

Guest Ministry: Katie and Zach Harmon-  
McLaughlin, John Chatburn

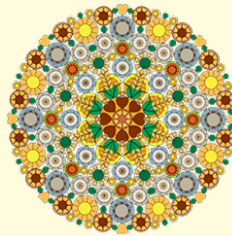
Guest Ministry: Tim Ashburn,  
JoAnn Fisher

Director: Roslyn Bentz  
rosalyn@cableone.net  
208-743-0336

Director: Kimberly Sacry  
kimberlysacry@yahoo.com  
406-595-1338  
Mary Beth Hunter  
mbh.nomadnurse@gmail.com

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**Red Cliffe Reunion**  
July 5-11  
Camp Red Cliffe  
Huntsville, UT



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**Cascade Reunion**  
July 8-13  
Cascade Campground  
Cascade, ID

Guest Ministry: David Nii,  
Lachland MacKay

Guest Ministry: Ron Harmon,  
Diana Hansen, JoAnn Fisher

Director: Robin Linkhart  
rlinkhart@cofchrist.org  
303-772-4212

Registrar: Renee Fisher  
Fishers2@cableone.net  
208-899-4449

*Early registration is always appreciated. You'll find more information and registration forms for each reunion on the home page of [www.cofchrist-iwest.org](http://www.cofchrist-iwest.org).*





Are ya coming  
to camp?

### **Echo Valley Youth Camp**

**Aug. 6 - 10** Echo Valley Campground,  
Avon, MT

For youth who have completed grades 4-10

**RSVP by Aug. 1**

Director Robin Martell 406-671-1914  
robinmartell@optimum.net

### **Cascade Youth Camp**

**Aug. 9-14** Camp Cascade  
Cascade, ID

For youth who have completed grades 7-12

**RSVP by Aug. 2**

Registrar Renee Fisher 208-899-4449  
fishers2@cableone.net

### **Red Cliffe Kids Camp**

**June 13-15** Camp Red Cliffe,  
Huntsville, UT

For youth who have completed K-12

**RSVP by June 5**

Director Carol Andreasen 307-537-3302  
chosierandrea5@hotmail.com

### **Boise Primary Camp**

**June 20-22** Fisher home,  
Boise, ID

For youth age 6-8

**RSVP by June 12**

Director JoAnn Fisher 208-392-4598  
jfisher@cofchrist.org

### **Cheney Kids Camp**

**June 6-9** Brock home,  
Cheney, WA

For youth age 7-12

**RSVP by June 1**

Director Kathleen Strozyk 509-636-2011  
edwallian@juno.com

### **Boise Junior Camp**

**June 19-22** Camp Cascade,  
Cascade, ID

For youth age 9-12

**RSVP by June 12**

Director Sheri Moody St. Clair 208-334-2600  
sms@lottery.idaho.gov

## **Join us at an Inland West youth camp this summer!**

Details including prices of each camp are on the [cofchrist-iwest.org](http://cofchrist-iwest.org) home page.

Print your registration and RSVP to your camp director as soon as possible.

Our camping program relies on dedicated volunteers such as directors, counselors, teachers, cooks, and nurses. We extend a big "Thank you!" to all who take on these important roles for our youth. If you'd like to help at a youth camp this summer, please contact the director listed above or call the Mission Center office at 800-918-8335.

## Flat Jesus out and about

*Jared and Josie Silva, Boise*

Since we have been doing Flat Jesus in Sunday School, we've been getting many pictures with people and their Flat Jesus. What is Flat Jesus you ask? Flat Jesus is a paper cutout that looks like Jesus and reminds us that Jesus is with us at all times. So Flat Jesus is a project where people take pictures of him and post them on the bulletin board and that is what Flat Jesus is about.



Above left: Flat Jesus shares a root beer float with Josie. Above right: Flat Jesus visits Grandpa Fisher. Flat Jesus is a project started and shared by the Boise Community of Christ Junior Sunday School class.

## Top 5 cool things about going to Reunion

*Nathan Platz, Spokane Valley*



**01 Campfire!** My favorite song is "Keep it on the Sunny Side".

**02 People!** I like meeting new people and seeing friends.

**03 Food!** There are great cooks and delicious things to eat!

**04 Nature!** Sitting looking at the water after campfire is so quiet.

**05 Jobs!** It's fun to talk to people as you work.

**Around the Mission Center**



May 11, the Hagerman Community of Christ celebrated the baptism and confirmation of Ainsley Newman 11, and Ethan Roland 9.

Share photos with us so we can share them with the rest of the mission center! E-mail your photos with details to [dselzer@cofchrist-iwest.org](mailto:dselzer@cofchrist-iwest.org).



Camp Cascade Work Weekend (May 18-19) had a great team assemble with the Silva and Moody-St. Claire kids helping to distribute mattresses to all the cabins and sweeping everything out.

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