

# CAMPER NEWSLETTER



## Happy Autumn!

Hello, dear friends! In the few months since camp, we pray that you have been growing in your knowledge and love for Jesus Christ. Every summer, there are campers who come to faith in Jesus, giving their lives to Him and trusting in Him for salvation-praise the Lord! If that is you, welcome to the family of God! As we read the camper evaluations, we were stunned to see that out of 367 campers, 233 said that they had renewed their walk with Jesus while at camp! How amazing is that?! Those of you who rededicated your lives to Jesus, keep on growing and seeking Him! And those of you who did not make a decision about Jesus, maybe you still have questions or you just weren't ready yet. He is there for you, do not put off trusting in Him to save you from your sins and give you new life. Our encouragement to all campers is this: get into the Word of God (the Bible) to read it for yourself, talk to God (pray), and go to a Godly church. These are ways to get grounded in your walk, to grow, and to find others who love Jesus too. We are praying for you, and cannot wait to see what God has in store for you in the coming year!



## Mini 'Mingo Madness!

Am I obsessed with flamingos?! Ha ha ha!!!

The answer is certainly, most definitely, and utterly! It all started when I was a teenager who hated pink, but then my Dad gave me a stuffed flamingo and pink roses for Valentine's Day. Everyone thought I would HATE that, but when I mentioned I liked pink on flamingos, it spread like pink wildfire! Suddenly flamingos were EVERYWHERE, and I started using them at camp just for fun...well, and the rest is history! Now you all have experienced my deep love for lawn flamingos (though I think live flamingos are terrifying with their beady little eyes!). So, to make sure that you love them as much as I do, I have hidden them throughout this whole newsletter! Happy hunting! (There are 21 flamingos to find!)



# What 's the word about the Winter Youth Retreat?

**"I LOVED IT! ONE OF THE BEST SPEAKERS I'VE HEARD WHILE HERE."**

**"Challenging, eye opening."**

**"I THOUGHT I'D GET OVERWHELMED CONSTANTLY, BUT I HAD CONSTANT FUN!"**

*"It was very impactful to my own life."*



*"I didn't expect to make so many friends."*



*"fun, fellowship, worship, and rest."*

If you missed out last year or are finally old enough to come, keep your eyes peeled for the registration and flyer going out next month! This retreat is good for the soul and provides a chance to recharge, connect with friends, and be refreshed in your walk with Jesus!

Dates: February 16th-18th, 2024

For: Grades 9-12, guys and gals

Cost: \$95 (There are scholarships available, so don't let money keep you from attending!)

Where: At camp, with five feet of snow!

Transportation will be provided from Idaho Falls, so let us know if you need a ride!



## GIVE IT A TRY!



Have you ever laughed so hard that your sides and face hurt? When someone is being ridiculous and everything that is said just makes it funnier? Time and time again this summer, we saw you campers just having fun and being goofy, not worrying what the person next to you might think. There is a rare beauty in just being yourself and being willing to try new things. You guys were so ready to have fun, and we loved seeing you jump in with both feet! Run around with war paint and a giant stuffed octopus? Done! Dress up in ridiculous costumes to do a skit? No sweat! Put on a grass skirt and do some hula hooping? Easy! Some of the best memories happen in those moments of shenanigans!

Often, it takes a day or two at camp before people start to let their walls down and be real with each other. It can be hard to let others see who we really are. But when we can do that, oh, that is the sweet spot! So let us encourage you to not just let your guard down at camp, but find those people you can be real with in your home town, church, or school. You might be surprised to find that others feel the way you do, experience similar things, and are looking for that real community also. Give it a try, and wait to see the doors God has opened just for you to walk through!



# A word from the Word



*"O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me." Psalm 30:2 (ESV)*

Have you ever cried out to God in prayer? Often, we cry out to Him when something happens that is beyond our control, like a grave illness or danger. The comforting thing is that no matter how small or great the circumstance is, GOD HEARS YOU. He listens when you pray, when you bring your joys or broken heart before Him. And what is more, He cares. He does not stand off distant or cold, but answers you with His love and compassion. The psalmist, King David, says that he cried to the Lord for help, and that God healed him. Whether it was an illness or hardship, David knew that God was the only place he needed to turn for help, for comfort, and for healing. So what about you? What is going on in your life that needs the loving help of the Lord? Have you prayed and asked Him to help and bring healing, as only He can? If you haven't, why not stop right now and pray? God will hear you. And if you have been praying and are waiting for the Lord to answer, remember that His ways are always perfect and it is worth waiting for Him to work. Think of our theme from this summer, "God's design over mine," and be at peace, knowing you can trust God's plan!





## FREE HOODIES???

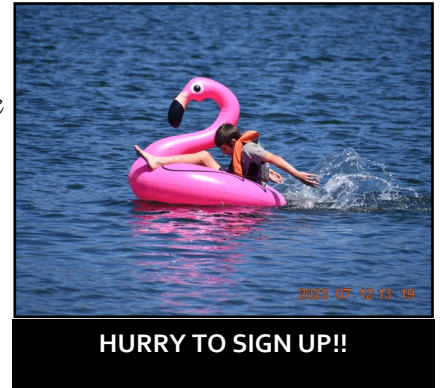


Over the years, there have literally been thousands of staff members who have served at OFCR. Some only come for one week. Others catch the camp bug and continuing coming for years, even decades! Out of the 94 staff members at camp this year, 34 of them were former campers! In fact, many were campers during Sr. High! Some volunteered for a week or two, while others stayed for three weeks as paid summer staff. We are so thankful for YOU! We couldn't do camp without ya!

Now, let's get down to it! Camp takes a lot of humans to make it run, and especially to run smoothly, so we thought we would sweeten the deal if you were on the fence about serving summer 2024. So, **NEW** this year...(drum roll, please)... If you are planning on coming to help at camp and can commit to being there, you qualify for the early bird hoodie! Fill out the staff application at



[www.ofcr.org](http://www.ofcr.org) by **May 1st**, then once you are approved, you qualify for a free hoodie that you will receive during the week you serve at camp! Invite your friends to come serve also, and you can get matching hoodies! The sooner you apply, the better, as some positions fill up early!



**HURRY TO SIGN UP!!**

**Deadline for early bird signup is May 1st, 2024!!!**

### IMPORTANT DATES: 2024

<i>February 16-18</i>		<i>Winter Youth Retreat</i>	<i>(Grades 9-12)</i>
	<b>July 1-5</b>	<b>Sr. High Camp</b>	<b>(Grades 10-graduated seniors)</b>
	<b>8-12</b>	<b>Jr. High Camp</b>	<b>(Grades 8-9)</b>
	<b>15-19</b>	<b>Middle School Camp</b>	<b>(Grades 6-7)</b>
	<b>22-26</b>	<b>Jr. Camp</b>	<b>(Grades 4-5)</b>



For more info, photos, and the calendar of events, check out our website at: [www.ofcr.org](http://www.ofcr.org)

#### Contact Info:

**Brenda Wood,**

**Program Director**

Phone: 208.390.9845

Email: [programdirector@ofcr.org](mailto:programdirector@ofcr.org)



#### Address:

Old Faithful Christian Ranch

145 6th Street

Idaho Falls, ID 83401

**Website:** [www.ofcr.org](http://www.ofcr.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ofcr.org](http://www.facebook.com/ofcr.org)