

HIGHLAND LAKES BAPTIST CAMP REPORT

Jim Shields, Team Leader

I was so glad to move into the year 2021, and I am looking forward to 2022 and beyond! Even though there was an unusual amount of pivoting, re-arranging, re-scheduling, intentionally lower numbers, intentionally newer protocols, intentionally newer procedures, all of which may or may not have had to change at a moments notice....2021 proved to be a good year all in all for Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center. Progress and improvements have been made all around: a new Activity Center under construction; newly constructed floating lake dock; Hydration Stations; Welcome Center wrap around deck power washed, repaired and stained; walking trails cleared and mulch put down on the paths; RV sites prepped for concrete pads; new signs all around; cabins repaired where needed; water treatment plant upgraded; shower house repainted; pool house repainted and upgraded inside; Conference room repainted and carpeted. Under the supervision and guidance of Director of Operations Rick Porter, Craig Kratzer and the volunteer groups (Indiana and Kentucky Campers on Mission, SCBI church groups) again accomplished so much to add to the uplifting atmosphere of Highland Lakes. Office Manager Sarah Wickersham worked tirelessly to make sure that scheduling was maxed out for the summer and the fall, and incorporated new software technology into our system to enable better communications throughout the days and weeks on our building monitors.

Another year and another group of Sumos (summer missionaries) who served your camp valiantly throughout the summer: Rachel Taylor, Bayla Williams, Lindsey Metzger, Ally James, Pete Tillman and Zach George oversaw the needs and wellbeing of eight weeks of campers and camp facilities. Thank you, SCBI churches, for allowing us the privilege of working with these young men and women. They leave here better equipped for their continued walk with Christ, and they will continue to be a blessing to your church and community. In addition to the Sumos, this summer we had the opportunity to welcome Jan and Teresa Walters back as volunteers! Jan and Teresa are well acquainted with the camp and the necessary work involved, as they served

your camp as MSC volunteers back in 2000. Their hard work and encouragement were greatly appreciated, and we look forward to their return next year.

So, how was Camp Season? I can only tell you what I know. Eight weeks of camp, a total of 900 campers, SCBI and non-SCBI (low number due to intentional Covid restrictions on attendance—maximum of 150 per camp). For SCBI camps, we were told of 70 decisions for Christ, which is about 14% of the total number of SCBI campers! Camp season was wonderful! Such a joy to see and hear so many students and adults interacting with each other; worshipping freely; seeking the face of the Father; encouraging one another; encountering Christ as never before. Yep, it was a good year; sooo much better than 2020. But we are not done...not nearly done. With your continued support, we are merely moving forward into the Next Step...be on the lookout for exciting things to come in the near future as we continue to be a resource for others to Discover, Develop, and Deploy a Transformed Life in Christ! Want to know more? Go to www.highlandlakes.org a click on the video link "Why Highland Lakes?"