The temperature is starting to break and the ice is finally melting at beautiful YMCA Camp Lakewood. As we begin to head outdoors after a long winter, we all have one thing on our minds: Camp is Coming! Things are bustling at Lakewood these days as we prepare for another great summer. Here are just a few things we have in the works:

It’s time to bring a friend to camp! Camp Lakewood is trying to expand our camp family and are asking for your help. Starting in 2014, return camper families will be able to earn $100 credit towards their tuition fees for each new camper they refer to Camp Lakewood. The referred camper does not need to come on the same session, and there is no limit on the number of campers you can refer. Some of our return camper families are already sending their campers for free this summer.

Digital Animation landed at Camp Lakewood last summer and made quite a splash. It was so popular that we have decided to build a new animation lab and offer the program virtually every session this summer. In fact, it was so popular we’ve decided to take the show on the road! YMCA Camp Lakewood is proud to announce that we will be offering Digital Animation workshops at your local Y branch this Spring. Ask your Y branch staff about the program and how you can get involved.

Did someone say paintball? The rumors are true. Paintball is coming to Camp Lakewood—breaking ground this year. We will be using a great deal of volunteer help to make this project a reality. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at 573-438-2154 ext. 111 or mgarcia@ymcastlouis.org.

It’s another great summer in the making at YMCA Camp Lakewood. Please give us a call or stop by if you have any questions about our programs. Registrations are coming in faster this year, so don’t wait to register your youngster for their favorite session. Count down the days—you know we are—to see you, as always, “around the campfire”.

Matt “Mufasa” Garcia
Camp Director, YMCA Camp Lakewood
FROM THE ALUMNI COMMITTEE

The Camp Lakewood Alumni Committee met January 24-26 at Camp Lakewood. The discussion Saturday morning started with the continued effort to better define the Alumni Committee’s goals and functions, which, in short, are twofold:

• Support Camp Lakewood in meeting its goals and mission, through work projects and weekends; fundraising; providing opportunities for alumni to share their experience with current staff; and providing continuity through open dialogue with current camp leadership.

• Help alumni reconnect/stay connected with Camp Lakewood and with each other through reunions; online (website/Facebook pages); and providing a means for alumni to share their photos and memories.

The Committee is going to make an effort to develop, to the extent possible, a comprehensive staff list for every year of camp, so that we can reach out to them and see if we have lost touch with, or may have even forgotten about. This will be a big undertaking, needing everyone’s efforts, and will include searching through old staff lists, yearbooks, pictures, etc. We also want to reach out to current staff, and will look for ways to keep in touch with them, including being involved with staff events. The Alumni Committee is in the works of planning an informal get-together this spring of any and all alumni, of every generation, perhaps a BBQ. Stay tuned to the Facebook pages for more information. The Committee wants to provide a sense of continuity between the past, current and future generations of staff and campers, through sharing photos and memories.

The Moran (Alumni) Hall project is still in the works. The money collected (approximately $10,000) is in a restricted account, but substantially more is needed in order to complete the project. We will keep you informed. Once that money is secured, the project will move forward. The Alumni Committee members decided to sponsor one camper scholarship, and encourage other alumni to do the same.

ALUMNI REUNION & SERVICE WEEKEND

This year’s Alumni Reunion & Service Weekend is scheduled for May 16-18, 2014. During the Committee meeting, Tom McEnany (Camp Lakewood Maintenance Director) expressed his and his staff’s heartfelt thanks to the alumni for all their efforts over the last two years, and said what a great difference it has made. This year, we hope to continue that tradition of service but balance it with lots of opportunities for alumni to reconnect and socialize. This year’s theme is “Come Home to Your Family, Give Back.”

Our projects this year will include some smaller projects such as East Camp clean-up (dadgum leaves keep falling), but our major focus will be renovations to the older cabins 11, 12, 14 and 15, to bring them closer to the same condition as the new cabins. This will include exterior staining, interior and exterior painting, porch repair, and repairs to the “skirting”. We want these cabins to shine!

We will look to mix up the work crews to keep people fresh and allow everyone to get to know each other. We will have a team to provide breaks for some fun and refreshment during the day. We want everyone to work within their limits and skills, “each unto their abilities”. We will try to start and end earlier on Saturday, and have some great activities planned for Saturday evening, and hope some of our great musically-gifted alumni will bless us with their talents. Friday and Saturday nights we’ll have a running slideshow; send us your photos to share. On Sunday morning, we will have a short non-denominational chapel service, perhaps a hike, and a short work period for those who can stay to finish off a few things.

Schedule: Arrive Friday for fellowship & refreshments. Saturday will be work during the day, and food, activities, and fellowship at night. Sunday, for those who stay, can include hiking, chapel, finish up work projects, and enjoy other “camp” activities.

The Camp Lakewood Alumni Committee Meeting Summary: January 24 – 26, 2014

Food: Friday dinner is on your own; all Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast and lunch is provided. Some snacks & drinks will be provided, please also bring your own.

Accommodations: We will be staying in East Camp cabins. Bring your own bedding and linens (an air-conditioned cabin for those with health concerns will be available).

Voluntary DONATION: We’re suggesting a voluntary donation of $20 per person or $30 per family, to offset out-of-pocket expenses for such items as t-shirts, activity costs, etc. Donations can be given at camp.

Registration: Please contact Judy Gillam at 573-438-2154 ext. 114 by May 2, 2014 to register. Please provide names of those attending, date/time of arrival & departure, t-shirt size(s) and emergency contact information.

Tuesdays are Away Days

from Washington County youth to realize their strengths, but our major focus will be renovations to the older cabins 11, 12, 14 and 15, to bring them closer to the same condition as the new cabins. This will include exterior staining, interior and exterior painting, porch repair, and repairs to the “skirting”. We want these cabins to shine!

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