Summer camp is here!! We are in week three of ten weeks, and we are off to a fantastic start. We have 98 staff members representing 13 different countries from around the world. All of our staff went through an 11 day training and were ready to rock when the first day of session one started. The staff are well-trained, enthusiastic and are impacting lives every day. This summer our weekly themes are Fairy Tales, Time Travel, Disney, Retro Video Games (no actual video games), Harry Potter, Clue, Oldies but Goodies and Scooby Doo. You can check out photos from our sessions on our Camp Lakewood website, so you can see all of the fun camper pictures, the new and returning faces of our camp counselors and much more. Go to www.camplakewood.org.

The alumni work weekend was a huge success! Thank you to all of the alumni and families that came out for the weekend of May 5-7. We were able to rake and burn all of the leaves at East Camp, paint the East Camp steps, repair and paint the canoe racks, paint a few signs, make repairs to East Camp shutters and finish the Ed Pears memorial pavilion. We had alumni representing the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 2000's and all the way to 2016! It was a time of fun and fellowship. It was incredible to hear everyone's stories and memories of years past here at camp. See more pictures on page 3.

Hello everyone! I want to introduce myself. I am Melissa “Sunflower” Di Fiori, and I am the new Director of Camp Lakewood! I have a long history with Camp Lakewood, first as a camper for eight summers and then going through the LIT and CIT programs. I spent four summers as a camp counselor, three summers as the waterfront director, and one summer as an APD. I also spent one fall as the Outdoor Education APD. I am definitely a “homegrown” Lakewood staff member.

I later met my husband Johnny at another YMCA camp. I am happily married with two fantastic kids - Bella and Casper - who love camp as much as I do.

Before I came back, I received my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education at Coastal Carolina University and my MA in Educational Administration at Lindenwood University. I spent eight years as a middle school science teacher in the St. Louis area. I most recently held the Director of Programs position at Trout Lodge.

I am “over-the-top” excited to be the first woman to hold the position here at Camp Lakewood. I have big shoes to fill from all of the great past directors over the years, and I am honored to have this opportunity.

Along with my Camp Lakewood Summer Camp Director KC (Jill Engel) and our awesome summer staff, we are ready to rock this summer and bring great energy to Camp Lakewood.

My door is always open. If you get a moment, come on out and make sure to share a story and talk about the days gone by as you gather with us - around the campfire.

Melissa “Sunflower” Di Fiori
Camp Lakewood Director
2017 ALUMNI REUNION

It’s a band of brothers and sisters who are gathering this September to bring back the good old days (or maybe not so long ago) to play and have fun together. Tell the stories of your time here at Trout Lodge or Camp Lakewood, maybe sing a song or two, break bread together and spend your evenings hanging out at East Camp - the “coolest” spot at Camp Lakewood. It’s an all play weekend (business attire is strictly prohibited), with the awesome activities you remember - maybe even some you’ve not yet tried. Simply complete the registration form for your spot at the reunion table. Bring the whole family and show them a part of your past and why you are a proud, lifelong member of the Camp Lakewood or Trout Lodge alumni. Below is the general itinerary and general information. To complete a registration form, please go to: www.ymcaoftheozarks.org/event/alumni-reunion-2017

For more information, please contact Kelly Adams at 888-386-9622 ext. 114. See you there!

ALUMNI WEEKEND ITINERARY

**Friday, September 15**
- 3-8 pm: Check-In
- 5:30-7 pm: BBQ at East Camp

**Sunday, September 17**
- 8:15 am: Breakfast
- 9-10:30 am: Riflery, Nature Center & Archery
- 9-11:00 am: Waterfront open
- 11:00 am: Check out of cabins
- 11:45 am: Lunch

**Saturday, September 16**
- 8:15 am: Breakfast
- 9 am: Waterfront (also available: Paintball, Alpine Tower, Alpine Swing)
- 12:15 pm: Lunch
- 1:30 pm: All Camp Game
- 3:30 pm: Trading Post open (until 5:30 pm)
- 4 pm: Nature Center, Archery (also available: Pines Peak and Trail Ride)
- 5 pm: Trail Ride available if 4 pm is full
- 6 pm: Dinner
- 8 pm: Campfire at Pannebecker Fire Ring

STAYING AT YMCA CAMP LAKEWOOD

**EAST CAMP ACCOMMODATIONS**
East Camp features traditional cabins, open air (no A/C), bunk beds and central shower house. You must bring your own linens, blankets, pillows and towels or a linen package is available for an additional fee. If you are unable to stay in an East Camp cabin, please contact Kelly Adams for information about Main Camp cabins. Space is limited.

**DAY PASSES**
For those only wanting to spend the day (no overnight stay), day passes are available.

**RULES & POLICIES**
Check-in time is 3-8 pm at the Lakewood Lodge main office on the Friday of your stay. Check-out time is 11:30 am on the last day. You may stay through the afternoon but must vacate your cabin.

*Alcohol consumption is permitted only at East Camp*

Fires are to be built in designated areas or in raised firepits only. Ashes from firepits are to be placed in designated ash cans.

Smoking is not permitted in cabins or public areas, and quiet hours are from 10 pm to 8 am every day.

All accidents should be reported to the Camp Lakewood Director, who is located in Camp Lakewood Lodge. Camp Lakewood does not carry health or accident insurance.

Pets are not allowed, except qualified documented service animals.

Adults should check their cabin upon arrival for broken windows, screens, etc., as damage during your stay may be applied to your total bill at the end of your stay. Each group is responsible for leaving camp as clean as you found it. Each building, program area and grounds should be clean before the group leaves.

Some activities have age restrictions. Children below the minimum age as outlined by our policies will not be allowed to participate in those activities.

**TO REGISTER**
For fee information or to register for this awesome weekend, go to www.ymcaoftheozarks.org/event/alumni-reunion-2017

**T-SHIRTS**
The deadline for ordering t-shirts is Aug. 20. For more information, e-mail Colleen at: punky314@hotmail.com

Registration Deadline September 1st or until we are full

**STAY CONNECTED**
Do you have any exciting news you would like to share with your fellow alums? Did you have a baby, get married, win an award, are going to be on TV or other exciting news? We’d love to hear about it. Let us know so we can share it on either Facebook or in the Flicker! E-Mail your news to Melissa Di Fiori at melissa.difiori@gwrymca.org.
WHY I CHOOSE TO GIVE

I was talking to Renee and Nelson (Y staff members) the other day and was asked the question – why do you give? I couldn’t quickly think of an immediate response and asked that I be given additional time to truly think why I choose to support the annual campaign and why I made the decision to become a YMCA Lamplighter.

As a youth, I attended Camp Lakewood like many of you. I not only experienced being part of a team but also developed independence, confidence, and new social skills. My beliefs and leadership abilities continued to develop through the dedication and commitment of several caring and well respected senior counselors who challenged me to not just accept the everyday norms of society but to stand up for my beliefs, to be compassionate and caring, and provide service to those who need it.

I can’t say that that I have always subscribed to this philosophy throughout my life. Reflecting back, there were times that I was arrogant, combative and self-serving. I didn’t play well with others and only thought of myself. That all changed several years ago when I was provided the opportunity to become re-engaged with Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood. My eyes were opened to the number of specialty camps that are now offered and the positive impact on the lives of the youth and families they serve. They are truly life changing experiences.

Seeing and experiencing the wonderful mission work of the Y, I made the decision to contribute what I could afford to the annual campaign; however, secretly I always wanted to take that next step, to become a YMCA Lamplighter. What held me back was the thought I could not afford to do so because of the large amount of money associated to become one. I was wrong. The recommended donation no longer applies – you give what you can afford and what is meaningful to you. There are also many options available now that I was able to contribute to the Y mission and cause without impacting my lifestyle.

I chose to designate Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood as a beneficiary to my life insurance policy. I found this option was not only an easy way to give but a flexible one as well. More importantly, I wasn’t locked into the choice I made. I could review and adjust it anytime I wanted.

Just as the lamplighters of old were responsible for lighting the streets at dusk and soften the approaching darkness, the YMCA Lamplighters also light the way and provide a path for our youth and families to follow. By joining you become part of a shared cause and commitment that nurtures the potential of our youth, improves the health and wellbeing of many both young and old, and provide the much need support that sustain these efforts for future generations.

I hope you all reflect on the many fond memories and opportunities that Camp provided to you in your youth and consider supporting YMCA Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood either by becoming a contributor to the Annual Support Campaign or by committing to become a Lamplighter.

For more information regarding how you can affect positive change and support the cause, please reach out to Renée Godinez at 314-241-9622 or 573-438-5752, extension 220 or via email at: renee.Godinez@gwrymca.org. You have many options.

-Eric Work, Alum

Nelson Bagnardi & Eric Work

MORE WORK WEEKEND PICTURES
### UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 4-August 9</td>
<td><strong>2017 SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP LAKEWOOD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1–4</td>
<td><strong>FAMILY CAMP AT CAMP LAKEWOOD</strong></td>
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<td>September 15–17</td>
<td><strong>CAMP LAKEWOOD ALUMNI REUNION</strong></td>
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<td>December, 2017</td>
<td><strong>TROUT LODGE REMODELING BEGINS</strong></td>
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<td>December 27–30</td>
<td><strong>WINTER CAMP AT CAMP LAKEWOOD</strong></td>
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### CHANGES TO THE FLICKER

In an effort to take a more environmentally-conscious approach, we will no longer be sending the YMCA Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood Flicker newsletter by mail. But never fear, we’ve got you covered.

Simply send us an email indicating that you wish to be added to our email list and you will continue to receive regular newsletters from us via email. The benefit of this is that we can keep you up-to-date on any future work weekends, reunions and more. Or you can go to our website to view them (now, October and March). You can even register as an alum!

- **To send your email address**
  camplakewood@gwymca.org

- **To register as an alum**
  www.ymcaoftheozarks.org/share/alumni/register

- **To view the newsletters online**
  www.ymcaoftheozarks.org/share/alumni/newsletters

### OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

**ENJOY THE SPLENDORS OF ALASKA IN 2017 OR 2018:** 7 days/6 nights exploring Kenai Peninsula, departing from Anchorage. Includes lodging, meals and tours. Owned and operated by a Camp Lakewood alum. Only $3,500 for TWO people. Contact Renée Godinez for more details at 573-438-1701 ext. 220. Only one offer available so act quickly!