



"People Experiencing People in God's Nature"

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The Bosco Wilderness

The Newsletter of the St. John Bosco Camp Association

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I have never forgotten my very first night at camp. I didn't really know anyone yet, and I was a little nervous to be spending my first of ten nights away from home. Soon after I had fallen asleep, I was woken up by sobbing. One of the boys from my tent was outside crying because he missed his family so much. My big brother instincts kicked in and I started to go outside to talk to him. But as I poked my head from my tent, I saw both my counsellors already with him. I had no trouble falling asleep again knowing that my new friend was in good hands.

Spending time with the staff, campers, and alumni of Bosco has made me feel like I have a huge extension to my family. Meeting some of the old (sorry, some of the *former*) staff has been like meeting cousins for the first time: often I've already heard some good stories about them, and although we greet with a handshake, we part with a hug.

Less than a week ago I was out sledding with some of the staff and Katie said to me "I didn't know people this awesome existed until I came to camp!" She thinks it'll catch on as camp's new tag-line. Now I hear that the Board of Directors is expanding the committees to include non-board members who want to help out, the long dormant Alumni Association is gaining members and gaining momentum, and it looks like we are going to have an amazing staff line-up yet again this year. I think Katie's tag line just might catch on.

Oh yeah, and my friend who was crying my first night of camp? He's already sent in his application.

See you this summer!

Martin Plemel, Camp Director

HERE COMES SUMMER 2010!

Have we got an amazing summer lined up for you!

- 1st camp: July 7-17 (11-17 for Juniors)
- 2nd camp: July 21-31 (25-31 for Juniors)
- 3rd camp: August 4-14 (8-14 for Juniors)

Juniors, Intermediates, Wilderness Skills, Canoe Out-Tripping Skills and Wilderness Out-Tripping Skills will run all 3 sessions, with Wilderness Kayaking Skills offered during 1st camp only. Aspiring ALE'ers have two options for their adventure of a lifetime: from July 7-31 or July 21-August 14.

We are thrilled to be welcoming 8 year-olds to join us at Bosco this summer! With the addition of our newest campers comes some changes to our Junior and Intermediate programming structure. Juniors (8-10 year olds) will attend camp for 6 days, and Intermediates (10-12 year olds) will join us for 10. Parents of 10 year-olds have the option to choose either session.

EARLY-BIRD & ALUMNI SPECIALS

We are excited to offer both early-bird and alumni pricing this year! Early-bird prices run until April 30th and will save you \$40 per camper (\$80 for ALE) off our regular camp fees. On top of that, alumni - former campers or their siblings, or the children of former campers or staff - will receive an additional \$10 (\$21 for ALE) off the early-bird fees, if registered and paid in full by March 31st!

See the camp brochure or website, or call or email us for more information!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Bosco Board!

We are on the verge of another camping season with a lot of changes, anticipated successes and challenges. This winter has seen a flurry of activity from Bosco Board and renewed interest from Alumni. We have been working Bingos, selling tickets, working on facilities and just generally working hard to prepare for another camping season.

We are excited about the upcoming summer and look forward to providing a memorable summer for returning campers and those who are new to the Bosco experience. We have seen many changes over the years to programming and facilities but some things you can count on... paddling a canoe across a still water, the breath taking beauty of the Northern Lights, days spent hiking and observing nature up close, setting up and breaking camp, collecting firewood, cooking over a fire, fire-watches, liturgy and singing in the chapel.

Another thing you can count on is quality staff. We have great leadership with Martin Plemel. His devotion and dedication is infectious. This, along with the energetic and the dedicated staff, is sure to provide a summer experience second to none. Our staff delivers an appreciation of the northern experience that can turn into a lifelong love of nature.

Finally, there is opportunity to make a difference. We have many projects for Bosco friends and alumni to work on over the May long weekend. So, if you want to come and get a little Bosco back in your life please join us. There are a lot of jobs to do but we want to make time for some fun so please give us your time and we will give you a little piece of Bosco spirit in return.

We look forward to a fulfilling and exciting year at Bosco. Please come be a part of it!

Cheryl Kirzinger

2010 MAY LONG WORK WEEKEND

Come join us for a traditional Bosco May long weekend!

Who: Board, alumni, staff, friends and family

When: Friday May 21- Monday May 24. Come for one day or the entire weekend!

Where: St. John Bosco Wilderness Camp, Zeden Lake

Why: Work, fun, and fellowship! Help us set up and clean up camp and get it ready for the 2010 season starting May 25th!

Jobs include clearing deadfall, cleaning buildings, setting up tent sites, putting in the docks, finishing work on projects, and more. Many hands make the jobs go quickly! Food, lodging, and great company are provided.

If this weekend doesn't work for you, we could use a hand on some projects earlier in May. Call the office for more details.

HELP WANTED!

We are in the process of hiring our 2010 staff. We are looking to fill the following positions:

- Assistant Director
- Purchaser
- First Aid
- Head Cook
- Maintenance
- Canoe/Kayak Instructor
- Waterfront Director
- Lifeguards
- Naturelore Instructor
- Liturgical Director
- Supplier
- Counsellors

As well as other resource programs including orienteering, archery, sports, and wilderness crafts. Volunteers are welcome. Enthusiasm a must! Positions are available from mid May through mid August. Application forms are available on our website. For more information contact Martin Plemel at director@johnboscocamp.com.

As always, we are looking for those energetic souls wishing to get involved at any level. There are numerous opportunities, from becoming a Board member to helping with committee work or volunteering at our fundraising activities. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining us!

BOSCO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the year and a half since our 50th anniversary reunion, we have been contacted by many former Bosco people. There has been a surge of interest and enthusiasm. This is what makes those who have experienced Bosco such incredible people! We would like to take this opportunity to reach out and let you know that you are welcome and encouraged to get reconnected with the Bosco family. Several Bosco alumni are interested in brainstorming with a view to making the Alumni Association more active. Bosco is calling... please answer the call! To get involved or for more information, contact Cheryl Kirzinger at eckirzinger@sasktel.net.

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