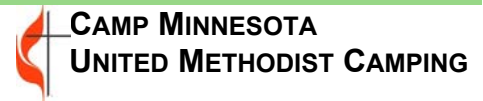




Camps - Conferences - Retreats

## DECISION HILLS CAMP NEWSLETTER

### From the Directors



We officially have one full year under our belts as the April 1 anniversary of our start has come and gone. Learning the ropes at Decision Hills has been a great experience. This has mostly been due to the many people who have reached out to us and



DHC Co-Directors,  
Sarah & Terry Lockwood

to the camp through this last year.

We were privileged to watch a wonderful summer staff grow in their faith and skills as they worked with the campers and guests. We were privileged to watch campers have faith experiences through discussions, the wonder of a sunset, the taste of s'mores, singing around the campfire or even learning to kneebow for the first time.

Every time we stepped out of our office or the maintenance shed to watch, listen and participate, we are lifted by the enthusiasm of the campers and guest.

People's financial and gift generosity to the camp this past year showed us that we can still watch for miracles. This coming year will be even a bigger step of faith as we anxiously watch for donations and work hard to raise funds to help the camp survive and thrive.

A verse which our home church has been visiting this year has been an important one for us to claim, both from the standpoint of the camp, but also in our personal lives. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future."*

As many of you know, we lost our 18 year old son Nick, this past January. To say it has been excruciating wouldn't suffice. Having said that, it has only been through God's grace that our family, friends, camping community, and our church families, that we have been lifted by prayers

and spirit. We are grateful to you all. The "grief spasms" continue to make their presence known, but so does God's amazing grace!

It is with much anticipation that we look forward to this year's camping season. Having the camp once again filled with laughter, singing, praying and all sorts of fun will be one of the best healers for us.

Volunteers are already showing up to help clean, organize, set up and prepare Decision Hills Camp for its upcoming ministry. Thank you to all who have been a part of this faith journey this past year!

### Improvements Continue to Happen

The Southwest bathrooms will have been completely renovated by the time camps begin in June!

The Campground has received tons of gravel on its roads & pads. It will also have a dump station by the time summer roles around.

Thanks to a donation of a Gehl skid steer we can do even more!

Check us out on the web at:

[www.decisionhills.org](http://www.decisionhills.org) and [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org)

# Come to the Spring into Summer Fund Raising Event May 15

## Who is putting this on and who will be there?

### VOLUNTEERS

This event would not be possible without awesome volunteers like event coordinator, LuMae Erickson, and the many friends from area UMCs who are heading up various areas.

Additional volunteers would always come in handy. If you would like to volunteer for the event, we will find a place for you (pre-event, during or in clean up. Just contact the camp.

### SPECIAL GUEST

#### Master Gardner - Judy Toth

She will be available for answering questions and holding presentations on how to make a rain garden and rain barrels!



### WHO CAN COME?

This fund raiser is for everyone! It is open to the public. Additional fliers can be downloaded off the DHC website if you are interested in helping to distribute them.



There's wood to be cut, signs to be made (does anybody out there router or paint?), docks to be put in and

walls to be painted. There's opportunities to help with decorating, photo albums, office organization and data entry. This summer we would love to

## What will be available?

### Items Being Sold:

#### PLANTS



Premium Grade hanging baskets, potted plants, flats of flowers, and large variety of perennials. If you like gardening or having beautiful plants around, this is the place to get them!

#### GENTLY USED STUFF

Gently used sporting equipment, outdoor items, and any many other recreational items too numerous to list! We specifically have a great windsurfer, 2 go-karts, THE BLOB, We're even hoping for some larger consignment items like boats, etc.



#### FOOD!

YUMMMMMY...Baked goods and a food booth all day! There will be breakfast items, snack stuff and lunch fixings.



This event is growing by leaps and bounds so it is constantly changing. To see all the activities and a smattering of what is for sale check the Decision Hills website as it will be updated as more items and activities get added. [www.decisionhills.org](http://www.decisionhills.org)

## Why is this fund raiser happening?

Decision Hills Camp has a mighty task before them in the fund raising department. This event is one of several the camp will be hosting this year.

Funds from this particular fund raiser will be used in a few different ways. A targeted project we would like to pay for is to put a deck on the lake-side of Homewood cabin. The remainder of the funds raised (with the exception of what's listed next) will go into the general fund to help with ongoing expenses.

Specific ear-marked proceeds are from the sale of the go-karts and windsurfer to go toward getting a new lawnmower for the camp. Proceeds



from the sale of the BLOB & tower will go toward purchasing new, more user & staff friendly inflatable water front toys. The BLOB has been a difficult water front piece to maintain and keep secured, because of its immense size. Lighter weight campers have found it difficult to successfully blob. Campers coming this summer can look forward to a great time at the water front!

## Volunteers Continue to Come to Decision Hills Camp

have some extra folk who would like to run a water front canteen during free times.

Terry has regular need of firewood cutters and buckthorn removal. Mechanic skills for boat motors, tractors and cars are welcome. Some of our specialty camps could even use some extra help by bringing and driving your ski boat.

Regular gardening is always appreciated. Another category of help is in working with one of the fund raising events or a task area for one of the events.

If you are looking for a place to serve, please consider checking out Decision Hills. Camp ministry comes in many different forms, one of which is servanthood.



### Special points of interest:

- We offer camp and retreat opportunities for all ages (family, children, youth, adults)
- You can find details for any of our Decision Hills camps at our website.
- Check with your local UMC and the MN Annual Conference for campership money
- When our cabins, yurts or campgrounds are not hosting camps, they are available to rent by groups, individuals or families.
- Did you know we now have a cow greeting people at our entrance. "Betsy" is a reminder that we always have a great **C**loud **O**f **W**itnesses! (Heb. 12:1)



## 2010 DHC Camp & Retreat Smorgasbord

### CAMPS FOR FAMILIES

#### JULY 2-5 4th of July Family Retreat

Take a long holiday weekend at the camp, enjoying all its amenities and a great family program. There's even time set aside to watch the Spicer parade!

#### AUG 15-17 Grandparent / Grandchild Camp

Grandparents... scoop up your grandchildren and experience three days of camp activities with them.

### DAY CAMPS FOR CHILDREN

#### JULY 6-9 Decision Hills VBS (morning only)

K-4 children are invited to experience all the fun of a Vacation Bible School with all the cool experiences of a summer camp! Lunch is provided.

#### JULY 27-29 Day Camp (morning only)

K-3 children are invited to a wonderful program run by leadership kids attending our Youth Leadership Development Camp. Your child will get to experience some of the fun camp activities in a safe, supervised setting..

### CAMPS FOR MID-HIGH & SR. HI.

#### Wet & Wild (4th-6th gr. AUG. 1-6) (7th-10th gr. JULY 18-23)

Enjoy a week in the lake as we combine growing in our faith with learning to water-ski, tube, and kneeboard.

#### AUG. 15-18 Xtreme Mini Adventure Camp

Grades 4-6 will bike, hike, climb and canoe their way with a new adventure everyday. A great introduction to adventure experiences!

#### JUNE 27-JULY 2 Xtreme Adven. Camp

Grades 6-9 live in a Yurt and experience Xtreme adventures like a canoe trip, bicycling, high ropes and more. Each day will include Bible study, worship, campfires and learning a camp skill.

#### JUNE 20-24 Trailblazers Horse Camp

Four days for grades 3-6 to work on horsemanship skills and spend quality time with the horses. Back at DHC, campers will experience Bible studies, worship, water activities and other great camp fun.

#### JUNE 13-18 River Trek

Grades 7-10 go for a 5-day adventure down the river. Camp out in tents and cook over open fires, duff and play in the river all day as we make our way. Discover how God joins us on our journey through campfire worship and discussion times.

#### JULY 25-30 Youth Leadership Development

For grades 7-12 in developing experience in leadership ministry. The week will include leadership skills, talk about the thrill and humbleness of guiding others in their journey, and the exploration of where God might be leading you.

#### JUNE 10-13/ AUG 19-22 Service Staff 1 & 2

Mornings will be spent doing service projects around the camp, including maintenance and grounds work. Afternoons & evenings will be spent in Bible Study, free time, and fun activities to celebrate the day.

#### JULY 11-17 Summer Sizzler for Jesus

Grades 6-9 spend a week on the ropes course, swimming, and plenty of time in the lake. Live Band each day. Really helps to develop a closer relationship with God.

#### June 13-19 & 20-26 L.Y.F.E. Camp I & II

Grades 7-10 are challenged to Live Your Faith Everyday at this camp. Spend time playing games, laughing hard, singing around the campfire, making friends, sharing talents, learning about yourself, and discovering God in new ways.

### EXPERIENCES FOR ADULTS

#### AUG. 29-31 55+ Joy in the Journey Retreat

A retreat experience for adults. Several devotional times during the day will help you make quiet time to focus on how God shares your journey. Great food, fellowship and fun will be a part of your time together.

#### JUNE 19 Picnic Table Building 101

Learn how to build a picnic table for your home and help the camp upgrade a new supply of tables at the same time. Raise \$80 to build a table for the camp, experience building the picnic table under a skilled carpenter's guidance, and take home the plans for a table of your own. Kids are welcome, but must be accompanied by a participating adult.

#### OCT. 1-3 Scrapbooking Retreat

Imagine an entire weekend devoted to your scrapbooking and stamping projects. Be inspired by the latest tools and products as well as those around you.

#### AUG. 8-13 Christian Friendship Camp

Tailor-made for persons with developmental special needs. Campers will enjoy a Christian community filled with nurturing care to experience God's love and presence in a very real way. (Only female registrations are still available to date.)

Mailed from the Minnesota Annual Conference  
122 W. Franklin Ave.  
Room 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

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### *Around the Conference*

**Summer camp is around the corner!** Hundreds of promises for a wonderful experience for someone you know or someone who “needs a positive, Christian experience!” It’s time to select a camp for your kids, your grandkids, someone in your church or community – or even for YOU! Check it out! **IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP (even on-line). Remember, there are funds to help, if need! A wonderful experience awaits.**

Your prayers are also asked for the many Camp Deans, their volunteer staff, and our site staff as they go through their preparations for this summer. Please pray for:

- Safety for all
- A positive experience filled with friends and wonderful memories
- Most importantly, for all to see God in a very special and life-changing way

Our new Retreats & Camping system is now beginning its first full year as a new structure. We are in the midst of a transition that will take a few years to complete. But our conference teams are working with our site teams to provide even better programs and facilities for you. Your prayerful support of this work and ministry is needed as we seek God’s direction in our efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this vital ministry!

Rocky Wilson  
MN Director of Retreats & Camping



### **United Methodist Camp Sites** E-mail: [camps@campminnesota.org](mailto:camps@campminnesota.org)

#### **Decision Hills**

12720 51st Street NE  
Spicer, MN 56288  
(320) 796-5510  
[sarah@decisionhills.org](mailto:sarah@decisionhills.org)

#### **Kingswood**

7301 Kingswood Road  
Mound, MN 55364  
(952) 472-3586  
[kingswood@campminnesota.org](mailto:kingswood@campminnesota.org)

#### **Ko-Wa-Kan**

122 W. Franklin, Ste. 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Location: Ely, MN  
(212) 230-2267 year round  
[kowakan@campminnesota.org](mailto:kowakan@campminnesota.org)

#### **Koronis Ministries**

15752 County Road 181  
Paynesville, MN 56362  
(320) 243-4544  
[lkag@campminnesota.org](mailto:lkag@campminnesota.org)

#### **Northern Pines**

20033 County Road 1  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
(218) 732-4713

#### **Star Lake**

122 W. Franklin, Ste. 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Location: Ely, MN  
(212) 230-2267 year round  
[starlake@campminnesota.org](mailto:starlake@campminnesota.org)

All Camps listed are part of the  
Retreats and Camping Ministry Team  
of the Minnesota Annual Conference