



NATURAL LINKS

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

JOB OPENINGS

Highland Retreat, Bergton, VA, has two year-round job openings: A full-time Facilities Manager to oversee the management of Highland's buildings and grounds, starting by April 1, and a half-time (or greater) Hospitality Manager to oversee food service and housekeeping, starting by May 1. See highlandretreat.org/job-openings for more details; resumes should be emailed to Kent Kauffman (kent@highlandretreat.org).

FACEBOOK

Join the conversation! "Like" us on Facebook and be part of the community online: "Mennonite Camping Association - MCA" group.



JANUARY 2021

MCA VIRTUAL GATHERING

THE 2021 MCA GATHERING IS GOING VIRTUAL!

The MCA Board of Directors is excited to share that this year's annual gathering is going to be happening on the afternoons of **March 23 & 24**. Jim Loepp Thiessen, a pastor from southwestern Ontario, and Sam Stucky, a musical artist and Laurelville alum based in Pittsburgh, PA, will be leading us in times of worship. There will also be time for peer groups to connect along with a variety of breakout rooms for learning and growth around a variety of camp related topics.

The gathering is free so spread the word to your staff and mark your calendars! There are more details to come but it's shaping up to be a couple of great days of fellowship, encouragement and learning!

NEW MCA LOGO

Once upon a time, when face-to-face meetings were still part of normal life and the MCA board could meet together at one of the many gorgeous MCA member camps, a discussion was had about a "giveaway" for the MCA booth at the Mennonite Church USA convention exhibit hall (MennoCon'19). In addition to the outrageously popular, 4-color retro pens, the MCA board thought stickers might be a fun way to go. Camp Mennoscah has a pretty stellar graphic designer friend who was contacted to make an MCA themed sticker. Time passed, a couple tweaks were made and a sticker was created! The board loved them! (As did many of the convention goers!)

As talks of the 100th anniversary celebration were also beginning, it only seemed fitting to adopt a modified version of that sticker as the new, updated, MCA



logo. Like many fun, anniversary-themed celebrations that were to happen at the 2020 Bi-National at Spruce Lake, the revealing of the new logo was one of them. So please forgive the MCA board and their antsy-ness, but they can't wait any longer to reveal the new logo.

The logo files can be found at <http://www.mennonitecamping.org/resources.html>. Feel free to download it and use it on your website, email, publication material, etc.

MCA RECRUITING VIDEO

A NEW RECRUITING TOOL!

A new, short video has been created for all MCA camps to use for their summer camp recruiting purposes. This video will also be sent to the Mennonite colleges and universities that would normally host "camp days" where MCA camps travel to the campuses and visit with students, "recruiting" for summer staff.

Thanks to Suzanne Opel, Ashley Litwiller and Jace Longenecker for their work in creating the video!

The video can be found on [YouTube](#), the [MCA website](#) and the [MCA Facebook page](#).

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WWW.MENNONITECAMPING.ORG



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CAMP UPDATES

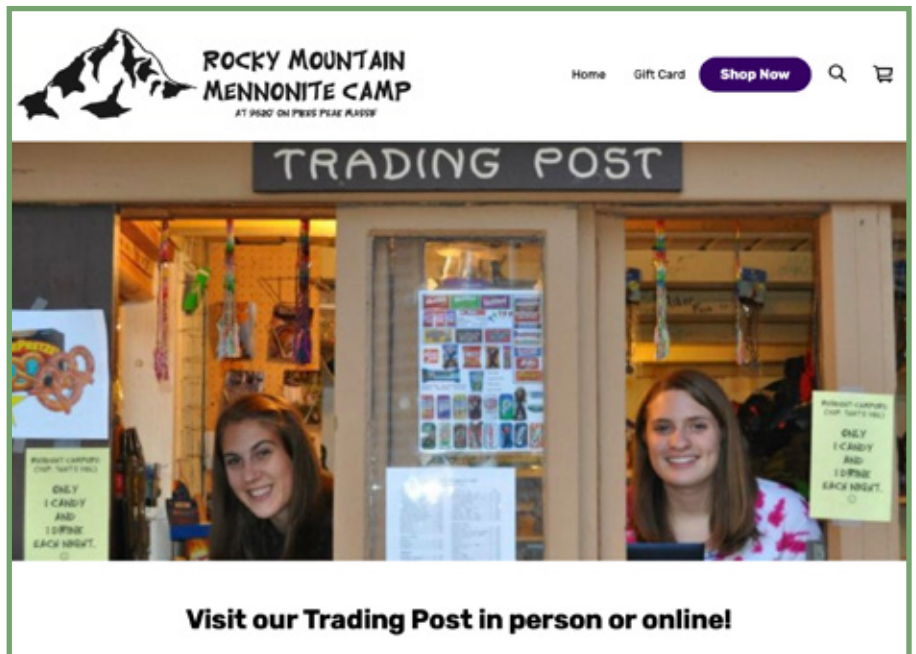
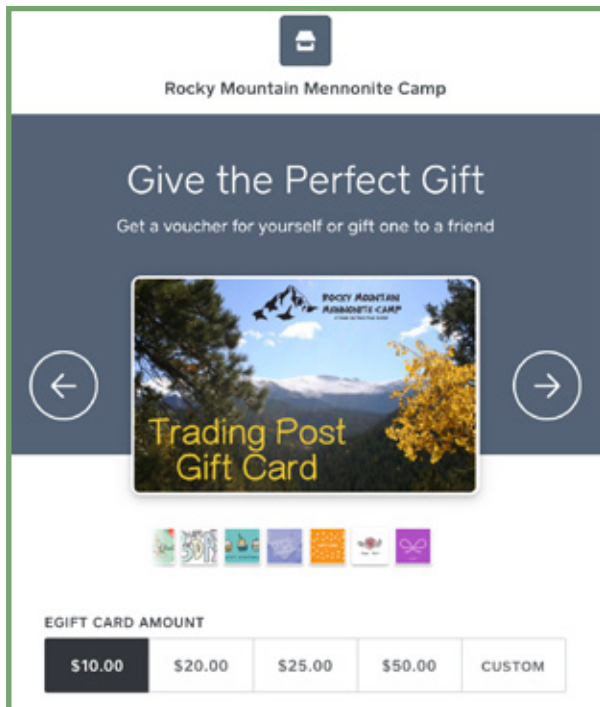
Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Divide, CO, www.rmmc.org

In a “lemonade out of lemons” response to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic (and there have been LOTS of “lemons”), Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp put together an online Trading Post. A software integration of camper registration and store items (inventory tracking as well) made it possible to offer the following improvements and new options for campers, guests and staff:

- Ability to see items available when campers and guests arrive at camp (and guide for parents on how much spending money to include as part of online registration).
- Trading Post items available online if you can’t come to visit in person. Purchases also financially support camp operations during this challenging time.
- eGift cards are available to be shared with family and friends for Christmas, birthdays or a simple gesture of thanks.
- Simplify youth camper transactions while during camp session (receiving money, record of purchases, processing refunds or donations to the camper scholarship fund).

As for learning curves, shipping costs for online orders are challenging as “Free” shipping offers are definitely NOT free! Re-using envelopes and boxes from our own deliveries has been a win-win-win in reducing expenses, lessening our recycling bins, AND help in our desire for creation care.

It was definitely a highlight to be able to fill orders for Christmas presents and share a bit of camping ministry beyond our property boundaries! Have a look at www.tradingpost.rmmc.org.



Tubing hill at Maple Ridge Center (Beaver Camp), Lowville, NY