



NATURAL LINKS

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

JOB OPENINGS

CAMP UPDATES

Crooked Creek Christian Camp, Washington, IA, is taking applications for the position of Food Service Manager. The Food Service Manager is responsible for menu planning, cooking and presentation, managing additional kitchen staff, as well as food ordering and purchasing. Submit application, cover letter, and resume to Heather Bender heather@crookedcreekcamp.org. Visit www.crookedcreekcamp.org for more information and information on additional job openings.

Amigo Centre, Sturgis, MI, www.amigocentre.org

What a blessing for Amigo Centre to be asked to host the first state-side MDS Family Camp. MCA camps in Canada have been hosting MDS Family Camps for ten years, and this year, Amigo had the privilege of hosting two MDS Family Camps in July. We were delighted that both weeks filled up, with four families participating each week.

Projects included repairs to the Gaga Ball pit, marsh study platform, trail light boxes, fire extinguisher boxes, cabins, a cottage and the Nature Center. The work that was completed was a mix of repairs from the derecho that hit Amigo and the surrounding area last August and general maintenance tasks. The art of it was creating meaningful work for all age groups, while also completing work that needed to be wrapped up for hosting groups in August. We had a great time hosting the MDS Family Camps!

We felt incredibly blessed too with the wonderful weather we had! Not very often that we get nights in the 50's & 60's in July, but it was great sleeping weather to help folks feel rested for the next day of work.

One highlight was having summer campers thank the children who repaired and painted the Gaga Ball pit. *By Cheryl Mast, Amigo Centre*



RECRUITING

2022 FALL RECRUITING

Wed., November 2--EMU
Thurs., November 3--Bluffton
Fri., November 4--Goshen

Mon. November 7--Hesston
Tue., November 8--Tabor
Wed., November 9--Bethel

Mark your calendars! More info to come at a later date.

MCA GATHERINGS

SAVE THE DATE for the 2023 Regional Gatherings

March 20-23, 2023

Eastern Regional
at Camp Hebron,
Halifax, PA

West/Midwest Regional
at Pine Lake Fellowship Camp,
Meridian, MS

MCA REFLECTIONS

Most everyone in the MCA world knows me for my connection to Camp Deerpark. Sometimes I think my last name is Camp Deerpark rather than Bontrager. However, my camping experience began in Iowa. First at Camp Sunnyside, an Easter Seals program for children and adults with disabilities and then a counselor at Crooked Creek Christian Camp. In 1980 my father was on the original steering committee to explore the possibility of a Mennonite camp in the Washington/Wayland, Iowa area. He recently told me he was the only person on the committee who voted "no". He was already feeling the squeeze of the farm crisis that would come to a head five years later, and he assumed that other farmers would also not be able to contribute financially. In spite of voting no, he has always been an advocate, volunteer, and donor of Crooked Creek. In June, I was home to visit my parents. Dad loves to go for a drive, so we headed to Crooked Creek. He pointed out all of the trees that he planted and lamented that he never got back to keep them trimmed. He told me about the snowstorm that swelled up in the middle of installing the roof on the main lodge. We both marveled at how far Crooked Creek has developed from the cow pasture in 1980. We were impressed with the love and care that had been invested in the grounds. The "Fruits of the Spirit" were posted in *Burma Shave* fashion as we drove back to the pavilion. As we pulled up, Heather and staff were sitting in the shade with a handful of campers waiting for Friday pick-up. It was Mennonite/Anabaptist/Christian camping the way it should be. I am so pleased to be part of the Mennonite Camping family. Keep up the good work.

By Ken Bontrager, Camp Deerpark