



NATURAL LINKS

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

JOB OPENINGS

MCA REGIONAL GATHERING MEMORIES

Little Eden Camp, Onkama, MI, is looking for a full-time, guest services manager. The guest services manager will provide leadership for day-to-day marketing, booking, and hosting of non-summer guest groups. This is an on-site salaried, year-round position that includes benefits. To read the job description for the position and the qualifications required, please go to the work/employment page on our website at littleeden.org. If you are interested in being considered for the position, please send a resume to admin@littleeden.org.

Tel Hai Camp & Retreat, Honey Brook, PA, is seeking an assistant cook for the summer season. This is a salaried position which includes on campus lodging and board. For more information, contact Brian Williamson at 610-273-3969.

Eastern Regional Gathering

By Josh Brown, Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

I'd never heard of "Mennonite Kickball" and certainly didn't expect to be sprinting around a gym with other full-grown adults at the "Adaptive Programming" session. But at the Eastern regional MCA conference at Camp Hebron, that was the first of many unexpected delights.

Executive Director Deke took us on a tractor-tour of the Camp Hebron grounds, telling stories of God's amazing work in each place as we passed the forests, the lake, the campground, and the cabins. Pages filled rapidly as I scribbled notes during a session on how camps partnering with local ministries amplifies the strengths of both. A large group of us programs people laughed as we realized we all struggled to find summer staff, then shared our stories of failure and success. It feels a lot better when twenty people are having your same problems and are excited about solving them together.

My team comes from a smaller retreat center and hanging out at Camp Hebron opened our minds to the possibilities of growth and new programming. Even just getting to stay on grounds was a blessing; lots of us in the MCA work at camps and retreat centers, but it's completely different to actually go on a retreat and get to see our ministry from the receiving side.

Having been to two MCA annual gatherings now, I have an idea of what to expect for next year – fellowship with friends old and new, growth through listening and giving, and common ground with incredible people.

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RECRUITING

2023 FALL RECRUITING

Wed., November 1--EMU
Thurs., November 2--Bluffton
Fri., November 3--Goshen

Mon. November 6--Hesston
Tue., November 6--Tabor
Wed., November 8--Bethel

Mark your calendars!





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MCA REGIONAL GATHERING MEMORIES

West/Midwest Regional Gathering By Matt Graybill, Pine Lake Fellowship Camp

As the wheels rolled further South towards toward Pine Lake Fellowship Camp or “touched down” in Mississippi, the surrounding landscaped turned more green than the starting point. Spring had already “sprung” at Pine Lake in the weeks before as the mower had already been fired up to knock down the eager grass and weeds.

Twenty participants from eight camps received the invitation to come and “Revive” their soul over three days of conversations, worship, activity, and rest. A group of 20 folks enjoyed a portion of the Meridian Civil Rights Trail on Tuesday afternoon with local pastor Gerald Hudson. They heard firsthand experiences from Gerald and another pastor in addition to stopping by several historic locations, such as the church Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in following the 1964 murders of Schwerner, Goodman, & Chaney, location of the 1964 Freedom school, Weschler school, and downtown African American Business district.

It’s not a week at Pine Lake without a campfire on this island! After our speaker, Henry Tolbert, shared his message, there were several conversations over gourmet s’mores (just add strawberries) that lasted into the night. While it was a fast three days, we recognize the importance of gathering as co-laborers in God’s mission through camping. It feels good “to know” that while our camps are unique, we are all serving for the same purpose and often encounter the same ups and downs on our journeys. It was a great joy to host everyone at Pine Lake and serve y’all with some southern hospitality!

By the numbers:

- 25lbs of fried catfish consumed
- 0 people hurt in hatchet throwing
- 6 Civil Rights Trail sites visited
- 8 camps represented
- 20 participants & families
- Dozens of gourmet s’mores
- 11 hours – shortest distance traveled to Pine Lake

