



# NATURAL LINKS

## MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

### JOB OPENINGS

### CAMP UPDATES

Little Eden Camp, Onkama, MI, is looking for a full-time, guest services manager and a part time cook. 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. The food service cook will provide food preparation and service for camp guests and will assist with supervision of the kitchen in the absence of the Food Service Director. To read the job descriptions for both positions and the qualifications required, please go to the employment page at [littleeden.org](http://littleeden.org). If you are interested in being considered for one of the positions, please send a resume to [admin@littleeden.org](mailto:admin@littleeden.org).

**Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Divide, CO, [www.rmmc.org](http://www.rmmc.org)**  
 The second year of young families coming to RMMC was held as the fall colors were in full swing September 29-31. The weekend is inviting of all young families who may/may not have connections with the Mennonite community and may/may not be active church members. Program leaders Jacob & Chelsey Miller (and family) led activities for the 2-8 year old age group who are too young to attend summer camp on their own, but not too old to experience and enjoy a weekend at Rocky Mountain. Feedback offered included appreciation for: "Time with friends, fun activities, good food, beautiful scenery."



### TRANSITIONS

Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre, New Hamburg, ON, is excited to share that the Outdoor Education Director, Josh Penfold, will be stepping into the role of Program Director in early December. Josh will broaden his focus and will now oversee the summer camp, outdoor education, retreat and CLASP programs. Emily Taylor, who has been the Program Director for the last two years expressed a desire to move from full-time work to part-time work and will move into a new role of Assistant Program Director supporting Josh by primarily coordinating the administrative aspects of the programs. Hidden Acres is thankful for both Josh and Emily and the ways they use their gifts and experiences to serve the campers, families and broader community well.

**Moose sitings on the rise at RMMC!**  
 Last year, a cow calf (yearling) pair were at the pond. This summer, a newly born calf was seen doing its best to keep up with "mom" as she went up Bobcat Hill. Surprisingly, at only five days old, a moose calf can outrun humans. As wobbly as this calf was, it could have easily been born within that time before visiting Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.



**Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA, [www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org)**  
 Laurelville Retreat Center recently celebrated its 80th anniversary, inviting the community to several of the weekend's family friendly events including free lunch, a foam party, mud games, an exotic petting zoo, caricatures, Mennonite Disaster Service's Storm Encounter simulated tornado experience, and a free concert by Honeytown Band of Ohio. Laurelville was founded in 1943 and began with 45 acres as a summer camp for church youth. It has grown to a year-round Christian retreat center with 600 acres, hosting more than 20,000 overnight guests/year and 10,000 day users of the pool and grounds yearly.

### CLIMATE POLLINATORS

**Climate Pollinators: A monthly webinar series on creation care**  
 Climate Pollinators is organized by the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Creation Care Task Force and the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. Once a month, from October to February, MWC's Creation Care Task Force members from each global region will host one hour of storytelling and Q&A. Church members from around the world will share how they are affected by climate change – and responding with resilient action and gospel hope. Register [HERE!](#)

*Binational gathering information on page 2*



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## MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

### 2024 MCA BI-NATIONAL GATHERING

Mark your calendars and prepare now to join us:

**MARCH 11-14, 2024**

at [Camp Squeah](#) in Hope, British Columbia

**Keynote speaker, April Yamasaki**

**April Yamasaki** is an ordained pastor, editor, and author of *Sacred Pauses*, *Four Gifts*, *On the Way With Jesus*, and other books on living life with faith and hope.

She currently serves as resident author with Valley CrossWay Church, which is a liturgical worship community; edits the quarterly devotional magazine *Rejoice!*; continues to write both online and in print publications; and often speaks in other churches and settings. She blogs on faith, life, and ministry at [AprilYamasaki.com](#) and [WhenYouWorkfortheChurch.com](#). Her next book is a collection of sermons to be released in 2023.



April holds a Master of Christian Studies from Regent College. She was happily married to her high school sweetheart until his death last year from cancer-related complications. Though grieving, she is grateful for a wonderfully supportive family and church community, good work, good friends, and God's mercies new every morning.

**Travel subsidies still available!**

#### Amount available:

**USA:** Twenty-eight \$250 individual travel subsidies, totaling \$7,000, are available for the Camp Squeah Bi-National.

**Canada:** Six \$250 individual travel subsidies, totaling \$1,500, are available for the Camp Squeah Bi-National.

#### Who is eligible:

Any staff or board member of a member MCA camp.

*Any non-member individual or family member is welcome (and encouraged!) to register and attend, but are not eligible for a travel subsidy.*

#### Details:

- **NOW**, through January 1st, **individuals** may apply for one \$250 travel subsidy.
- **Up to 3 staff or board members per camp** will be granted the subsidy.
- After January 1, any remaining subsidies will be available for any additional staff or board members to apply, from any member camp, including those who have already received 3 subsidies.
- Subsidy checks will be handed out at the Camp Squeah gathering, or email transferred (Canada) on March 11.

#### How to apply:

Contact Sean McConaghay at [mennonitecamping@gmail.com](mailto:mennonitecamping@gmail.com).

**STAY TUNED!  
MORE INFORMATION  
INCLUDING  
RATES, LODGING  
AND REGISTRATION  
WILL BE AVAILABLE  
IN THE NEXT  
FEW DAYS!**