



NATURAL LINKS

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

JOB OPENINGS

CAMP UPDATES

Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA, is seeking to hire a Youth Ministries Director. In this full-time salaried role, you'll oversee all phases of Spruce Lake's youth, education and discipleship ministries, developing and growing strong programs with evangelical emphases. These include Summer Overnight Camps, Day Camp, Ignite Youth Retreats, Outdoor Education, and Discipleship Programs. The qualified person should have five or more years in upper level management and youth ministry. Comprehensive benefits and onsite housing. For complete details and to apply, go to <https://www.sprucelake.org/about/employment/>

Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA, is seeking a full-time Housekeeping Manager. This position will be responsible for ensuring that guest buildings and rooms are clean, safe, in order, and well-maintained. The manager is a working supervisor of the housekeeping team and volunteers, and is responsible for effective, top-quality results. The qualified person will have a minimum of two years of professional housekeeping experience, have supervisory experience, and be an effective interpersonal communicator. For position details and to apply, go to <https://www.sprucelake.org/about/employment/>

RECRUITING

2023 FALL RECRUITING

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

 Mon. November 6--Hesston
 Tue., November 7--Tabor
 Wed., November 8--Bethel

Mark your calendars! Contact Sean at mennonitecamping.org for more information or to attend.

Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA, www.sprucelake.org

On September 7, Pinebrook (Spruce Lake Ministries) was involved in a fire. The cause was electrical in nature, though the exact cause hasn't been determined.

The fire was controlled quickly (with several companies responding!). Thankfully, no one was in the building, no one was hurt, and it was no one's fault. But there was extensive damage to the kitchen and dining room. The building will not be usable for some time.

Directors and staff are searching for alternative ways to serve meals for the groups lined up to come this fall and winter. There are many details and much repair ahead, but staff are trusting God's promise to redeem the fire for His good purpose.

MENNOCON'23 RE-CAP

Mennonite Camping Association was represented at the MC USA convention, otherwise known as MennoCon, in Kansas City from July 3-7. The booth was very similar to past years with a nature/camp scene with the eye-catching, fake campfire. Nine wildlife representatives were added this year. These "permanent residents" attracted visitors and were much snuggled throughout the convention by all ages. (Can you find the raccoon, turtle, fox, armadillo, chipmunk, bat, turkey vulture, possum, and rabbit in the photo? The Goshen College black squirrel also visited the MCA booth.) The fox and raccoon also made appearances on the MCA stickers that were handed out. The stickers and the button reading "Rather Be at Camp" were created by Erin Ramer.

The remaining tee shirts from the 100th anniversary of Mennonite camping were given away through a drawing. Visitors also had the opportunity to add their favorite place at camp to a poster. Organizations were offered the option of adding one item to the bag received by attendees for the first time. MCA used the remaining new MCA logo stickers from a previous convention.

Conversations were had with those who stopped to get a sticker or sign up for the tee shirt drawing, and the bean bag chairs were used as a gathering and resting space. Hooray for relationship building and relaxation! As always, many stories of camp experiences were shared by those stopping by.

With this convention, the delegate sessions were scheduled to start on Friday, instead of happening throughout the week. Unfortunately, this meant that booths had to be taken down before those attending only the delegate sessions arrived. The recommendation presented to move delegate assemblies to a triennial schedule was rejected with comments focusing on wanting to be together more often.



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

Introducing 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 subsidy registration is open :: October 1st!

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:

- **Beginning October 1**, 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:

Beginning October 1, contact Sean McConaghay at mennonitecamping@gmail.com.

Where is Camp Squeah?

Camp Squeah is located in Hope, British Columbia, Canada. Squeah is a scenic 2 hour drive from Vancouver directly off of the Trans Canada Highway.

Nearest Airports:

Vancouver (YVR) is a large international airport located 181 km/112 mi west of Camp Squeah (approximately 2 hr drive).

Abbotsford (YXX) is a smaller international airport located 105 km/65 mi west of Camp Squeah (approximately 1 hr 10 min drive).

Shuttle information will be available later.