

## 60 years of Krislund Camp Activities

When you look closely at the essence of what makes Krislund Camp activities special, there is much that is the same now as when the camping season started in 1963. The richness of relationships between counselors and campers remain; the realization of God's handiwork in nature persists; Bible lessons that reveal God at work in the world continue; and opportunities to grow in faith remain. What has changed somewhat are the activities through which these valuable experiences occur.

### The Early Years

When Krislund began in the 60's much of the activity centered around family groups as they worked together to cook their meals outside, share stories, hike and participate in Bible lessons. The groups cooked at least two meals each day while their dinner meal was prepared in what is called the "Brown House." (So named because the family named Brown had lived there prior to its purchase by the Presbytery.) With the construction of the Dining Hall in the late 70's and its 2003 addition, meal preparation in the woods diminished to an occasional cookout and most meals are provided in the dining hall. (The story of meal preparation at camp will be the subject of a later article. If any readers have information to add, please contact the camp.)



Hiking was also an important part of the camping week. Groups regularly hiked to Colonial Springs that was owned by Ralph Ishler, a good neighbor of the camp. The campers would also look north toward the bald spot on the mountain and wonder how long it would take to hike there. Finally in the last 60's some counselors took up the challenge, hiked to the bald spot and found that the climb was challenging but fun. The trip to the "Bald Spot" became an integral part of each camper's experience and remains so today as "pioneers" and "counselors in training" make the climb.



Singing, vespers, and morning watch have remained a part of the camper's experience throughout the 60 years. Counselors usually provide the leadership for the music and Ministers have served as weeklong chaplains who meet with campers during Bible study and provide a message during vespers.

### Adventure Activities

Krislund weekday activities slowly evolved. Hiking to the Bald Spot remained and caving was added to the campers' activities along with other adventures such as rock climbing and canoeing trips. A rock wall was built across the big field from the dining hall and it became a favorite activity. Later, a new climbing wall was built on the mountain behind the Dining Hall and a 300 foot zip line was attached. The "adventure" activities soon expanded to include other adventure elements such as high ropes and the flying squirrel.



Younger campers were also challenged at the Mini Adventure Program Site (MAPS) which included a small rock wall, a low ropes course, and a mini zip line.



In 2014 the Thursday volunteers were challenged to build a three tiered high ropes course that would become a centerpiece

of the current Adventure Park at Krislund. During the Fall and Spring of 2014/15, the group erected the supports for the high ropes course and helped moved the climbing wall down from the mountain and added dual 800 foot zip lines. Then a giant swing was added. The park today is a gathering place for many individual challenge activities as well as a fire circle and pavilion for all-camp events.



### Group Challenge Activities

In addition to personal challenges throughout the week, there are also group challenge activities that require working effectively with others in order to accomplish a task. There are group activities for all levels, from challenges at the mini adventure park to the adult challenge course



### Water Sports

Swimming has always been a favorite and over the years water activities have remained a constant. Some campers enjoy the creek; some experience the joy of a long water slide; and others just enjoy the antics at the pool.



## Specialty Camps

During the mid 2010's specialty camps became popular. Campers would spend most of the day in their family groups but would be able to register for special camps like archery, foodology, fiber arts, woodworking, arts and fishing. These programs were usually led by volunteers working with summer counselors for support and linkage with campers.



## Daily Pickup Games

In addition to all of the specified activities of the week, campers often use the equipment located throughout the camp such as giant games of chess and connect four as well as four square, gaga pits, carpet ball, basketball and volleyball. On rainy days the gym provides room for indoor activities including a climbing wall and pickle ball. Campers can also try their hand at archery and, recently, frisbee golf has been introduced.



## The Evening Vespers

Throughout the years, though the specific activities have changed, the Bible lessons, discussions of faith, and evening vespers have remained constant. Young people who have come to Krislund often go away with rich relationships, increased appreciation of God's great creation, a better understanding of Jesus, and a stronger faith.

