



District Report for the Alliance Camps

It is the desire of the Alliance Camps in Alberta is to be a place where children, youth, young adults and families ENCOUNTER GOD, ENRICH RELATIONSHIPS and EXPERIENCE CREATION.

ENCOUNTER GOD - The foundational reason why Christian summer camps exist is to be a place for people to encounter God and be changed. We are excited to see the way God uses camp as children and young people made significant steps forward in their journey of faith.

ENRICH RELATIONSHIPS – A significant factor in people remaining committed to their faith is having important relationships with other older adults, in addition to their parents. As young adults pour into the lives of children and youth it provides a significant relationship that can have a lifelong impact.

EXPERIENCE CREATION - People today are less connected to nature and that is having a negative impact on our lives in many different ways. "What would our lives and our children's lives be like if our days and our nights were as immersed in nature as they are in technology?" (Richard Louv) Scripture is full of references to the impact that creation has upon us, and summer camp is an amazing place for children and youth to experience creation and to be changed because of that experience.

This past year almost 2900 campers attended Alliance summer camps and almost 12,000 people were a part of various groups that rented camp facilities. More than 300 decisions were made to enter into a relationship with God and over 500 commitments were made to take a significant step to deepen their relationship with God. There were more than 70 paid summer staff and almost 400 volunteers.

The message we have to churches is simple. "As a camp we build stronger families by giving our campers a chance to experience Jesus in His creation. We build stronger churches by giving your leaders an opportunity to use their gifts and skills in the context of summer camp. Then we send the campers and leaders back into your churches to continue the discipleship that you are already doing." We have a unique ability as a denomination to leverage our church/ camp partnerships for the best possible good of the kingdom.



2019 District Conference

The Western Canadian District of
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

Areas of focus for the coming year

1. Church Presence – Things have been busy this winter for Chet Kennedy, our new Executive Director of Camp Chamisall. He has been visiting a number of Calgary and area Alliance churches on our first ever Camp Chamisall Church tour. Rob Toews and Brett Gitzel from Nakamun and Bellevue have also been visiting churches, youth groups and Christian schools.
2. Facilities – Each of the three camps have some unique challenges in order to ensure their facilities are functioning well.
3. Health and safety – Camps are facing the struggle of ensuring they meet the legal expectations of the government and still providing the right environment for campers and guest groups.
4. Finances – We rely on the support of churches and individuals to meet our financial needs.

We are excited this summer to see what God will be doing in our summer camps this year. For the first time in our history we have the potential of seeing all of our camps working together in partnership so that our reach covers the entire province of Alberta.

All the camps are still looking to fill a number of volunteer positions, and although some weeks are starting to fill up there is still lots of room for campers this summer.

Respectfully submitted

Rob Toews, Chet Kennedy, Ken DeMaere.