

WHY I'M HAPPY TO WRITE A CHECK EACH MONTH

This past weekend at Trinity Pines was an interesting set of circumstances. Camp Administrator John Theien, Office Manager Lois Theien, and their son and Facilities Manager Andrew (AJ) left on Tuesday for Israel. This was a bucket list trip that the Theiens had planned and invested in prior to their interview or hiring. Guest Services Director, Tyler Luschen (also the assistant Cascade High School basketball coach), was in Boise at the State Basketball Tournament and unable to host. When these type of circumstances arise, it calls for critical response and that happened to be ME going to Cascade to the host the group. We had only three employees on the payroll with everyone else gone! Thanks to Steve and Cheryl Haney, Joy Jones, Ray Gartman and my wife Dorita, we had a crew of volunteers step forward to fill gaps. Vineyard Church out of Garden City was there with 106 guests. They are actually a co-op of churches that came together to have a winter retreat; this year, four different churches from Boise to Ontario were involved. The guests were all Jr. and Sr. High students. The Conference Center was a hub of noise when we arrived on Friday evening and it continued throughout the weekend. Let me share some observations:

- As students passed through the food line, we heard many "Thank You's" for the food
- When they came to drop off dishes after the meal, we heard more Thank You's for the great meal
- On Saturday morning, a leader came and said, "We have a great prayer time going on after service with some teens, can we back lunch up by a few minutes until they are through?"
- The leader shared with me that they have a camp in the Fairfield area but as this winter retreat has grown they can no longer use that camp and have found Trinity Pines to be a perfect environment
- Throughout the weekend, I met pastors, associate pastors, and interested parents and counselors that were present and frequently observed these adults in corners of the Conference Center with Bibles open setting knee to knee with students who had tears streaming down their faces
- In the afternoon while manning the Camp Store we heard guests say, "I am buying this sweatshirt to say 'This is the best camp I have ever attended.'"

Now, why am I happy to write a check each month? This weekend reminded me of how important my monthly investment is to Trinity Pines:

CONTINUED ON INSIDE >>

Rick Waitley
Executive Director

CONTACT US:
Association Management Group
55 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 100
Meridian, ID 83642
ph: 208-888-0988
fx: 208-888-4586
rick@amgidah.com
Cascade Address:
349 Cabarton Road
Cascade, ID 83611
ph: 208-382-6200
office@tpines.org

Vineyard Boise Church '23 Jr/Sr High Retreat	Mar 3-5
Parma HS Senior Trip	Mar 17-18
Boy Scouts National Leadership Conference	Mar 31-Apr 2

TRINITY PINES CALENDAR "AT-A-GLANCE"

CAMP MONTHLY

TRINITY PINES CAMP + CONFERENCE CENTER

CASCADE, IDAHO

MARCH 2023

WHY I'M HAPPY TO WRITE A CHECK (CONT'D):

Now, why am I happy to write a check each month? This weekend reminded me of how important my monthly investment is to Trinity Pines:

- Staff members who provided a safe, clean environment and great food.
- Facilities to house volunteers who drove to Cascade at their own expense and served with a Christ like spirit on a challenging weekend for employees who were engaged in other activities taking them away from camp.
- For a facility where young people can worship, come together for food and fellowship, games and events to build memories - my funds helped to buy snow tubes, snow shoes, and an opportunity to just sit by the fireplace talking with the warmth of the fire from logs that had been cut and split during Work Week 2022.
- Items in the camp store that help students promote their great experience at Trinity Pines
- Wonderful food that hit the spot for these campers Thanks, Carla and Ashley.
- The new dining room tables that allowed students to sit and interact in a environment that is often reduced by electronic devices which hinders conversation.

I feel every dollar that flows into the Trinity Pines bank account is making a difference and this weekend was a great reminder of the influence those dollars have in the lives of people. Thanks for your faithful financial support of the camp.

ARCHERY RANGE UPDATES NEEDED:

The archery range at Trinity Pines is very popular with all ages. The range is needing some upgrades:

Items	Cost	Qty	Total
Bows	\$250	6	\$1,500
Targets	\$130	7	\$910
Backstop Netting	\$450	2	\$900
Material	\$210		\$210

If you are interested in helping to maintain and upgrade the archery activity at Trinity Pines please clearly mark your investment "Archery Project."

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES: The progress on converting the basement of the Manager's home into a living space for additional staff is nearing completion. The winter months have allowed volunteers and contractors to continue to work toward completion of the project. A new road for a ground level entrance and additional stairs will be completed in the spring.

ELK VALLEY PROJECT: We continue to generate funds for the Bunkhouse Remodel Project as part of the Elk Valley Project, which will also eventually include a new set of restrooms to service the bunkhouses, worship tent, amphitheater, and athletic fields. Recent financial donations to this project have been a special blessing. The committee working on this project has made some renovations to the drawings which will include a second level on the building for staff and volunteer housing.

NEWS FROM THE CCCA: According to a Christian Camp & Conference Association report entitled, "Summer Camp and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Comprehensive Report of Multiple Studies," 68% of parents participating in the American Camp Association's 2019 fall survey reported that their children spent time at overnight camps in that year. However, in 2020 only 7.5% of parents reported that their children attended overnight camp. **This decrease in camp attendance of 61.5%** due to the pandemic has of course led to camps losing a huge amount of revenue. Operations are now in the red for a great many camps across the US and as a result these camps have had to make the hard decisions to cut staff and programming activities, while others have had to shut down permanently. Despite the pandemic waning with most business operations returning to normal over the past 1.5 years, camps are still trying to overcome the economic loss they experienced in 2020. **NOTE:** Trinity Pines survived the losses of 2020 better than many of our friends. I have answered many calls from camps around the US asking about how we survived. My answer is always the same: Our great team of partners. You sustained us through the loss of revenue by faithful investments and financial gifts. Many have heard me say that it will take three years to return to our normal calendar of rentals and attendance. Now the challenges have changed and we are faced with labor shortages and supply chain issues plus increased costs in utilities, insurance and salaries to name a few areas. But, we did SURVIVE - thanks to many of you.

WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to Marv Schmidt who was wed on March 4 to Judith Bauerle at Nampa First Church. Marv has been a volunteer at Trinity Pines for years and the Schmidt Volunteer Service award is presented annually by Marvin at Share the Dream.

PIONEERS FOR CAMP: Intermountain District recently lost two of the pioneers in our camping program:

Verne Ward, owner of Town and Country Electric in Nampa, for many years was a faithful volunteer at Victory Cove and then at Trinity Pines. Verne passed away on January 14 at the age of 87.

Jerry Nichols passed away on February 22 at the age of 87. Jerry and his wife, Dorine, were very engaged in bringing ROAM (RV'ers on a Mission) to Trinity Pines for construction projects and served as interim Camp Managers in 2003.

Both men and their families made tremendous investments in Christian camping on the District.

NEW CARPET: New carpet was recently installed thanks to David Long and his family members in the upstairs Conference Center meeting room. After 20 years of heavy use, the carpet was showing wear.

DECORATIVE ARTWORK: Perhaps you have some Christian art (plaques with scripture verses, words of encouragement, etc.) that you no longer want. In the VIP rooms in the Conference Center there are blank walls that could use some warmth. Please pass these along to the District office or Camp office in Meridian.



Intermountain District
Summer Camp Information



Trinity Pines Employment
Info (Part-Time & Full-Time)