



# Canyon Echoes: A brief shout out!

Yellowstone Alliance Adventures

May 2014

## Director's Corner

Having children causes me to revisit my own childhood. Thankfully, most memories are quite fun. However, there is one that still haunts me with a sense of embarrassment and humiliation. It came in my last year of playing baseball. I had graduated from the Little Leagues and was set to play in the Majors. Wow was I excited!

Unfortunately, due to a lack of any practice during the off season, my desire to one day play for the Chicago Cubs was short lived as I fell into a hitting slump that I never broke out of. Ahhh, how I remember the jeers from my teammates as I was forced, helplessly, to take another turn at the plate. It was the bottom of the 9th with two outs already against us. There was zero confidence within me or on my bench that I'd make contact and keep our team alive.

That long slow walk back to the dugout made me realize that it takes a lot to become an elite athlete and I was not qualified to swing with the big boys.

A few minutes later after grabbing and knocking the dust off my glove I was taught another, more significant lesson. With shoulders slumped, head down and still showing the signs of a few tears smudging my dirty face, I was smothered in a gigantic bear hug from good ole' Dad. As far as he was concerned, my striking out again held no bearing on whether or not I was going to be a part of his team. I was IN and we were headed for an ice cream cone.

Dad was really good about that kind of stuff and it stood in stark contrast to everyone else in the world that made me prove that I was adequately qualified to be a part of their group or team.

To this day I'm blown away at how radically different being a part of a family is. All the rights and privileges are mine simply because I am my parents child.

I am a firm believer in healthy competition as I understand how it creates an environment that stretches and helps

individuals grow both in talent and in character.

However, when it comes to you and me as

individuals, I firmly stand on the reality that our true worth and value is not based on any bit of our ability to perform, look good or impress. No, our identity rests in the fact that I am created in the image of God and having placed my faith in Jesus Christ, I am qualified to be a part of God's family.

Colossians 1:12 tells us to "Give thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."

In coming to camp this summer, you will come to face to face with these realities and leave knowing what it truly means to be **QUALIFIED**.



Jim Hawthorne

### The Best Week of the Summer By Doug Roberts - father of a camper

At the end of each summer I have a habit of asking my kids what the best part of their summer was. In doing so, I'm already certain that it is going to be one of the several multi-day rafting trips we took on the Salmon, Snake or other rivers throughout the Greater Yellowstone watershed. We had also spent two weeks on the coast of Maine and I expected that to be a strong contender as well.

Imagine my surprise when I rolled out the question to my daughter Sofi and without hesitation she said, "It was the week I spent on the high school backpacking trip with Yellowstone Alliance Adventures."

What?!!!!

As much as I wanted to hear her say one of our family trips was the highlight of her summer, I already knew that her time on a YAA backpacking trip had been exciting, difficult and rewarding for her. I appreciate what Jim and the trip staff did to make it such a great experience for my kid.

**STOP WAITING  
REGISTER NOW !**

### 2014 Camp Dates

June 16-20:	Day Camp 1
June 22-27:	5th - 6th Grade
June 23-27:	Day Camp 2
June 29-July 4:	7th-8th Grade
	6th-8th Base Camp
July 4-7:	July Family Camp
July 8-12:	Sr. High Camp
July 13-18:	3rd - 5th Grade
	Sr. High Backpacking
July 20-25:	6th-8th Grade
Aug 29-Sept 1:	Labor Day
	Family Camp

Register online at [www.yaacamp.org](http://www.yaacamp.org)  
Or call 406-763-4727

## SNOW CRAZE REPORT

**This winter 80 teens and adults descended on YAA for Snow Craze 2014! Read how Ellie Hawthorne was impacted by the weekend.**

"Snow Craze 2014 was an uplifting, encouraging, and overall life changing weekend for me. The theme was "Caught in an Avalanche of Grace." While I have known about the grace that is freely given to me because of the blood of Jesus Christ, I have never experienced the freedom and joy that comes from accepting and living in that grace before as much as I did that weekend. This year overall has had its ups and downs and has challenged me in many ways. I have continually fought the battle of not allowing life to beat me up and overwhelm me and make me want to give up. Snow Craze was an opportunity for me to be surrounded by other people that know and love the Lord, to worship the one true God, and to be poured into by listening to compelling messages. Sam Kavanaugh was the speaker this weekend and he shared a powerful testimony of God's grace in his life. Sam's story was empowering and an example for many people to look to. I found myself asking "Why can I not live this way?" " Why do I get so caught up in the frustrations and disappointments of life that I forget to experience the gift of grace and joy and love that are freely offered to me each day?" I realized that it is a choice. Each day is a choice to live intentionally and grab hold of the gifts that my Father gives me and live each day with excitement for getting to be a part of his plan and purpose for my life."



Detach and return with your financial gift

### Yellowstone Alliance Adventures ~ Information Update

Please help us keep our records current by noting your information below. We are also working to communicate electronically with you so would you please make sure that we have your e-mail address.

Sir Names: Mr. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information: I would prefer to receive communications  Electronically or  by USPS

I have children who would like information regarding the high school and college leadership programs.

I have children who would be interested in attending summer youth camps

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove me from your mailing list

## Proverbs 3: 5 & 6

Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart  
and lean not on  
your own  
understanding.  
In all your ways  
acknowledge Him  
and He will direct  
your path.

## The Power of Camp

Kids need camp! Today, like never before teens and pre-teens are under tremendous pressure. Camp provides opportunities for students to pull away for a breather and catch a vision for the bigger picture of their lives. In the natural environment of camp, kids come face-to-face with God's love for them—they experience new adventures—make new friends and learn to walk closely with Jesus.

The average American youth spends

- 270 minutes a day watching TV.
- 4 minutes a day playing outside.
- 7.5 hours a day on electronics.

A week of camp provides 10,080 minutes away to consider, to dream, to believe that they are loved and created for a purpose. *The Power of Camp - CCCA/USA*

## Send a Kid to Camp

"YAA has had a big impact on our family. Every year the week of camp holds anticipation - similar to Christmas. This great fun, Christian friends and good teaching combine to bring positive change in our kids. I'm pretty sure we would not have been able to send them without that available scholarship. Thank you so much for helping us as parents as we seek to lead our daughters in the way of Christ." A grateful parent.

Thank you for making a life changing experience happen for me at camp this year. Best week of the whole year! Can't wait for next time! A grateful camper

**Camp changes lives and you can be part of it! Help send kids to YAA by giving to our scholarship fund. Be part of changing someone's life!**

**Cost to attend a week of camp: \$280.00**

## Spring Work Week May 12-18, 2014

Please RSVP to 406-763-4727 and plan to join us for as long as possible!

Projects we will try to tackle include:

- Transplanting trees & landscaping
- Lots and Lots of Firewood



- Finishing carpentry & siding 8-plex
- Re-staining cedar siding
- Spring cleaning of all buildings
- Prepare program areas for summer
- Installing split-rail fencing
- Excavating and building a new activity field
- Trail construction & debris cleanup
- Carpentry work to remodel a staff home and a new apartment



## Hopes and Dreams

Each year our board of directors and staff pray for direction and a clear vision for what next steps to take to further establish and improve this ministry of Christian camping of which we are in charge of.

This year we've identified obvious steps to take like replacing outdated and worn out equipment—(convection ovens and new dishes for our dining hall; mountain boards, climbing ropes and harnesses, bows and arrows for our programs; and an ATV, 1-ton pick up truck, and storage building for our maintenance needs).

We are also striving to bring to completion the new projects that we have been working on—(technology, lighting fixtures and cabinets for our new lodge; carpentry and sheetrock work for our staff home addition and new apartment).

Along with these projects, we are also praying about whether or not we should seek to expand our programs and property and asking God to open up doors of opportunity if this is to happen. Please pray with us regarding purchasing new activity equipment as well as purchasing new property.

If you have an interest in partnering with us or know how we might be able to accomplish these hopes and dreams for 2014, please contact us and get involved. We value our volunteers and donors.

## Spring at YAA

Spring is just around the corner although you wouldn't know it with all the unpredictable snowy weather we're having. Regardless of what is going on outside though, we continue welcoming guest groups to YAA. From weekend retreats to special evening banquets, YAA has a reputation as an excellent retreat & conference center.

With the Gallatin Forest literally out our back door, the recreation opportunities are endless. While the trees are budding and flowers are starting to push up from the grounds in low lying areas, it is possible you could still be cross country skiing, snowshoeing or sledding on our groomed tubing hill during the spring months here at YAA!

There are still weekends available for retreats this spring. And, while we are on the subject, there are some prime weekends and weeks in August and September!

**If you want to receive YAA publications electronically, please email us at [office@yaacamp.org](mailto:office@yaacamp.org) and provide us with your email information**



For more information  
Visit our website at [www.yaacamp.org](http://www.yaacamp.org)  
Call 406-763-4727

WWW.YAACAMP.ORG

## Yellowstone Alliance Adventures Spring Fund Drive

If you would like to donate online to Yellowstone Alliance Adventures, please visit our website at [www.yaacamp.org](http://www.yaacamp.org).

YAA is a summer camp, year round retreat and conference facility. For information about any of these programs, please check below.

- Retreat/Conference Information       Volunteer Information

We strive to use your donation as requested. In the event your donation cannot be used for its exact designation, it will be used on a similar need. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the donee organization has complete discretion and control over the use of all funds.

## Please help us meet these goals

- Goal 1:** 2014 General fund giving
- Goal 2:** 30 partial scholarships at \$150.00 each
- Goal 3:** Capital Improvement Fund to complete our current projects
- Goal 4:** Expand our program and camp property
- Goal 5:** 10 new **Partners in Ministry** by becoming monthly donors

### Please apply my gift this year in the following way:

- The 2014 General fund - where needed most \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_qty. of Camper Scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Capitol Improvement Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Program and property expansion \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to become a **Partner in Ministry** on a regular basis.  
 \$50/mo.    \$100/mo.    \$200/mo.    \$ \_\_\_\_\_/month  
 We will contact you on how you can do this electronically

**Fill in the back of this card & include it with your gift made out to:  
Yellowstone Alliance Adventures  
13707 Cottonwood Canyon ~ Bozeman, MT ~ 59718**

All gifts are tax deductible and will be receipted accordingly