

118th Convention of the Diocese of Utah Report of Camp Tuttle

Submitted by Ingrid VanZanten, Camp Tuttle Director

Members: Ingrid VanZanten, Karen Gleeson, Christine Jenkin, and other trained seasonal staff members.

Camp Tuttle's mission is to provide a positive and inclusive learning environment that celebrates spiritual enlightenment in the outdoors. Campers and counselors work to create a safe place to challenge comfort zones, societal norms, thinking patterns, and understanding of the life and world around them. Through this work, we provide abundant opportunities to connect with self, others, nature, and the Divine.

Summer 2022 was set to return to pre-COVID levels of operation. While it is difficult to say we returned to "normal", there most certainly was a return to more traditional camp schedules with a full operating staff. Like many places in our society, operating procedures have changed indefinitely due to COVID-19 and Camp Tuttle is no different. Some practices and procedures adopted in the height of the pandemic (hygienic, kitchen operations, cabin protocols, etc.) are still in practice at camp and have only benefited our community's safety and growth.

The summer of 2022 was the first full operation summer since the change of leadership. Ingrid VanZanten and Karen Gleeson, with a very experienced and capable camp staff along their sides, showed that Camp Tuttle is truly a place for all kids to feel safe, celebrated, and respected. The summer 2022 theme was "Make a Joyful Noise." Campers and adult participants of all ages engaged in conversations all summer surrounding joy, service, gratitude, and justice.

The three major programmatic goals of 2022 were to:

- Implement a mental health advocacy program
- Develop and grow the gender equity and diversity program
- Facilitate an Annual Giving Campaign to raise money for the Program Enrichment Fund

After failing to receive UTO Grant money in late spring of 2022, the camp director and staff decided the newly developed Mental Health Advocacy Program was far too important not to execute. Camp hired Jordan Murphy, a grad student at Westminster College in the Clinical and Mental Health Counseling program as Camp's MHA (mental health advocate). Jordan worked with camp staff during the spring to plan a highly interactive and engaging program through which counselors and campers could learn about and grow their positive mental health practices. The program was met with great excitement and much success. Camps and Conference Centers all throughout the nation got to hear a summary of the program's development and success at ECCCC's Annual Program Summit where Camp Director Ingrid VanZanten presented in front of fellow camp professionals. The program underwent a thorough review and will be active again at camp this summer (2023) in order to sustain the growth that was made in the direction of positive and supportive mental health care.

After a long standing tradition of mostly gendered spaces at Camp, the summer of 2022 saw many changes, in practice and to the facilities, that made camp more inclusive of trans, non-

binary, and gender non-conforming campers and counselors. The Gender Equity and Diversity Program involved formal training for staff, removal of gendered staff bathroom signs, an update to many written policies and procedures, including the introduction of Camp Tuttle's first all gender housing policy. The changes were met with warmth and celebration by our community, as we stand as one of Utah's only overnight summer camp facilities to offer housing that can accommodate folks seeking all-gender housing. Camp GEI Program continues to grow and expand hearts and minds. Find more information about our upcoming Pride Camp this August, where we'll celebrate pride outside with members of our diocese and state who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

After a busy summer full of camp programming and a fall full of outside group rentals of Camp Tuttle, we settled into what would be the longest and deepest winter in decades. Camp Tuttle staff worked through the fall to prepare and gather donors for the first official Annual Giving Campaign. A number of alumni, camper and counselor parents and clergy (present and past) supported the effort by agreeing to match donations during the campaign. Mailers, weekly emails updates, and social media posts were released throughout the month of December and the Camp Tuttle community rallied to collect over \$13,000 for the Program Enrichment Fund, which supports a number of programs at camp including the ones mentioned above, our ever-expanding challenge course development, and much more! The success of the Annual Giving Campaign was analyzed and reviewed by the fundraising team members. We have made notes and planned changes for the execution of our summer fundraising efforts and for the Annual Giving Campaign this winter.

Camp Tuttle's facilities were met with an early and harsh winter in November and December of 2022. It is predicted that the record breaking snow fall will affect damage to a number of the buildings at camp. Ingrid and Karen have worked tirelessly through this winter to maintain the structural integrity of many heated buildings to the best of their ability and will face the fallout this spring and summer as the snow begins to melt.

On-going and upcoming projects and goals for facilities and programming for the spring and summer of 2023 include:

- Snow removal and maintenance
- Structural analysis and repair of snow damaged buildings
- Rock climbing wall renovation and route setting
- Major pump house plumbing repairs
- Host first annual Pride Camp
- Continue donor cultivation via social media and alumni groups
- Maintain communication with our community through social media and frequent email updates/check-ins
- Provide youth with space and time to stay connected, challenged, and engaged
- Collect an annual pledge from donors after weekly summer camp updates
- Engage camp staff in meaningful and intentional anti-racism work and restorative justice practices

Camp Tuttle supports the work of the Diocese at large by giving participants the opportunity to be in community and to explore nature and their connection to God.