

Summer 2010 Newsletter



Sky Ranch's Mission is to Facilitate an Encounter with Christ on the Mountaintops

- * To unfold the gifts of all participants
- * To challenge beyond the comfortable
- * To gift our community with diversity
- * To be fertile soil for the seeds of faith
- * To embrace changing needs
- * To preserve our environments
- * To build up positive leadership
- * To celebrate with inspiration and joy

Board of Directors

- * Rob Behrens—Fort Collins
- * Dan Bollman—Rocky Mountain Synod Representative, Denver
- * Kevin Dragseth—Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village
- * Gene Elder—Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland
- * Kent Garvin—Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins
- * Kim Hagestuen—Spirit of Joy, Fort Collins
- * Jeff Kelty—Glory of God Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge
- * Mark Peterson—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Longmont
- * RC Reiman—Ascension Lutheran Church, Cheyenne
- * Kim Sandfort—Casper Lutheran Youth Ministry, Casper
- * Scott Singdahlsen—Joy Lutheran Church, Parker
- * Michael Stadtmueller—Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Fort Collins
- * Roberta Wentworth—Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lakewood
- * Mike Williams—Christ Lutheran Church, Highlands Ranch

SKY RANCH LUTHERAN CAMP

FENCE POST

SKY RANCH CALLS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great excitement that we announce that the position of Executive Director has been accepted by Brad Abbott.

Brad has 23 years experience in outdoor ministry. Brad is coming to Sky Ranch from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Montana, where he has served for 18 years. At Flathead, Brad has served in various roles, including program director, camp director, and, most recently, led their capital campaign. Additionally, Brad is a graduate of the University of Montana with a Bachelors in Recreation Management and Music Education.

Brad is recently married to Deb, an ELCA pastor currently serving in Kalispell, MT. They will come to Colorado along with their dog, Kodi.



In Brad, our prayers have been answered. Brad brings the knowledge, passion, and energy to lead and sustain the ministries of Sky Ranch. We are excited for him to come to Colorado in the coming months and for him to lead this great ministry for the future.

2011 Summer Program Schedule and Pricing

Although the summer is just winding down, we are busy thinking about and preparing for 2011! We are excited to share our 2011 program schedule and some changes that we will be making.

The biggest change involves our program pricing. For Sky Ranch to fulfill its mission, kids need to be at camp. We believe that every kid should be allowed to have a mountaintop experience. Unfortunately, in 2010, we heard over and over again, "We just cannot afford to come to camp." Our response is simple: We are lowering our prices . . . **BY OVER 20%! On the back page, you will find 2011 pricing, including an early registration price for those who register and submit a deposit before March 15th.**

Other changes for 2011 include:

- Round Up will now be for campers who have

completed grades 1st through 3rd (instead of 1st – 5th). Additionally, Round Up campers will only be at camp for two nights, but there will be two sessions each week, running Sunday through Tuesday and Wednesday through Friday.

- Homesteaders will no longer include a horseback ride.
- The Confirmation Intensive program will be living out the Passion Story.
- To sign up for Specialty Camps, you no longer have to specify which specialty. Rather, you will sign up for various elective opportunities throughout the week.

For more information about our programs, prices, or schedule, please go to our website and the Programs menu. You can also call our office at 970.493.5258.

Foster Kids Go To Camp

This summer, a generous donor to Lutheran Family Services of Colorado requested that her gift be used to send foster children to camp. This was a partnership we have had with LFS for quite some time, however, finances for this incredible partnership had dwindled. But this summer saw 10 foster children back at Sky Ranch enjoying all the activities camp has to offer.

To see the smiles on their faces when they left, to hear the stories from the counselors of the faith development and to hear the stories these kids are

telling about their week at camp is rewarding! We had one foster child that came to camp twice this summer because he had such a great time. We have heard through LFS that the parents were grateful for the opportunity their kids had also.

If you would like to help make it possible for a child to come to Sky Ranch, visit our website and make a gift toward the Campership Fund. The youth at camp this past summer are still excited about camp. If you know of youth that went to camp this summer, talk to them about their week. Feel the impact Sky Ranch had on their faith and their lives in the church.

The Changing Landscapes of Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.”
2 Corinthians 5: 17

The Mountain Pine Beetle has arrived at Sky Ranch. For several years it has been creeping closer, crawling over the hill from Summit and Grand counties. The parameter of its march is marked by red and brown patches as the pine trees die and lose their needles. Sky Ranch is blotched with red and brown.

Over the past two years, we have taken down well over 200 dead and dying trees. This fall and winter we will take down an additional 500 – 750 more. This will continue until the vast majority of our pine forests—Lodgepole, Limber, and Ponderosa—are gone. The simple fact is the landscape of Sky Ranch is changing.

Recently, Sky Ranch itself has undergone its share of death and dying—in the form of transitions in leadership; unsuccessful programs and last minute communications; strained relationships; disappointing financials and, ultimately, the sale of Sleepy Owl Ranch.

The story does not end here, however. As the

pine trees die, the shade that otherwise stifles the growth of Aspen trees and the undergrowth of grasses, bushes, and wildflowers disappears as well. As we open the skyline, new growth will come.

New growth has already arrived; Sky Ranch is infused with new life, new energy, and new excitement for our mission of **Encountering Christ on the Mountaintops**.

Summer Success We are wrapping up the best summer of camping ministry Sky Ranch has provided for several years. Major changes, such as family style eating, new hospitality and gathering spaces in Christ Lodge, and new program schedules (including a daily siesta!), made a huge impact. Participants left with a new understanding and passion for faith in their daily lives.

Youth Leadership In the next months we will be unveiling a new effort to provide youth leadership training for the Rocky Mountain Synod. Our goal is to be a primary youth leadership resource, offering opportunities

for spiritual gift training, peer ministry facilitation, and equipping youth and congregations to more fully integrate youth and young adults into congregational ministry.

2011 Preparations We are excited about the changes that we are continuing to make. Top among these is a new pricing structure that we hope will open up the possibility of camp to everyone and a new international mission trip in the Mexican state of Sonora. The 2011 summer theme is **Journey—The Sky Ranch Outpost: Equipping Participants for Their Journey of Faith**.

It is hard to say what Sky Ranch will look like five years from now—let alone ten, twenty, or fifty years. Yet we know the promise: In Christ there is new creation. We continue to delight in our vocational call to offer the highest quality camping experience in the heights of the Rocky Mountains. We invite you to come be a part of the changing landscapes of Sky Ranch.

Sky Ranch Annual Fund

Gifts to Sky Ranch have really been encouraging this year. Now, with your help, the Annual Fund goal is within reach. Only \$75,000 more in gifts are needed by the end of the year.

Friends of the Mountains, Sky Ranch's giving club, is a great way for you to become involved and to give meaningful financial support to the ministry. Your gift of \$100 or more enrolls you as a member for this year.

The five peaks surrounding Sky Ranch, with elevations beginning at 10,000 feet, remind us of the challenges our youth face. By becoming a member of *Friends of the Mountains* you help young people face these challenges and grow in the Christian faith. Remember, fees charged for camping experiences do not cover all the costs. That's why your gift is so important.

Consider joining, renewing or upgrading your gift to Sky Ranch by joining with the members of *Friends of the Mountains*.

With your support you allow all those that visit Sky Ranch to peak their experience.

Mummy Pass is \$100 to \$249

Signal Mountain is \$250 - \$499

Crown Point is \$500 up to \$1000

Comanche Peak is over \$1000.

As with most camps around the country, that period right after camp ends has expenses left from the summer and little income coming in from various weekend retreats. Now is the time to send in your gift to Sky Ranch. If you have given a gift this year, thank you. Make a difference, go to the back page and send in a gift in the amount of a camp program. If you have not given to Sky Ranch this year, this would be a great time to make your *Friends of the Mountains* gift. Challenge yourself to move to a higher peak in 2010. Your gift will allow campers to make a difference in their world.



Sky Ranch is available for Winter Rental!

We are keeping the road to Sky Ranch open year round. Renting Christ Lodge begins at \$500 per night. Call for more information.



2011 Calendars - \$15

Remind yourself of the joys of Sky Ranch throughout the year with the 2011 Sky Ranch Calendar. It is filled with beautiful photos of camp and creation. Available Nov 1st.

Groups Are Leaving Their Mark

In its first summer, our Leave a Trace was extremely successful. We had 3 churches come up this summer and work on two cabins and the new pack out room in the Backpack Center. Additionally, we have four churches coming up this fall to build decks, adopt a cabin, split wood and take down beetle kill trees. This is all work that our Property Manager Steve would not have time to do without these groups.

Much of the success of the program is that we are able to tailor the project to the skills of the group, their time available and also

their budget. Leave a Trace gives the churches and their member's ownership in their work at Sky Ranch. Next time you are at camp, notice the signs marking the churches and volunteers that were able to Leave a Trace this year at Sky Ranch.

You can view pictures of the projects on our website, www.SkyRanchColorado.org. We still have projects left untouched. Contact Steph Dugger in the Fort Collins office at Steph@SkyRanchColorado.org or 970-493-5258 for details and information for how you can leave a trace at Sky Ranch.

Sky Ranch Alumni Network

Over the Fourth of July weekend this summer, 20 former staff members and their families gathered for a mini-reunion at Sky Ranch. Motivated by friendships and connections reestablished on Facebook, these staff from 1989-1999, including former director, Ron Letnes, spent a beautiful weekend hiking, singing, praying and reminiscing, and left the mountain renewed spiritually and inspired to reconnect with more staff alumni; thus the birth of the **Sky Ranch Alumni Network**.

Our mission is to strengthen the community of former Sky Ranch staff from 1963 to the present, providing virtual and physical opportunities to gather together and revisit the mountaintop, to promote stewardship to the Camp, and to ultimately benefit the greater Sky Ranch community. Look for the new Alumni Network page on the Sky Ranch

website coming this fall!

In the coming months, you will be hearing more specifically about Alumni Network events and programs, and how you can become involved in this new adventure. For now, we ask that you 1) reach out to former staff members that you personally know and encourage them to send their updated contact information to the Sky Ranch Office at alumni@skyranchcolorado.org, and 2) consider volunteering for the Alumni Network in your local area. We are looking for individuals or groups to help us coordinate Alumni events across the country. Finally, please forward us your ideas and comments about any and all things Alumni. We can't wait to reconnect with you!

Jeff Stahla, 1989, 91-92
Leta Arndt Behrens, 1993-96
Carrie Dirks Amodeo, 1989-92, 94-95, 97

Monthly Giving to Benefit Sky Ranch

2010 was one of the most successful summers of camping ministry Sky Ranch has offered in sometime. We saw a lot of younger campers, foster kids and kids who had never been to camp experience their faith in a place that is so special. What a great summer!

How can you be a part of this incredible ministry? There are many ways to support Sky Ranch; becoming a monthly giver makes one of the greatest impacts. Even small monthly gifts add up. For example, \$30 a month would mean giving up six lattes a

month. This monthly gift of \$30 would be \$360 a year. This is enough to send one child to camp.

If you have been a supporter of Sky Ranch before, why not become a monthly giver. Monthly gifts can be made with a credit or debit card or from your checking or savings account. To use a credit or debit card, it is as easy as going to our website www.SkyRanchColorado.org and clicking on the donations tab. If you prefer your monthly gift to come from checking or savings, you can call or email Steph Dugger. Your monthly gift will help Sky Ranch each month and will definitely make a difference in the life of a youth!

Completed Projects



Spirit of Joy, Fort Collins, adopted King cabin. Updates include new door, new storage cubbies, new lighting, new window treatments, and they also sanded off graffiti from the walls and ceiling.



Trinity Lutheran, Fort Collins, adopted the packout room in the Backpack Center. The room was transformed from a staff laundry room into a space ready for offsite food preparation. Project included framing and drywalling new walls and ceiling, FRP on the walls and installation of a new sink.



Christ Lutheran, Highlands Ranch, adopted Stringfellow Cabin. The transformation of Stringfellow in three days was extensive, including replacing the existing deck, reframing walls and ceiling in the cabin, engineering a new drainage system around the cabin, as well as new window treatments, new furniture, and a new coat of paint through the cabin.

SKY RANCH LUTHERAN CAMP 2011

2011 SUMMER PROGRAM PRICING



On Site Programs

Program	Pre March 15th	Post March 15th
Round Up	\$125	\$140
Homesteaders	\$299	\$325
Mountaineers	\$299	\$325
Seekers	\$299	\$325
Confirmation	\$350	\$375
Specialty Camp	\$320	\$345
Rendezvous	\$350	\$375
Youth Go!	\$350	\$375
Staff in Training	\$150	\$150



Off Site Programs

Traveling Day Camp	\$1750 base, \$350 per 10+
Four Winds Service	\$375 per Participant
International Service	\$450 per Participant
Backpacking	\$3750 per Trip



REGISTRATION BEGINS OCT 4. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR SCHEDULE.

We would like to go paperless! We now offer an online newsletter that can be emailed to you directly. Please, go to our website, www.SkyRanchColorado.org, to join our mailing list.

Email Changes: We have recently changed our website address and as a result have also changed our Sky Ranch email addresses. You can now email us with the ending @SkyRanchColorado.org!!

- * Andy Sprain—Associate Director
Andy@SkyRanchColorado.org
- * Linda Knaack—Office Manager
Linda@SkyRanchColorado.org
- * Stephanie Dugger—Development
Steph@SkyRanchColorado.org
- * Steve Miller—Property Manager
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Sky Ranch Staff

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