



*April 14, 2015*

## **A Letter From Our President CCCA NW Section**

**Dear CCCA NW section members,**

I hope this email finds you well and that your summer plans are going as planned or better!

**Facebook users:**

If you are on Facebook please consider joining the CCCANW Facebook group; it is another way to connect, share, encourage and be encouraged through other Christian Camping professionals throughout Oregon and Washington. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cccanw/>

**Program and recreation staff:**

For people involved in the program areas of camp you should join the Program Roundtable! Kimberly Mallory from

Camp Gilead has done a fantastic job of keeping ideas and discussion going for Program Directors & all people involved in programming at camp. You can contact her at: [kimberly@campgilead.org](mailto:kimberly@campgilead.org) to become involved.

**Burger Flips:**

Coming up next month are Burger Flips. The first one is Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at Tilikum in Newberg Oregon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one is Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> at Sambica in Bellevue, WA.

[Click here for info on the May 13th Event at Tilikum](#)

[Click here for info on the May 14th Event at Sambica](#)

Serving Him together,

James Richey  
CCCA NW President

SECTION PRESIDENT'S  
**BRIEFING**



## PRACTICAL TIP



### **Adopt-a-Staff**

Take a minute and fast-forward your brain to midsummer. You know that week-the one where suddenly staffers are starting to get tired, burned out and distracted. The summer demands on you are great too, making it tough for you to personally provide the encouragement each staff member needs. But by being proactive this spring, you can ensure staff members are covered in prayer, encouragement and accountability when summer heats up. Once you have your summer staff hired, ask others connected to your camp-former staff, church leaders, camp parents, and so on-to adopt a staff member for the summer. Give suggestions for ways people can encourage and challenge that staff member through letters, email, phone calls and care packages throughout the summer season. Setting an adopt-a-staff framework now can provide encouragement to your staff and help alleviate some pressure during the summer months.

*For much more on camp leadership, watch for Dan Everest's article on managing and ministering with Christlike care in the April/May issue of InSite magazine.*

## FRESH IDEA



### **Dive in!**

It's no secret that water intrigues and relaxes people around the globe. Whether it's splashing in a puddle, riding on a surfboard, diving into the deep end, being sprayed by a waterfall or just listening to the crash of waves or the gurgle of a creek, water draws us in and has the power to refresh and relax. You see it at camp all the time. But why? As Christians we know that water holds spiritual significance, pointing to the Creator and serving as a symbol of the life God gives us through Jesus. And now neuroscientists on the cutting edge of research are pinpointing the particular ways nature, and especially water, impact the human brain. "Focused time in nature activates other parts of our brains, giving our fatigued frontal lobe [associated with executive function, cognitive control and supervisory attention] a break. Areas of our brain associated with emotions, pleasure and empathy can now take over, providing a calming influence that is measurable in brain scans and blood tests alike" (*Blue Mind*, Wallace J. Nichols, 2014, Little, Brown and Co., p. 151). It's a complex interaction of chemicals, sensory stimulation, hormones and so on that all work together to cause water to be renewing and even healing to the human body and mind. A United Kingdom study called "Mappiness" tracked 22,000 people's well-being and found that "the highest increase in happiness in an outdoor environment occurred when people were near water" (*Blue Mind*, p. 63).

Got water? Dive in! Use whatever water you have for the benefit of yourself, your staff and your campers. Not quite waterfront property? That's OK. The research says even simple things like desk fountains and sound machines can have an effect. Look for creative ways to incorporate water into your own day and the life of your camp.

## **FAITH STORY**



### **Unexpected Moments**

You never know what God is going to do next. For example, when we hosted a church youth retreat last month, I expected to use our new Upward Tower to teach these teens how a relationship with God is an adventure that continually calls us upward into a closer relationship with Him. And that's just what we did.

They spent hours climbing, pulling and scrambling their way up to the top of the 50-foot tower and zip lining to the ground, cementing the lesson in their minds through an unforgettable experience. But I never expected what happened next.

As the exhausted group shuffled off to get cleaned up for supper, one of the students, named Sherri, approached my wife and me to ask if she could have a moment of our time. We soon found that she was about the same age as our son, planning to finish high school in May, and trying to prepare for an unknown future. Sherri was interested in pursuing outdoor-leadership-based ministry but was feeling unsure and desperately desired direction from the Lord.

What I shared with her over the next 20 minutes was nothing heroic, prophetic or particularly insightful. I just shared our story. I told her how God had dramatically interrupted my prayers one night, directing me to a camp where I ended up falling in love with my future wife and with camp ministry. I shared how I'd gone to a college that I couldn't afford, but God had miraculously provided the needed funds. I told her how Jen and I got married when it didn't make any sense, and God had blessed us with a beautiful family. And I told her that where I am now is nothing close to what I envisioned for my life when I was her age, but that I wouldn't trade it for anything because God's plans are always better than our own.

As I packed away the last few pieces of climbing gear, I looked at her and saw tears brimming in her eyes. "I can't tell you how much this conversation has meant to me," she said. "This was exactly what I needed to hear. You just confirmed everything I know God has been trying to say to me. Thank you." She then headed off to join her group with a peace in her heart and a quiet determination in her soul.

I never know when teachable moments are going to arise, but I do know this: we find a lot of them at camp. Whether they are planned events like the Upward Tower, or unexpected conversations with young people like Sherri, these experiences can change and shape lives for the sake of God's Kingdom. I can't wait to see what He does next.

*By Steve Collins, executive director, South Mountain Christian Camp (Bostic, N.C.)*

**FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE**



SOMETIMES WE NEED A BROADER VIEW

# PANORAMA

*Phoenix 2015*



## **Major Panorama Announcements**

Curious about what the national conference planning team has been up to? We're thrilled to announce that this year's conference will open with **two new-for-2015 events** on Monday, Dec. 7:

- **Youth Summit:** Join youth-culture experts for a day of seminars, workshops and discussions of the trends and issues affecting young people today, and walk away with tons of practical tips you can take back to your ministry.
- **Board Summit:** Bring your board members to Panorama for a morning of golf and an afternoon of seminars and discussions designed to strengthen governing skills, improve communication and

pinpoint-and improve-weak points.

The early-bird Panorama registration rate has been extended through April 30, so it's not too late to take advantage of discounted pricing. Go [here](#) to register today! And stay tuned for more exciting Panorama announcements in the coming weeks!

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#### **The Power of Camp 2015 Campaign-Final Stretch**

**FOX & Friends**-Horses, robots and ZORBs-oh my! On April 21\*, staff from several CCCA member camps will join CCCA President/CEO Gregg Hunter for a FOX & Friends segment in Times Square. Tune in to watch Gregg discuss The Power of Camp while camp staffers demonstrate a few of the fun activities kids will discover at camp this summer.

\*Segment is subject to cancellation (so please join us in praying that the taping proceeds as scheduled).

**Share today**-Don't miss the latest posts on [Gregg Hunter's blog](#) and [The Power of Camp Blog](#), as well as new animated video shorts and graphics on [The Power of Camp's Facebook page](#). Check them out, then share them on your camp and personal social media pages to help spread the word about the power of Christian camping.

**Customize The Power of Camp 2015 campaign video**-Have you seen the new video for The Power of Camp? Go [here](#) to view, then log in to MYCCCA and [purchase a customized video](#)-available exclusively to CCCA members-for your camp or conference center. We've partnered with a skilled video editor to provide you with this high-quality, customized video at a low cost.

**Just in time for summer-cold-brew coffee from The Power of Camp Store!** In addition to CCCA-exclusive The Power of Camp merchandise already available in The Power of Camp Store, beginning this

week, you'll be able to purchase cold-brew coffee for your camp or conference center store. Find the new coffee-along with customizable T-shirts and banners [here](#).

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### **CCCA and Wheaton College Launch Effort to Support Future of Christian Camping**

CCCA and Wheaton College Graduate School have joined together to help strengthen the future of the Christian camping movement by developing exceptional servant leaders for Christian camp, outdoor adventure and youth ministries. One component is to make Wheaton's M.A. in Outdoor and Adventure Leadership more accessible to camp employees. Staffers at CCCA-member organizations may earn a Wheaton College master's degree-at a 25 percent discount-while continuing their employment at a CCCA member camp.

"This is a win-win-win for CCCA members, for Wheaton College and for the movement of Christian camping," said CCCA President/CEO Gregg Hunter. "I'm eager to see the results of this agreement begin to pay dividends in the lives and ministries impacted for years to come."

As part of the agreement between CCCA and Wheaton Graduate School, the two organizations have jointly launched a major research initiative called "Understanding the Power of Camp." Graduate students will have the opportunity to participate in this research effort designed to benefit the Christian camping movement.

To learn how you can benefit from the new CCCA and Wheaton College Graduate School arrangement, visit <http://www.wheaton.edu/HoneyRock/Grads/CCCA-Affiliation>.

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The logo for NextGen features the word "NEXTGEN" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters "N", "E", "X", "T", "G", and "N" are dark blue. The letter "E" is light green with a white arrow pointing right. The letter "G" is dark blue. The letter "E" is orange with a white arrow pointing left. The letter "N" is dark blue. A small "TM" trademark symbol is located at the bottom right of the "N".

**Before the busy summer season, become a NextGen mentor!**

Are you a camp veteran willing to share your experience and insights with someone newer to camp



ministry? Or perhaps you are curious about what it means to be a Christian camping leader and are interested in learning from someone with more experience in the field. Consider participating in CCCA NextGen effort, which pairs camp veterans and those new to camp ministry in mentoring relationships. Go [here](#) to learn more and fill out a NextGen interest form, the first step toward being paired with a mentor or mentee.

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*AND...*

Tune in on April 24 for our next Excellence in Training webinar: The Give-and-Gain of Mentoring

# EXCELLENCE TRAINING

Curious about what being a mentor really means? In this month's EIT, we will tackle some of the tough questions people have about mentoring. Things like:

- How do I move from being inspired to mentor to actually doing it?
- What if I'm paired with someone that I don't connect with well?
- What if my mentee doesn't show up to our meetings?

Tim Elmore will be speaking about "The Give-and-Gain of Mentoring." We will also be joined by a number of NextGen section coordinators, who will bring your mentoring celebrations and challenges to the

conversation. [Register now!](#)

April 24, 2015

Noon Eastern

11 a.m. Central

10 a.m. Mountain

9 a.m. Pacific

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### **Free Church Mutual Webinar on Board Governance**

From budget oversight to IRS compliance, the fiduciary responsibilities of board members should not be taken lightly. On April 23, Church Mutual is offering a no-cost, hourlong webinar to help you understand the responsibilities and legal obligations of your board. Topics will include:

- The importance of good governance
- What good governance entails
- Responsibilities of the board
- What the board oversees
- Required policies

"Board Governance: Best Practices"

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Noon Eastern

11 a.m. Central

10 a.m. Mountain

9 a.m. Pacific

[Reserve your spot today!](#)

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Listening. Learning. Leading®

**Want to know more about CCCA and the resources it offers to members? Visit [www.ccca.org](http://www.ccca.org), and click on the "Maximize Ministry" graphic near the top of the page, or call our friendly membership staff at (719) 260-9400.**

**If you no longer wish to receive Section President's Briefing, simply reply to this email with your name, camp name and request.**

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