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Yellowstone Alliance Adventures  
13707 Cottonwood Canyon Road  
Bozeman, MT 59718



# NEWSLETTER

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Will you volunteer with us?  
We love getting together  
and working shoulder to  
shoulder with friends and  
need your help! See inside  
for Work Week Projects!

## THE BASICS

**When:**  
May 3rd-8th

**Where:**  
YAA Grounds

**Hospitality:**  
Meals available for all  
volunteers  
&  
accommodations  
available for any  
volunteers serving  
multiple days.

Contact **Volunteer Coordinator,**  
**Gary Burdick,** for further  
information & sign-ups at:  
[volunteer@yaacamp.org](mailto:volunteer@yaacamp.org)  
or  
920-289-0565

S U M M E R	Senior High Camp:	June 13th-June 18th	S C H E D U L E
	Trailblazer Camp:	June 20th-June 25th	
	Pioneer Camp:	June 27th- July 2nd	
	Family Camp:	July 2nd- July 4th	
	Rookie Camp:	July 6th- July 9th	
	Archery Camp:	July 6th- July 9th	
	Base Camp:	July 6th- July 9th	
Explorer Camp 1:	July 11th- July 16th		
Explorer Camp 2:	July 18th- July 23rd		

All campers will receive a t-shirt with the summer theme!  
However, if your camper wants a fun way to remember their specific experience, shirts made unique for each camp will be available for purchase at the camp store!



See inside for an Introduction to our Summer 2021 Theme!

## Save the Date

### GIVE BIG

Start: May 6th at 7:00PM  
End: May 7th at 7:00PM

YAA will be participating in this local campaign for non-profits serving the Gallatin Valley! Look out for upcoming emails

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



CANYON ECHOES

## Director's Corner

By Jim Hawthorne, Executive Director



There are few things I enjoy more than the sound of laughter. A good belly laugh is one of life's great pleasures. This year of social distancing has even made me snicker over a distant memory from my teens when a retreat leader introduced a get-to-know-you activity that was quite awkward. With great gusto, I recall him saying, the name of the game is "Hah!" The instructions were simple. We were to lie down on our back and position ourselves so that the back of our head rested across the stomach of the person next to us. Once the group was all connected in like fashion, the first person was to make an abrupt laugh, "Hah!" and be followed by the next person doing the same. The sensation was peculiar when the person whose belly my head rested on suddenly convulsed causing my head to bounce a bit and I wondered what I had gotten myself into. To my surprise, as I passed the "hah" and it moved from one to the next and returned again and again, we soon found ourselves giggling uncontrollably. It was crazy, but in mere moments, that group of complete strangers found themselves enjoying a group belly laugh and the start of new friendships in community.

Longing for something refreshing, reminds me of the Seinfeld show when Kramer is in disbelief that someone could not like Junior Mints and says to Jerry, "Who is going to turn down a Junior Mint? Its chocolate. Its peppermint. Its delicious. Its very refreshing!" Well, I do have a friend, who might have just thrown up a little bit from reading about that combination of mint and chocolate together, but I bet most of you experienced a wave of "Mm mm, that sounds good."

I recently read a fascinating story that described how during the struggling years leading into our country's great depression, one shrewd business leader remarkably positioned his company for success by promising a source of daily refreshment. Despite struggling to find two nickels to rub together in 1924, America's people responded to the pleasurable escape from the rush of the everyday world when Robert Woodruff, Coca-Cola's president, taught them to "Pause - and Refresh Yourself. Drink Coca-Cola - Delicious and Refreshing!" In 1945 Coke was people's "Passport to refreshment." In 1959 Coca-Cola refreshes you best. In 1979 they said "Have a Coke and a smile" From 2009-2015 "Open Happiness" But where does refreshment that *lasts* come from? Coke may finally have gotten it right in 2020 when they told us that "Together Tastes Better."

I hope I get to see you soon so I can tell you face to face how thankful I am for the ways that you refresh me and strengthen this ministry. Together, let's hit the "refresh button" on the fatigue of 2020 and gather together at YAA where I guarantee you will find new strength, energy, and refreshment. After all, Coke said, "You can't beat the real thing" in person!

Sincerely,



### "So have you figured out what God wants to teach you through this accident?"

This was a question someone asked me about a year ago. I suddenly found myself embarrassed and unable to respond to the well-meant inquiry. "What was the ultimate purpose God had for allowing a metal baseball bat to fly through the air, shattering my nose, face and teeth?" As the surgeries, braces, reconstruction, and bone grafting continue I can easily begin to doubt the goodness of God.

Recently, Melissa MacDonald was teaching on the life of Joseph at camp and noted the many times he could have asked, "Why God?" She offered insight that God's response in the life of Joseph, and in our lives as well, might simply be "It's not about you." These words have echoed in my ears. At times I have found myself offended that God might say that to me, but I am learning to ponder the far greater story and finding it exciting to know that I am a part of it. God may never provide a definitive answer or reveal a particular lesson, but I trust He is doing a good thing.

Paul's words from Romans 5 have given me a "path" to follow during these times. I cannot give the reason for my suffering, but I can, and do make the choice to persevere one day at a time-some days with tears and some days with acceptance as I trust the Holy Spirit to work out the character of Christ in me and instill hope that will not be put to shame.

The other day I read a chapter from a book on the life of Elisabeth Elliot and found a sweet reminder with which I will end:

"So we have to rest, not in the peace of a pretty story, but in the reality of faith in a Person we cannot see."

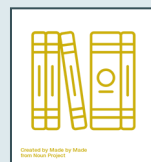
- ANDREA

Suffering produces perseverance and perseverance: character and character: hope.

ROMANS 5:3-4

“ I learned there is purpose in everything we go through. He will never leave. ”

- Snowcraze Camper



First-Time Commitments to Christ:

6

Re-Dedications:

8



Snowcraze represents a very special time and place in my world where life is put on hold, in a sense, and God is invited in to do His greatest work in our lives. For this reason, Snowcraze is not only helpful to students but is an opportunity for Youth Leaders to grow and be challenged in their walk with God as well as in their relationships with their students. I am grateful for the challenge this year to discover what our "puzzle piece" may look like and how it interacts with other pieces as God shows up and artistically puts it all together! I know our students took Melissa's talking points to heart. May the Lord continue to help our students realize that their puzzle piece matters to God and it's placement in this larger puzzle of life is important.

-Phil Stombaugh  
First Alliance Billings | Youth Pastor



S N O W C R A Z E | 2 0 2 1

We were able to successfully run Snowcraze, our annual winter youth retreat this year. We had youth groups from six different Alliance churches represented at camp for a weekend of fellowship, worship, good teaching, and lots of winter fun! Our theme for Snowcraze this year was "Picking Up the Pieces." After a difficult year, Snowcraze seemed like the perfect opportunity to join in community for the first time in months, begin the healing process from a hard year, and start putting things back together. Due to the negative temperatures and COVID-19 restrictions, a lot of things looked different this time around, but we were still able to carry out a lot of fun activities and spend time together in laughter and fellowship. Our speaker, Melissa MacDonald spoke on many impactful topics, but the thing that seemed to resonate most deeply with many of the students who attended Snowcraze was the reminder that *Your Story Matters*. At our final worship session, we spent some time sharing about the weekend. It was beautiful to hear the impact that just a few days at camp had on so many students. Our prayer is that the work that God is doing in their lives continues beyond the boundaries of camp, and that they would be able to spread the light of Jesus to all those around them!

-ARIA LEVIN



YAA SUMMER 2021

LIVING UPSIDE DOWN  
ЖИВУЩИ НАБИДЕ ДОВИ

MARK 10 : 43 - 45



But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.



Welcome Committee



JOHN WOOD |  
Program Specialist  
Graduated with a B.S. in  
Outdoor Education &  
Leadership from Toccoa  
Falls College (Georgia)

Having been positively impacted by the ministry of YAA, John has chosen to step into a specific role that will support the existing needs of the ministry, and has committed to fundraise the entirety of the costs for his position. Please consider joining alongside John in prayer, as well as giving to support his specific financial needs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <br><b>Landscaping:</b><br>Gardening<br>Set-Up of Picnic Areas<br>Lawn Care<br>Set-Up of Canopies<br>Raking | <br><b>Staff Housing Restoration Project:</b><br>Drywall<br>Painting<br>Flooring<br>Siding<br>Windows | <br><b>Summer Staff Housing Solve the Riddle of Bed Space:</b><br>Help Construct and Set-Up a New Wall Tent | <br><b>Program Preparedness:</b><br>Bike Pump Track<br>Volleyball Courts<br>Soccer Fields<br>Shooting Sports<br>Housekeeping |
| ①   | ②   | ③   | ④  |

Whether you can donate time, resources, or finances YAA values your support to accomplish target projects in 2021.

In a world where "looking out for number one" and pride reign, we are called as Christians to live and believe differently. Jesus' life on earth shows us a love and compassion for the outcasts. He faithfully loved those who would betray Him.

The Bible teaches that to follow Christ means to "humble yourself in the sight of God so that He may lift you up"; that "many who are first will be last" and "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." The Kingdom of heaven offers mercy to us all. This summer we will explore these upside down statements so that we may better understand how "He became less so that the love of the Father could be known to the blind and broken - that He might be known to all."