

CANYON ECHOES

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BOZEMAN, MT
PERMIT NO. 314

PLAN A VISIT

NOVEMBER

25 Wreath Making Event

DECEMBER

7 Alumni Celebration
& Tree Lighting Ceremony

JANUARY

1 Winter Fun Day
2 Cosmic Tubing
5 Winter Fun Day
9 Cosmic Tubing
10 Cosmic Tubing
18-20 Snowcraze 1
23 Cosmic Tubing
30 Cosmic Tubing
31 Cosmic Tubing

FEBRUARY

2 Winter Fun Day
6 Cosmic Tubing
9 Winter Fun Day
13 Cosmic Tubing
14-17 Snowcraze 2
20 Cosmic Tubing

MARCH

13 **SAVE THE DATE**
Annual Fundraising Gala!

JOIN OUR SUMMER TEAM

The **Joshua Project** is the foundation of our camps. Our counselors, worship leaders, kitchen assistants, and more all contribute to an environment where the Gospel is shared and lives are transformed. As a Joshua Staff member, you'll be on the front lines, making a direct impact on campers' lives, and growing alongside a team that's passionate about serving Jesus. Paid positions and the opportunity to fundraise are available.

The **Timothy Program** equips high school students to grow spiritually, develop leadership skills, and experience Christ through outdoor adventure, service, and friendships. Program cost \$700-\$750 depending on grade.

APPLY TODAY



SUPPORT

YAA relies on the generosity of friends like you to fund one-third of our operational budget each year. This helps keep our lights on, maintains our grounds, and enables us to fairly compensate our dedicated staff—all critical to keeping camp thriving year-round.

In addition to operational support, we also maintain an active Camper Scholarship Fund to ensure that every family and individual who wants to experience the joy of camp can do so, regardless of financial barriers. Whether you choose to support our operational budget or the scholarship fund, your gift is deeply valued. Thank you for helping us keep the YAA mission alive for everyone!



Helpful advice can be hard to come by and may catch you off guard. Recently I learned that “If you get to feeling anxious and overwhelmed, you should practice three things. First, stop what you are doing and say out loud three things you can see. Next, be quiet and listen before naming three things you can hear. Finally, you should move to the mountains for three years.”

After 29 years in the mountains, I can attest, this actually worked for me and my family. Okay, I get it. It’s not doable for everyone, but the principle of taking time away truly produces health for our souls and is part of the reason why Yellowstone Alliance Adventures is sought out by thousands of children and adults each year. It is during these moments when people separate themselves from the bustle of daily life and come to our mountain to experience this space of refreshing hospitality created by our staff who love and follow Jesus, that many hear God’s voice again and have time to respond to His leading in their life.

63 years ago, the land YAA is built on was intentionally set apart to establish a Christian camp and retreat center so children, adults, and families would always have a place of hope, dedicated to encountering Jesus Christ firsthand. This legacy continues today with even greater resolve as we expand our staff with individuals who share this original passion and commitment.

As one of a relatively few Christian camps in a five state area, we work diligently to stay relevant and grow in ways that will ensure our effective presence in the decades to come. To keep up with increasing demands for our services, we have concentrated our efforts on building a remarkable staff. In the last 15 months we have hired three highly talented individuals who provide energy and expertise in the roles of an Outreach and Ministries Manager, a Rental Group & Day Camp Coordinator, and an Office Administrator. These new team members have elevated the quality of our programs and are enhancing our ability to foster authentic connections and create life-changing experiences.

Recently, when visiting a zoo, Andrea pointed out this quote from Henry David Thoreau that caught her eye and captured my attention. “It is not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” Wow! I thought. It sure does take a lot of prayer to see beyond the trees. If you are at all like me, you may find it easy to see a person as a grouch rather than sad and lonely. Oh, am I forever grateful for those who saw past this forested mountainside and envisioned a camp where people would gather and making lasting connections with each other and with God.

As I write today, from my vantage point as the Executive Director, I want you to know that our future as a dynamic Christian camp and retreat center is brilliant.

Tremendous opportunities are in front of us and a major initiative to revitalize of our property has begun. An entirely new cabin village with a brand new waterfront lake should be under construction in the spring of 2025! If you haven’t yet heard of our Ascend Campaign, please keep your ear to the ground and be ready to join the effort as we strive to build upon our legacy and stand as firm as the mountain we are built on for generations to come.

Jim Hawthorne
Executive Director

Join us for a fundraising gala, ***Beyond the Pines***, supporting YAA’s **Ascend Campaign.**

When: March, 13th
5:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: Emerson Center
for the Arts & Culture
(Ballroom)
111 S. Grand Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718



SAVE THE DATE
Beyond the Pines



We are thrilled to announce positive progress in the Ascend Campaign with significant strides made in securing advanced donor gifts. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we have already committed over \$1.1 million in funds. Your continued support and dedication are vital to the success of this campaign, and we are deeply grateful for every contribution. Together, we are making a profound impact on the future of YAA. Stay tuned for more updates as we ascend to new heights!

LEARN MORE HERE



SUMMER 2024

This summer we entered into each week with the calling and mission of Psalm 96:3 to declare the Glory of the Lord! To make His deeds and His face known to all people. We have a calling to share the good news of Jesus, to know who God is, and to declare His glory. Harry's story (scan QR below to watch the full story) is one of many who so eloquently describes the genuine nature of what a subtle pursuit from the Holy Spirit can feel like. When invited to step into a personal relationship with Jesus at camp, Harry said yes. We saw this type of response from campers week after week. Our Decision Flag Garden was overflowing with white (I accepted Jesus as my Savior), green (I commit to growing deeper with Jesus), and yellow (I accept the call to serve) flags. **291** decisions were made this summer... Praise God!



WATCH HARRY'S
STORY HERE



We want to say **THANK YOU** to the 35 prayer partners who signed up to pray for and encourage our team members this summer. We appreciate those who committed and were gracious with us. You are a blessing. We look forward to growing this initiative.

HARVEST MARKET

We welcomed an estimated 1,700 guests onto our grounds at our 4th annual Harvest Market, along with growing our vendor base to 45. The mission of YAA's Harvest Market is to create a welcoming community event that fosters connections, supports local artisans and vendors, and provides a space for families to engage in fall activities. It is a joy to meet families each year who are first timers on our property and get to share with them about how YAA is so much more than a fun Harvest Market. This event continues to grow and produce new campers and families.



DEPARTMENT GROWTH

This season has brought valuable increase to our team. We identified the need for a full-time **office administrator** to join the operations team, which led to the hiring of Abby Sandstedt, a delightful young woman who's quickly taking ownership of office operations. Abby lives locally with her husband, Stephen.

Additionally, after finishing his MA at Wheaton College and HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development, Luke Smith has joined the outreach & ministries department as the **rental groups & day camp coordinator**. He will oversee day camps in the summer and support the important growth of rental ministries. Luke lives locally with his wife, Genevieve.

We are grateful for this season of expansion and for those joining our team.

NEW AT YAA

Equipped with state-of-the-art gear for 20 players, groups can experience the thrill of tactical gameplay in the great outdoors.

LASER TAG
HERE
NOW!



MANY HANDS SERVE

We're excited to introduce **Many Hands of YAA**, a volunteer group born out of our spring and fall serve weekends! This group is for individuals who are passionate about serving and supporting our mission. We couldn't accomplish the many projects around our grounds without the generosity of our volunteers' time, and we deeply appreciate each of you who have contributed your time to YAA recently and over the years. We hope you've found your experience with us valuable and fulfilling.

As a non-profit organization, volunteerism is one of our greatest opportunities and we want to be an organization that stewards our volunteers well. From joining us as a counselor in a cabin for a week of summer camp, jumping in as a Day Camp leader, helping serve a meal from the YAA kitchen, supporting one of our annual events, or joining us to work with your hands, we truly have ways for everyone to serve. If you're interested in volunteering with YAA—whether individually or by leading a group for an extended

term—we invite you to complete our volunteer inquiry form. We've also created a Facebook group where you can find updates on volunteer opportunities, event details, and other ways to get involved. Below, you'll find QR codes to join our Facebook group and access the volunteer inquiry form. Join us as we work together to create unforgettable experiences for campers and guests!

FACEBOOK



VOLUNTEER



“VOLUNTEERING AT YAA WAS LIKE WALKING INTO A BIG FAMILY I DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED.”

Heather Andrews is the mom of one of our Joshua staff from this summer and volunteered with us for a couple of weeks as our nurse. Here's what she had to say about her experience, “My daughter is 19 and was a counselor for the overnight campers. As an empty nester (she is my youngest and off at college starting her second year this fall), it was such a gift to get to watch my grown “child” guide all of these other children and sharing her joy with them, building friendships with the other counselors, and sharing her love for the teachings of Jesus. Getting this glimpse into my young adult's strength and purpose was heart warming as a parent, and I was so proud of the amazing human she is becoming... Volunteering at YAA was like walking into a big family I didn't know existed. We were all doing what needed to be done because that's what families do. Everyone was so welcoming and loving and caring. If you have ever thought about volunteering at a camp, the love and energy at this camp is really special and guaranteed to leave you more fulfilled than when you arrive.”



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year, we're focusing on becoming a champion organization for the Gallatin Valley. Our goal is to be known for our strong reputation and commitment to serving others. Each year, we welcome a diverse range of groups—from various denominations to secular organizations, corporate teams, and non-profits. We believe that Christ-like hospitality knows no bounds, and we are dedicated to sharing this spirit of welcome with everyone in our community.