

Volunteer at camp this summer

It's official! We're inviting you to serve at camp this summer. There are many roles where you could serve children and youth using skills and abilities you enjoy. If you are well aged, we have jobs for you. If you are middle aged, we have jobs for you. And if you are younger, we have jobs for you too. Here's who we need:

Bus greeters: Greeters donate just an hour or two of their time by meeting parents and campers at the bus in Edmonton and Calgary – checking that campers who signed up for the transportation actually get on board. Believe it or not, finding bus greeters is an ongoing challenge for camp directors and office staff, so your volunteering would be very helpful.

Bus chaperones: This is a one-day assignment at the start and end of each camp. Charter bus companies require Pioneer to provide an adult chaperone. You would simply ride with the campers, enjoy the buzz of happy youth, and hear a repertoire of camp songs.

Drivers: Pioneer requires that people have a class 4 driver's license when campers are transported. For the most part, this applies mostly at The Ranch when we move campers from The Ranch to various drop-off locations for outtrips. If you have a class 4 license and could spare a full day or two to help in such situations, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Cook's helpers: Each camp has a head cook – usually a volunteer who steps up to the enormous task of feeding the throng of young people and staff. But many others are needed to create the meals and snacks each day. A willing heart and cheerful attitude are among the top assets for the role. See the camp dates at The Lodge and The Ranch for what fits with your summer schedule.

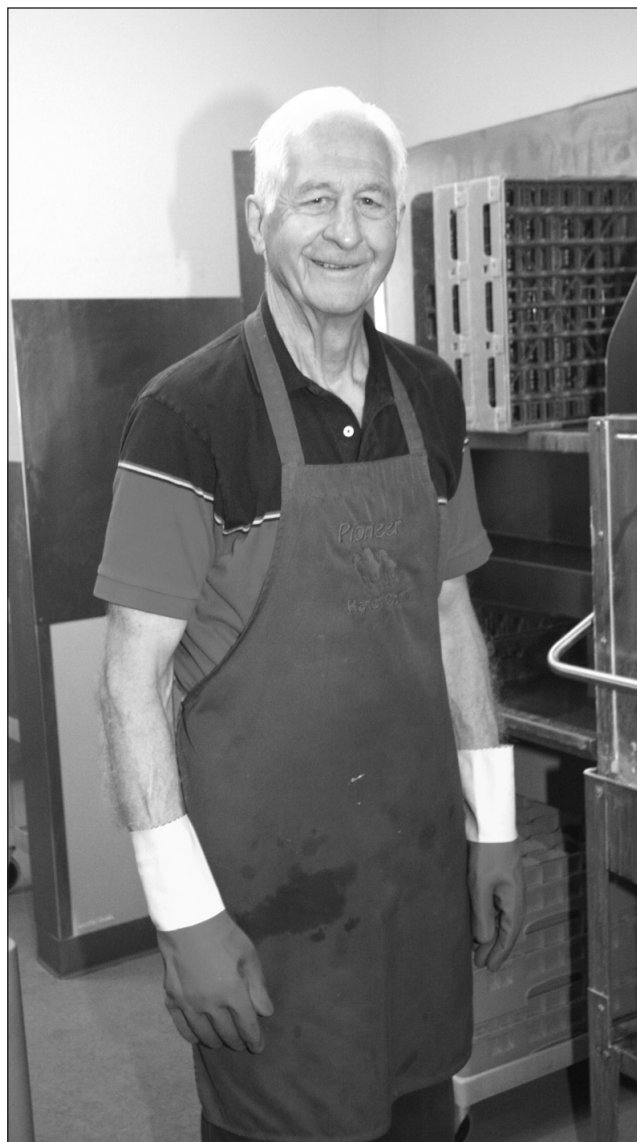
Dish pit queen or king: Running the dish pit is almost a full time job. You work with campers and leaders as they rotate through the dish pit. There are pots to scrub and mountains of dishes. You can make it as social as you like – even fun!

Wranglers: We have a large string of horses at the Lodge and the Ranch, and all those horses and all those kids require a lot of volunteers. You might help bring in the herd in the morning, teach campers basic horsemanship, lead rides, or teach riding. The more advanced the camp, the more instruction. See dates of each camp, and plan to volunteer this summer.

Cabin leaders: Serving as a cabin leader is the quintessential camp role. It is rewarding and satisfying, and integral to what summer camp is all about. Because we offer single gender camps for all ages, and co-ed camps for youth ages 6 – 18 you can choose a camp that suits your preference. You'll forever remember your days as a cabin leader.

Program people: Horseback riding. Archery. Climbing wall. Crafts. Mountain biking. Hiking. Canoeing. Kayaking. Swimming. Lifeguarding. Wide games. Event planning. If you have skills in teaching or supervising any of these activities, we need you. Lots of you!

Work crew/maintenance: Perhaps you are more the handy man than the song leader. Fear not, we have jobs for you too. Imagine owning what are essentially two farms at two locations. There are fences to mend, and buildings to paint. There is wood to split and haul. There are construction projects of all varieties. And there is hay to haul. And then there are the tasks related to a camp theme day, or com-



Volunteers of all sorts are needed for Pioneer Ranch Camps this summer.

plex wide game that might involve a bit of hauling and construction.

Shopper: Now here's a role for the gifted and experienced shopper. And you'd be spending someone else's money! Every day someone has to make "the town run." The cooks might need a few items from the grocery store. A leader or camper might need meds or personal items. The wranglers may have forgotten their toothbrushes. Maybe the program people need something for a theme day or event. One way or another, someone has to drive to Sundre or Rocky Mountain House every day of camp. It might as well be you. That way the site manager or other staff members are freed up for more urgent matters at camp.

General info: Volunteers must complete an application form (see our website), have a police check completed, and sign our statement of Christian faith.

If you're between 17 and 27, why not consider signing up for our "summer missions" program. Instead of leaving Canada and heading to a far-off locale for a mission experience, you can serve at one of our camps in Alberta.

Apply on-line, call our office, or speak with one of our many volunteer camp directors who have Herculean tasks in pulling a camp together, and would so appreciate you calling and offering your services.

Pioneer Staff Directory

THE RANCH

Jerry Marx – Site Manager
Edda Marx – Head Cook
Maintenance – Corky Falk

THE LODGE

Site Manager – Fred Tyrer
Office Manager – Kim Guzmanuk
Office Assistant – Chelsea Wannamaker
Financial Administrator – Jennifer Tyrer
Head Cook – Liz Cunningham
Assistant Cook – Lynn Evans
GAP Year Coordinator – Michelle Drissler
Riding Director – Sharmane Hindbo
Program Coordinator – Matt Stanford

PEACE COUNTRY PIONEER

Camp Committee Chair: Dave Penner
Registrar – Irene Gitzel (780.539.3884)
www.peacecountrypioneer.com

Executive Director – Dr. Rick Erlendson

Phone: 1.888.511.2660 (Sundre office)
Fax: 403.638.4041 (Sundre office)
Phone: The Ranch – 403.845.6777

Box 660, Sundre, AB, T0M 1X0
www.pioneercamps.ab.ca
info@pioneercamps.ab.ca

SUMMER CAMP DIRECTORS

Discovery – Melanie McMurray and Connie Hasley
Quest – Matt and Jill Church
Breakaway I – Michelle Drissler and the GAP Team
Breakaway II – Alyson Carter and Rick Erlendson
Plunge – Jenny Snyder and team
Jr. Girls – Brie Tarras
Girls Adventure – Jenny Stinton and team
Sr. Girls I & II – Amy Fisher, Naomi Markert, Cayley Webber and Alysa Webber
Jr. Boys – Darren Watmough and Barry Sutherland
Sr. Boys – James Dean, Keith Humphreys, and Ryan Lemphers

ALBERTA INTER-VARSITY CONTACTS:

Grande Prairie: Mike Bennett
Edmonton: Jon Lim
Olds: Katie Housik
Calgary: Tom Greentree
Lethbridge: Troy Taylor

INSIDE INVIEW

InView is published by Pioneer Ranch Camps for the greater Pioneer and Inter-Varsity family. Pioneer's executive director Rick Erlendson serves as the publisher, and Bonnie Tarchuk and Dave Fisher serve as editors. Contact InViewAB@telus.net.

Adventure camping for the sake of the Kingdom

Coming together to share a common vision leads to exploration of the Gospel

The directors of Sr. Girls and Sr. Boys camps recently called their key leaders together for a weekend at Pioneer Ranch for a time of vision building. They invited Dr. Diane Stinton, (along with her daughter Zawadi) a former longtime Pioneer camper and leader, to facilitate the discussion. Keith Humphreys, one of three directors with Sr. Boys, contributed this report for InView.

Something happened on the weekend of February 6th-8th – something sacred and inviting – it happened because of a common vision shared between Senior Boys and Senior Girls Camps.

A young generation of Girls and Boys camp directors accepted the call to listen closely and clarify what our identity is for this Mission. "What is the Gospel?" emerged as a key question to explore as we continued to discover how to move forward with this work. At Crimson Lake we gathered to converse, celebrate, engage and live out the Gospel for senior camps. With an intergenerational crowd of nearly 100, we shared an experience described by Rob Holland as "song for my soul; it fed me."

Dr. Diane Stinton, professor of African Christology at Day Star University in Nairobi, Kenya, was invited to speak to the question "What is the Gospel?" Dr. Stinton took us into her life in Africa through stories, people and images. She also taught through biblical texts and her own research.



Dr. Diane Stinton facilitated the discussion at a recent weekend retreat for key leaders at Pioneer Ranch Camps.

As we discovered very rich theological aspects of the Gospel, we were also permitted to look at a "5th Gospel," provoking questions such as: how do we express the gospel in the particular culture of Senior Camps, and what aspects of our lives, and our Pioneer

culture, need ongoing transformation toward Christ-likeness?

Pioneer has a robust Gospel, a Gospel that serves the mission of leadership development for the sake of the kingdom and the campers that come to camp, and a Gospel that is fresh with

true spiritual theology.

We shared in so many Gospel moments that weekend: broomball with flaming goal posts, music, pictures, videos and skits in the North Lodge, journeys around the icy lake, riding horses through the snow, conversations with a cup of coffee in hand and the creation of a mural with paint and imagination. The weekend was full of moments that mattered – each special, in different ways, to boys and girls camps. There was freedom to be particular, to risk, to ask questions, to participate and to be a part of something meaningful.

Whether it was walking through camp with the full moon lighting the path or Diane speaking words to your heart, for one moment the wonder of the work within Boys camp and Girls camp was experienced, and this sacred Mission is testament for people investing their lives into something worthy.

The story behind 'Abide With Me'

Rick Ratzlaff, a longtime volunteer and friend of Peace Country Pioneer, recently came upon the background story to the song 'Abide with Me.' All Pioneer people sing this chorus at camp at the close of every day.

This beloved hymn of comfort and trust was written by Pastor Henry Francis Lyte, who also wrote *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*. Henry was sick with tuberculosis for most of his life. He pastored a seashore church in England among the rough sailors and uncultured villagers. They loved him and he loved the work.

However, health finally left him and his doctor advised him to retreat to sunny southern Europe, and told him to be prepared to sail at any time.

The last Sunday before leaving, although he had no strength to stand up, he forced himself to preach among his weeping people. That evening, by the light of the evening sun, he wrote these words: "Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, Lord, abide with me." The pastor sailed, and died abroad shortly after.

See further information in The Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations or online at Wikipedia.

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Pray for GAP Year Leadership student Michelle Schuurman and Kris Wierenga (currently a graduate student at the University of Lethbridge in animal science) who were recently engaged. They are planning a wedding for late fall 2009. Congratulations!

Pray for our 25 camps this summer at our three sites – and the hundreds of volunteers we will need to complete our summer ministry.

Pray for our year-round staff – for encouragement and sustained energy as they continuously host groups.

Pray for our many volunteer camp directors as they plan the myriad of details surrounding their camps. Especially keep in mind Brie Tarras who will direct Jr. Girls for the first time, Alyson Carter who will co-direct Breakway for the first time, and Amy Fisher, Naomi Markert, Alysa Webber, and Cayley Webber as they direct Sr. Girls I and II for the first time.

Pray for Darren Watmough and Barry Sutherland who will direct Jr. Boys this summer.

Pray for God's choice of the right people to fill volunteer and staff positions for our busy spring program through May and June and our summer camping season.

Pray for our fundraising initiatives, and our funding in

general.

Pray for opportunities to partner with churches and para-churches.

Pray that people will notice our summer camp brochure, and inquire about what camp would suit their children.

Investment Opportunities

Pioneer Ranch Camps operates as a not-for-profit organization. Your donation is an investment in our ministry with children, youth and young leaders. An official income tax receipt is generated for all gifts. We are deeply thankful for donors who partner with us in our mission.

You may donate to Alberta Pioneer Camps in general or earmark your gifts to any of the following categories in Alberta: horse fund, leadership development, Sundre site, Rocky site, camper bursaries, aboriginal camper bursaries, or toward any of our year-round staff.

You may donate by mail to our office, on-line, or by phone. Call our Pioneer office to donate by credit card (1.888.511.2660). See www.ivcf.ca/donate/contact_us to make an on-line donation.