

SOUTHERN ALBERTA BIBLE CAMP

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



OUR VISION

To see lives transformed by God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

OUR CORE VALUES

NO CHILD TURNED AWAY

Lack of money will never be a factor that keeps a child away from camp.

WE ARE UNAPOLOGETICALLY CHRISTIAN

The proclamation of the Gospel will always be our primary endeavor - equipping for life (all of life) in reconciled relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:17).

WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR CAMP PROGRAM:

Activities, Gospel presentation and discipleship.

OUR MISSION

Southern Alberta Bible Camp is a youth-focused Christian camp whose purpose is to challenge, encourage, and inspire campers spiritually and physically to help equip them for life and to develop Christian leadership in young adults.

OUR FOCUS IS THE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

When we do retreats and rentals, we do so to make our summer camp experience even better; our other activities must not detract from our summer camp and youth focus but must serve it.

WE TRAIN YOUNG ADULTS FOR LEADERSHIP

Every child and youth is challenged, encouraged, and inspired at their level of skill and understanding.



The Gartlys - Melissa, Nolan, Nate, Norah and Jon

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

JON GARTLY

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build... (Ecclesiastes 3)

As we contemplate another year at Southern Alberta Bible Camp, the glaring piece that stands out is that a building has been torn down and another one is being built in its place. Those who have been a part of SABC for many years have mixed feelings about this reality - the original lodge was chock full of memories of new friendships, significant commitments, and fun experiences that pointed people to Jesus. This building has been torn down. Now standing in that place is a new building where there will be new friendships, significant commitments, and fun experiences that will point people to Jesus. This is the goal of Vision 75 - 'To see lives transformed by God through the Gospel'.

Arriving here at this time in the history of the camp has not come without its challenges. As you will see, SABC had a less than stellar year with respect to the financial situation. Yet there is so much to be thankful for, namely that there have been many good years in the past that have provided the camp with the ability to withstand this deficit situation.

"For a time such as this" camp is still able to function well and provide a top-quality camp experience for a record number of campers.

And let us not forget the ways that God has shown Himself over this past year:

1. Record number of campers - 1730.
2. Full slate of high quality and mature summer staff.
3. Talented and skilled full-time staff team.
4. Churches in the surrounding area that raised the funds for and constructed the 6 new cabins.
5. Healthy financial support for capital projects including the new lodge addition.
6. A house and property gifted to SABC from the Champion EFC

One prayer for the year was that this building project would not distract from the camp's mission and purpose to share God's love with our campers. I believe that this prayer was answered in a remarkable way.

The following year will involve restraint as the budget reflects a course correction. Our staff are again committed to planning and offering a high-quality summer experience for campers. Parents expect this. The goal is to continue to find creative ways to share the Gospel in a way that God will draw people to Himself. This has been said before, but it will continue to be said: "Eternity will not be the same because of the incredible efforts made here at camp by people that God uses to transform lives."



VISION 75 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Vision 75 campaign is now into the last phase with the end goal to add space for 450 more campers each summer.

PHASE 1

It began with the construction of the apartment complex to house year-round staff. This building was completed in 2017 and is comprised of 5 different long term housing units. Presently, there are no vacancies in this building. Also incorporated into this building are two dorm rooms used to house the summer leadership training program called Teleios.

PHASE 2

This phase spanned over 2 years and involved the construction of 6 new cabins and a corresponding wash/shower-house. We are grateful for the Bethel EFC, Vauxhall MB, Okotoks EFC, Bow Island EFC and Burdett Christian Community Church, and Vulcan area churches including the Champion Congregational and Vulcan Church of Christ. These church congregations raised the money for and then constructed the cabins in their towns or on their church parking lots. What a great coming together of people to accomplish some amazing things. These cabins were used to house summer staff who historically have lived in the old

lodge building that was torn down. Once the new lodge addition is completed these cabins will be available for new campers.

In the original plan, phase 2 was also supposed to include the construction of a new playing field and fireside amphitheatre. These projects are still needed but there has not been cooperation on the part of Alberta Environment to move ahead and so they have been put on hold for the time being.

The washhouse project was the culmination of a large number of volunteer labour and the offer to lead the project by a friend of SABC, Dennis Plett. He and many others worked hard to get the building to a stage for us to have an occupancy permit for the summer months. From beginning to end it was 7 weeks - a huge undertaking. Many donors were involved and a \$40,000 gift was matched and then rematched by other donors. There were a few shifts that worked well into the morning hours and we called on a lot of favours but it was able to be used for the summer. We just did not have a plan 'B'...

There is still work to be done this fall and the entire project will be completed in this calendar year.

PHASE 3

The demolition and rebuild of the original lodge building (constructed in 1981). In May, it took all of 5 hours to raze the 10,000 square foot building

that took approximately 2 years to build. SABC has hired Silver Ridge Construction to manage the project on a cost-plus contract. We have been very pleased to work with Rich, Bruce, and Terry who are taking great care to get us a building on budget and built to last for a very long time. It is incredible to work with people who get the mission of the camp and who care deeply about the work that is being done.

The total turnkey budget for the completion of the building is \$4.1 million. We are on track to complete the project by April 2020 for use in the summer.

We are budgeting to receive \$550,000 per year for the next 4 years for the building to be completely paid for. Debt financing has been secured. We believe that our financial targets are reasonable and we are prayerful that people will catch the vision and support this effort through to the end. This building will consist of upper and lower accommodations to house summer staff volunteers, along with a large chapel designed to handle the increase in the number of campers anticipated. A smaller chapel, nurse's quarters and infirmary, games room and storage/janitorial areas round up the features.

450 MORE CAMPERS

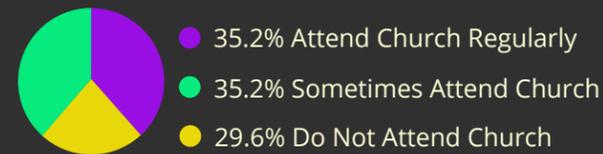
The end result is that SABC will be able to host an additional 450 campers every summer.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

29.6% DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH

Almost 1/3



24.8% FAITH PROGRESSION

Significant faith growth

Our summer cabin leaders were asked the question, "Was there a time where the camper showed significant progression in their faith journey?". This is the percentage of campers who showed definite spiritual growth.

8 recommitted their lives to Christ
35 made a commitment to Jesus for the first time!
4 Campers got baptized

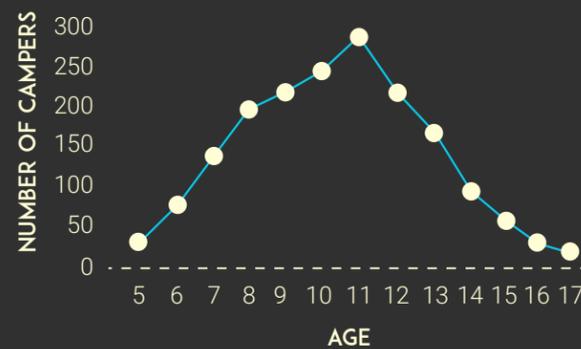
1730 CAMPERS

Record Number



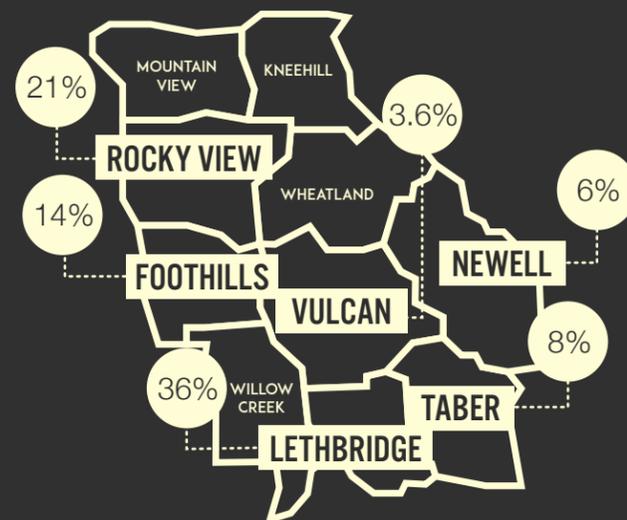
CAMPER AGE

Average camper is 10



WHERE OUR CAMPERS ARE FROM

- 36% Lethbridge County
- 21% Rocky View County / Calgary
- 14% Foothills County
- 8% Taber County
- 6% Newell County
- 3.6% Vulcan County
- 2% Willow Creek County
- 1.6% Wheatland County
- 1.5% County of Warner
- 1.3% Forty Mile County
- 1.3% Cypress County
- 3.7% Other



NON-SUMMER GUESTS

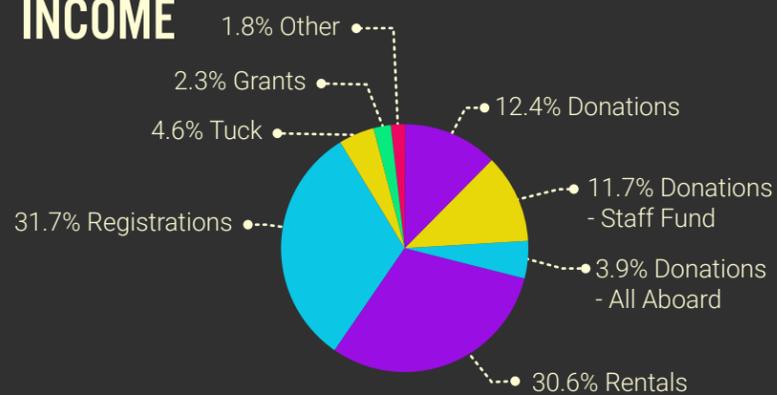
TYPE OF GROUP	(109 TOTAL)
1-Church Adult	27
2-Church Youth	11
3-Scrapbook/Crafting	10
4-Schools	26
5-Other - wedding, reunion	12
6-Corporate	8
7-Youth non church	15

OF DONATIONS: 2,427

OF DONORS: 1,114

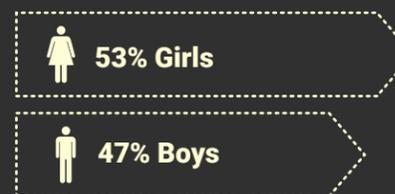
# of donors	Range
31	\$10,000+
30	\$5,000-\$9,999
173	\$1,000-\$4,999
880	\$0-\$999

INCOME



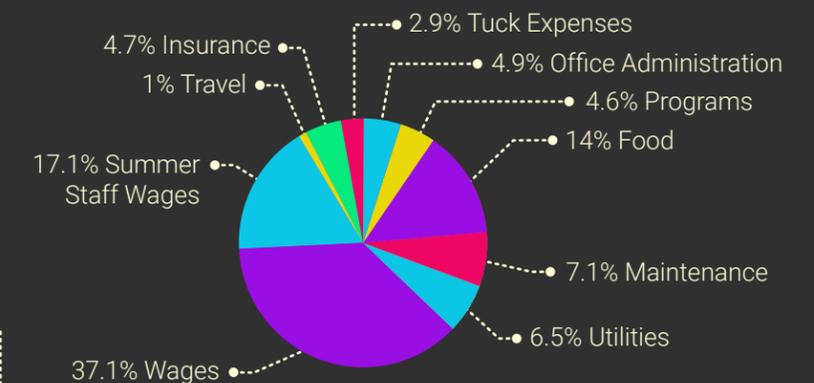
ALL ABOARD SPONSORSHIPS

Total Sponsorships given: 291
Total Money Given: \$81,564



Financial Statements are available upon request. Please contact our office for the audited financials for fiscal year ending Sept 30, 2019.

EXPENSES





SUMMER 2019

TONIA MARTENS

What an adventure to be where God has called us. Camp is a place where that adventure is grand and holy. In the midst of gathering a team, running programs, watching weather, welcoming campers, sharing the Gospel, and playing hard we see God move and sustain EVERYDAY!!

The tale of a single summer at camp holds more than we can know this side of heaven so we hope that the story we offer will give you a glimpse of how God RECHARGED us all throughout this summer.

4 LESSONS I LEARNED FROM SUMMER 2019.

1. THAT GOD HAS A PLAN

We had a full summer! God was faithful to fill His team from the first hire through to having to turn support staff away in the last weeks of camp as we were filled to capacity in all roles.

One amazing story is our waterfront - an area that has historically been challenging to fill. While we began spring with an amazing Waterfront Director in place and a strong lifeguard lineup, we were without a Boat Director and had few leads in filling it. But lesson learned once again, God's timing is perfect. At the end of May, God provided a young man who was more than a boat driver - his love for camp, campers, community, and Jesus was evident in how he served in humble, behind the scenes ways along with how he coached campers and cared for volunteers so well at the waterfront.

God's plan was revealed even further when one of our speakers had to cancel and this young man stepped in and challenged students to stay connected and RECHARGE in the Lord, while still managing details with the boats. God is so good, we continue to trust and celebrate His plans and timing for SABC and each life.

Go ahead, make a plan and then let it go because His is greater - Lesson Learned



2. THAT GOD HAS A SENSE OF HUMOUR

Our God loves fun - As staff fatigue was setting in towards the end of summer we pulled a little extra crazy out of our hats - combining both sides of camp and surprising all staff and campers with an epic battle as "Space Chickens" invaded SABC for the first time ever! Now, this is a story best told out loud so ask any of us on the program team but my favourite moment was the outcome of a challenge. As there were food products in this game, we didn't want campers with food allergies to be left out and we found ourselves stalled in the planning, so we had to think creatively - we invited them on a "special assignment" away from the food - shooting water from the fire truck. The two campers exclaimed "US?? - WE were chosen out of all these kids to help save the day!". They were so excited to have this special assignment - it

was a simple solution and reminder that if we can see beyond the challenge, it isn't difficult to make a kids day and show them how valuable they are. God often does that in our lives, takes a challenge and helps us see a blessing within it - often through humour and gentle reminder.

Have fun, trust God and see the blessings in the challenge - Lesson Learned

3. THAT GOD USES THE LITTELST IN THE BIGGEST WAYS

This summer we made some fun changes to our cabin devo time - Spoudazo- when cabins gather and talk about chapel. We created reusable placemats full of activities they can do at camp and at home, reminding them of all the awesome things they learned in chapel. On Wednesdays it was all about prayer - our desire to bring greater understanding in how to talk to God and giving cabin leaders ideas on how to help campers learn to pray. So one Wednesday, there was a camper who asked to talk with me - I remember this young girl from the last two summers. I headed over to the table at supper where this 9 year old girl begins to tell me all about prayer and that when they prayed as a cabin, she had prayed for me. And then asked if she could pray right there. I cannot express the beautiful, humble privilege it is to have a young camper place her small hand on my shoulder and simply pray for God's blessing.

Jesus said, let the little children come to me - Lesson Learned

4. THAT GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH US

Oh this lesson is pages long - I could talk about the journey of returning support staff or stories of those here from overseas or the growth of cabin leaders as they prayed and played for one week or 10 or ... right, pages. Let me share a highlight

from the end of summer. We had 4 campers and 6 staff get baptised this August - amazing evidence that God is at work through and beyond camp in the lives of young people. These were exciting God-honoring evenings at both the Fort and Lodge beaches with family, staff, pastors and friends joining to witness and celebrate as they surrendered their YES to Jesus in this public display. Such amazing stories of how God began a good work, and a reminder of His promise to continue it.

We hold to His truth of being the One true vine, the source of our lives, the place we can be RECHARGED and produce the fruit of His presence in our lives - Lesson Learned.

WINTER RETREATS

We host 3 retreats in the winter months, each a little taste of camp while we wait for summer. We had a great pirate filled weekend in November at Sr High Inc. with Brendan McCaskell returning to speak about where our treasure lies. A ton of fun, games and great learning in breakout sessions filled out the weekend. Our Men's retreat brought Paul Loewen out to share on Micah 6:8 and the 'Ride of Our Lives'. Men enjoyed both indoor activities like archery tag, table games and 9 square, as well as getting outdoors for skeet shooting and more. Our Mid Winter Escape exploded this year with record numbers! Sid Koop joined us for a Toy Story theme to challenge Jr High students to consider who they belonged to - "whose name was written on their boot". We filled the weekend with worship, games, adventures and BEST talks - a variety of speakers sharing interactive, short sessions on many topics impacting the lives of teens today. We are encouraged how God is using these winter retreats to continue to grow His kingdom and build relationships with camp and the local church ministries.



RIDE FOR A REASON

Ride for a Reason is a volunteer initiated fundraiser for the All Aboard (Camper Sponsorship) program at SABC. The event first started when a friend of SABC had the desire to combine his passion for cycling with his heart to see kids hear the Gospel at summer camp. The first ride was held in June of 2009, 19 cyclists raised \$23,900 in support of SABC.

This past year RFAR was May 31 - June 1. We had 28 riders and 20 volunteers for a 1-day ride from Castle Mountain Resort to Lundbreck Falls, then on to Beauvais Lake and back to Castle Mountain Resort for our finale meal and awards ceremony. \$68,667.00 was the total raised for SABC's All Aboard Fund. Every dollar raised brings kids to camp who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

This coming June we're looking at doing another 1-day ride June 20 and ending at SABC for our finale meal and awards ceremony. Please keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information on this years ride! There are exciting changes in the works.



SHINNY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

This one day event is always an encouragement to the camp and our staff that work day to day maintaining and taking care of the properties and facilities. This is a volunteer initiated event as well and this year there were 12 teams that participated. The hockey tournament raised a touch over \$27,000 which was used to purchase snow removal equipment to keep our roads and walkways clear each winter. It proved to be a fantastic family event and drew a ton of people that were able to enjoy the facility here, many who have never set foot on the property. We are thankful for the work of the individuals that helped make this happen. Note: The Travers Classic will take a year off in 2020 and will be held again in 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SR. HIGH INC.
November 22-24, 2019

MEN'S RETREAT
January 24-26, 2020

JR. HIGH MID-WINTER ESCAPE
February 7-9, 2020

SENIORS SING & DINE
May 6-7, 2020

RIDE FOR A REASON
June 19-20, 2020

FAMILY FUN DAY
June 14, 2020

FULL-TIME STAFF

Barry Weber - Maintenance Supervisor
 Charlie Preston - Program Assistant
 Dave Blenkin - Head Cook
 Jodi Mowers - Administrative Assistant
 Jon Gartly - Director
 Jon Kehler - Properties Manager
 Jordan Laturnus - Program Assistant
 Justin Connolly - Maintenance Assistant
 Lori Rawleigh - Guest Services Manager
 Stephanie Morris - Assistant Cook
 Stephen Wiley - Communications Director
 Tonia Martens - Program Manager

PART-TIME STAFF

Abbey Kehler - Bookkeeper/Events Coordinator
 Anna Dyck - Housekeeping
 Brent Weir - Cook
 Cindy Doerksen - Cook
 Kym Nichols - Cook
 Merrissah Nichols - Kitchen Assistant
 Nellie Driedger - Housekeeping
 Rachel Hawthorn - Registrar
 Savannah Nichols - Kitchen Assistant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman - Tedd Walcott
 Vice-Chairman - George Budd
 Treasurer - Doug Munton
 Secretary - Nicole Ray
 Trustee - Arnie Reimer
 Trustee - Cam Van Roon
 Trustee - Curtis Kurtzweg
 Trustee - Darcy Johnson
 Trustee - Phil McFarland
 Director - Dave Coutts
 Director - Holly Steeves

MEMBER CHURCHES & REPRESENTATIVES

Bethel Evangelical Free Church (Vauxhall) - Darcy Johnson
 Bow Island Evangelical Free Church - Ingrid Dekker
 Brooks Evangelical Free Church - Art Eckert; Garth Everett
 Burdett Christian Community Church - Diane Laubenstein
 Champion Congregational Church - David Skinner
 Cornerstone Community Church (Picture Butte)
 Enchant Evangelical Free Church - Eric Steeves
 First Evangelical Free Church (Calgary) - Eugene Hunka
 Foremost Evangelical Free Church - Jeremiah Jost
 Fort Macleod Alliance Church - Dustin Grisnich
 Lethbridge Evangelical Free Church - Jason Laturnus
 Okotoks Evangelical Free Church - Curt Friesen
 Taber Christian Reformed Church - Tim VanderHoek
 Taber Evangelical Free Church - Tim Willms
 Vauxhall Mennonite Brethren
 Vulcan Evangelical Missionary Church

CONTACT US

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