



Southern Alberta Bible Camp

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

VISION

To see lives transformed by God through the gospel of Jesus Christ

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.



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 a reconciled relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:17)

Our Focus is Summer Camps

Our Focus is the Summer Camp Experience for Children and Youth. Everything we do year-round is to be better, ready and focused on campers and summer camp

We Strive for Excellence

We Strive for Excellence in every aspect of our Camp Program - Skills, Gospel presentations, and Discipleship

Every Child and Youth Challenged

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

We Train Young Adults for Leadership

It is our desire to walk well with youth and young adults moving them toward Christ in both faith and leadership

Our Strength is our Partnership with our Member Churches

MESSAGE from our DIRECTOR

JON GARTLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on this past year, I cannot help but be filled with gratitude for the work God is doing and continues to do at SABC. This camp is the Lord's, and we acknowledge He always does more than we could ask or imagine.

The greatest privilege I have is working with a top notch staff team. I cannot say enough about how talented and gifted they are in their individual roles. They work so hard with a focused purpose. The mission of SABC is written on their hearts and they are committed to seeing lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have so much to be thankful for.

Overall the camp is in a very healthy position. Although our summer camp program was still not at capacity we did see an increase in camper numbers. I've stated this many times - empty beds are missed opportunities to share the Gospel. A priority this coming year is to fill these beds for a goal of 85% capacity.

Our program team has some great ideas to add to those fun pieces that show love to our campers and draw them to a week of summer camp. Our summer staffing program is thriving. Summer camp is a place where students can live in Christian community, wrestle through their faith, and serve. We see lives transformed every week.

Our rental ministry is growing. The limitations are simply the number of staff available to facilitate them on a year round basis. That being said, our rentals help keep things running and are a unique opportunity to minister to groups. As we look to the future we are aware of these challenges and continue to look for ways to address them.

These past few months our family has journeyed through a cancer diagnosis. Although a shock this summer and a much longer recovery than I anticipated, we have felt so supported and cared for by the staff team, our board, as well as supporters of the camp.

The phone calls, text messages, and emails helped carry us. After a successful surgery, we are thankful that chemotherapy is not needed. Melissa and I know there are so many others who are suffering through this disease and feel deep gratitude to the Lord for His grace in our lives. Thank you so much for your prayers and sincere support!





TREASURE HUNTERS

TONIA MARTENS, PROGRAM MANAGER

What an incredible summer at SABC and it was full of treasures! Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

This is WHY we do this - to share in adventure with each other and to invite campers to play along, all with the unrelenting purpose of sharing Jesus, to see lives transformed by God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can't help it. So we embarked on the treasure hunt of a lifetime. Cabin Circle Camps welcomed 1500+

campers to experience the adventure of camp, creating a smaller space for every camper to belong and for staff care to continue to grow with intentionality. Our staff brought incredible effort and love to all they did whether teaching a chapel, washing dishes, running a wide-game or walking with support staff. The WHY was present in not just what they did but who they were. Activities from archery to new paddle boards and tubes at the waterfront to the giant swing to ceramics to gotcha guns to the intentional creativity of activities at the Fort gave campers the space to experience new things and have great conversations with staff.

Family camp was full and has continued to be an incredible addition to summer as families are able to intentionally share in fun and faith together.

We created Camp4U episodes before and after camp, bringing along a new friend right through summer chapels - Treasure Hunter Joe. He helped us teach kids about the Bible and the treasures it holds and to share that Jesus is the greatest treasure and that we are His. New and returning campers and staff made this summer one of the best and we look forward to filling our camps in the years to come.

At the end of each week we gathered in gratitude to share the treasures we saw God reveal. We wrapped up our summer as a staff, with a Luau celebration and then a time of incredible worship and sharing of what God did in and through these days. God is not done with the treasures of 2023 and we are grateful to be along for the adventure.



A DAY AT CAMP

JORDAN LATURNUS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

SUMMER STAFF

This amazing team is evidence of God's goodness and provision. From over 300 applications we invited 39 Spring Director and Coordinator staff, 47 Senior and Junior Cabin Leaders, 18 Teleios students, 127 Junior Support staff and 47 Adult Volunteers to share in the mission of SABC this summer. We walked together in prayer to create a fun faith building community that transformed lives and developed leadership.

A day at camp is an exhilarating and fast-paced experience filled with intentional activities that make every day unique. Whether it is splash campers going down the slip and slide, the fort campers hanging out and tubing on outtrip, or the volleyball campers getting reps in the gym, there is always something happening and often all at the same time. As we have many different camp combinations each week, it can be challenging to capture what a "typical" day looks like. That being said, here is a broad picture of what each day might hold:

Morning: Mornings kick off with a hearty breakfast to energize campers for the day ahead. After breakfast, campers engage in Clean Up The Cabin And Have Fun Doing It (CUTCAHFDI) where they not only keep their cabins tidy but also compete for points in cabin competitions. Simultaneously, there are up to three chapels happening using the 3:16 chapel, lakeview chapel, and the Fort. Before lunch, campers dive into their first activity.

Afternoon: Afternoons are all about activities and bonding with cabin mates. Campers can be seen conquering fears on the giant swing, exploring their creativity through ceramics, learning about mechanics while building disc shooters, or simply having fun at the beach. Campers also have their 'spoudazo' time for reflection and discussion related to the morning chapel sessions.

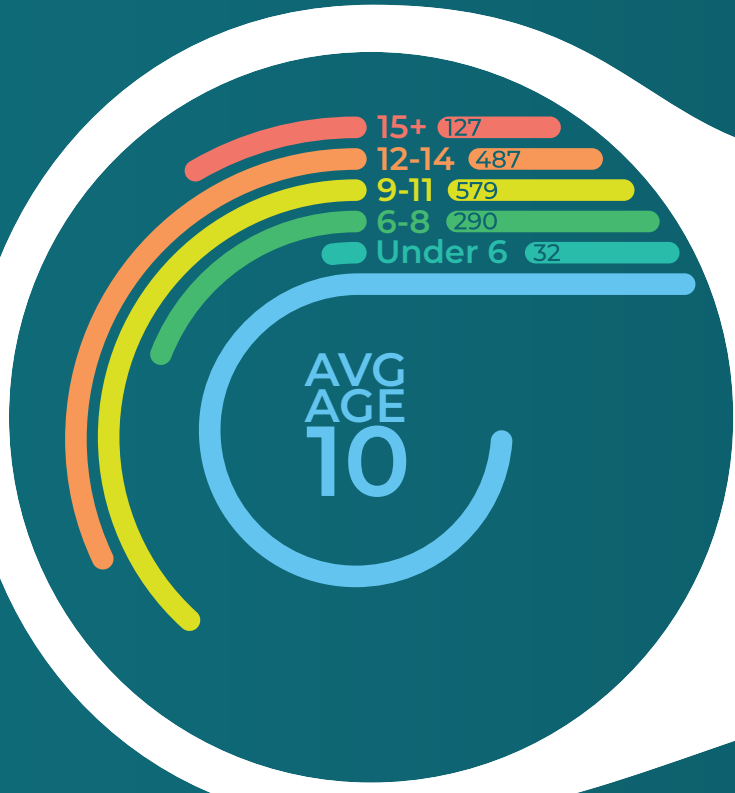
Evening: Evenings commence with a themed supper, setting the stage for the night's activities. A wide game involving all campers adds excitement to the evening. As the day winds down, campers attend a second chapel, followed by a campfire gathering. Campfire is a heartwarming conclusion to the day, filled with songs and cabin leaders sharing their testimonies.

Each day at camp brings unique challenges and blessings, and we're excited to make the most of every moment.

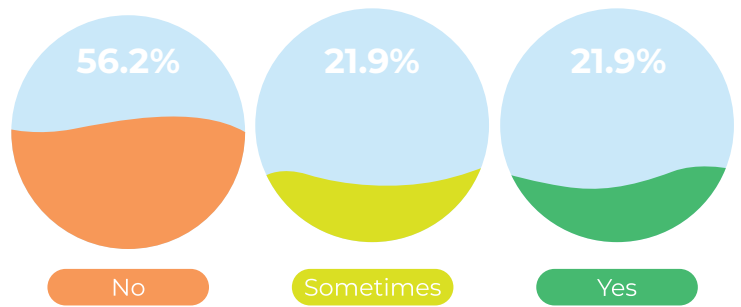


TOTAL CAMPERS = 1539

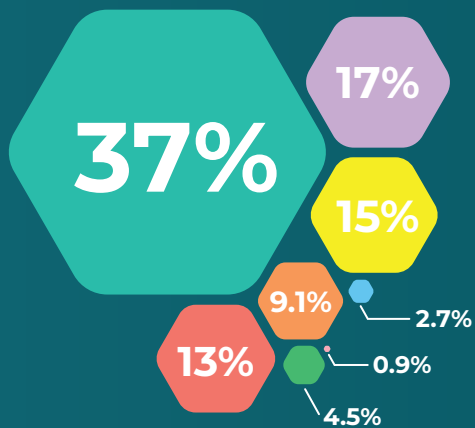
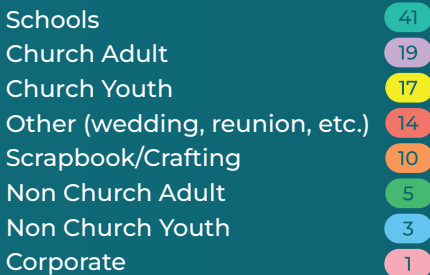
TOTAL STAFF = 259



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

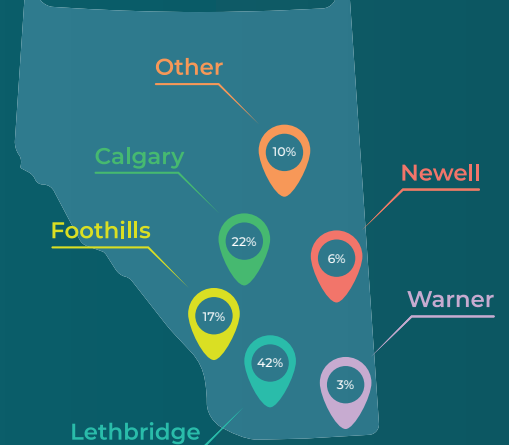


NON-SUMMER GUESTS



WHERE WERE CAMPERS FROM?

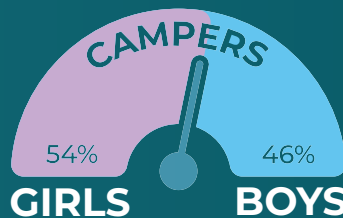
Lethbridge & Area	42%
Calgary & Area	22%
Foothills & Area	17%
Other	10%
Newell & Area	6%
Warner & Area	3%



ALL-ABOARD SPONSORSHIPS

\$181,384

Total Sponsorships Given → 984



FINANCES

	Actual 22-23	Budget 22-23
Revenues		
Donations	\$547,236	\$460,000
All Aboard Camperships	\$179,704	\$200,000
Camp Registrations	\$677,807	\$680,000
Camp Rentals	\$761,413	\$700,000
Government Grants	\$45,945	\$125,400
Other Income	\$134,041	\$109,000
Total	\$2,346,146	\$2,274,400
Expenditures		
Summer Camp Ministries	\$530,059	\$569,200
Food	\$385,537	\$363,400
Facilities	\$430,903	\$389,600
Office	\$26,910	\$24,400
Personnel	\$827,277	\$829,000
Travel Expenses	\$24,473	\$25,000
Other Expenses	\$63,878	\$58,800
Total	\$2,289,037	\$2,259,400
Net	\$57,109	\$15,000

FAITH PROGRESSION



39% 498 campers grew in their faith

29% 385 campers were given a Bible

DONATIONS → 2,233
DONORS → 1,072

This year we had 15 donors donate over \$10,000

14 of our donors donated between \$5000-\$9999

107 donors donated between \$1000-\$4999

and 936 donors donated under \$999

5 Year Plan

We are now going into our third year of a 5 year capital plan that was presented to the membership in 2021. The plan has 5 main priorities where investment is needed: Debt Repayment, Direct Camper Impact, Program Vibe, Site Improvements, and Vehicles and Equipment.

Debt Repayment

Last year the mortgage was fully paid for in part by using funds that were earmarked for operations. The hope is to replenish the operating fund with what was borrowed.

Direct Camper Impact

The desire is for campers to feel, touch and experience directly the benefit of this priority. In past years we have added wardrobes in the lodge rooms, upgraded the Lodgeside cabins with new doors, heaters, and floors, and added a boat lift which has helped our efficiency at the waterfront. Included this year is the Dock project that we continue to wait for authorization from the Alberta Government. Also, our Hillside cabins require new doors, floors and electric heaters.

Program Vibe

Showing excellence in our program is important to us. In the past couple of years we've added canoes/ kayaks/ paddleboards, laser tag, waterski equipment, and some ski boats. This year we would like to add hammocks, a commercial air hockey table, a TruBlue belay system for a crate stacking activity in the gym, a more permanent slip and slide, and some beach inflatables. A telethon is planned for March that will help raise funds needed to purchase these items.

Site Improvements

There is great pride taken by our operations staff as they steward this property and facilities. Last year we were able to renovate and finish the basement of our cook's house at the entrance to our property. This coming year the plan is to add irrigation capabilities for the Blenkin and Kehler yards, start a tree farm utilizing the sewage lagoon water, finish landscaping around the lodge and lakeside cabins, replace the waterfront boardwalk, and redo our campfire bleachers.

Vehicles and Equipment

There have been donors that have stepped forward to help in this area. There were 2 pickup trucks donated which has helped set our maintenance crew up for the foreseeable future. Our plan is still to replace our tractor with a newer, larger tractor more suited for our operation. There are some donors already committed but we have not completed this fundraising yet. We are hopeful for the coming months.

Work Being Done on Future Projects

Our staff have dreams to the moon and back for what we could add here at SABC. We are limited by funding, yes, but also by the amount of time our staff have to commit to projects. Still, work is being done for future projects that we will present at future AGMs. Our biggest and most exciting project is a zip line tour that we are aiming to have for 2025. We'll keep you posted!

FLEX

CHARLIE PRESTON, FLEX DIRECTOR

Fall 2022 had only two participants and started mid-September and ended at Christmas. It was a great time as they pushed themselves in trying and learning new things and digging into the Bible.

Time was spent in the Jan-April 2023 semester on recruitment at local churches and youth groups as well as working on writing sessions in preparation for teaching the Bible for future FLEX years.

This fall we have four participants (Isaac, Kennedy, Megan and Micah) and have taken over the fort as our home base once again. It has been a blessing to have had them all on staff this past summer as they jumped into helping with rental groups with ease. We have already gone on our Travers paddling trip and our Alpine out trip to Mount Lyall. We had beautiful weather for both trips. They provided opportunities for testimony sharing, continued bible reading and great discussions. We are now settling down into a slower routine of cooking meals together, starting a study on Acts and continuing to read through the Bible chronologically.



TELEIOS

JOSH BOS, TELEIOS DIRECTOR

Mark 12:29-31: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. ' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." This verse echoed in every corner of every room that the Teleios students found themselves in. This was

the model of life that the students learned to live while they were here—loving God with all that they are. To help us teach this to the students, the sessions looked a little different this year. We wanted them to take ownership of their learning to make it their own. Why would a teaching change their lives if it wasn't something that they were even remotely interested in? So we let them ask the questions and then helped them find the answers themselves. God worked in some really cool ways this summer. We had a couple of baptisms, numerous immensely difficult yet completely life altering discussions, and an unbelievable testament from each student about the work that God had done in their lives this summer. God used Teleios in incredible ways this year.



GUEST SERVICES

LORI RAWLEIGH,
GUEST SERVICES MANAGER

The 10 month rental season at SABC has now exceeded pre-pandemic levels both fiscally and in rental day equivalencies (the number of people that use our site for meals and accommodations). Our facility was rented 200 out of 264 possible days in the 2022/23 rental season. Comparatively there were a total of 89 rental groups in the 2021/22 season and 110 groups for the 2022/23 season on par with our 2018/19 season at 109 groups but the size of the groups has increased. In addition to full high season months we have seen an increase in mid-week rentals from February to April. Rental volume is a consistent challenge for our full time team to manage alongside all of their regular duties. We have recently hired some high school students to help our full time team host and are seeking to add qualified staff to our kitchen team in both casual and full time roles. I feel truly blessed to be working with excellent, industrious and efficient staff on both our kitchen and janitorial teams.

PROPERTIES

JON KEHLER, PROPERTIES MANAGER

This past year has been a packed one, full of repairs, projects and God's goodness.

On the grounds we have added parking at the Lakeside Cabin Circle, retaining walls and some much needed sod. Upkeep on buildings included a full renovation to the basement of one of our staff homes and interior renovations to the Lodgeside cabins including new doors, floors, heaters, paint and trim. We were especially blessed this year with an incredible amount of volunteering. The biggest change was the addition of some volunteer "snowbird" staff. The steady efforts of Jerry DeJong as well as Don and Myrna Bergen throughout the spring and summer made a huge difference in both work load and what could be accomplished. We are looking forward to them rejoining our team in the spring. Alongside these new resident volunteers our regular crew of supporters was hard at work as well. Many hundreds of hours went into projects, regular upkeep, wiring, metal projects and some incredible custom coffee tables. SABC would be lost without this committed crew of dedicated volunteers.

During the summer season we were blessed with a full grounds crew and had a great time teaching, playing and studying God's word together. What a blessing to watch God grow and stretch them.

God has been about his business at camp as usual and it has been a blessing to be a part of.



SR. HIGH INC.

With 50 volunteers, including Refined Undignified, we pulled off a Fear/Less weekend for 200 students and leaders full of fun games, activities, break-out sessions, chapels and tournaments creating a space to deepen relationships and their faith. Why? *"I learned that when God says "don't be afraid" it's not a commandment but that we don't HAVE to be afraid because He's with us".*



MEN'S RETREAT

110 men joined us for our first Men's retreat since 2020. Russ Toews spoke on FOMO - being Fiercely Opposed to Missing Out on what God is doing. It was a weekend of building relationships, great food, fun activities and faith challenging conversations.

Why? *"As iron sharpens iron, we need to get together to strengthen each other and our relationship with God. For the benefit of our families, churches and communities."*

MID WINTER ESCAPE

This weekend tipped the scales with 300 jr hi guests and 80 volunteers gathering for a Jurassic Mid Winter Escape. Dinosaurs inside and out made for a larger than life weekend. Between awesome chapels, night games, dance breakouts, activities and great food we focused on the fact that God created us on purpose and in His image. Why? *"I was reminded that I am a child of God. Period"*



RIDE FOR A REASON

It is hard to express the significance of this event that helps send kids to camp through the All Aboard Scholarship Program. The total raised for RFAR in 2023 was \$84,569.50. It helped enable 984 campers to come to experience camp this summer by covering fees in part or whole. Thank you to the committee for their incredible work AND to our many participants and donors. Look for the ride again this spring and take a minute to support a rider and ensure no camper is left behind.



Full Time Staff

Barry Weber	Maintenance Supervisor
Charlie Preston	Flex Director
Dave Blenkin	Executive Chef
Jason Eichorst	Sous Chef
Jodi Mowers	Registrar/Administrative Assistant
Joel Van Beek	Marketing Director
Jon Gartly	Executive Director
Jon Kehler	Properties Manager
Jordan Laturnus	Program Director
Josh Bos	Camp Apprentice
Lori Rawleigh	Guest Services Manager
Peter Banman	Maintenance Assistant
Tonia Martens	Program Manager

Part Time Staff

Abbey Kehler	Bookkeeper/Events Coordinator
Anna Dyck	Housekeeping
Brent Weir	Cook
Neta Dyck	Housekeeping
Tina Dyck	Housekeeping

Executive Board

Chairman	Tedd Walcott
Vice-Chairman	George Budd
Treasurer	Doug Muntou
Trustee	Heather McCoy
Trustee	Cam Van Roon
Director	Curtis Kurtzweg
Trustee	Darcy Johnson
Trustee	Arnie Reimer
Director	Dave Coutts

Member Churches & Representatives

Bethel Evangelical Free Church (Vauxhall)
Bow Island Evangelical Free Church
Brooks Evangelical Free Church
Burdett Christian Community Church
Champion Congregational Church
Cornerstone Community Church (Picture Butte)
Enchant Evangelical Free Church
First Evangelical Free Church (Calgary)
Foremost Evangelical Free Church
Fort Macleod Alliance Church
Lethbridge Evangelical Free Church
Okotoks Evangelical Free Church
Taber Christian Reformed Church
Taber Evangelical Free Church
Vauxhall Community Church

Darcy Johnson
Josh Hume
Garth Everett
Gunther Laubenstein
Charlene Shearer
Todd Walcott
Conrad Cazemier

Jeremiah Jost
Dustin Grisnich
Jason Laturnus
Curt Friesen
Tim VanderHoek
Tim Willms
Carl Garber



STORIES LIVE HERE.

Southern Alberta Bible Camp

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