
March 21, 2018

New Season. New Adventure.



2018 Updates

Our 2018 Summer schedule is here! Camp prices are scheduled to increase May 15th so book your summer camps early. Youth Adventure 10-12 and 8-9 camps are back, along with the classic Family camp. Don't miss early bird pricing on all camps including Teen Pack and Father/Daughter Pack.

4 Mountain Peaks in 4 days is a new hiking camp we are offering this summer. Our goal is provide you with an opportunity see some of the majestic mountains in the Southern Rockies and see God's creation from their peaks. You should expect to be challenged with incredible terrain and invited by our experienced staff onto infrequently travelled backcountry trails. Based out of our

Wilderness Site, we have daily hikes and scrambles to various mountain peaks guided by our experienced staff while returning each day to a warm wall tent and delicious food!

Private Bookings

Blue Bronna offers private bookings in the summer! If you have a youth group, small group, bible study, mens/ladies group, family reunion, church group, or just a group of friends looking for facility rental, Blue Bronna should be your first call. We accommodate your group's needs, whether you only want to rent accommodation, or the whole Blue Bronna experience including food and activities. For more information, please call our office at 403-803-4776 or email office@bluebronna.org.

Registration is open and we are excited to welcome you all back to our special piece of God's creation. Take the time to invite your friends and your kids friends, like and share us on Facebook and Instagram so we can reach even more campers and families for the Glory of God.

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are recruiting staff for the 2018 summer season! If you have passion for ministry adventures in the wilderness, or feel God calling you to serve him in a unique way, I would encourage you to consider joining the Blue Bronna summer team. Positions are open and available on our website.

A new position is available at camp this summer. We are looking for a Social Media staff member from June to August. If you enjoy taking videos and love telling stories on Instagram and Facebook, then this position could be for you. The job description can be found on our website at www.bluebronna.org.

We are still seeking four more Senior staff positions, specifically Assistant Cook, a Program Director, and two other program staff male or female. Please encourage your university students or career friends to apply!

Prayer bookmarks will be arriving in the next newsletter once our staff team is finalized, so that you can remember to pray for us throughout the summer. There is still time to get your picture on the staff bookmark!! Come join us as staff for an amazing summer of wilderness adventures and faith building encounters with God.

The Blessing of Provision

The 26th Annual Blue Rendezvous fundraiser with the classic pie auction was a success. Our supporters raised **!!!\$42,517.00!!!** This is an incredible boost to our finances, thank you so much to all who came out to support this ministry we are humbled and grateful for this provision. Without supporters like you, our mission to see people grow in faith would not be accomplished. We could not provide this opportunity for people to come and learn about Jesus in a beautiful wilderness setting.

You may remember that we were working hard to clear off a deficit in our general fund. At the start of 2018 we had around \$25,000 in operating debt. We are excited to report that our debt balance is down to **!!\$0!!** Generous donations this year as well as financial sacrifices by our winter staff, have allowed us to clear out this deficit before summer. Thanks to all who have helped, we are now **DEBT FREE!**

Help us keep it that way!

A group of donors have led the way and stepped up to remove this shortfall, we now want to encourage those of you who have been on the fence about making a donation, to consider supporting us with a one time or ongoing donation this month to put wind in our sails leading into the summer. If you make a donation this month to launch us into summer 2018 you will enable BBWC to hire the staff necessary to provide a professional faith filled program, ensure we can provide for the safety of our campers with well-maintained equipment and most important create room for more people to experience wilderness adventure with Jesus at BBWC. Our financial goal each year is to cover 40% of our annual budget with registration fees and to cover the remaining 60% with donations. Our budget each year is between \$250-\$300,000 so we count on receiving an incredible \$150-180,000 each year in donations.

As we continuously improve in our ability to provide professional world class wilderness adventures with Jesus, the amount of donations required to do this increases. For every new camper that comes we need to add another donation to cover the costs that are not charged in the camp fee. Interestingly enough, we are growing, so we need your help to continue growing our base of financial support.

Maybe you have never donated before to BBWC and are interested in becoming a regular supporter of this amazing vision. We would invite you to start now, and become part of sustaining this unique, life changing ministry, become part of our 60% foundation and help us make a dent in the world for Christ.

We can't wait for summer to come to begin taking campers into the wilderness with Jesus. Why not join the adventure as a donor and help put wind in our sails?



Speaker & Volunteers Needed

We are currently looking for gifted bible teachers to who would be interested in speaking at our camps. This would include providing spiritual direction to the campers throughout the duration of the camp and provide Bible based teaching during our campfire time. Our goal is to make the scriptures available to all who come to camp so that they can meet God for the first time or take the next step in their journey of Faith. If you are interested in speaking for one of our camps, please contact Byron Lengsfeld at byron@bluebronna.org

Volunteers are our engine and bring so much passion to our program! This summer we need lots of help in the kitchen, in the horse program, cabin leading, and for general maintenance. We also have a number of building projects in the works and would love to have your join the building crew. If this interest

- Volunteers to join our building project team. We have a family cabin to finish up and a number of other construction projects in the works
- 5-10 camp ready horses, a number of our horses are getting older and are close to being retired in the next year or two. We will miss them a lot as there are many camp memories made on their backs. We need to find some new camp friends and expect to spend \$25,000 over the next two years to reduce the age of our herd. The ideal camp horse is 6-10 years old with a gentle but energetic personality. 15.1hh-15.2hh is ideal for the mountains. Breeding can be varied, but we have found in the past that Quarter horses with a bit of draft blood tend to be best. They have good athleticism while being strong enough to climb the hills. Do you know any horses like this? Our challenge is that these type of horses are in their prime and are expensive to purchase.
- 1 Diesel Truck in excellent condition ready to go to work, safely transporting our horses from pasture to camp and everywhere in-between.

you, please contact our office for more information.

Wish List

To make summer great, we need the following:

- 3-4 portable wood stoves to heat our tents, we are growing and need to add some additional stoves to our fleet to keep our campers warm at night. If you are a good welder these could be fabricated
- 4 New Heavy Duty Giant Tarps
- Volunteers to help transport horses. If you have a truck and trailer would you consider volunteering some time and fuel to help transport horses throughout the summer?
- 40 round hay bales, 300 bushels of oats, 350 small square bales. For the past few years we have been grateful for the donation of hay and grain to our horse program. This can save us upwards of \$10,000/year in feed costs. At the height of summer we have upwards of 35-40 hungry horses to keep fed and happy. That works out to at least 1 round bale/day, which is a lot of hay!
- 2-3 board members willing to serve in leadership of the ministry

Letter from the Director – Cody Wilson

As we head into summer 2018 I hope that you are all as excited as I am to see another summer of ministry start up at Blue Bronna Wilderness Camp. Presently we are working hard to recruit and hire our staff team for the summer, the board just met together at Willow Creek to work on the long range plan for the camp growth and development, and a group of volunteers has been working at Willow Creek a number of times throughout the winter to get the new Family cabin completed and ready for summer.

I wanted to extend a special thanks to Verne Bjornsen who has taken on leadership of this project since we started it last summer. Verne has been working hard coordinating all of the construction details and volunteer crews and has invested many hours into the success of this project! Also a big thanks to all of the other volunteers who have been involved and businesses who have donated materials and labor. Presently the exterior is mostly complete and we are ready to move our attention to the interior. Some outstanding needs for this project, are someone who can provide HVAC expertise to help us run the heating ducts, a plumber who can help run the water lines, and finally, we need some resources or ideas on how to supply a kitchen either donated new or used but in good shape.

This cabin is going to be a great addition to the facility and will provide much needed staff housing space.

Construction of this cabin gets us started on the road to the new large dining hall development that we are all eagerly anticipating. We need to detach our staff housing from the ranger station house, so that we can begin moving all of the site services which are presently centralized in the house, to a

separate services shed. When funding and approvals are finally in place for the new dining hall building, the house will be retired to make way for the new development.

With the family cabin well under way, we are taking the first step to prepare for the new dining hall to be built. The next step is to detach the services from the house by constructing a services shed to the west of the present location of the house, half way to the cabins. This shed will supply, power, gas and water to the entire site from a central location. Once this is complete, the ranger station house can be retired without affecting the site operation. We are working on designing the services shed this summer as well as moving to construct a temporary addition to the existing dining hall that will enlarge the present eating space and kitchen until the new larger dining hall is built.

If you have any construction, site planning, site services, grant writing or engineering expertise you would like to contribute to these projects, please get in touch with us as there is lots of fun and engaging work to be done. We would love to have you join into our team of volunteers who are passionate about ticking off our development goals at Willow Creek.

Over the past few years it has become clear that without Willow Creek it would be much more difficult to provide for a quality wilderness site at Coat Creek. The two sites are very different and a large part of the purpose of Willow Creek is to provide a staging ground for BBWC's wilderness activities. These activities take us out way beyond the borders of our lease at Willow which is a place to go out from and an place to return to. The last 11 years at Willow Creek have proved how much value it brings to BBWC in supporting the Wilderness site at Coat Creek, as well as our pack trip program and other out trips. It's hard to believe that we used to operate camp without this incredible resource to support all of our wilderness programs by providing us with a stable, year round, staging ground.

Not be left out, we are pushing the Coat Creek site into even more of a Wilderness feel. With Willow Creek so close by, we have been able to strip away everything but the necessities at Coat Creek which gives it even more of a rustic, wilderness feel that is close to creation. One can spend a week at Coat Creek with comforts such as running water and hot food, while basking in the simple wilderness life. This is a foundational part of BBWC and needs to become part of everything we do: **Bible, wilderness, adventure.**

2018 is bringing some changes for the Wilsons. As many of you already know, we have reached the 7th year of ministry in our role as Executive Director of BBWC. BBWC has a policy of sabbatical, that requires staff to take at least 6 months of time away from ministry duties every 7 years. As a result we will not be at camp this summer and instead will be focusing on building into our family rhythms and doing normal things with our summer like going on family vacations and relaxing together in the wilderness with no agenda or campers nearby! I will be heading out to a Church leaders conference in June at Connexus Church in Ontario and am excited about this opportunity to spend some time learning from other Christian ministry leaders. My goal is to undertake some professional development and spiritual retreat as part of this time of sabbatical. In addition, this summer we will be moving our family from the Cochrane area down to Turner Valley. A time of Sabbatical from camp will give us the space needed to make this transition.

Our time away will begin as a sabbatical from our current role, but will end in a role change for us with BBWC. The board and I have been working together for a number of months now to look towards the future staff structure that will be required to lead BBWC effectively in its next season of growth. Together we have recognized that the role I have held has grown beyond what one person can effectively carry. To this end we have decided that I will be giving up the role of ED and we are going to enter into a process of seeking two people to fill the role that I have been carrying. In the coming months the board will be sharing more, but in short we will be hiring for two new leadership positions to fill my shoes. One of these roles will focus on managing the operational aspects of camp, the other role will focus on the visionary, fundraising and promotional aspect of camp. These details are currently still being worked out but together, the board and I feel God's leading in this process of change. The ministry has experienced a lot of growth over the last few years and we all feel a need to respond to this growth by re-structuring the leadership roles that will guide the camp forward in the coming years. I would encourage all of you to think of who you might know who would be a good fit for one of these roles, and to encourage them to make contact with the board to find out more details.

So what does that mean for the Wilsons? Well although we need a break, our passion for this wilderness ministry has not faded. We continue to be inspired with the mission and vision that God has built into BBWC and are looking forward to finding out where God will lead us next in support of His mission. At the present time however we do recognize in ourselves and in our family, a need for a break from the role we have carried. We need some space to make a transition away from Cochrane to our new home.

The mission of BBWC is too important however to leave BBWC in leadership limbo while we attend to family priorities and changes in our life. We can't imagine leaving BBWC without strong leadership and it's to this end that we have been prayerfully working with the board to put a plan in place to transition our leadership responsibilities to others as the next steps in BBWC's journey.

In the short term while we are away this summer, Chantelle Carlson will be stepping into my shoes to give executive leadership at camp in my absence. Chantelle is one of our board members and she will be the interim Executive Director for this summer while the board works to fill the two new roles (operational and executive) with long term people. Additionally, Byron Lengsfeld will be giving daily leadership to the summer staff team this summer as he has in years past at Coat creek.

So with these plans in place, Sarah and I are glad to step away into a season of sabbatical from ministry, we are looking forward to a fun summer of adventures with just us and our kids. As we have prayed about this next step, God has made it clear to us that our journey with BBWC is not over and that we will continue to support the camp in the future in different ways. He has also made it clear though that we do need to step away for now to take a break from this role and to make way for others to carry the torch. We look forward to re-engaging once this time of rest is over and will be glad to help fulfill the mission of BBWC in whatever way God makes clear at that time.

As to this summer, it is so important for BBWC to continue developing a strong community of volunteers who desire to reach others with the good news of redemption in Christ. The world and its

people are still just as broken as ever and a place like BBWC is like finding rest by a cool stream for a weary soul. All of you should make time this summer to volunteer and help enable the incredible ministry and life change that happens at Blue Bronna. If you are anything like me you will find yourself being blessed in return in surprising ways, that keep you coming back for more.

In Christ,

Cody Sarah, Jesse, Evan, Daniel and Hannah Wilson

