



THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA CAMPS

ARROWHEAD

■ Winter 2010 ■



*The Newsletter for Friends, Alumni, Parents, and Campers
of Camp Conrad Weiser and Bynden Wood Day Camp*

IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY: A NEW WEBSITE FOR SMYMCA!

You read that correctly. The South Mountain YMCA Camps are launching their new website on December 1st. The new site will be vastly easier to navigate, will include new registration software, and will showcase our new online camp store. We hope you take the time to visit the new site and see all that it has to offer.

The new site was developed by Chloe Annetts of **Chloe Art & Design** in conjunction with the YMCA of the USA marketing staff. In light of the new look and branding of the Y nationally, this collaboration was vital to a successful launch.

Visit us at www.smyymca.org.

THANKS-FOR-GIVING DINNER!

Join us at Camp for a special recognition of our volunteers and donors on November 19th at 6:00 p.m. If you have given of your time, talent, or treasure in support of the South Mountain YMCA Camps this year, consider this your official invitation to our inaugural Thanks-For-Giving Dinner.

Pat Damato, our Food Service Director, along with our entire staff team invite you to a night of food, fun, and fellowship. There is no cost for this dinner or program. Your Camp staff simply want to say "thank you." We hope we see you there.

Please RSVP to Sue Kiscadden by November 15th.

2010 REACH OUT FOR YOUTH CAMPAIGN

What makes our South Mountain YMCA Camps unique? Is it the programs we offer or the location we boast? Absolutely not. What makes us unique is that every child can enjoy our camps regardless of a family's ability to pay our fees.

Since its inception, the South Mountain YMCA has provided high quality programs and facilities that can compete with any private camp in the country. Our promise to provide day and resident camp programs for all children in our community has defined us. This year the need is greater than ever, and we hope you will find it in your heart to make a donation to our **Reach Out For Youth Campaign**. In addition to providing summer camp scholarships, this campaign helps keep our Outdoor Education programs affordable for schools. Call 610-670-2267 to make a donation. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



MOUNTAIN VIEWS

As I write this, I am about to celebrate my first anniversary on the mountain. I have had one year to learn everything I could about our staff, our volunteers, our partners, the programs, those we serve, our founders, our alumni, our legacy, and our hopes for the future. I'd love to say that I know it all, but I think it's going to take a few more decades.

One of my favorite pieces of our lore surrounds our namesake, Conrad Weiser. I am ashamed I did not know Weiser's story until this past year, but in honor of his birthday I thought I would share it with you. He was born on November 2nd, 1696, in Germany, but moved to America by age 14. At the age of 16, Conrad Weiser went into the mountains of New York on the first recorded ICEP (International Camper Exchange Program) trip. My tongue may be firmly in my cheek, but young Conrad was, in fact, sent by his father to live with the Mohawk tribe and learn their language and customs. While the stakes may have been higher in the 1700s, our current day ICEP trips that send campers to Germany and Spain accomplish many of the same goals as Conrad Weiser's exchange. Our modern exchange programs expose young people to the larger world, introduce foreign languages and customs, and foster the necessary diplomatic skills to thrive in a global community. Conrad Weiser's father wanted no less for him. In the end, the Weiser family experiment raised a young man that went on to become a diplomat negotiating treaties between the Native Americans and the colony of Pennsylvania, as well as a judge, farmer, and father. I think our founders chose our camp's name well when they selected Conrad Weiser.

Keep the Fires Burning!

Nathan Brant
CEO



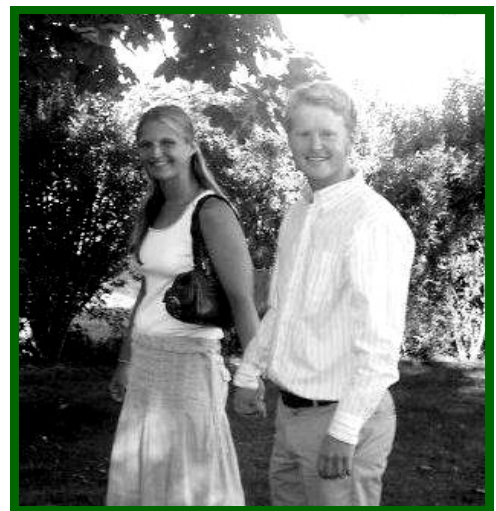
ICEP 2011 SPAIN!

We are excited to announce a new International Camper Exchange Program (ICEP) in 2011. We are working with the YMCA of Spain to offer an international trip and travel experience. Campers can expect to see the Spanish countryside, as well as beautiful and exciting cities like Madrid and Todelo (pictured below).

Eligible campers must be between the ages of 13 and 16. Please call Sue Williams, Summer Camp Director, for an application and to schedule an interview.



CAMP BLISS



Stephen Horst and Suzanne Skrzenski were married at 2 p.m. on September 11th, 2010, at St. Francis De Sales Church. Their reception was held at the South Mountain YMCA, complete with camp activities and dinner in the dining hall. Stephen and Suzanne were both Outdoor Educators at South Mountain YMCA when they fell in love. Congratulations to the happy couple!

HOLIDAY & WINTER CAMPS

Archery, Climbing, Crafts, and . . . Sledding?!? Sign your school-aged camper up for our new Holiday Camp program in December or our Winter Camp Weekend in February and pray for snow.

Our Holiday Camp will run from December 27th-30th and will be designed for new campers ready for their first visit, as well as a reunion for our camper alumni. From crafts to cooking, this will be a new and exciting camp experience.

Our Winter Camp Weekend will run from February 18th through the 21st. Like our Holiday Camp, this is a unique opportunity for a young person to see Camp in the winter.

Contact Sue Williams, the Summer Camp Director, for information at 610-670-2267 or swilliams@smymca.org.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN ALUMNI UPDATES:

- Congratulations to **Aaron Phillips**, staff alum from 2006-2008, who just accepted a position at Herbein+Company, Certified Public Accountants. Aaron also wants to wish **Kourtney Mellert**, his fiancé and camp staff alum, a Happy Birthday this month.
- Congratulations to staff alumni, **Steve Horst & Suzanne Skrzenski**, on their marriage in September.
- Board Member, **Tami Shimp**, and her family were excited to welcome a 3rd baby boy to the family on October 26th.
- CEO, **Nathan Brant**, and his family welcomed a new daughter, Gwyneth Claire, to their family on September 20th.

NEW ADVENTURE GUIDE PROGRAM COMING TO CAMP

We are launching a new family program on January 1st of 2011: YMCA Adventure Guides. YMCA Adventure Guides is offered in YMCAs across the country and is designed to strengthen the relationship between a parent and a child. Our staff will match parent-child pairs into "Circles" that meet on a regular basis in each others' homes, usually monthly. Several Circles come together to participate in larger activities such as campouts, parties, or parades. Typical activities include ceremonies, games, crafts, songs, stories, skits, and outdoor pursuits such as camping, hiking, and swimming. Contact Greg Rider at 610-670-2267 or grider@smymca.org.

A CALL TO SERVE! BE A HOST FAMILY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPER NEXT SUMMER!

Sue Williams, Summer Camp Director, is working to identify families willing to serve as hosts for our German & Spanish exchange campers in 2011. This homestay opportunity for our international guests is a wonderful opportunity to share your home and our culture with a young leader from another country.

We need host families for German Campers from Sunday, July 10th through Sunday, June 17th.

We need host families for Spanish Campers from Saturday, July 16th through Saturday, July 23rd.

If you are interested in hosting a young person from Spain or Germany, please contact Sue Williams, our Summer Camp Director at 610-670-2267 or swilliams@smymca.org.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA WISH LIST

Do you have any of these items that are no longer of use to you? Call the camp office about tax-deductible donations to the YMCA!

1. Two Golf Carts
2. 3/4 ton, 4x4 pick-up truck for program and maintenance
3. Fishing Equipment (Fly & Reel)
4. 25 hp boat motor for rescue boat
5. Costumers (child and adult)
6. 7 Passenger Mini-Van or 12 passenger mini-bus
7. Computers for Digital Photography and Newspaper programs
8. Lead Lines for Horses (old tack in good condition)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 19th	Thanks-For-Giving Dinner at Camp
December 1st	Launch of our new website!!!
December 1st	2011 Camp Registration Kick-Off!
December 19th	Teen Leaders Holiday Party
December 27th-30th	Holiday Camp
February 18th-21st	Winter Camp

If you love horses, join the South Mountain YMCA Riding Club.
Contact Nicole at
ridingdirector@smymca.org or
610-670-2267.

PAGE 4



THE ARROWHEAD
is a publication of the
South Mountain YMCA.

We love to hear what is going on with alumni, campers, staff and friends of the Y. We want to share your graduations, weddings, and birth announcements. We continue to appreciate your support and input.

Send any information or story ideas to:

South Mountain YMCA

P.O. Box 147

Wernersville, PA 19565

Ph. 610-670-2267 Fax 610-670-5010

Email: ycamps@smymca.org

Browse our website at www.smymca.org.

Please take a moment to register on our alumni page.

Visit us on the web
at smymca.org

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