



CROIX CALLER

MARCH 2010

YMCA Diversity Initiative Celebration!

The Mobilization and Implementation of Step Six of our diversity initiative has been achieved!

The Board determined 4 areas to focus on – Staff Recruitment, Board Recruitment, Target 5 communities to reach out and connect with and Increase Non English Signage on the CSC campus

Staff Recruitment- Our goal was to increase the ethnic diversity of the staff team by 5%. That goal has been achieved through the King Leadership Camp, Boys and Girls Club, Alternative style Universities, and College Clubs. We also had Andre Barnes, a King Leadership Camp Graduate, develop and implement a survey and recruitment process for CSC. He actively talked up the wonderful job opportunities at CSC in his community and attended the Hmong Resource Fair and the Boys and Girls Club National Night Out.

Board Recruitment – Our Goal was to increase the ethnic diversity of the members on the advisory board by 5%. We had board approval of an Alumni Relations Committee to help with recruitment. We have identified and talked to other organizations with diverse boards, and learned their best practices for recruitment. We have also asked our current board members to identify any additional members to be part of the advisory board.

Target 5 Communities – The Board targeted 5 communities to reach out and increase the diversity of our client base. African American, Non- Christian Religions, Native American, Somali, and Hmong communities were targeted. Invitations to CSC Winter Croix were extended, staff and camper recruitment at the Hmong Resource Fair, use of a Healthy Nations connection and additional fairs and community events are a few of the efforts put forward to accomplish this goal.

Increase Non- English Signage – The Board approved a measure to increase the non – English signs around the camp and its facilities. A large welcome sign is at the top of our priority list.

Let's celebrate the Diversity Initiative and it's continued success!!!

YPARTNERS



2010 Update

Thank you to the generous support of so many people and organizations, we are at 80% of our Y Partner Campaign Goal of \$106,700 which totals \$85,535 in pledges.

If you haven't pledged to support this year's campaign, please consider doing so. We can all help change the lives of young people simply by making a contribution. The campaign doesn't wrap up until March, so there's still plenty of time to give! It's fast and easy to do, just go to giveMN.org and search for YMCA Camp St. Croix.

Hiedi M Young

Y Partner Volunteer Chair

**Camp St. Croix builds community
and teaches respect for self, others and
nature through summer camp, outdoor education and retreats.**

Director's Comments - by Tom Kranz

This has been a great year at Camp St. Croix as we remember the successes of the last 100 years and begin our second century of camping. We have grown into one of the largest camping programs anywhere, serving over 20,000 young people in a variety of program opportunities on an annual basis.

100 years ago, Camp St. Croix was a summer camping program serving young boys from the St. Paul area. Over the past 100 years camp has changed a great deal, but the reason kids have come to camp has not changed. We have many additional opportunities for young people to experience and we have positively impacted them all.

As we begin our second 100 years Camp St. Croix programming has indeed grown and changed. We are now a summer Overnight Camp that is available to boys and girls from 7 to 16 years old. We also have DayCroix, our Day Camp program that serves thousands of young boys and girls each summer. In addition, we have many Fall, Winter and Spring programs including Outdoor Education, Team Building, Conferences and Retreats, as well as programmed weekends that serve thousands of young people and individuals of all ages. Another great community program is our annual Croixathlon, which is put on by a group of dedicated volunteers and had over 250 participants last year. Finally, we have recently been fortunate to be able to develop a partnership with the new River Crest Elementary School, across the highway from Camp St. Croix to operate a School Age Child Care program on a year round basis.

Many things at camp have changed over the past 100 years and things will continue to change over the next century, but our mission will be the basis for all that we do. Camp St. Croix builds community and teaches respect for self, others and nature through summer camp, outdoor education and retreats.



Women's Weekend

Camp continues to host an annual Spring and Fall Women's Weekend. Participants are able to enjoy camp's ropes courses, hiking trails, great food, beautiful sunsets, campfires and the instruction of many YMCA fitness instructors. The Women's Weekends are annually in May and November. You do not need to be a member of the Y to enjoy this great weekend. Details along with Registration Forms will be available at the Camp St. Croix website.

2010 Dates: May 7-9, November 19-21



Outdoor Education

Where would you here students cheering excitedly for people falling in the snow? No not the Olympics, but Camp St. Croix! This winter you heard plenty of positive cheering as students participated in learning how to Cross Country Ski. Skiing is one of the most popular winter classes picked by schools attending camp through the Outdoor Education program. Some of the other fun activities students experienced this winter were making snow shelters called Quinzees, learning how to track animals, and visiting the frozen St. Croix River!



As the snow started to melt and the days got warmer, something other than students are running through camp. The sap in the Maple trees has started to run and give the trees its' energy to come out of its' winter slumber! Students are learning the process of maple syruping from its Native American history, to collecting and boiling the sap, to making the end result, Maple Syrup! So if you are on camp and you smell a delicious aroma of syrup, stop by the Sugar Bush and witness the transformation of sap to syrup! See you soon!

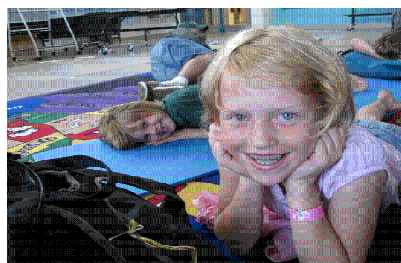
King Leadership Camp News

This fall the King Leadership Camp (KLC) program took some great leaps forward. This Fall was the best attended in KLC ever! Starting with the 1st years setting a record for largest group at a fall retreat there were over 35 kids attend the past fall 09! With our new programming direction of Activism I can see many hands made for very light work. The 1st years decided that gangs was the most important topic facing them and they would develop a camping experience for kids who are at high risk for gangs. The second years took a cue from our community service at Family Place a day shelter for families and decided teen homelessness was the most important issue for them. The 2nd years developed a camping retreat for homeless kids/teens. Finally on the cold weekend our 3rd years met they developed a very precise action plan for increasing the amount of trees planted in their neighborhood and at camp. We will also be moving forward with our first ever KLC Youth Board coming this Spring!



Remembering Andrew Perry Robbins

Past and present camp staff are grieving the loss of Andrew Perry Robbins. Andrew passed away at the age of 38 on January 1, 2010, with his immediate family by his side. When Andrew was on the staff in the late 80's and early 90's he was the master of making the mundane fun and the special absolutely extraordinary. His creative spirit and tireless energy will be remembered and missed by a whole generation of Camp St. Croix campers and staff. Donations may be sent in his name to the Andrew Robbins Memorial Fund c/o YMCA Camp St. Croix. Over 55 donations have been received already. There will be a gathering in his honor at 7pm on Friday, May 28, out at camp. Please join us for a campfire and an evening of remembering Andrew. Be prepared for a rousing round of *Cow Town*.



Gabrielle "Gabby" Meyers Camper Highlight

Gabby is a year round Camp St. Croix participant. She attends the River Crest School Age Care Program in the Fall, Winter, Spring and DayCroix and Outdoor Adventure in the Summer.

Her Favorite Camp Memories are ALL the Wonderful Counselors and the day her group was at the beach and found clams.

Her Favorite Camp Skit is Mrs. Crumby's Toxic Cake Mix.



Amy Schneider Staff Highlight

Amy is excited to be the new Senior Program Director at YMCA Camp St. Croix. She believes strongly in the impact of the camping experience for people of all ages.

In 1999 she began her career with the YMCA where she pursues her dream of providing kids the opportunity to learn about the natural world around them through educational adventure and fun.

She herself has a love for the outdoors, spending her free time, camping, climbing and backpacking with her family.



John Huber Volunteer Highlight

John is a current member of Camp St. Croix's Program Committee. He has been instrumental in helping us develop the garden on the north property, which has also allowed us to create a new specialty day camp program around the garden!

Not only does he currently volunteer his time and talents but he is an alumni as well.

Favorite camp memories, long canoe trips down the St. Croix and Flambo rivers. Campfire skits, and seeing great campers come back as passionate staff.

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DayCroix

Another Summer at DayCroix is just around the corner. We are very excited to see all the kids back at camp. We are also looking forward to our 2nd year of our Outdoor Adventure Program that is run out of River Crest Elementary. The campers come and spend ½ a day at the school and the afternoon at DayCroix, than back to the school to end their day. The DayCroix staff rotate between DayCroix and Outdoor Adventure. We are bringing camp to school!

We have 3 new Specialty Camps at DayCroix, Farm Camp, Planes Trains and Automobiles, and Dragon Fairies and Princesses. With many returning staff and great new staff, this is going to be another amazing summer at Camp St. Croix!



Donation Wish List

Small Pickup Truck - in good working condition
Hiking Backpacks - junior size
Mini-Van
Golf Carts - (electric or gas)
Aluminum Rescue Boat & 15-25hp Motor
Aluminum Pontoon Boat to hold 15 people
Lawn Mowers
Hand Tools
Hydraulic Wood Splitter
Garden Tools
Rototiller
Carpet Remnants 10'x12' or larger, gently used
Medication Cart

Not sure if what you have would make a good donation? Please give us a call at 715-386-4380 and ask for Jill Brittain or Tom Kranz. Remember donations are tax deductible.

Upcoming Events

- April 8 Camp St. Croix Info Night @ East YMCA (St. Paul) 7-8 p.m.
- April 15 Camp St. Croix Info Night @ Northwest Family YMCA (Shoreview) 7-8 p.m.
- April 18 St. Croix County Earth Day 1-5 p.m. @ CSC
- May 2 New Camper Orientation 11-3 p.m. - summer brochure correction**
- May 7-9 Spring Women's Weekend
- June 14 1st week of DayCroix
- June 20 Session 1 of Overnight Camp

NEW Event this FALL! *Friends and Family Camp Weekend!*

SAVE the DATES of September 3-6. Camp will host you and your family for a weekend at camp!

Detailed information on housing, activities being offered, registration process etc. Will be coming soon!



Keep in touch with Camp Events and Activities at: www.campstcroix.org



Become a FAN of "YMCA Camp St. Croix"

Reconnect and stay in touch with all who love camp!

Special Note To Readers of The Croix Caller Newsletter

The Croix Caller is now being delivered in an electronic format via email. If you do not want to continue receiving our newsletter, please email us at: info@campstcroix.org and type REMOVE in the subject line.

Thank you.