

# Summer 2023 Recap

It's almost October and I just realized we never sent out an update on summer! If that doesn't communicate how busy we have been I'm not sure what will. Summer was another full one where we served almost 3,200 students and staff from 57 churches. Camp was consistently full from the first weekend of June till the middle of August. Things kicked off in a great way when one of the first groups of the summer had 12 kids get baptized at the state park across the street! Praise God for the way he moved in the lives of students this summer.

Our staff is such a key component in making summer function well and we are so thankful for each and every one of them. We were fully staffed in every area this summer which we realize is a huge blessing and we do not take it for granted. I heard comments from a number of youth pastors about how thankful they were that our staff sat in on every session, ate meals with the students, and ran activities with excellence. Thank you so much to those that prayed for the groups as well as for our summer staff this year. God moved in mighty ways! Most groups have already booked again for next summer and we are gearing up to do it all over again in just a few short months!









## Feedback from Youth Pastor's

We love getting feedback from Youth Pastors on their experiences at camp, how their trip went, and how God was moving in the students lives! Here are just a few snippets of these God moments from this summer:

- Two of our students gave their lives to Jesus and we experienced the beginning of a new cohesiveness between our youth as a result of our time at EU.
- So many students pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, grew closer together as cabins, and pushed each other to take next steps in their faith with Jesus.
- A HUGE way we saw God was in the solo times that students had. I've been on a number of youth trips over the years, and this is the first time I had students so fully engage with their alone time with God
- The space we had to just be with students (instead of managing the logistics of campsite, meals, and moving people) was a blessing relationally that allowed for us to engage in intentional conversation over the three days together
- We had amazing sessions where God really worked through our kids.

### Fall Plans

Fall used to be considered an off season for us. That is no longer the case and in a lot of ways the next few months will be just as busy as the summer. Every weekend from Labor Day to Thanksgiving is spent hosting large groups and the week days are filled with outdoor education, school retreats, and construction projects. We will of course throw in a staff retreat and some other fun trips here and there!

## Higher Ground Pavilion

We have added another upgrade to higher ground by building a roof over our fire pit!



#### New Chapel

The ground is cleared and now we are working on drawings and permits! The plan is to start construction on this project by the end of October. This new chapel will solve a lot of meeting room issues and we are excited to begin. We are not fully funded for this project, but we will push forward anyway and pray that God will provide!



# Compass Update

We are excited to welcome a new group of 9 Compass students! They just returned from a 21 day trip in Canada where they were canoeing and portaging deep in the wilderness. Please pray for them as they continue to transition to life at camp and begin this new adventure. The students joining us this year are: Holly, Brielle, Abby, Clara, Reael, Arden, Kate, Elijah, and Caleb. We are excited for what God has in store for them.



#### Note from Director - Steve Higgins

Thanks for your prayers! This was another productive summer and we are humbled by the way God continues to use us and this ministry. Please continue to pray as a number of us will put down our climbing harnesses and pick up our toolbelts for the next several months. We have a lot planned and are excited to look for new ways to better serve the groups that come to Expeditions.

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KEEP THE FAITH!

## Staff News

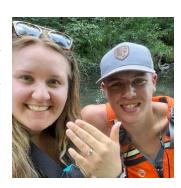
A lot has been happening with our staff these last couple of months! Please keep us in your prayers as we expect to see a lot of transition happening over this next year.

## Engagements!

Jeff and Sabrina: A lot of staff come to Expeditions and end up finding love! Jeff and Sabrina have been dating for a couple years and last winter decided to get engaged! We are excited for them and their new life together.



Morgan and Brant: This fall Morgan and Brant decided to take the next steps in their relationship and got engaged as well! Marriage is such a good gift from God, and we are excited for them to experience life together.



## Bryant Family Leaving

We are sad to announce that after 6 years of service, Kelly and Sarah are moving on from Expeditions Unlimited. Kelly will be taking a job as the associate pastor at a local church. While we are glad that their family will still be close, we will miss having them live on camp and involved in our daily lives. Kelly has brought a lot of structure to the organization and he and his family will be hard to replace.

#### New Staff Members

We had such a good crew of Compass students last year that we asked a number of them to stay on full time this fall! **Sam**, **Robyn**, **Nicole**, and **Eleesa** will be spending the next year with us serving in various roles. With all the projects we have planned we are thankful to have so many people joining us this year.

**Edgar and Valerie Inda:** Edgar and his family attend a local church and have been praying for a couple years about pursuing a life of full-time ministry. When they heard that Kelly and Sarah were leaving, they approached us about joining our full-time family and helping fill some of the gaps that Kelly will leave. Edgar is currently working as a carpenter and will bring a lot of skills and knowledge to the maintenance team. We are excited to have them on board!



Expeditions Unlimited continues to function and grow thanks to your prayers and generous support of this ministry. If you haven't already, would you consider partnering with us in reaching students for Christ?

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ towards the ongoing ministry of Expeditions Unlimited	
I/We would like to commit to partnering with you financially on a monthly basis	Expeditions Unlimited E11844 County Rd. DL Baraboo, WI 53913
Please direct my donation to the New Chapel Project  Name:	Phone: (608) 356-4004 Fax: (608) 356-4185
Address:	Email: Info@expeditionsunlimited.com Website: www.expeditionsunlimited.com
City:	

You can also give online at  $\underline{www.expeditionsunlimited.com/give}$  Expeditions Unlimited is a 501c(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible

How often would you like to hear from us?

(No need to answer again if you've already told us your preference)

☐ Each time I donate.☐ End of the year only.

Giving just got easier! make a donation by scanning the code.



Here are a few extra pictures of the summer for those of you who don't have social media!

