



## Summer 2021 Update

It's almost like 2020 never happened! The ops center is rebuilt and full of new gear. Summer was incredibly busy with returning churches and new groups. Fall is booked with weekend retreats, outdoor education, and some major construction projects are underway! It's nice to be back in full swing and moving forward once again. This summer we served over 60 different groups and almost 3,000 students and staff! We are back to busy, and it feels great.

We approached this summer fully booked. Never before have we had a waiting list for churches trying to get in! After a year of shutdowns and uncertainty, students were eager to get back to some sort of normalcy. We are so thankful that we were able to play a small part in the Lords work this summer. We are thankful for the privilege we have to serve youth pastors by providing a place for them to connect with and teach their groups. Students are hungry for the truth of the gospel, and it was exciting to see the Holy Spirit working in their hearts. Midway through the summer we served a group that had 15 students come forward to receive Christ for the first time! 2 weeks later another group had 21 students step forward! This is in addition to the number of students that grew in their understanding of the Lord and His great love for them. Every year students are facing new challenges at school and at home, and they need a place to retreat and regroup more than ever. We are thankful that we can provide such a place for them year after year.



## Fall Plans

After each summer we are excited for the routine that comes with the next season. We go from working every day to settling into a sort of rhythm with actual days off! That doesn't mean we slow down though. We keep busy with groups every weekend, outdoor education during the week, and continue to build and improve camp. This fall we have our work cut out for us.

When we first moved to Baraboo we converted an old house on the property into our coffee shop and community building. We named it Higher Ground because we desired to see it become a place where students could take their relationship with the Lord to the next level. It is a favorite location for groups to hang out, play games, and stay up late having life changing conversations. This building was in rough shape when we converted it. 17 years and tens of thousands of students later it is in dire need of an upgrade! *(Continued on next page)*

## Fall Plans(Continued)

Thanks to the generosity of Chapelstreet Church, this project is fully funded! Demolition is completed and construction is well underway! We hope to have the building completely finished by the end of the fall.

Along with redoing Higher Ground, we will begin the remodel of Peshtigo cabin. It is another building that has been deteriorating over the years and is in dire need of renovation!

In addition to remodeling buildings, we will also be working on developing a mountain bike trail. Our plan is to purchase a number of bikes and add another activity to our list of things a group can choose to participate in. Bikes are hard to come by now days, but we figured if we build it they will come. We have begun cutting trees and clearing brush and will continue working on this trail over the next few months.

## Work Weekend

We had another great group of volunteers attend our work weekend and got a ton of projects completed! Trees came down, siding was hung, trees were planted, weeds were pulled, a building was gutted, wood was split and chipped, and much more. Thank you so much to all those that served with us! You continue to be a vital part of this ministry.



## Compass

Another Compass year is well underway! This year the Boundary Waters was closed because of fires and Canada was closed because of COVID so the crew tried something new. They embarked on a triathlon of wilderness experiences and spent 21 days canoeing, backpacking, and climbing. We are excited for what this year holds for these 6 students!

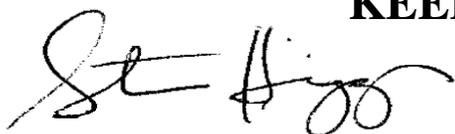


## Note from Director - Steve Higgins

*Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me. When the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name. Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering. Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name. Matt Redman – Blessed Be Your Name*

Our summer theme this year was keep the faith. Keep the faith when times are hard and we are faced with adversity. Keep the faith when times are good and blessings are being piled on. We have been on a rollercoaster over the past year. To go from having staff sitting around last summer to wishing we had more time to sit around this summer was quite an experience! We often don't understand why God lets things happen the way that He does, but every once in a while we get a glimpse of His plan and realize that its better than we could have hoped for. We felt like that was true over these past couple of years. Thanks to the ops center fire, we are better prepared for the future. Thanks to COVID, students hearts were ripe for the working of the Holy Spirit this summer. Thanks to staff changes, camp programs were modified and strengthened. God continues to work and move and regardless of what He brings our way, we pray that we will continue to choose to...

**KEEP THE FAITH!**



## Thank you

This summer a local church decided to raise money for Expeditions during their week of VBS. Over the week, dozens of kids donated money for a new canoe trailer. The parents soon caught the vision and donations started piling in! Thanks to their generosity, we were able to purchase a new trailer that is able to haul 20 boats! We are already getting ready for summer 2022!

