



OUTDOOR EDUCATION, RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

1956-2021 / CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE AND 45 YEARS OF KIWANIS STEWARDSHIP

KIWANIS CAMP WA-RI-KI

Email: campdirector@campwariki.com

Website: www.campwariki.com

360-837-3168

17051 Washougal River Road

Washougal, WA 98671-7115

Mailing: PO Box 18, Washougal, WA 98671

FRIENDS OF CAMP WA-RI-KI

Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki, located in Washougal, Skamania County, Washington is 18+ acres of beautiful land in the heart of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. **It is our mission to provide an outdoor experience that offers optimal development of at-risk youth and our communities through recreational, educational and leadership opportunities.** We offer programs in four categories: Nature-based Learning; Leadership and Personal Development; Fun, Exploration and Adventure and Outdoor Skills. Many camp activities integrate with local school's STEM and STEAM curriculum.



Our Camp is premised on three key concepts which weave together multiple strategies to create a strong, sustainable nonprofit organization. Keys to success are: 1) Adoption of American Camp Association (ACA) accreditation and program evaluation standards; 2) Integration of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and STEAM (STEM plus Arts) activities and life skills programs that meet public school curriculum standards while providing tools for positive human growth; and 3) Put into practice community outreach strategies that builds diversified participation in governance, programs and camp usage.

This document represents an overview of a more extensive business plan. At the beginning of each section in the plan we present two blocks of information. The first set highlights our five-year strategic (2015-2020) goals. The second set reflects keys to success – those conditions when met, will define Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki for the next decade. The text of each section strives to articulate our history, Kiwanis values, strategic goals, and program outcomes - ultimately defining our position as a leader in outdoor education programs where everyone is welcome. We are happy to share the full plan with you – just let us know if you are interested in a presentation!

Through strategic leadership development we will strengthen our Board of Directors and initiate a Counselor-in-Training program for youth ages 14-18. We will also work with local colleges and universities to recruit leaders-

in-development through such programs as social work, recreation, health, physical fitness, life sciences and STEM programs. We will build on the wisdom and skills of experienced adults while providing a pipeline for young, emerging leaders to lead, learn and grow.

Our camp has been in continual use since its inception in the 1950s as the Larch Mountain Honor Camp for Inmates. Infrastructure needs are many as we work to protect the environment and grow programs based on learning to respect the elements represented at camp – water, air, fire, food, forest, and personal growth.

Sustainability of programs and facilities requires significant financial investments including a minimum annual operating budget of approximately \$200,000 and capital projects of more than \$625,000. The annual operating budget will grow commensurate with staff growth. Care of the land requires upgrading environmental impact systems (water, sewage, garbage) as well as rehabilitation of aging existing structures. New structures planned will expand accessibility, increase age-appropriate activities, and improve onsite housing. By expanding overnight camp experiences, increasing number of day camps offered and strategic partner rental agreements we will strengthen our financial position. By developing diversified income channels such as donor programs, business support, special events, merchandising and capital investments – our mission will be fully funded.

Our vision is clear - serve our communities through Kiwanis values that call on us to improve ourselves and the condition of our neighbors; strive to meet high standards of professionalism and nurture mutual respect for all.

**We invite you to be a part of Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki's continuing story.
Come meet us at Camp – it will change your life.**



MILESTONES

The camp's grounds were used by the Larch Mountain Honor Camp for Inmates after it was built in the 1950s and into the 1960s. In 1973, the grounds were turned over to the Kiwanis organization to run a camp serving children with special needs, as well as the elderly. Over the years it has transformed into an outdoor school setting where area school districts and organizations utilize the grounds and facilities to teach, learn and grow.

Most recently, the camp has been used by church groups, schools, and other community organizations. Physical structures have undergone extensive remodeling in the past few years including new dorm mattresses and completely remodeled bathrooms; plumbing and electrical updates; a new Retreat Center opened and a new firepit with a central stage area were built.

- 1950 Facilities Built as Larch Mountain Honor Camp for Inmates.
- 1973 Kiwanis organization was granted authority a lease to serve youth with special needs.
- 1975 First outdoor school.
- 2000 10-year lease is signed by the camp's Board and Skamania County.
- 2012 50-year lease is signed by the camp's Board and Skamania County.
- 2014 Extensive remodeling begun including a new Retreat Center.
- 2016 Significant remodeling completed to the dorm bathrooms, utilities, and roof.
- 2017 Replaced gym roof and renovated outdoor stage seating.
- 2018 Painted exterior walls of Dorm, Retreat/Apartment & craft room building; repaired craft room floor supports.
- 2019 First time receiving the [GOLD GuideStar Seal of Transparency](#). We have maintained this status every year since!
- 2020 COVID-19 closes camp in mid-March creating critical income loss.
- 2021 Accepted as the only camp in Washington State to become a partner in the NASA GLOBE Goes to Camp program. The Retreat Center multi-media installation was completed. Safety policies and procedures to prevent spread of COVID-19 are developed.
- 2022 Renewal of the [GOLD GuideStar Seal of Transparency](#)

PARTNERSHIPS

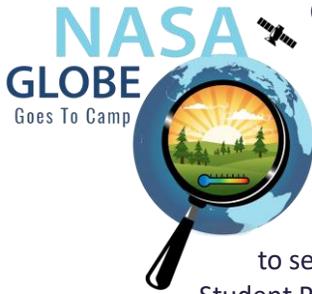


We appreciate the many organizations that call Camp Wa-Ri-Ki home and welcome others to explore the benefits of partnering with Camp Wa-Ri-Ki. Partnerships have included organizations, clubs, churches, schools, families, and other groups that rent the camp for one or more days. Some of our partners come to camp with their own instructors and activities already designed. Some groups look to Camp Wa-Ri-Ki to provide outdoor education activities for their attendees.

Our Retreat Center and Conference Center along with the extensive grounds provide a unique opportunity for team building, personal discovery and getting in touch with nature through programs designed and led by outdoor education enthusiasts and professional instructors.

PROGRAMS: STEM/STEAM, PERSONAL GROWTH, FUN!

Our programs are divided by age group to allow peer-learning, appropriate outcome measures and to ensure safety of participants. The age divisions are as follows: Pre-school (3-5 years); Adolescent (6-9 years); Middle School (10-13 years); Young Teen (14-18 years) and adults.



Our curriculum includes but is not limited to the following subjects and areas of interest. Many areas are developed through a partnership with the **NASA GLOBE Goes to Camp** program. "GLOBE has chosen to use the National Science Education Standards published by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, selected additional content standards that GLOBE scientists and educators feel might make appropriate additions to standards, and the National Geography Standards prepared by the (U.S.) National Education Standards Project. In addition, the teacher's search tool allows for users to search by specific Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) or Student Performance Expectations (SPEs).

Nature-based Learning

- 🌲 Ladybug Garden
- 🌲 Flora & Fauna Identification
- 🌲 Forest Health and Ecosystems
- 🌲 Indigenous and Cultural Awareness Days
- 🌲 Nutrition and Food Systems
- 🌲 Small-scale Biological Survey

Leadership and Personal Development

- 🌲 Challenge Course
- 🌲 CPR/First Aid (Level I: Basic | Level II: Certification)
- 🌲 Life Skills Training
- 🌲 Tai Chi and/or Yoga Meditation Retreat
- 🌲 Team Building Skills and Challenges

Fun, Exploration and Adventure

- 🌲 Art in the Garden
- 🌲 Angler Education
- 🌲 Archery
- 🌲 Hunter Education
- 🌲 Nature Made Arts and Crafts (rock painting, pinecone decorations, etc.)
- 🌲 Nature Photography and Photojournalism
- 🌲 Outdoor Cooking
- 🌲 Sketching and Journaling
- 🌲 Stars and Stellar Exploration

Outdoor Skills

- 🌲 Camping Basics (Shelter set-up, fire safety, tool use/safety, etc.)
- 🌲 Cartography and Earth Observation Systems
- 🌲 Orienteering and Geocaching - Basic Unit and Advanced Unit
- 🌲 Survival Skills - Short Unit and Long Unit
- 🌲 What Knot to Use



Following ACA Youth Outcomes Battery (YOB) we will measure how our programs impact participants. The YOB provides standardized measures for youth aged 6 years through 17 years. We will focus our programs on these demographics.

Our goals for pre-school aged children (3-6 years) are simple and engaging. Following the model set forth by the Corvallis Environment Center¹ who explains their pre-school program as:

“Activities, games and art focus on place-based learning through inquiry and investigation of nature’s seasonal cycles. We learn the alphabet through nature’s themes, and identify letter sounds and small words as they are ready. Math concepts such as counting, measurement and early literacy are integrated throughout the curriculum. Experiments and nature games prepare students for following directions and improving social skills like sharing and teamwork.”

We also provide programs for adults using standards created through local outdoor education programs and partnerships. The results of these evaluations are shared with the Board of Directors and Staff through dashboard reporting and in documents like our annual report.



COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM

Creating a leadership pipeline while providing meaningful relationship building, life skills training and deepening respect for the great outdoors is a top priority for Camp Wa-Ri-Ki. We are following nationally recognized curriculum to develop our CIT program.

Dr. Christopher Thurber² writes, “Having an intentional internal leadership development program means developing a program where older campers can engage in leadership and decision-making in their camp groups and for the camp as a whole. If internal leadership development is a staffing priority, camps will hire the best because camp directors will have first-hand and long-term knowledge of the people whom they are hiring, and

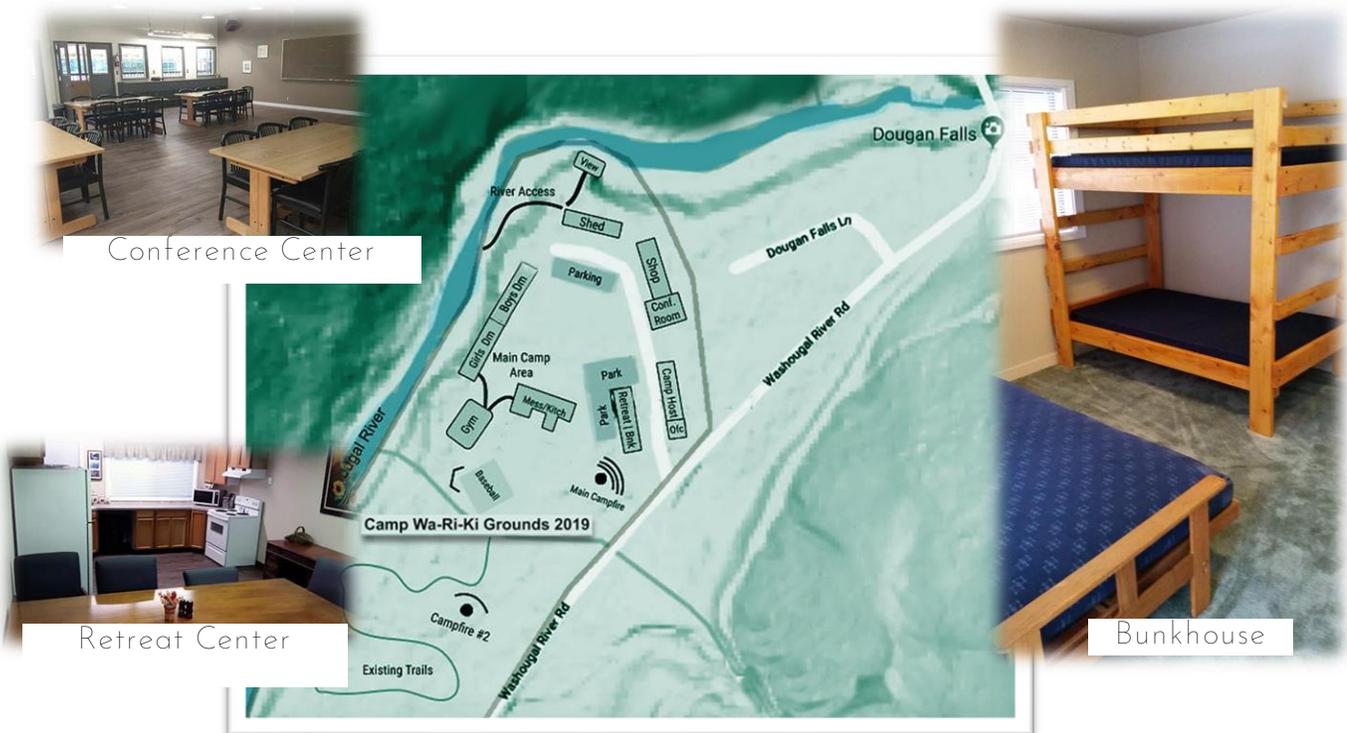
¹ Learn more Corvallis Environment Center: <https://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/natureplay>

² Dr. Christopher Thurber is a board-certified clinical psychologist, educator, author, and father. He earned his BA from Harvard University in 1991 and a PhD in clinical psychology from UCLA in 1997. A dedicated teacher from a young age, Chris has taught elementary school French, undergraduate courses in psychology, and swimming and sailing to people between the ages of 8 and 80. Chris now has more than 30 years of experience working with camps and independent schools

young staff will have intimate knowledge of the camp's physical layout, traditions, and philosophies before their first day of work. Counselor training in this conceptual model is multi-seasonal; it encompasses the years as senior camper, counselor-in-training (CIT), junior leader, and the beginning years of group leadership. Among other benefits to a program designed in this way is the strength of leadership training experiences. If new hires are already familiar with the camp, training can focus on different leadership styles or how to handle camper issues rather than on mundane matters as the layout of the camp, the schedule, and the location of the bathrooms."

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

In an environment such as an outdoor camp, facilities, grounds, and equipment play a critical role in the delivery of programs and safety of participants. We have identified several capital improvements necessary to maintain or upgrade parts of the camp's 45+ year-old systems. From buildings to landscape and from septic to roads our investment in this 18+ acre facility is substantial. We anticipate costs to reach at least \$750,000 for appropriate stewardship of the Camp.



*"The organized summer camp is the greatest contribution
America has made to education."*

Charles W. Eliot, President of Harvard from 1869–1909

Have you ever tried setting up a tent in a wind and rainstorm?

That is exactly what the impact of COVID has felt like to us. The onset of COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on many individuals, communities, and nonprofit organizations, including Camp Wa-Ri-Ki. We miss our campers. We miss watching kids run and play, being creative, sharing stories and singing songs.

We need **YOU**, our past organization partners, funding partners, and angel donors, now more than ever. The Board of Directors recently adopted a "Safety First" reopening plan, which can be found on our website. With COVID-19 status continually changing with the introduction of a vaccine, continued masking, handwashing and safe-distancing, we are thinking forward and preparing to greet campers once again!

Here are a few projects on the drawing board. Your donations today will help campers have a fun and challenging experiences at camp this summer! Please visit our website at <https://campwariki.com/contact-us/donate/> to make your important contribution today. **Thank you!**

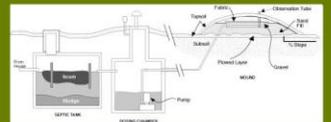
Archery Field



Low Ropes Course



Infrastructure Upgrades



- Engineering \$3,500
- Permits \$750
- New tanks/Drain field \$11,000
- Excavation \$2,500
- 30 hours labor \$2,250
- Total cost: \$20,750**

Protecting our Environment

Replacing a septic system isn't as fun as camping workshops but it is necessary for a healthy camp environment.

