

EMBERS

2024 CAMP STAFF BIOS

We are excited to introduce to you the highly capable yet super fun Campfire Summer 2024 Staffers!

Nancy Vink

SCC CHAIR

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below,

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen"

As we gear up for another summer at Campfire Bible Summer Camp, this song reverberates over and over in my head. Praise God for blessing Camp with another summer, Praise God for providing the best staff to serve at Camp this summer, Praise God for the hard work of the Board, Summer Staff Committee, and other committees, Praise God for willing counsellors, cooks, Pals, Handymen, Lifeguards (and the endless list). Praise God that we are blessed to run Camp again this summer!

We eagerly look forward to another summer of seeing Jesus at work in the hearts of the campers and volunteers.

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MEET OUR 2024 TEAM

'MEET THE 2024 TEAM' *continued...*

We anticipate all the fun and crazy moments the Staff will provide. We can't wait to hear God's praise being echoed all around Camp (and in the Wilderness)!

Read further in the Embers, the introductions of the staff God graciously provided this summer. I am so very excited to see how God will use each of these Staff members this summer for His service. Each one is unique, each one has many talents, each one is ready to give of their time for Jesus this summer.

Your prayers are coveted for the Staff as they prepare for the summer! They have already been hard at work since March preparing for a fun summer! Pray for our campers, pray for the counsellors that will guide them, pray for more counsellors and cooks to forward. Above all, join me in Praising God, from whom all blessings flow!



Ben Kampen
DIRECTOR
A.K.A. SCUTTLE

Hello everyone! I am Ben Kampen, and I am excited

to be taking up the role of Director at Campfire this summer! At camp, I go by Scuttle, named after that funny little seagull from The Little Mermaid (1989). I also chose this name because a scuttle can also be a container that

is used to carry coal to a fire. This is, metaphorically, something that I hope to do in a small way this summer (and always) by helping to bring hearts and minds closer to Jesus, setting them ablaze for Christ.

When not at Camp, I live partly in Richmond Hill, and partly in Hamilton. Having completed my B.A. in History last year, I am currently wrapping up my first year in the two-year program at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teacher's College.

Something that I love most about camp is the hundreds of positive interactions that happen every single day. I love the simple, goofy interactions and conversations, the yelled greetings to campers from across camp property, and the more serious, deep conversations that can happen in such a natural way at camp. I believe that these interactions, as simple as they might sometimes be, can be hugely important to a positive experience for both campers and volunteers, and ultimately help to create an avenue for the all-encompassing love of Christ to be shown.

I'm so excited to have these interactions with all of you once again this summer, both with old friends and with new ones! Campfire 2024 is going to be an incredible summer filled with excitement, laughter, and God's wonderful blessings.

I hope to see you there!!

Mikah Feunekes
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
A.K.A. KINDLE



Hi all! I'm Mikah Feunekes, also known as Kindle, and I'll be the Assistant Director for July! I'm currently finishing up my first year of teaching at Guido de Bres Christian High School. I love getting to know all my students and watching them grow in their relationships with each other and with God. It's also why I'm looking forward to spending time with the wonderful people coming to camp this summer! It's so amazing to see God working powerfully in every person every day of camp. Can't wait to see you there!



Benjamin Alkema
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
A.K.A. AMIGO

Hello everyone!

My name is Benjamin Alkema, though at camp I'm known as Amigo. I chose that name because it is the Spanish word for friend, and that's exactly what I hope to be to everyone I meet at camp while sharing the gospel with them!

This summer I have the opportunity to return to camp as the Assistant Director for the month of August! During the rest of the year I work in my family's

HERE ARE THE DATES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JULY 8 - 12 : Glow 1
ages 8 - 11

JULY 15 - 19 : Blaze
ages 11 - 14

JULY 22 - 26 : Glow 2
ages 8 - 12

JULY 29 - 31 : Spark
ages 5 - 7

JULY 29 - AUG 2 : Wildfire
ages 13 - 16

AUGUST 5 - 9 : Flame
ages 11 - 14

AUGUST 12 - 16 : Glow 3
ages 8 - 11

AUGUST 19 - 23 : Ignite
ages 14 - 16

CAMPFIRE
REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!!
CAMP 2024

CAMPFIRE 2024
IS SOON!!!!

'MEET THE 2024 TEAM' *continued...*

greenhouse business in the small town of Beamsville. During my spare time I enjoy playing numerous sports, games and spending time with family and friends.

My favourite thing about Campfire is the Christ-centered atmosphere. There is a real sense of being part of God's community, along with a shared passion and joy that comes from a united goal to praise God by helping others grow in their relationship with their Saviour in each and every activity. It is truly amazing to witness how God works in all the lives of those who take part - campers, counsellors, cooks, and staff alike!

Can't wait to see you there!



Deanna Herbert
AQUATIC DIRECTOR
A.K.A. JAZZ

Hey, hey! My name is Deanna Herbert, but at camp, you can call me JAZZ! I share my camp name with a style of music characterized by improvisation, off-beat rhythms, and creative freedom - characteristics that also perfectly describe life up at camp!

Camp is a break from the normal "rules" of life, a place where screaming and yelling and jumping and dancing and hooting and hollering and singing and praising make up the rhythms of every day. At camp, praise comes so incredibly easy, worship second-nature, prayer a natural part of the routine. It's a place where the sky above and the earth below proclaim the goodness of God, His answered prayers, His beauty and steadfastness.

This year I will be coming back to camp as the Aquatic Director, and I couldn't be more excited! My role on staff will be to keep everyone safe during all water-related activities: from the pond to the pool to the puddles!

While I'm not at camp, you can find me neck-deep in as many different projects and hobbies as I can get my hands on. Professionally, I make costumes for theatre, but lately I've also been spending my free time writing songs and stories, figuring out how to record music, and memorizing monologues to brush up on my acting. Looking forward to meeting you all this summer!!

Alana Otten
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
A.K.A. DELLA



Hey everybody!

My name is

Alana Otten, but you can call me Della this summer! This name means noble and bright, and I pray I may be a shining light for Jesus this summer, and reflect my Saviour as I create friendships with staff and campers. I am very excited to be one of the two Program Directors on staff this year! I look forward to planning all the fun activities at Campfire this summer.

When I am not at Campfire, I am studying at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. I have always enjoyed working with children, so I figured being a teacher was the perfect place for me to be. When I am not in the classroom, you will find me weeding gardens and pruning bushes, going on hikes, spending time with friends and family, chasing sunsets, reading a good book or scanning thrift

stores for the next great find!

I am stoked to be at Campfire this year! In my experience as a counsellor, I am excited once again for the sound of singing praises to Jesus, cozy campfires, and lots of laughing! I look forward to experiencing all that Campfire has to offer, as well as witnessing all the amazing things that God is going to be doing through and for all the people involved.

Kat Tomlin
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
A.K.A. KIPPER



Hey hey

friends! My name is Kat Tomlin although you may know me by my camp name, Kipper! I'm so stoked to be returning to camp this summer as one of two (head) program directors! This means that I'll be running games and activities as well as making sure camp stays on schedule. I can also be found at camp playing sports (specifically volleyball), making tons of friendship bracelets, and ensuring everyone is wearing enough sunscreen and drinking plenty of water.

Camp is one of my favorite places on earth. There is so much peace and joy at camp, not to mention that camp is so much fun. Camp is a place where I feel completely and totally surrounded by God's goodness through prayer, scripture, singing, chapel, exciting games, laughter and even sorrow. I'm so excited to see how God uses the staff, volunteers and campers in various ways this summer. My hope for this summer is that everyone who comes to camp, in whatever capacity, is able to see God's hand, feel His presence,

PROPERTY RENTALS

Henriette VanHof 905.802.9142
rentals@campfirebiblecamp.ca

CAMPFIRE SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

Andrew Hordyk 905.957.5663 | ISA-CA-0218A,
TRAQ 1582 Arborwood Tree Service Inc
info@campfirebiblecamp.ca

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'MEET THE 2024 TEAM' *continued...*

unending love and peace.

Currently, I am working at a greenhouse and I will be returning to University in September to study English and Creative Writing. From there I hope to follow in my parent's footsteps and go to teacher's college to become a teacher.

While I'm not working I really enjoy reading and writing! I spend a lot of time on my creative writing and I have written two first draft novels (hopefully to be published someday.) I also love to write short stories, poems and I spend a lot of time journaling. Some other things I enjoy include (but are not limited to) indie music, cherry flavored soda, going for hikes, baseball, the beach, and art.

I'm so excited to meet everyone who is coming to camp this summer! It's going to be a blast, see you all soon!



Ian DeJong
HEAD MEDIA
A.K.A. VITO

Hello there! My name is Ian DeJong, but at Campfire,

you can call me VITO (which is Latin for life). My position at Camp is Head Media, which means I will spend most of my time taking pictures of all the fun things we do at Camp, uploading them to Instagram for your friends and family to see, as well as selling some awesome swag at our very own Campfire store!

I am currently finishing up a bachelor's degree in international relations at Redeemer University. Before coming to Camp, I will be travelling to the Middle East to teach English as a second language. And beginning in September,

I will enrol in a graduate program at McMaster University, where I will study global politics. When I'm not at camp, I'm either watching basketball, reading a good book, or going for a walk in the sun.

I have been coming to Campfire since I was 6 years old. It has taught me so much about what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a staff member, I hope to keep making Campfire a place where you can encounter Christ in a variety of ways, whether that be through reading the Word, singing, praying, or exploring God's creation. One of my favourite passages to read while at Camp is Psalm 96: *"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day..."* To all campers and volunteers coming to Campfire this summer, I can't wait to see you!



Gavin Helder
MALE HEAD
COUNSELLOR
A.K.A. PAX

My name is Gavin Helder and at camp I will be known as Pax. Pax means peace in Latin! I think that Campfire is a very peaceful place where you can feel God's love!

My role at Campfire this summer is Male Head Counsellor. That means I will be taking care of all the wonderful counsellors coming this summer and assisting them in any way I can!

When not at camp I live in Hamilton, where I just moved to in March from Ottawa. This fall I will be going to Mohawk to finish off my diploma in the Social Work Program. During my spare

time I love to socialize with people, watch sports and go on hikes.

My favorite parts about Campfire are watching everyone grow in their relationships with God and others. I love how everything is God centered and focused on God. I also love the loud and amazing bus ride to Wasaga! Hope to see many of you at Campfire this summer, spreading and sharing the love of Jesus with others! See you all soon!



Elise deBliet
FEMALE HEAD
COUNSELOR
A.K.A. ZIPPY

Hey you! Yes, you!

It's me, Zippy!, swinging by to say a big "Hello!" and "Welcome to Camp!" (even though I know camp hasn't actually really started yet). In reality, my name is Elise deBliet, but, in my opinion, that is far less fun than the alternative: Zippy! I love being called Zippy! because it means bright or spirited, and conveys a sense of fun, enthusiasm, and zest for life. While waking up early each day at camp could be a drag for some, with a name like Zippy!, how could one not wake up in a zippy mood, excited for the adventure ahead?

During my summer at camp, my role on staff will be Female Head Counsellor. Part of my job is training, recruiting, and supporting counsellors as they faithfully shepherd their campers. Walking alongside counsellors and campers while learning and growing at camp is one of my greatest joys.

Speaking of joy, Campfire is a place where we are able to come together, share stories, laughs and tears, and remind each other of God's goodness

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'MEET THE 2024 TEAM' *continued...*

and faithfulness to us. On a more personal level, I get to reunite with old friends, make wonderful new friends, and strive to demonstrate the compassionate friendship of Jesus to all who set foot on the property. Having a front-row seat watching campers, counsellors, and other volunteers form these friendships too reminds me of God's clear presence at camp and in our lives. What a gift it is to see God build friendships based on the truths of His Word!

When not at camp, I am a Grade 6 teacher at Hope Reformed Christian School. There, I am privileged to continue shepherding and teaching covenant children in the ways of Jesus! Outside of the classroom, I spend my time singing and playing a variety of instruments, catching up with friends, cheering on the Leafs (objectively the best team), and checking out the newest trails and hiking spots. Spending time in God's awe-inspiring creation is one of my all-time favourite things to do; I can not wait to do just that with you at camp this summer! Until then, bye for now, friends!



**Chloe
Broersma**
JUNIOR STAFF
A.K.A. PIPSQUEAK

Hey everyone!
My name is Chloe

Broersma, at camp, I go by Pipsqueak. I have the opportunity to go back to camp this summer as Junior Staff. The name Pipsqueak was a camp name assigned to me when I was much younger but it stuck, and took on a deeper meaning as I grew up. Pipsqueak is a word used to refer to

someone who is insignificant or small. When serving at camp we are all only a small part of what goes on but God can use even the smallest actions and the shortest conversations to his benefit. I pray that God can use me, (and every other person at camp), to serve his, much bigger, purpose.

While not at camp, I am in grade 11 at Guido de Bres Christian High School. When I am not at school or working I enjoy, playing music, reading, swimming, or hanging out with friends.

Camp is a very special place where you can see God working so clearly. Through campers becoming best friends with each other in a matter of minutes, or the volunteers who donate their time and shine in their roles. One of the best things about camp is the Christ-centred atmosphere. Chapel, singing, and the prayers that go on at camp bring a sense of community with those around you and allow God's faithfulness and goodness to be shown. I am so excited to see relationships with others grow and relationships with God ignite this Summer. I am looking forward to serving at camp this Summer and I am excited to walk alongside many of you as you do the same! See you there.



**Jocelyn
Scholtens**
NURSE
A.K.A. TROUBLE
SHOOTER

Hey! I'm Jocelyn. At Campfire Bible Camp I'm known as Trouble Shooter, the nurse. I have been a nurse for over 2 decades, mainly in the emergency department.

I love coming to camp and meeting

all the new people and campers every week. When I spot a child, or counselor, or a staff or a cook needing medical attention I rush in to save the day!

At camp you can find me in the med shed! When I'm not at camp I live in Carlisle Ontario with my family. I am passionate about singing, praying and spending time in God's Word. I am an exceptional actress and opera singer. I love to encourage the campers and others to have the best week at camp in God's word and creation.



**Moacir
Campos**
NURSE
A.K.A. PATCH

Hello everyone,
my name is

Moacir Campos. I'm a pediatrician trained in Brazil, with additional training in emergencies and infectious diseases. I took a break in my career to study theology in Canada. At camp, I'm known as Patch. I chose this name to honor Dr. Patch Adams, who inspired a generation of professionals to view patients more holistically, considering not only their health problems but their entire context. Patch also alludes to my role, which is to assist campers and counsellors in administering medications and handling any health emergencies that may arise.

I had the pleasure of experiencing Campfire for the first time last year, and I feel like part of the family today. Amazed by witnessing the Spirit's work in that place, the ongoing enthusiasm, and the good laughs and friendships we make along the way, I'm excited and honored to say that I'll be back this summer. I can't wait to behold the

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'MEET THE 2024 TEAM' *continued...*

natural beauty created by God once again and join in the songs we sing in praise of His wonderful Name!



Sarah Hoebeke,
HEAD COOK
A.K.A. ZOZO

Hello everyone!
My name is Sarah

Hoebeke, but at camp I'm known as Zozo! Named after my first niece, I'd love to show you all the same love I have for her. I have had the opportunity to be a counselor at camp, but this year I will be joining the team as head cook!

I am a trained cook and pastry chef, and I run my own cake business out of my home. I absolutely love camp and I can't wait to cook for you all, filling your bellies with delicious and nutritious meals and sweets! I hope you are all hungry!

Bethany Meerstra,
ASSISTANT HEAD COOK
A.K.A. SUNNY



Hey everyone!
My name is Bethany Meerstra, but at camp you can call me Sunny! I picked this name because I love the sunshine and anything bright and cheerful. It's also a reference to my goal at camp this summer; to let my light shine for Christ!

I'll be serving as the assistant head cook this summer, which means that along with the head cook, I'll be planning and making meals, feeding hungry campers, and encouraging and helping volunteers in whatever way I can.

When not at camp, you can find me curled up with a good book and a cup of tea, playing sports, baking my favourite treats, camping, or doing anything outside in the sun. I am enrolled in the Baking and Pastry Arts Management program at Conestoga College and I plan to start that in the fall, Lord willing.

Some of my favourite things about camp are the night-time campfire sing alongs, the silly games, the Christ-centered atmosphere and all of the amazing campers!

I'm so excited to meet everyone and make you all yummy food so you can stay happy and healthy while at camp!



2023 golf tournament was a huge success and the blessings overflowed to help us get many campers to camp!

Thanks to many of you who are repeat donors and sponsors of this amazing event you helped exceed our expectations!

This year, your support will once again help us raise the funds to improve camp and help needy campers get an opportunity of a lifetime! Campfire has been a vessel for many kids, some of which wouldn't normally have the means to attend a camp like this and in turn come closer to Jesus. With our connections to Streetlight Christian Church, Mercy Christian Church and many other churches across Canada, we have the unique opportunity to commit to one third of our almost 500 campers having a sponsored spot with a priority given to kids in downtown urban settings. We promise that we will use the funds raised today wisely to help us meet this goal as we commit our plans for this summer to God's direction.

We thank our many sponsors and look forward to this year, **May 31, 2024!** We hope to see you there!



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