

# Potosi Pines

## United Methodist Camp



It is our desire to help renew lives through God...

Because of camp I learned who Jesus really is and how to really love him.

(-2014 Jr High Camper)

Since its founding – and initial construction! – by several Methodist Churches within the greater Las Vegas area, Potosi Pines has served as a vital location for rest and spiritual formation. From one-day retreats to week-long summer camps, Potosi is a special and sacred place apart where children, youth, and adults find peace, experience adventurous new activities, and encounter a glimpse of the divine.

As we draft out this annual report for you, we are pleased to share some general outcomes from this past year as well as some specific words (and a story!) about the impact of camp shared with us.

Our ministries at Potosi focus on many aspects of God, faith, community, and recreation. To guide our work, we've established several goals linked to our mission of lives renewed through God. We work...

- 1) ...to ensure campers have fun, feel comfortable being who God created them to be, and encouraged to try new things.
- 2) ...to build confidence and leadership skills in all who participate in our programs

- 3) ...to create a Christian community where all feel loved by God and safe
- 4) ...to build appreciation of God's creation and encourage all to be active in its care.

It is our hope your experience(s) at Potosi are in keeping with these goals, and that you will find within the pages of this



## Annual Report



# 2014

Greetings. We are pleased to share with you this first ever Annual Report about the ministries of Potosi Pines Methodist Camp, highlighting some of the events and outcomes of 2014. We hope you will find it illuminating, and would appreciate your input for next year's. If you have ideas of information to share – and especially if you have a story about the impact Potosi Pines Camp has had for you, a family member, or friend! Please send ideas for next year's report, or your story, by email to Tracey Brown at [director@potosipinescamp.org](mailto:director@potosipinescamp.org).



## Making a difference in the lives of campers of all ages

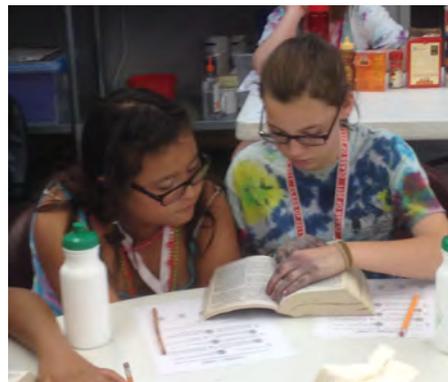
The best news we have to share is the fact that Potosi Pines continues to be a special and inspiring place, impacting the lives of many people, young and old. In 2014, camps and ministries at Potosi served close to 1,800 guests!

In addition to Desert Southwest Conference sponsored camps, Potosi hosted many guest groups included United Methodists and non-Methodist church groups, school groups, service groups, and even some 12-steps groups.

These accounted for 1,520 overnight stays at Potosi this year (or 3,732 "camper days"), with an additional 240 guests who came to the camp for day-time events. Already we are scheduling events and booking guest groups for 2015, and anticipate an active and meaningful year of ministry!

## Leadership Development

A major initiative of our denomination and conference is the development of leaders. Many of our programs provide immersive opportunities for such growth for children, youth, and/or adults. For example, this past year, we had 15 high school youth participate in our Cabin Assistant program, an ongoing ministry of the DSC that helps youth learn skills for leadership and servanthood as they



## Summer Scholarships

Of 141 Summer Camp attendees in 2014, we helped to provide scholarship assistance to 85% of them (or %). We are incredibly grateful to the following for their help assisting these children and youth to attend summer camp:

Brian and Gretchen Wise  
 The Potosi Pines Site Advisory Committee  
 SUN Camp Fund  
 Children's Guild of Las Vegas

## Because of Camp...

Each year we ask campers to share a response to the leading statement, "Because of camp..." Here are a few of this year's responses:

*I love to sing and experience God's nature.*

*I got to do new things.*

*I will show more encouragement to others.*  
 (Elementary campers)

*I got to enjoy a week of exercise with no electronics.*

*I think I became a better person.*  
 (Jr High campers)

*I learned to always believe in who you are.*  
 (Elementary camper)

*I learned that I don't have to be in the "in crowd" and can be the Lord's black sheep.*  
 (Sr High camper)

*I feel a lot better about God.*

*I will never be the same at church.*  
 (Jr High campers)

*I am more connected to God and Jesus.*

*I felt welcomed.*

*I learned how to express myself.*  
 (Elementary campers)

*I learned that anything is possible.*

*I was able to make friends, spend time outside and experience God's love.*  
 (Sr High campers)

## New To Our Camp and Programs This Year

This year saw some positive changes to our site and our ministries.

First, we did a major overhaul of the kitchen, including: new sub floor, new floor, new paint, new lights, upgraded fire suppressant system, a deep cleaning, and a re-organization.

The United Methodist Nomads helped us with the addition of a beautiful expansion to our Dining Hall porch. The new, larger space provides a wonderful place for programs, to dine outside, or to just hang out and enjoy nature!

While perhaps less spectacular, we also moved the maintenance area and dismantled an old trailer previously used for maintenance.

In addition to these site improvements, this past year we added a new Confirmation retreat in the spring. We also had a new dean, Megan, join us this year, and she did an excellent job leading one of our Elementary Camps!

And last, but certainly not least, this year many dedicated volunteers, led by Brian and Gretchen Wise, helped put on a wonderful new carnival and online auction fundraiser that was great fun for all! We raised \$5000.00 to help send kids to camp, and we are already looking forward to the next one on March 28th, 2015!



New kitchen floor!



New porch!



## Some Things We're Looking Forward To

We're looking forward to some new things in 2015, too, including new summer camp options (see back page), and the following:

- Bishop Bob Hoshibata will attend and help lead our Confirmation Retreat this Spring!
- We are planning to add a new "Ga-Ga" ball pit (a form of dodgeball) for summer camp programming.
- We hope to expand the use of our Counselors 4 Christ team.
- We have four new deans contributing to the leadership of our Desert Southwest Conference camps this winter and summer.



## From our Facebook...

Who knew Vegas had such an inspiring and outdoor camp experience for youth?! My son just spent his first week at an overnight camp and he had a blast. He cannot wait to return next year or possibly later this summer. The staff had a great mix of adults and teenagers as counselors and the activities schedule was plenty filled to keep my very active child "on the go." He enjoyed the food, the atmosphere, the staff and the activities. Thank you so much for helping make his first experience the first of many to come.

(from a June, 2014 parent review)

Potosi Pines Camp  
isn't just for kids!



## We've Gone "Social"

This year we began using our Facebook page to share more pics and stories about what is going on at Potosi Pines!

Not only has this helped us to stay in touch with many of you throughout the year, but parents of campers were able to get a daily update about some thing(s) that happened at camp that day!



## The Positive Power Of a Week of Camp

Potosi has had a long, proud history of serving foster children in our area. Thanks to the generosity of the Children's Guild of Las Vegas and the Sun Camper-ship program we are able to help finance many foster children to attend of week of summer camp at Potosi. It is a ministry that brings both challenges and rewards. There are so many powerful stories there but one that has pulled at the hearts of all who have worked with this child is the story of Darren (not his real name).

In 2013 Darren was under the foster care of a personal friend of one of our long time volunteers at Potosi. Julie helped to make sure Darren got registered for camp for the first time in 2013. He came to camp and had a great time that summer and again for winter camp 2014. He was a great kid, friendly and outgoing. He was a joy for all the staff to work with and he had a great time at both of the camps he attended. Then when his summer camp reminder for 2014 came back return to sender in the mail I asked Julie about him. She let me know that he had been moved to another foster home. Through her connections we were able to locate him and again used some of the generous donations to help get him registered for summer camp 2014. Julie had warned me that he was not doing well in his new placement.

I was shocked when Darren arrived for camp this summer. He was a shadow of his former self. He had lost so much weight, he was almost unrecognizable. Simply put, the light was gone out of his eyes. He did not smile and there just seemed to be no joy in him. I know a week away at summer camp could not fix all the problems in Darren's life, I also know were able to give him a few days away from it all. By the end of the week of camp this summer we were seeing more smiles and a little more light in those eyes. He has told us how much camp means to him to get away for a short time and just be a kid. It may not seem like much but it meant the world to him.

I know all of our staff consider it a privilege to work with all of the campers who come to Potosi. We work hard to give them a great week of fun, friendship and God's love. Sometimes you wonder what impact you might have on the campers, but with Darren we could see it there on his face.





# Potosi Pines and the 7 Foundations of Camp and Retreat Ministry

Not too long ago, our General Board of Discipleship adopted the “Seven Foundations of Camp and Retreat Ministry,” which both shares the many benefits of and helps to provide guidance to our United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries.

We are pleased to share a quick summary of these 7 Foundations and some of the ways our ministry at Potosi Pines fulfills them for the benefit of the larger Church.

### Partner with UM Churches and Agencies

Potosi works with the Desert Southwest Conference and its churches and agencies toward our overall mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” All of our ministries, from partnering with DSC-sponsored events to hosting guest groups, is done with our camp’s goals and the mission of the church in mind.

### Provide Sacred Places Apart

Potosi provides “a place apart to be together,” helping visitors to connect with the divine in both natural and community contexts different than our day to day experience. Potosi provides a majestic place to pause from our daily schedules and technologies and appreciate the wonder of Creation.

### Extend Christian Hospitality and Community

Whether it be singing grace at a summer camp or walking a trail with another during a meeting’s break, experiences at Potosi invite participants to connect with one another in Christian community. Spending more time with one another allows us to “get real” with each other, and deepens our connection and relationship. At the same time, our staff extends radical hospitality to our guests, often “going the extra mile” in their support and ministry.

### Nurture Christian Faith and Discipleship

Time spent at Potosi allows participants a bit deeper experience practicing the life of Jesus – shared blessing at communal meals, time in personal and group prayer and biblical reflection, deep conversations, spirit-inspired worship, and even the occasional moment of healing!

### Develop Principled Spiritual Leaders

Many experience growth in leadership at Potosi, and we are particularly excited about our year-long leadership training program, “Counselors for Christ” program. This year, 7 high school youth participated in this mentoring ministry! These and other ministries at Potosi provide a unique and immersive environment to explore and develop one’s leadership skills, from weekend retreats to week-long opportunities of service.

### Teach Creation Care and Appreciation

Just as a visit to Potosi allows one to experience the wonders of desert and mountain, so too many of our programs teach children, youth, and adults to better appreciate and care for the wonders of our world.

### Inspire and Equip Lives for Love and Justice

Times spent in an immersive Christian community at Potosi help to prepare and inspire participants toward lives embodying the love and justice of Christ. Special times “away” at Potosi help to inspire people to embrace life-giving practices and to act more justly and lovingly in their day-to-day contexts.

Read more about the 7 Foundations by visiting <http://www.gbod.org/leadership-resources/7-foundations-of-camp-and-retreat-ministry>



Potosi is pleased to be an accredited ACA camp and a member of the Association of United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries!

# Check Out our 2015 Summer Camps!

Information and registration  
available online at  
[www.DSCCamps.org](http://www.DSCCamps.org)

Elementary 1, June 22 - 26  
"Power Up!"

Elementary 2, July 27 - 31  
"Every Day's A Party!"

Jr High Camp, July 6 - 10  
"Identity Matters!"

Jr High Adventure Camp  
August 3 - 7

Sr High Adventure Camp  
July 6 - 10

Sr High Camp, Aug 3 - 7  
"Identity Matters!"

Family Camp, July 17 - 19

Be sure to mark your  
calendar and join us for  
a special event to raise  
camp scholarship funds.

Potosi Camp Carnival  
March 28, 2015



## New Camps for 2015

We are expanding our Summer Camp options this next year, including youth camps hosted concurrently but running different programs.

First, we are adding two new Adventure Camps! There will be a Jr High Adventure Camp and a Sr High Adventure Camp. Each experience will be limited to apx. 20 campers, and include a variety of more adventurous outdoors activities not included in our usual camp offerings.

Second, we are offering our first ever Family Summer Camp. Children and parents will be invited to join us for a special weekend in July, 2015, to experience the joy and wonder of summer camp together!

Visit [www.DSCCamps.org](http://www.DSCCamps.org), or contact us directly, for more information about these or any other summer camp experience.



POTOSI PINES METHODIST CAMP  
10910 MT. POTOSI CANYON ROAD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89161

Lives Renewed!