



Antiochian Village

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REPORT TO THE ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION July 28-29, 2011 Chicago, IL

The past year was in many ways a remarkable year for our ministry at the camp. Last summer we were reaccredited by the American Camp Association. This signifies that we uphold the highest standards in the camping industry which assures that we are maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our campers and staff. The upcoming year appears to be even more promising as we prepare for the summer camping season. In recent years our attendance has increased from 847 in 2007 to 904 in 2008 to 948 in 2009 to 942 in 2010. At present, we have 1,016 campers and CITs registered for the coming summer season. The growth in attendance is probably attributable to a number of factors (parents commitment to raising their children in the faith, our programming, a committed staff and increased scholarship assistance from the Order of St Ignatius, among others). We continue to promote the camp by visiting parishes with our "Village at Home" program. This sparks a great deal of interest and offers parents to meet our staff and witness our programs in action. As of June 1, our enrollment is as follows:

	2011 Dates	2011	2010
Session 1 (one week)	June 19 – 26	64 of 64	43 of 50
Session 1 (two weeks)	June 19 – July 1	182 of 195	137 of 178
Session 2	July 3 – 15	230 of 254	239 of 250
Session 3	July 17 – 29	247 of 254	232 of 236
Session 4	July 31 – August 12	272 of 272	250 of 250
Byzantine Chanting Camp Session 1	June 19 – July 1	7 of 9	8 of 14
Byzantine Chanting Camp Session 2	July 3 - 15	6 of 14	na
Iconography Camp	July 17 – 25	8 of 14	10 of 14
Family Camp (Spring)	May 27 – 30	37 Families	30 Families

PROGRAMS

The Summer Camping Season serves as the focal point of our ministry at the Antiochian Village, but we starting to experience more balance as we program throughout the year. This summer, as stated above, we will host our largest number of campers ever. Our overall theme of our Christian Education this summer is contemporary moral issues in the context of living a daily Orthodox Christian life. Dn. David Jacobs, our new Program Director, has developed the curriculum with some assistance from Mother Alexandra and our morning program coordinator, Laura Sergent.

In addition to summer camp, Family Camp is well established and is now a strong tradition in which many families come back year after year. This past Memorial Day weekend we had 37 families with us growing together and closer to Christ. Fr. Michael Nasser, our previous camp director, was the keynote speaker for the adults. The program has outgrown our facilities. As Family Camp ended this year, 32 families registered already for next year. We also have a session of Family Camp scheduled for the last weekend in August.

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate*

Winter Camp continues to be a bridge for many campers between summers. We were at capacity for the second session of Winter Camp this past February and housed all of our campers in the camp cabins. Dn. David Jacobs was our keynote speaker for Winter Camp.

Our Sacred Arts Camps (Iconography and Byzantine Chant) are wonderful specialized programs for high school students. These programs have been a natural extension of the summer camping program as we have many young people that wish to learn more about the art of iconography and Byzantine Chant. We bring in teachers for these programs to assist us (i.e. Kh. Erin Kimmett for Iconography). At the start of this summer we also launched a week-long camp for adults focusing on Byzantine Notation.

NON-SUMMER PROGRAMMING

We no longer have an off-season. Between the months of September and May, we are providing a variety of programming from Outdoor and Environmental Education for area schools and civic groups to retreats and other gatherings on weekends to challenge course/team building sessions, as well as running "Village at Home" in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The two areas with the most potential for additional growth is our Challenge Course which may be used for team-building encounters that we facilitate for area schools, businesses and fraternal organizations and our Outdoor/Environmental Education which is organized by Tatiana Jacobs, our Education Director. These areas of programming have great potential to provide serve as significant sources of revenue. One of the related challenges will be staffing to handle these new groups. We are currently utilizing our staff, former summer staff and some staff from the Conference Center, as needed and available, as well Mother Alexandra as her schedule permits.

In the short time that Tatiana has been working on the Outdoor and Environmental Education program, we have already experienced some successful gatherings. The program is still in development and will be for years to come. In the meantime, Tatiana has been successful in attracting new business to the camp. We have a group of homeschooling families in the greater Pittsburgh area that come one day a month for us to run environmental programming for them. We also ran an overnight program for a local Girl Scout Troop this spring. In May, we hosted 120 sixth graders from the Ligonier Valley Middle School for two days of outdoor and environmental education. One of the teachers provided the following feedback:

The kids LOVED canoeing and the challenge course. They also really enjoyed archery. These were the most active and least class-like activities, which makes sense.

The meals were great, too...everyone was excited that the fries seemed like they were actually FRIED, and that everything was way better than school cafeteria food.

Overall the kids had a great time - they were tired out by the end, but it was run smoothly, and the staff was all very accommodating to our needs as a large group.

An additional source of revenue currently being developed is renting the camp to user groups. Later this month we will have two user groups coming to camp that will provide approximately \$20,000 of revenue less the cost of food service. Word of mouth alone is proving to be beneficial. As we are able, we will more aggressively market the camp.

SCHOLARSHIPS

With our increased attendance, we have also experienced an increase in the demand for scholarship assistance which we have been able to fund through the generosity of the Order of St Ignatius. This summer we are scheduled to receive about \$95,915 of the \$175,000 of scholarship funding from the Order. Of the total \$63,439 was assigned by the parishes and \$32,480 is awarded for need-based scholarships. We are continuing to look for other sources of scholarship funding and have specifically targeted alumni (counselors and campers that have benefited from the ministry of our camping programs) and camper families. We have received modest gains by a series of donations to our Alumni Scholarship fund. The Order of St Ignatius has once again offered their support of campers by committing to an extra \$15,000 of scholarship funding this year to be used by our eight Archdiocesan Camp Programs.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

With nearly 50 buildings and a variety of other venues at the camp, there is constant demand for maintenance and upkeep. Most of this responsibility falls on the capable shoulders of our maintenance staff. And on the rare occasion that they are unable to resolve the problem we contact a network of local service providers that are familiar with our facilities. With regard to more significant capital improvements, we have made every attempt to be careful stewards of our funds. In the fiscal year ending January 31, 2011, we had built four double cabins through the generosity of Larry and Cookie Rossy. This completes our reconstruction of the girl's units for camp.

We have worked hard to make improvements as well as provide regular maintenance to the facilities over the past year from our Reserve for Capital Improvements and direct donations. The following is a summary of those improvements and repairs since last fall:

- Purchase of maintenance utility vehicle – \$8,426.50
- Challenge Course – repair and additions - \$9,975
- Convert old cabin into staff housing - \$17,500
- Computer & Software upgrades (for camp, conf, center & archdiocese) - \$3,717.53
- Additional Dell Server for the Camp & Conference Center – \$4,766.67
- Purchase of a wood chipper - \$4,875.95
- Staining of camp buildings - \$8,800
- New Boiler for Cabins 7 & 8 – \$6,277.26
- New garage door for camp house - \$1,090
- Furniture for cabins 25-28 - \$13,441
- Architectural fees for possible new retreat lodge - \$1,675
- New furnace for St Ignatius Church - \$2,877

The following improvements are in various stages of work but have not been completed to date:

- Landscaping – tree row for Unit 2 privacy - \$1,023.00
- New roofing – part of Old Dining Hall, Camp House & 113 Church Camp Trail House - \$15,200
- Tree Trimming & Removal - \$2,340
- Ice Machine for Dining Hall (old one given to Conf. Center) - \$3,500

There are continual needs and new projects to be addressed in the future. We greatly appreciate the work of Fr Antony Gabriel and the Department of Development for their efforts in raising necessary funding.

The ministry of the Antiochian Village is truly blessing for all of us who have the opportunity to participate. On behalf of the campers and staff, I offer our grateful thanks to His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Mr. Robert Laham, all the members of the Village Council and the many members of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch for their consistent support of the camp program. As the Camp Director I found myself quite blessed to share in the ministry with talented and faithful young men and women, our seasonal staff, who freely give of themselves to minister to the children who come to camp. The addition of Mother Alexandra to the Village family is proving to be of great benefit to all who visit the Village, especially our campers and staff. It is a great joy to co-minister at the Antiochian Village with Dn. David Jacobs (Program Director) Marek Simon (Assistant Camp Director), Tatiana Jacobs (Education Director) and Paul Finley, Executive Director of the Conference and Retreat Center and all of our terrific staff. It is my pleasure and blessing to serve our children and the many faithful that come to the Village every year. I thank you for your visit this weekend and hope and pray that you will come back real soon, especially during the summer to see the fruit of the work of the Church when our campers are present.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Anthony G Yazge
Camp Director