

SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP - 2017 REPORT

St. Andrew's Camp celebrated its 60th year of offering an Orthodox summer camping program. Over 100 alumni and supporters were present to reminisce and share memories of the past programs and offered support and ideas for the future programs of the camp. Remembered were founders, early supporters and staff and the Board was honored with a Gramota from the Synod of Bishops for their tireless work in building up the camp. Additionally there was a standing ovation at the dinner for the honoring of two long term directors at the camp- Very Rev John Chupeck and Larissa Sovyrda both of whom worked for nearly 20 years to carry the camp through many successful and meaningful seasons. They ushered many youth into the church and nurtured them through the difficult journey of living as a Christian young person in a society that often assaults our Christian values. It was attested to that the camp brought many alumni into a more active and full participation in the life of the church in the parishes they joined- or lead- as adults. Our Hierarch, Archbishop Michael, who is also President of the Board, spoke enthusiastically about the work that is done at the camp every year and alluded to the needed support in terms of volunteers and contributions to continue this important work and to build up the facilities at the camp. The rebuilding of the Kitchen, dining and recreation areas is the focused project for this 60th Anniversary year.

The camp continues to offer weekly programs focused on ecology, art, music, horses and teens while framing each week in traditional activities of fellowship, liturgical life, prayer and friendships built while swimming, playing sports and going on field trips. Plans for program expansion include a family camp week and a senior camp week. This year campers from 10 of the diocesan parishes, as well as several from our sister dioceses, spent over 90 camper weeks learning about the Orthodox faith and participating in its life daily. Sixty percent of the campers are supported by scholarships. Anyone requesting financial aid was granted assistance as needed. We hope for greater participation next year.

Camping programs are a very excellent way for children to learn about the Orthodox Christian way of life while immersed in a supportive and open Church experience. We are fortunate to have our Bishop there every week, talking with the campers, answering every – and any- question and allowing them to get to know their pastoral leader in a very friendly environment. Seven of the diocesan clergy also volunteered at the camp and they too are always accessible and willing to answer questions and enjoy camp life together.

We welcome anyone interested in volunteering during the camping season- counselors, cooks, nurses and general staff as well as those interested in help clean and maintain the facilities before and after the season. The joy and benefits of being at camp is not only for the campers, but also for the staff and volunteers who will tell you they too grow and mature in their faith while there.

The Camp also hosts and is a setting for retreats, seminars, family reunions, and special meetings. Please call the camp or visit the website for more information about these.

Our annual meeting on November 18th- In Balston Spa- is open in the afternoon session (12-3 at the church hall) to all interested persons and we encourage you to visit us at this meeting or to visit the camp (it is recommended that you call ahead 315 675-9771). You can also email your ideas, or questions to saintandrewscamp@aol.org. You can also visit our website at www.standrewscamp.org