



# Outdoor Ministries News

Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren  
Editor: Dean Wenger  
Summer 2017

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## **OMA National Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond**

The annual retreat for Church of the Brethren camp staff, volunteers, board members and interested friends will be held Nov. 12 - 16 at Camp Blue Diamond near Petersburg, PA. The event is filled with workshops and roundtables designed to empower and aid camps staff and volunteers with their ministry. There will be rest and recreation time built into the retreat, as well as opportunities for informal sharing and fellowship. Registration will begin in early June. Pictured below are some of the camp folks who attended the 2016 annual OMA retreat at Camp Ithiel in central Florida. Thank you Mike & Karen Neff and Marcus Hayden for hosting us!



Cost for the event is about \$200/person. College and seminary students as well as Brethren Volunteer Service volunteers pay half. Scholarships that cover the fee for smaller camps with small budgets and financial need are available, as well as half scholarships for larger camps. To find out more about scholarships check out the OMA-Z Retreat Scholarship information at [www.oma-cob.org/OMAtoz](http://www.oma-cob.org/OMAtoz). Request for aid must be made one month prior to the event to the OMA Treasurer Rex Miller. Scholarship recipients need to be camp staff.

## **Camp Bethel Food Service Coordinator Opening**

**Camp Bethel** in Fincastle, Virginia (Virilina District) seeks a full-time salaried Food Services Coordinator. Culinary experience or training is required, and staff management experience is preferred. This position is available beginning May 30, and must be filled no later than July 1. Employee will overlap and work with our current Food Services Coordinator until July 31. Starting benefits package includes \$29,000 starting salary, optional family medical insurance plan, a pension plan, and professional growth funds. Read the on-line application instructions, a detailed position description and more at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/jobs](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/jobs), or contact Camp Director, Barry LeNoir at [Barry@CampBethelVirginia.org](mailto:Barry@CampBethelVirginia.org).



## Summer Camp Bible Curriculum

If you've ever tried to write your own camp curriculum, you know that it is a huge, time-consuming endeavor. What a blessing to have someone else do the thinking, researching, and design of program activities for a whole week of outdoor ministry! We camp leaders are fortunate to have the InsideOut camp curriculum by Challis Press available to support our efforts as teachers and counselors and representatives of Christ's love.

Based on seven scriptures, this year's curriculum theme is "Branching Out—Connecting Through Christ" and has more than 270 theme-related activities for children and youth, including intergenerational or family camps. It offers extras for a challenge course, arts and crafts, science and nature, games, spiritual disciplines, worship plans, and table talk. Also included are a Biblical and theological overview, daily guides, staff devotions, and additional resources for leaders. Support on the InsideOut Website offers videos, planning and training resources, and even MORE camp activities. You can get plans for eight weeks of day camp, too. What an amazing amount of material!

The flexibility offered by this curriculum allows leaders to create promotion pieces to suit their camps, choose their favorite activities, and construct a program that fits the needs and interests of their campers. You can order the curriculum from Brethren Press, with the same discount offered by the publisher. Go to [brethrenpress.com](http://brethrenpress.com) and click on **Curriculum>Outdoor Ministries**. Order soon so you can explore and enjoy "Branching Out"! Other Resources include the InsideOut website [ChristianCampResources.com](http://ChristianCampResources.com), or check out InsideOut's Facebook Page at [InsideOutChurchCampResources](http://InsideOutChurchCampResources).

For a brief overview of this summer's Bible Curriculum theme, please read the following article by Jerri Heiser Wenger. Rex Miller and Jerri serve as the Church of the Brethren representatives on the interdenominational curriculum planning board. – Jan Hurst

## Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ



*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

When campers come to camp, they will encounter growing things that may not be experienced elsewhere. There are insects, lizards, toads and frogs to be discovered. Trees and plants are bountiful and the all the sounds will remind each camper that they are a part of vast creation. We come as individuals, but through our time together we will discover our connectedness to God, God's people, God's creatures and God's creation.

Our theme this summer is "**Branching Out: Connecting through Christ.**" Camp is a good time to branch out - to make new friends, have new adventures, sleep in a cabin, and make new discoveries about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Campers will try new activities such as swimming, canoeing, and climbing the tower; and they will also discover new things about themselves and their connection as members of the Body of Christ.

In John 15 Jesus tells us that he is the vine and we are the branches. We have two jobs as branches: to stay connected to the vine and to bear fruit. Jesus' life will flow through us if we remain in him. This summer campers will explore ways to deepen their faith in Christ and discover the urgency of remaining connected to the vine, that is, Jesus Christ, and to live together as members of the Body of Christ.

### Don't Forget:

- 1. OMA Staff and Volunteer Award Nominees are Due May 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
(if you still have someone to nominate get a form at [www.oma-cob.org](http://www.oma-cob.org))
- 2. OMA Environmental Grant Proposals are Due May 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
(grant forms and instructions are available at [www.oma-cob.org](http://www.oma-cob.org))

## OMA Mentoring Program

The OMA provides a Mentoring Program to provide support, encouragement, accountability, and training to persons serving for the first time in an outdoor ministry position within the Church of the Brethren during their first three years. Staff moving into a new role or position are also encouraged to take part in the program.



A mentoring relationship can be initiated through a request to the OMA Steering Committee, or the committee may contact a new staff to see if there is interest. Once a request is received, the Steering Committee discerns a suitable mentor who is a current OMA member and has served within a similar role.

During the three-year mentoring relationship, the mentor agrees to maintain regular contact to check in with the mentee as well as to be available to answer questions as they arise. The mentor is responsible to help the new staff member learn about OMA, especially professional growth and networking opportunities, as well as to help them learn and grow in their staff position. Several mentor/mentee pairs are currently participating in the program. If you would be interested in being mentored or serving as a mentor, please contact OMA Steering Committee Chairperson, Linetta Ballew at [linetta@campswatara.org](mailto:linetta@campswatara.org) or (717) 933-8510.

## OMA Presence at Upcoming Denominational Events

**Young Adult Conference:** May 26-28 at Camp Harmony - Conference-goers will have the chance to experience Camp Harmony - one of our amazing OMA camps - and OMA will also have an opportunity to remind Young Adults of opportunities to serve on staff or volunteer at a camp near them!

**National Jr. High Conference:** June 9-11 at Elizabethtown College - OMA will be sponsoring a carnival game during one of the evening activities!

**Annual Conference:** June 28-July 2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan - OMA will be participating in several ways at this year's Annual Conference.

1. Come by the Exhibit Hall to check out our interactive display. Table space is provided at the OMA booth for camps to display brochures or other publicity related to programs or facilities. Be sure to bring or send your display items.
2. The annual OMA Luncheon will be on Friday, June 30th. This is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with camp folks from all over the country with a delicious meal and OMA update. We will also present the 2017 Staff and Volunteer Awards. This year, meal tickets for our luncheon will be subsidized by OMA so they will cost a bit less than other meal events. We hope that means more camp folks will attend.
3. OMA will be sponsoring an Insight Session with Congregational Life Ministries entitled "Let the Children Come: Lessons of Welcome from Camps." This session is scheduled for 9pm on Saturday evening.
4. Randall Westfall (Camp Brethren Heights and OMA Steering Committee Vice-Chair) will be leading a session with the Jr. High Youth Activities.
5. OMA is also co-sponsoring one of the movie nights.



**Inspiration 2017 - National Older Adult Conference:** Sept. 4-8, at Lake Junaluska Conference Center.

1. Leadership from OMA camps will be doing a session on geocaching and a craft workshops.
2. A campfire program will feature s'mores, singing, and stories - just like camp!
3. Stop by the Exhibit Hall to check out the OMA booth with a special focus on camping opportunities for older adults like grand camps, senior adult days, retreats, birding trips, volunteering, and ways to support camp financially now and as part of planned giving. You can even get a rescue bracelet kit for a small donation!

## **Around The Campfire:**

**Shepherd's Spring** (Western – MD) is participating in the American Hiking Society's' National Trails Day on June 3. Participants can explore the camp's trails or the adjacent C&O Canal Towpath trails. There are several options, contact Shepherd's Spring for details.

**Camp Galilee** (WV) is looking for a new Camp Manager and dealing with water system issues. Camp programs and rentals are going well, and we are looking toward a full summer!

**Brethren Woods** (Shenandoah – VA) is working on renovations for the Mountain Lodge as part of its capital campaign. They are hiring a new summer staff position called the Peace and Justice Coordinator/Director. Bethel is making improvements on the low ropes cooperation course and exploring new logo options. Director Doug Philips's daughter, Sarah, is getting married!



After a year of transitions, **Camp Swatara** (Eastern PA) is excited to have a new staff team ready to lead camp into the future! Pictured are First Row (L to R) - Linetta Ballew (Co-Administrator), Sharon Flaten (Office Manager), Adam Stern (Program Manager), Nathan Dieter (Housekeeping Supervisor). Second Row (L to R) - Joel Ballew (Co-Administrator), Rick & Sarah Balmer (Family Camp Manager and Store Manager), Bob Biddle (Food Service Manager), Udo Sommerhoff (Buildings and Grounds Manager) This past winter, the West Retreat was beautifully remodeled as part of the Building Bridges capital campaign. The last campaign project, the renovation of the West Lodge, is in the planning stages.

**Camp Bethel's** (Southern VA) Food Services Coordinator, Brigitte Burton, will enter Law School this fall. We celebrate with a big "Thank You!" to Brigitte for seven excellent years of service in Camp Bethel's Ark Dining Hall. Brigitte's last day at camp will be July 31.

**Camp Mardela** (Eastern MD) is in the midst of a remodeling project of Krabil Hall. Krabil serves as the camp dining hall and large meeting facility. It was built in 1948. Currently the windows are being replaced. These large windows provide ventilation during the warm humid months of summer on the Eastern Shore. Each window comes with a \$2000.00 price tag and there are 11 windows. Window sponsors made it possible to have money on hand before the windows were purchased!



The staff house at **Camp Koinonia** (WA) Pac is going to get a major face lift this year. Also we are going to be constructing a Ga Ga Pit.

**Camp Ithiel** (FL) hosted children's disaster Services training April 2nd through the 7th. Eighteen people gathered to train and be trained to meet the needs of children following disaster. What a blessing to be a part of this great ministry.



**Camp Carmel's** (NC) new bathhouse is over 75 % completed. Most of the work has been completed by "volunteers". We hope to be finished with it very soon. Looks like we will come under budget on this project. So blessed....God is so good.

This summer **Camp Brethren Heights** (MI) will have all new campfire areas complete with new campfire rims and bench seating. We'll also be adding new waterfront amenities such as water lily pads and swimming boundary markers. Camp is finally able to split all the wood that we've

gathered thanks to a newly purchased log splitter. Brethren Heights has a new camp logo in the works and is making signs for our newly developed wilderness area trail system. This year were hosting Song & Story Fest (July 2-8) as well as a new Forest Preschool Program starting this fall!

As the new director at **Camp Eder** (Southern PA) beginning February 2017, Bryan Smith is excited to see God continue to use Camp Eder in new ways, with strong connections to the past. Bryan has a great love for the outdoors and grew up at a Christian camp in Ohio. Bryan believes camping's impact is the greatest asset the church has in creating a changed world.

The **Camp Pine Lake** (Iowa) board has called Douglas Riggs of Welaka, Florida as the new director. Doug grew up in Eldora, IA near the camp. He graduated with a degree in social work from the University of Northern Iowa in 1987. Since graduation Doug has worked as a county Emergency Management Director, the director of youth homes for children with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and as the owner/operator of the Persimmons Point Resort. Doug has adopted and raised eight boys to adulthood, some of whom are now married with their own families. Pine Lake welcomes Doug back to the Eldora area and look forward to working with him to fulfill and expand the mission of Camp Pine Lake.



**Camp Pine Lake** (Iowa) is undergoing a natural prairie reconstruction to reestablish an oak savanna, the type of prairie that would have existed in central Iowa during the Native American occupation of the early 1800's. Last fall the reconstructed area was sprayed with a herbicide to kill off the present plant life. This was necessary to allow native prairie plants the chance to take root. After the first frost the area was seeded with native plants. This year the site will be mowed to discourage weeds, and in 2018 burned off. Every three to five year after that it will be burned again to simulate the natural fires caused by lightning strikes and Native American caused fires. Pine Lake is establishing a curriculum for campers and guests, so the prairie reconstruction can serve as a teaching tool as we talk about God's call for creation care.

**Camp Blue Diamond** (Central PA) is fundraising for the 'Upon This Firm Foundation' capital campaign. There is a goal of \$650,000, and as of April over \$400,000 has been pledged. The campaigns three projects include: a Multi-Purpose Building for recreation, meetings, meals and other large events, renovating the Office, and improvements to the family campground, which include a new bathhouse, new electricity and underground water. This spring CBD had a wicked wind storm and lost about five trees at the beach. One landed on the girl's bathroom and another clipped the canoe shed. Volunteers rebuilt the bathroom and a new canoe shed is being built by a local manufacturer. Camp staff and volunteers have been busy staining the exteriors of several buildings. A fantastic addition to camp is a new labyrinth for prayer and meditation created by intern Amanda Helfrich. Be sure to check it out this November when you come to the OMA National Retreat.

On April 2 **Camp Harmony** (Western PA) held its first Fish Fry and Lenten Service. It was a wonderful experience. We were pleasantly surprised by the number that attended. Presently we are working with a Clean Water Project with our retreat centers' sand mounds and water supply. The Lord has been sending us the proper people to keep us compliant and moving toward the beginning of the summer camp. Progress in rebuilding the summer camp cabins has been steadily happening, and the new buildings are fantastic.



**Camp Mack** (IN) welcomes new staff. Gene Hollenberg, camp volunteer of 40 years and school principal, began his journey as the Executive Director at Camp Mack at the end of the summer of 2016. He is working hard at moving forward with projects at Camp Mack including the replacing the siding on Ulrich Lodge. Gene's past with Camp Mack includes many years of being a Director/Team Leader of camps such as Followers and Creative Arts, being on the Camp Board, and assisting with various leadership training events.

Vanessa Bohannon, former **Camp Mack** summer staff, returned from PA this past fall. She is the assistant cook at Camp Mack while Wanda Gall fills the interim Food Service Director position. Vanessa will begin as our Food Service Director at the end of the summer. She is joined at camp by her husband Phil Bohannon and son Oliver who will be 1 in May.



Mike Kauffman, Guest Service Director at **Camp Mack**, will be retiring at the end of August after 38 years of service at Camp Mack. Mike has held many positions while at Camp Mack. There will be some big shoes to fill as Mike knows the ins and outs of each of the groups that attends camp and has helped many a bride and families to plan those special events at camp. We continue to look forward to seeing Mike as he attends Grand camp with his grandchildren and wife, Deb.



On a trip in late March, Mike and Karen Neff from Camp Ithiel in Florida surprised their **Southern Ohio** counterparts, Karen & Tom Dillon at the Salem Church of the Brethren's Wednesday night supper. The next day Karen Dillon showed them the **Cricket Holler**, a scout camp on the northern end of Dayton that the Southern Ohio District uses for summer camp ministry.



## **No 2017 Youth Peace Travel Team**

The Youth Peace Travel Team Coordinating Team comprised of Bekah Houff (OMA), Marie Benner Rhoades (On Earth Peace), Becky Ullom Naugle (COB, Youth and Young Adults), Nate Hosler (COB, Peace Witness) and Russell Haitch (Bethany Theological Seminary) share the following concerning the 2017 YPTT, "Due to several circumstances out of our control there will not be a team this summer. While it is sad not to have a team this summer, we are not ending the YPTT program and plan to have a team for the summer of 2018."

Thank you for your support of the YPTT. OMA is an important partner in the ministry of the team and the coordinating team welcomes your recommendations for future YPTT members. Please continue to share about the ministry of the YPTT with your campers and staff. Applications are due in January every year and are located on the Church of the Brethren and On Earth Peace websites.

## **OMA Is Hiring a Communications Coordinator**

As part of the visioning process for OMA, the Steering Committee has decided to experiment with hiring a Communications Coordinator to assist the Steering Committee. This person would be responsible to check and reply to mail and email correspondence, maintain OMA's Facebook presence, update the OMA database and various lists, and assist in publications and mailings. The Communications Coordinator would also serve as the financial secretary by receiving, recording, depositing, and reporting money received. Since this is a new role, we will begin by hiring someone for an initial experimental period from September 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018. We are estimating that the work will average about 3 hours per week. We will provide a stipend of \$800 (paid as \$400 per quarter) plus cover the registration and transportation expenses to be able to attend the OMA Annual Retreat (November 12-16, 2017 at CBD). The Steering Committee will be re-evaluating the position, responsibilities, and compensation at the Spring 2018 meeting. See the Position Description for full details. Persons interested in the position should apply by sending a complete resume by July 1st to Linetta Ballew at [linetta@campswatara.org](mailto:linetta@campswatara.org) or mail to 2905 Camp Swatara Road, Bethel, PA 19507.

## **Tending The Fires**

Over the past few years, the OMA Steering Committee has been working to re-evaluate and re-envision the Church of the Brethren Outdoor Ministry Association. This work was spurred by a desire to examine what camps, camping leaders, and the church were really needing from OMA and to make sure that OMA was remaining relevant and up to date. There was also a call from the OMA members to explore incorporating OMA as an official non-profit and work to strengthen fundraising & planned giving to ensure OMA's longevity.

At the spring 2015 Steering Committee meeting, Stan Dueck led a day of visioning reflecting on OMA's strengths, the opportunities before us, and the aspirations for the organization. In 2016, Stan returned to guide the group through focusing on the desired results of the visioning process. A working vision statement - that "OMA tends the fires of CoB camps" - was discerned. The Steering Committee identified seven goals to work on the next 1-2 years to enable living out that vision. Those goals are:

1. Update Camp Info and OMA to Z Handbook
2. Annual Steering Committee Contact with All Camps
3. Incorporation as a 501c3
4. Marketing
5. Mentoring
6. Reinvigorate Annual Retreat
7. National Gathering to Refocus OMA-CoB

The Steering Committee has been actively working on those goals. Hopefully you've seen that work in process as your camp has been: contacted by a Steering Committee member, learned more about the mentoring program or participated in it, attended an amazing professional growth and networking event at the Annual Retreat, and heard about the incorporation progress. We are hoping to offer a session at this year's Annual Retreat (November 12-16 at Camp Blue Diamond) to more fully explain this visioning work and what this process will mean for OMA. If you have questions about this process or have insights to assist this work, please share them with a member of the Steering Committee.

# **OMA Seeks Communications Coordinator to Steering Committee**

**FUNCTION:** To support the programs and operations of OMA through administrative tasks.

**LINE OF AUTHORITY:** Directly responsible to the OMA Steering Committee via the Chairperson.

**REPORTABILITY:** Meet/communicate regularly with the OMA Steering Committee Chair regarding job objectives. Track and report weekly hours at the end of each month to Steering Committee Chairperson.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** The person shall be accountable to assist the Steering Committee and its work of education, membership, and communication, working as a team member, upholding OMA policy.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** This person needs to:

Respect OMA and be willing to help in the fulfilling of our Mission.

Be at least 25 years old and have administrative and supervisory experience that can be documented.

Be a self-starter who can excel in a self-directed work environment.

Be organized and focused.

Possess strong computer, word processing, email, web, and internet technology skills.

Have basic financial management / accounting skills.

Communicate well in person, on the telephone, in writing, and through technological mediums.

Have appropriate emotional maturity and stability.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Receive and deposit checks and donations

Report contributions received to the Treasurer

Check/respond to mail and email weekly

Maintain contact (mailing, membership) lists (create/work on database)

Maintain website

Maintain OMA Facebook presence including:

Weekly post

Hold Steering Committee accountable to Facebook posts

Connect camps using Facebook pages and websites

Like, post, share

Help Steering Committee keep on task

Additional mailings and email blasts as Steering Committee directs, including assistance with revised newsletter options

Share information to and from camps and the Steering Committee – “What have you heard from camp \_\_\_\_\_?”

“Is there anything I can communicate?”

**TERM OF SERVICE**

Initial “experimental” period from September 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018

Includes attendance at OMA Annual Retreat (November 12-16, 2018 at Camp Blue Diamond)

Position to be re-evaluated at Spring 2018 Steering Committee meeting

**COMPENSATION**

\$800 for initial 6-month experimental period, paid in two quarterly amounts of \$400

Registration and transportation costs covered to attend OMA Annual Retreat

Future compensation to be re-evaluated at Spring 2018 Steering Committee meeting

**TO APPLY**

Send your complete resume by July 1st to Linetta Ballew, OMA Steering Committee Chairperson, at [linetta@campswatara.org](mailto:linetta@campswatara.org) or mail to 2905 Camp Swatara Road, Bethel, PA 19507.



**The OMA Steering Committee** consists of ten members: three camp directors, an associate camp staffer, a theologian, a district executive, two volunteers, a representative of the denomination and the treasurer. Committee members, except for the district executive and denominational representative, are approved by the OMA membership. Steering Committee members have at least three business meetings each year: one in the spring, one in the fall and one in November at the Annual OMA Retreat. They may call special meetings if the need arises.

Members of the 2017 OMA Steering Committee are:  
 Top Row: Jan Hurst, Linetta Ballew, Bekah Houff  
 Middle Row: Pete Haynes, Randall Westfall, Brian Bert  
 Bottom Row: Josh Brockway, Rex Miller - Not Pictured: Debbie Eisenbise, Shannon Kahler, Bruce Holderreed



Responsibilities of the OMA Steering Committee include:

- ) The OMA Financial Reports and OMA Financial Accounts and Endowments
- ) The OMA Newsletter and Website
- ) A Mentoring Program for New Camp Staff
- ) Camp and Individual Memberships
- ) Representation of OMA and Brethren Camps at Annual Conference through a Luncheon, Insight Session and/or other Activities
- ) Representation of OMA and the Brethren Camps at the National Jr. High, Youth, Young Adult and Older Adult Conferences
- ) Appoint Representatives to the Interdenominational Outdoor Ministries Curriculum Committee
- ) Appointed Representative to the Youth Peace Travel Team Committee
- ) The Annual OMA Staff Awards, Volunteer Awards and Environmental Grants
- ) Distributing OMA and Camp Materials to the Church of the Brethren Archives in Elgin, IL
- ) The Annual OMA National Retreat

**2017 OMA Steering Committee Contact Info:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term &amp; Exp.</u>
Linetta Ballew	linetta@campswatara.org	Wk: 717-933-8510 Cell: 717-821-3044	Chair (Director)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term; 2018
Brian Bert	briansbert@gmail.com	Cell: 814-207-3637 Wk: 814-667-2355	To Do List (Associate)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term; 2018
Pete Haynes	rockhay@gmail.com	Cell: 410-627-9455 Wk: 410-592-9300	(Theologian)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term; 2019
Bruce Holderreed	bholderreed@brethren.org	Cell: 208-420-0971	(District Exec.)	Appointed
Rekah Houff	bekahhouff@gmail.com	Cell: 717-926-5257	YPTT/Minutes (Volunteer)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term; 2019
Jan Hurst	jancampleader@cox.net	Hm: 620-245-0009 Cell: 410-259-0299	Membership (Volunteer)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term; 2017
Shannon Kahler	shannon@inspirationhillscamp.org	Cell: 330-621-4571	Grants/Awards (Director)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term; 2017
Rex Miller	millerrex34@yahoo.com	Cell: 574-337-3796	Treasurer	Renew Yearly
Randall Westfall	brethrenheights@gmail.com	Wk: 231-867-3618 Cell: 815-297-4435	Vice-Chair (Director)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term; 2019
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>				
Josh Brockway	jbrockway@brethren.org	Cell: 404-840-8310	Denominational Rep	(Spring)
Debbie Eisenbise	deisenbise@brethren.org	Cell: 269-598-8275	Denominational Rep	(Autumn)

## What is OMA?

OMA is the Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren. The Mission of OMA is to 'Connect, enliven and support the dynamic ministries of the Church of the Brethren Camps'. Toward completing this mission OMA provides for the 29 Church of the Brethren camps, their employees, OMA Friends and the general membership of the Church of the Brethren:

- ) An annually held educational and recreational retreat for camp employees, volunteer and friends held each November at a member camp.
- ) Educational events and materials for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference attendees
- ) A mentoring program pairing new camp professionals with seasoned camp veterans
- ) OMA-Z: A written guide of useful information for camp employees and volunteers pertaining to outdoor ministry in the Church of the Brethren
- ) A twice a year (spring & fall) newsletter to camp employees and OMA members
- ) Scholarships for camp employees to attend the Annual OMA Retreat or receive higher education
- ) Grants for Environmental Projects occurring at Church of the Brethren camps and congregations
- ) Annual awards for outstanding camp staff and camp volunteers
- ) Funding and scheduling for the Youth Peace Travel Team
- ) A website devoted to Church of the Brethren camping: [www.oma-cob.org](http://www.oma-cob.org)
- ) Representation on the ecumenical summer camp curriculum board.

OMA is funded by membership fees paid by Church of the Brethren camps and friends of outdoor ministry. If you believe strongly in the importance of church camp and outdoor ministry, OMA invites you to become a friend of OMA by completing the OMA Membership Form in this newsletter.

## OMA Membership For

If you would like to renew your membership, or become a first time member, fill out the form below and mail it along with your check to: Rex Miller-Treasurer OMA, 1610 Harvest Dr., Goshen, IN 46526



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Camp or District \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Memberships (Choose One)

\_\_\_\_ Student, \$20    \_\_\_\_ Individual, \$35    \_\_\_\_ Family, \$55    \_\_\_\_ Congregation, \$75

\_\_\_\_ Annual Sustaining, \$150    \_\_\_\_ Camp Professional, \$175    \_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership, \$500

Make Checks Payable to : Outdoor Ministries Association

## OMA Membership Renewal Form For Camps

Annual Membership for Camps (maximum fee paid is \$500; suggested minimum fee is \$50)

Camp Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /1000 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (your membership fee).

NOTE: Remember an annual camp membership includes one professional membership in OMA. Make Checks Payable to OMA Make Checks Payable to: Outdoor Ministries Association



Outdoor Ministries Association News  
C/o Camp Blue Diamond  
1113 Mt. Vernon Ave.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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# Outdoor Ministries Association

## Church of the Brethren

