



# INSPIRATIONS

Volume 27 - Issue 2  
Fall 2023



## A LOOK INSIDE:

SUMMER 2023 REVIEW | BEYOND THE POINT | MOVING DIRT

## GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



In 1960, God led a group of people to step out in faith and purchase a peninsula where camps would be held. Then, 60 years ago in August 1963, the ministry was dedicated to God's work. Since its inception, tens of thousands of lives have been impacted, and camp's heritage and commitment to serving God and God's people still stands, by God's grace, providing year-round, Christ-focused experiences. Whether for a child, teen, adult, or family, God touches them all through the power of his Word and the "still small voice" of his Spirit in this beautiful setting.

It is a statement we hear often. "I was skeptical when I arrived, but wow! Even though the camp is now in a different location, it still feels the same!" We prayed that would be the case. It makes sense, too, doesn't it? While they are important components, camp isn't essentially about the location, property, or buildings. It is about the people and the focus of the ministry.

A foundational tool that undergirds Inspiration Point's entire ministry is a robust set of guiding principles that define the focus and direct the manner in which things are accomplished. These values are like a breeze that blows through all the programs, training, and processes. In short, we call these six core values The IPoint Way and, by God's grace, seek to demonstrate these in all we do.



As you enjoy this issue of Inspirations, I hope you're able to see examples of these values in the reports and stories you read. Fall, winter, and spring are packed with retreat opportunities. Hope to see you soon!

**GP**

Greg Anderson  
President

**Get Away.  
Get Life.  
Get to The Point.**

## IPOINT INTERNS

Inspiration Point is thrilled to welcome six IPoint Interns for the 2023-2024 school year. The IPoint Interns will spend time learning and working in all areas at camp, such as programming, site and facilities, guest services, marketing, food service, housekeeping, and much more! Would you join us in praying for these six interns as they come alongside the year-round staff and spend the year serving at Inspiration Point?



2023-2024 IPoint Interns: Jack Dennis, Luka Eissing, Joel Bowman, Elena Schmitz, Madison Ness, Lizzy Larson

## THE WINNING SHOT

Early this summer, Carter Hushagen, a camper from Horace, North Dakota, qualified and appeared in the Junior Championship on The Hole In One Show with Dave Schultz, presented by Scheels and Bell Bank. Six contestants teed off from 150 yards, with the closest to the pin winning \$1,000 for his favorite charity. Fourteen-year-old Carter played for Inspiration Point and won the competition! The episode can be viewed on YouTube (Season 4, Episode 5).





## INSPIRATION POINT IS MOVING DIRT

A parent, following their child's camp experience this past summer stated, "There is no better experience out there for our children to strengthen their faith, to better understand Christ's love, to engage in healthy activities, and to experience God's care through His people. This is – by far – the best thing I have ever invested in for my children and our family." Thousands of lives have been changed at camp as people come away to a place that seeks to "provide time, space and biblical teaching so people encounter and follow Christ."

**"...THIS IS – BY FAR – THE BEST THING I HAVE EVER INVESTED IN FOR MY CHILDREN AND OUR FAMILY."**

2023 PARENT

Due to an unexpected move away from camp's original location, the construction of our new property at Twin Oaks occurred rapidly. God's provision was written all over that story, though, as it came together in a way that only He could accomplish, and gratitude overflows for the beautiful property that we have been given to steward. However, a few deficits have been identified as the ministry continues to grow. The first challenge that we have encountered is a lack of recreation options that can entertain people for several hours at a time. Many of the current recreation options are experienced only once before campers move on to the next activity. Another challenge involves our office space proving insufficient as our year-round staff continues to expand. Most importantly, there is an urgent need for more housing as camp moves forward. Although Twin Oaks has more beds than our previous site did, summer camps continue to fill up. Waiting lists exist once again for kids who are unable to attend camp due to lack of space. The heart of Inspiration Point is to have and fill as many beds as possible so that a greater number of students and families can hear the Gospel.

In order to serve more campers and guests effectively, while laying a foundation for the future of the ministry, Inspiration Point has established a robust plan to meet the aforementioned needs. Plans include the construction of a larger swimming pool with a waterslide and splashpad area. This dynamic addition will draw guests to enjoy the space for a longer duration than the recreation that is currently available. Planning is also underway for an addition to our current office, which will allow our year-round staff the proper space for ministry planning and implementation. Additional cabins with indoor restrooms are also a vital part of the building plan. Construction on these accommodations has already begun, and anticipation is growing knowing how they will provide space for important, Christ-centered conversations.



Gifts and pledges are being secured to make these and future additions a reality. When these projects reach completion, Inspiration Point will be able to welcome 500 more campers and 40 more families each summer, as well as hundreds more throughout the retreat season. We rejoice at the way that God is using the ministry of camp to draw people to Himself and are expectant of the mighty things that He will do in the years to come.

# ROCK SOLID

INSPIRATION POINT 2023

## SUMMER 2023 REVIEW

The world that we live in often feels unsteady and unpredictable. We can be afraid to set expectations, because we fear being disappointed. We wonder if there is anything that we can count on. In times of uncertainty, we find ourselves searching for solid ground on which to stand. God's Word tells us that this "solid ground" will not be found in anything of this world (money, hobbies, recognition, or achievement) but will be found only in the person of Jesus Christ. This summer at Inspiration Point, students and families encountered the One who is always dependable, who never changes, and who can forever be trusted. Jesus is the Rock that stands firm when everything else is shaking. Our summer theme, ROCK SOLID, proclaimed that in Christ, we have been given a SECURE SALVATION, a FIRM FOUNDATION, an INDISPUTABLE VALUE, and a STEADFAST SHELTER. Jesus Christ is the only foundation that our lives ought to be built upon, and He has proven faithful throughout all of time. Our prayer for all who attended IPoint this summer is that they would "trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal." (Isaiah 26:4)



"I want as many people as possible to know about Jesus and His Word." -3rd grade girl

"I can now have great confidence in knowing God has saved me, even though I sin. I have faith in Jesus, and in return, I gain eternal life." -Senior High guy

"I love being around people at camp who love the Lord and speak of Him SO highly. My faith always grows at camp, and I always grow closer to God." -8th grade girl

"I learned so much this week and it just brings me so much joy. Next year I want to come and learn more." -5th grade girl

## BY THE NUMBERS...

1,741 YOUTH CAMPERS

971 DAY CAMPERS

826 FAMILY CAMPERS

238 CHRIST HIKE GUESTS

68

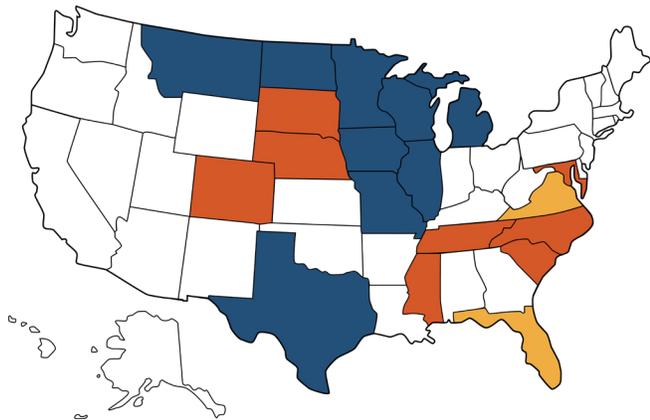
SUMMER STAFFERS



426 DIFFERENT CHURCHES HAD CAMPERS ATTEND CAMP



49 BIBLES WERE GIVEN TO CAMPERS EXPRESSING A NEW FAITH IN JESUS



### KEY

- STATES CAMPERS & STAFF CAME FROM
- STATES CAMPERS CAME FROM
- STATES STAFF CAME FROM

## Top 10 Camper Favorites



1. Gaslamp Theatre
2. Christ Hike
3. Theme Night
4. Adventure Course
5. Rabbit Hunt
6. High Ropes
7. Octaball
8. Gift Shop
9. Staff
10. Zip Line



90 GALLONS OF ICE CREAM



45,485 PLATES OF FOOD SERVED



3,000 BURGERS

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## 2024 SUMMER STAFF APPLICATIONS

The Lord does amazing things at Inspiration Point, that we, as staff, get to witness and participate in. Everyone, from cabin leader to cook, plays a vital role in this ministry. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team for the summer of 2024, applications are available now on our website! Please join us in praying that the Lord will provide the staff to serve the campers and guests for Summer 2024.

I LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO LIVE  
OUR LIVES FOR THE LORD EVERY SECOND AND  
WHEN WE WORK AND SERVE IT IS ALL FOR HIS  
GLORY.

ELIANA COLE, SUMMER STAFFER



## 2023 SUMMER STAFF

From May 29 to August 20, the 2023 IPoint Summer Staff served approximately 5,000 people in Jesus' Name. They learned that "the best life lived is the one given away" and that "hard does not equal bad." These young adults have a passion for the mission of sharing the love and hope found only in Jesus, and God used them to make an impact in the lives of many. They have experienced a front row seat to see the work of the Lord in the lives of campers and guests this summer. What an amazing crew God blessed us with this year! Thank you Staff of 2023!



## BEYOND THE POINT

For more than 30 years, Inspiration Point has been unleashing leaders by calling, empowering, and supporting young men and women to lead in making disciples, joining the Church of the Lutheran Brethren as it joins Jesus on His mission.

### BEN BIGAQUETTE

“You see it, you own it.”

“Either put it back.”

“The best life lived is the life that is given away.”

These are just some of the phrases that you might hear as you interact with the ministry of Inspiration Point. I had the privilege of attending IPoint as a youth camper and serving on summer staff from 2006-2009. These same “camp-isms” still resonate with me and continue to shape my life perspective and worldview.



It can be easy to think of Inspiration Point as only a summer Bible camp or a place to go for weekend retreats with your church youth group, but the ministry and impact of IPoint go well beyond summers and winter retreats. The ministry of Inspiration Point is actually one that trains and sends. It trains by encouraging and equipping people of all ages to encounter the grace and love of Jesus Christ and then sends them by unleashing them into their schools, jobs, families, and churches.

I now have the privilege of being a part of what God is doing in the local church as I serve as a pastor at Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church in the Fargo-Moorhead area. I also have been blessed with the opportunity to serve alongside some really amazing teammates, many of whom have also served at IPoint as well. In fact, between our campuses in Moorhead, MN and West Fargo, ND, we have 14 people on our staff who are former summer staffers at Inspiration Point. That’s nearly 50% of our entire church staff team! And this doesn’t even begin to count the additional number of incredible volunteers and ministry leaders that are connected to our various ministries within our congregation.



God has been gracious and generous in using Inspiration Point to bless and enrich my life in so many ways. The work that He is doing there, the experiences that we have gained, and the training that we have received have made a profound impact on our staff team and church culture here at Triumph. I am extremely thankful for the ways that He continues to use the ministry of Inspiration Point to train up and send people into the world to impact lives for the Gospel.

### MASON SHAW

Camp has provided me with a sense of realization and determination to minister to people with the news of peace, love, dependence, and contentment that I’ve found in Christ. This realization was brought about by the opportunity to walk alongside others and watch the Holy Spirit work in and transform the lives of campers and staff members in one summer! God’s love for me was also brought to me through working at camp, and that has supplied me with a passion to let others know about who He is and what He has done! God has been using these lessons to guide me within my newfound calling as Youth Ministry Assistant at Triumph West. Watching the kids at church and youth group get excited about fellowship and diving into the Word supplies me with a sense of relief and peace, because I know that God is at work in their lives whether they realize it or not. God’s will is being executed before our very eyes, and I am extremely blessed and grateful for the fact that I get to be a part of His ministry.



### BETHANY WIDHOLM

After my summers on staff, I got involved with the Navigators student ministry at the University of Minnesota, and for the past two years, I’ve been a student leader on their international student outreach team. My experiences serving at camp equipped me to lead our large group events confidently and competently, and that provides us opportunities to build relationships with the international students we meet. I also lean on my experience in caring for my campers as my international friends share with me about good and hard things in their lives. And ultimately, as I serve in this role at school, I have confidence in the power of scripture and my testimony to communicate the truth of the Gospel even across cultural barriers, because I’ve seen it happen at IPoint!



## OAE OPPORTUNITIES



We are thrilled to offer an exciting Outdoor Adventure Education group opportunity that combines team building challenges, the high ropes course, zipline, and climbing wall. This opportunity, designed for groups such as schools, sports teams, churches, and businesses, offers the perfect blend of adventure and growth in trust, problem solving, and communication.

Our trained facilitators create an environment where groups can be challenged and grow TOGETHER. Since unveiling our new high ropes course, we have served several groups, including Sterling Goldmark, Bethel Lutheran Church, and Avail Academy.

**“THE CHANCE TO BE TOGETHER AND GROW TOGETHER AT IPOINTE JUST BEFORE OUR FALL KICK OFF AT BETHEL WAS GREAT. THROUGH OUR EXPERIENCES THERE, WE FEEL EVEN MORE READY TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM IN ADVANCING THE MISSION GOD HAS GIVEN US! LET’S GO!”**

PASTOR DAVID FOSS  
LEAD PASTOR, BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**A+ FACILITIES  
A+ STAFF  
A+ MISSION, VISION & CREATIVITY**

**IPOINT TRULY UNDERSTANDS HOW TO CREATE GREAT OUTDOOR LEARNING ADVENTURES. THE FACILITIES ARE WONDERFULLY FRESH AND THE LAND SCREAMS WITH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. BUT THE STAFF, THEY MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. THEY ARE THE SECRET SAUCE!**

SAM MORETON  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, AVAIL ACADEMY (FRIDLEY, MN)  
FORMER OUTDOOR ED DIRECTOR AT NEW LIFE RANCH (COLCORD, OK)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Mark your calendars! Give to the Max day is November 16, 2023! Would you consider giving a gift on Give to the Max day to further the ministry at Inspiration Point?



## WINTER RETREATS

Join us this winter for a retreat at IPoint as we spend time in God's Word and the snow! With activities like tubing, ice skating, cross-country skiing and more, you will be sure to have a good time. We'd love to see you at Twin Oaks this winter!

**MEN'S RETREAT** . . . . . January 19-20, 2024

**SNOW FEST** . . . . . February 2-4, 2024 | Grades 3-6

**WINTER BLAST** . . . . . February 9-11, 2024 | Grades 7-12

**SR. HIGH WINTER WEEKEND** • February 16-18, 2024 | Grades 9-12

**CONFIRMATION 1** . . . February 23-25, 2024 | Grades 6-9

**CONFIRMATION 2** . . . . . March 8-10, 2024 | Grades 6-9





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# Inspiration Point

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## GET TO KNOW TWIN OAKS

### TOWER HILL

The addition of the High Ropes Course and Climbing Wall to Tower Hill have continued to show the value of programmed adventure at camp. High Ropes Challenges efficiently compress time by using positive stress to highlight behaviors that may take much longer to appear in a less-controlled situation. For many campers and cabins, working through the challenges on the Ropes Course was a turning point in bonding through perseverance and encouragement. Campers participate in high ropes together with both their cabin and their Adventure Course partner cabin, which allows them to grow in the safe environment of teamwork that is cultivated. Families are also able to bond through the adventure on Tower Hill during family camps. Many guests shared the sentiments that were written on family camp evaluations: "The addition of the high ropes course was awesome!" and "We loved high ropes."



# Get Away. Get Life. Get to The Point.

