

Allegan County 4-H Clubs
Camp Kidwell
2020-21 Look back and moving forward

I thought 2020 was a crazy, challenging year, but holy smokes 2021 has been more challenging than I ever imagined! With that said, we have been able to create a positive atmosphere for many young people and families and are starting to get back to a semi-regular routine! We are so so grateful for everyone who has helped make it possible to make it through the last 18-20 months and continue to offer high quality and much need programs for young people and families! Our program and successes would never be possible without all of you! THANK YOU!

2020 was overwhelmingly different and hard! We were only able to offer 2 weekend camps early in the year, prior to the start of the pandemic. The rest of the year was wiped out when it comes to programming....we were so so disappointed that we weren't able to welcome campers and families. It was so hard to tell groups, families and organizations we couldn't help them reach their goals and serve their kids. That is who we are, so it was terribly hard to not be able to help those families!

With that disappoint driving us though, we decided to keep working on things we could. So with the support of lots of volunteers and donors we were able to make some amazing and much needed upgrades to camp to help us prepare for 2021 and beyond. We completely remodeled our Lodge, Kitchen and added a storage barn for hay and several other improvements. This was possible because of amazing volunteers and donors. Even though we didn't have camp programming and there were many obstacles in place, the folks who love camp stepped up and helped us be sure we could do things to be in the best place possible for the future. They helped with time and expertise as well as supporting and attending our Golf Outing and Festival of Trees. The formats were much different than the past, but the results were still amazing!!! THANK YOU to everyone who helped make that possible!

We made the decision in early 2021 that we were going to operate our program as close to normal as possible. So we worked diligently to be sure we could offer summer camp, welcome families and groups for fellowship and continue to be available to the youngers and families who need the "Camp Experience" so much! I am happy to report that we succeeded and things continue to head in a positive direction!

We welcomed.....

- Over 300 campers to 5 weeks of camp
- Nearly 100 other youth through guest groups
- 10+ families, groups, and churches for fellowship gatherings

Our Fundraisers were very successful....

- The golf outing raised more money than it every had....over \$20,000.
- The foodbooth at the fair made a profit and provided a great meal option of freshly made and reasonably priced food for all the folks who attended the fair this fall.

As we move toward the end of 2021 and 2022 we are excited for what is coming.....

- Festival of Trees will be happening. It will be back to close to normal and we are excited to make some awesome additions.
- Winter Camp will happen
- We will be hiring a second full time employee to help camp continue to grow and serve as many young people and families as possible.

All of the challenges we have faced recently could have made it easy to throw in the towel....But quite the opposite is the road we choose and we are grateful all of you and our supporters choose to join us! We plan to continue to work hard to serve all of our kiddos and families, and are lucky to have all of you by our side! 2022 and beyond is looking bright and we can't wait make it happen!

We are TRULY GRATEFUL for all your support and effort to make Camp Kidwell a great place for young people and families! THANK YOU!!!!