

# Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

## Living Into The Possibilities



What a summer! A summer none of us could have ever imagined. As an organization, Rainbow Trail chose not to close in 2020, but rather to live into the possibilities of what this summer could be. The RTALC Board made the decision in March to hire and pay our summer staff no matter what. There was a strong sense that we needed to be the church *now* and not wait until this pandemic was over.

We created over 40 pages of COVID protocols, created a brand new website for RTALC@HOME for our online camps, recorded over 14,000 temp checks, and recorded close to 50 hours of video.

Our first week with campers on site was July 5-11. There were several changes with protocols and all of us wearing masks. But even with masks, it still felt like camp. "Mask up, Mask on!" became a mantra every week. We found that, because villages had to stay together more than normal, they became closer than in other years.

Bible Studies were richer and deeper. We had campers who have been coming for ten years who said this was their best week of camp at RTALC ever. We ended up having four weeks of youth camp and one week of family camp in person on site.

By the grace of God and the hard work of our staff, we had no cases of COVID with staff or campers during the whole summer. In all, we served 818 campers: 440 campers on-site, 345 campers through 22 online Day Camps, 33 campers through backpack, along with 62 summer staff.

As we look back on this summer, we know we provided something that people needed. We knew there were some risks involved, but there will always be some risks in any summer. The summer ministry team was phenomenal. They were courageous, adaptive, inventive, persistent, innovative, fun-loving, adventurous, incredible problem solvers, and true followers of Christ.

### Questions for Reflection

- What has been the thing in your life where you knew there was going to be some risk involved, but once you did it, it was a game changer for everyone involved?
- What does it mean to be the church in this day and time?