

# CAMP CEDAR RIDGE DISPATCH: DISCOVER THE GOOD



**Dr. Kasey Wilson**  
Executive Director

## The Power of Community

As we begin our fourth Spring season, we have so many exciting things to share. Our 2025 Camp Theme is "Together We Thrive." The "we" in this phrase describes our community comprised of our guests and group coordinators, supporters, donors, volunteers, project partners, vendors, regional stakeholders, and of course, our very dedicated staff. If you received this, our community includes YOU!

As you read this newsletter, I hope that you will read beneath the surface to see our love for Life ("Yes to Life!" is our Vernonia Village motto) and how we express our commitment to Discover(ing) the Good, through our care of the property and service to our guests. Love is shared through collaboration and relationship with others. The programs and events that we offer are invitations to the celebration of the joy of living.

Come celebrate that joy with us at whatever level the CCR Community calls to you:

- Attend an event as an individual or part of a group
- Bring a group or lead a retreat
- Volunteer in person or remotely to share talents and ideas
- Partner with us on a project
- Donate funds or in-kind items or items from our Amazon wish list
- Hold space for us and send us positive energy

We are supporting the broader concept of "Creating a World that Works for All," with each decision we make.

Thank you for being part of the Camp Cedar Ridge Community. Together We Thrive!

## We give thanks to our newest Cedar Sustainers

- Rev. Bridget McCann, Portland, OR
- Timothy W. Wagner, RScP, Asheville, NC
- Claire Summerhill, Las Vegas, NV
- Portland Center for Spiritual Living; Portland, OR
- Center for Spiritual Living, East Hawaii; Kea'au, HI
- Frances Beasley, Portland, OR
- Rev. Suzanne Grace Rolle, Auburn, CA

**Choose now to become a Cedar Sustainer:**  
<https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/sustainer>

## This Issue

The Power of Community  
PAGE 1

Adults Only Easter Egg Adventure  
PAGE 2

Make a Splash: Swim Lessons  
PAGE 3

Upcoming Events  
PAGE 4

News from Camp Cedar Ridge  
PAGE 5, 6

Looking Ahead: Mark Your Calendar  
PAGE 7



# Expanding Community Partnerships



## Join the Ultimate Adults Only (21+) Easter Egg Adventure!

As the days grow warmer and spring fever builds, Camp Cedar Ridge is thrilled to partner with the Intercultural Society of Vernonia as the host of an exhilarating Adults only 21+ Easter egg hunt! Gather your friends, neighbors, and fellow adventurers on Saturday, April 12, 2025, for an afternoon of thrilling egg hunts, fantastic prizes, and vibrant community connection.

**ADULT EASTER**  
Egg hunt  
April 12th,  
2025

**21+ ONLY!**

Intercultural Society of Vernonia

Camp Cedar Ridge, Vernonia, Oregon  
Check-in starts at 12:30 PM - Hunt begins at 2:30 PM

- Costumes Encouraged!
- Challenge Course!
- Amazing Adult Prizes!

TWO Vacation Packages:  
5 Days/4 Nights in Cancun, Mexico  
for 2 Adults & 2 Children  
-  
\$250 Cash Prize  
-  
And Much More!

Learn more and get your tickets at [vernoniasociety.org](https://vernoniasociety.org)!

### Schedule of Events

- **Check-in: 12:30 – 1:30 PM** – Arrive early to mingle, make new friends, and soak in the excitement.
- **Head Start Raffle:** Want a **10-second advantage** on the course? Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to be one of **four winners** who get an early start!
- **Main Event:** The hunt begins at **2:30 PM sharp** with the blast of the "GO!" horn.
- **Challenge Course:** Seeking an extra thrill? The Challenge Course opens at **3:00 PM**, featuring even more hidden eggs for the most daring hunters!
- **Grand Prize Drawing:** After the hunt, crack open your eggs and check for winning **raffle tickets** – you could be taking home an incredible prize!

The Adult Easter Egg Hunt is a fundraiser that benefits the Intercultural Society of Vernonia general fund, which enables them to continue hosting low-cost and no-cost fun family-friendly events throughout the year for the Vernonia community!

### Tickets are limited!

Secure your spot today. For further event information and to purchase your ticket(s) visit:

<https://VernoniaSociety.org>

# Expanding Community Partnerships

## Make a Splash This Summer! Affordable Swim Lessons at Camp Cedar Ridge

Get ready to dive into a summer of fun and confidence in the water! As the only large pool in the Vernonia area, Camp Cedar Ridge is proud to offer high-quality swim lessons at an affordable price for local families. Our certified Water Safety Instructors provide engaging, skill-building lessons designed to help your child develop strong swimming techniques and water safety awareness. For just \$125, your child will receive ten 30-minute group lessons in a safe, supportive environment—with both an Instructor and a Lifeguard in the pool at all times.

Lessons are grouped by ability and/or age. Children under 5 must be in the "Starfish Grown-Up & Me" class with their adult in the water with them.

**Orcas – Stroke Development** (can do overhand stroke, generally ages 11-13): 9:30am – 10:00am Pacific

**Dolphins – Fundamentals** (can float/tread water on own, generally ages 8-10): 10:10am – 10:40am Pacific

**Salmon – Entry Level** (less than 1 year experience, nervous/frightened, need floats, must be at least 5 years old): 10:50am – 11:20am Pacific

**Starfish – Grown-ups and Me Ages 2-4** (adult must be in water with student): 11:30am – 12:00pm Pacific

For your convenience, we offer two schedule options:

- Monday & Wednesday sessions, beginning June 16th
- Tuesday & Thursday sessions, beginning June 17th

Class sizes are limited, so secure your child's place today and make a splash this summer!

For detailed schedule information and to register, visit <https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/swim>

## Coming Soon to Camp Cedar Ridge: Jr. Lifeguard Certification Program

Get ready for an exciting opportunity for young water safety enthusiasts! Our Jr. Lifeguard Certification Program is launching soon, offering hands-on training in lifesaving skills, water rescue techniques, and first aid. Designed for aspiring lifeguards, this program builds confidence, teamwork, and essential water safety knowledge – all while having fun in the water! Stay tuned for registration details and get ready to dive into a program that is preparing the next generation of lifeguards.



Swim lessons, 2024



Parent and Me swim lessons, 2024

## 2025 Swim Lessons Beginning June 16

Registration is now

# OPEN!

Ten  
Lessons  
for \$125

To Register:

<https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/swim>



18062 Keasey Road  
Vernonia, Oregon

[info@CampCedarRidgeOR.org](mailto:info@CampCedarRidgeOR.org)

503-429-2801

# Upcoming Events



**Wedding Menu Tasting**  
Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 2 PM  
Complimentary for Couples with a Booked Wedding at CCR  
(email us for a special link)  
\$10 per person for all others

Register:  
<https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/wedding-tastings/>  
✉ [weddings@CampCedarRidgeOR.org](mailto:weddings@CampCedarRidgeOR.org)



## Say "I Do" to Flavor: Exclusive Wedding Menu Tasting at Camp Cedar Ridge

Dreaming of a wedding surrounded by the natural beauty of Camp Cedar Ridge? Taste the magic before your big day at our exclusive Wedding Menu Tasting! Join us on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 2:00 PM to sample a delicious selection of our carefully curated wedding menu.

Already booked your date? Enjoy a complimentary tasting for up to four guests! Email us at [weddings@CampCedarRidgeOR.org](mailto:weddings@CampCedarRidgeOR.org) for a special registration link.

Still deciding? Come savor the flavors for just \$10 per person. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today and take one step closer to your perfect wedding experience! To register, visit <https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/wedding-tastings/>

## Hats, Hearts, and Blooms: A Fascinating Tea Party Extravaganza

Camp Cedar Ridge invites you to join us for a captivating Mother's Day celebration at *Hats, Hearts, and Blooms*, where we honor the beautiful maternal figures in your life. Embrace a whimsical world of fragrant teas, delicious treats, and endless surprises designed to celebrate the love and joy that bloom across generations in every family. All are invited to participate in intergenerational activities, including:

- **Tales in Every Teacup Tasting Party** – Indulge in a variety of hand-selected, aromatic tea blends served in charmingly mismatched teacups, each one telling its own story.
- **Fascinating Fascinators Creation and Fashion Show** – Let your creativity run wild as you design your very own fascinator to wear in style; then, take center stage to showcase your whimsical masterpiece in our fun-filled fashion show.
- **Seeds of Love Potting Party** – Decorate a garden pot and plant a beautiful herb, flower, or vegetable to take home. Nurture it and watch it grow as a lasting reminder of "seeds of love" planted on this special day.
- **Tree of Life Gratitude Exhibit** – Write a heartfelt note of gratitude to those you love and display it on our Tree of Life alongside cherished photos of your family.

This tea party extravaganza promises to be a memorable gathering filled with laughter, creativity, and heartfelt moments, all woven together in a warm and whimsical setting. With limited seating available, be sure to reserve your spot today.

RSVP now to be part of this inclusive intergenerational family celebration! <https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/tea>



**Hats, Hearts, and Blooms**  
A FASCINATING TEA PARTY EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, May 11, 2025 2 – 4 pm

Adults: \$20, Ages 3-13: \$15, Under 3 free  
18062 Keasey Road, Vernonia  
Tickets: [CampCedarRidgeOR.org/tea](https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/tea)  
503-429-2801



**Date & Time:** Sunday, May 11, 2025, 2-4 PM

**Location:** Camp Cedar Ridge; 18062 Keasey Road; Vernonia, OR 97064

**Ticket Prices:**

- Adults and Youth Ages 14+: \$20
- Kids 3-13: \$15
- Kids 2 and under: No Charge

RSVP: <https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/tea>

Limited seating available, so register today!

# News from Camp Cedar Ridge

## Staff Spotlight

### Celebrating a Well-Deserved Promotion

Camp Cedar Ridge is thrilled to celebrate **Denetta “Dee” Barklow** on her well-earned promotion to Director of Vernonia Village! A dedicated advocate for children in the Vernonia Public School District, she is motivated to maximize grant resources and develop the teen staff into exemplary peer role models.

Reflecting on her journey, Dee credits her past coaches and first boss for instilling in her a passion for service and a commitment to excellence. Now, she’s paying it forward—creating meaningful experiences for the next generation. This new role not only allows her to pursue a fulfilling career but also supports her in being the best mother she can be.

In addition to her new position with Vernonia Village, Dee will continue serving as Special Events Coordinator at Camp Cedar Ridge throughout the upcoming summer season. She cherishes being part of special moments for clients, knowing firsthand what it means to receive attention-to-details service and support during significant celebrations like weddings, family reunions, and other milestone gatherings. Embracing this opportunity to expand her comfort zone and grow, Dee is excited for the journey ahead. Heartfelt Congratulations to you, Dee!

**Welcome to new Staff Member Arcadia Dyer**, whose family roots run deep in the Pacific Northwest. Her stepmother’s work as a wildlife biotechnician served to spark her curiosity about the natural world, inspiring her to explore a range of outdoor activities, from long-distance hiking to fishing and fungus foraging.

She also spent seven years in Alaska, where her time with her grandfather—an avid hunter and fishing charter operator—nurtured her deep love for the outdoors.

As a mother of three, she finds joy in sharing her love for the outdoors with her children, fostering the same spirit of adventure and curiosity that shaped her own upbringing. A dedicated community advocate, she played a key role in organizing a mother’s support group that quickly grew to 3,000 members within its first year in her hometown of Yakima, WA.

When asked why she chose to join the admin team at Camp Cedar Ridge, Arcadia shared, “It feels like the perfect synthesis of my passion for the outdoors and my commitment to community.” All of us at Camp Cedar Ridge extend a warm welcome, Arcadia.



Denetta Barklow and son Cruz



Arcadia Dyer

## Community Partner Spotlight

We give thanks for our community partner, Intercultural Society of Vernonia, as we collaborate to host the Spring Adults Only 21+ Easter Egg Hunt and the upcoming inaugural Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. More details about Turkey Trot will be coming in the Summer and Fall editions of the *CCR Dispatch*.



## Parking Lot Expansion & Logging Project Complete – Heartfelt Thank You!

We are thrilled to announce the completion of the parking lot expansion and logging project, a significant step in improving accessibility at Camp Cedar Ridge. This endeavor would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of several individuals whose expertise made it a success.

A special shoutout to Timber Ridge Logging, a “small business with big production,” for their invaluable support in bringing this project to life. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Herschel Mesenbrink, Timber Faller, who skillfully bucked and fell the cedars by hand; Tom Sohler Loader/Operator, who expertly stacked the logs, cleared brush, and transported two full loads of cedar logs; and Tom Mesenbrink, whose tireless work on the after-the-clearing activities—stump removal, berm creation for erosion prevention, and space leveling—helped prepare the area for its new purpose.

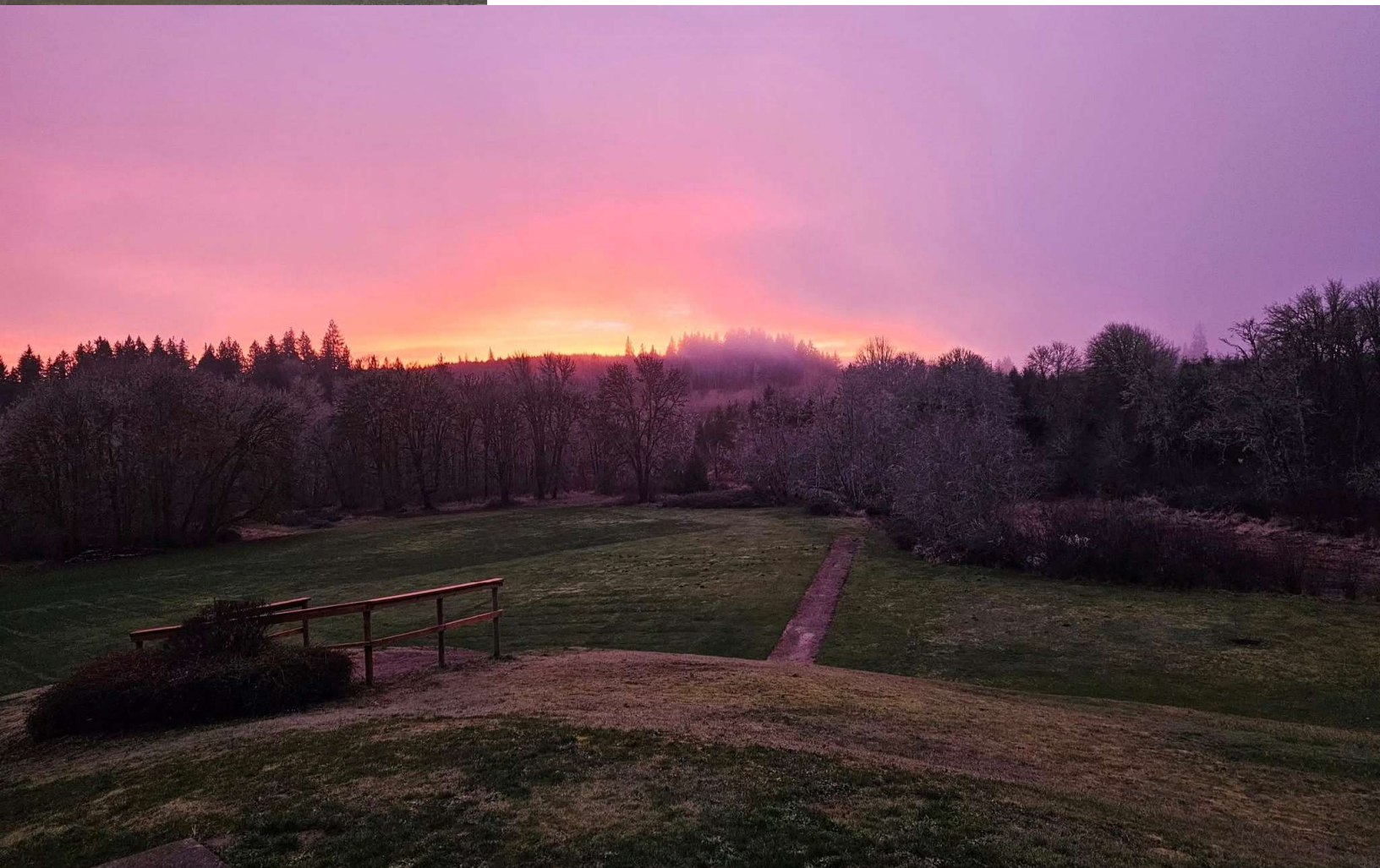
To each of you, we extend our deepest appreciation. Your logging expertise and hard work have not only expanded our parking capacity but also enhanced the beauty and accessibility of our space. Thank you for being an integral part of this transformation!



After the logging, clearing and leveling



First of two loads of cedar trunks being transported



# Looking Ahead: Mark Your Calendar



## ThanksRidging

NOW  
BOOKING!



### HOLIDAY BANQUETS

Host a brunch, lunch or  
dinner for your company or  
family gathering

See our Holiday Menus on our Website:  
[CampCedarRidgeOR.org/holiday](https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/holiday)



## Save the Date for ThanksRidging! November 26 – 30, 2025

Join us for ThanksRidging, our annual holiday gathering at Camp Cedar Ridge, where gratitude, community, and celebration come together in a weekend of warmth and connection.

Kick off Thanksgiving morning with our 1st Annual Turkey Trot 5K Walk/Run— a fun and energizing way to start the holiday! This fundraiser is co-hosted with the Intercultural Society of Vernonia and benefits both the Vernonia Village Afterschool Program and the Vernonia High School Track Team. Then, gather with friends and family for our beloved ThanksRidging Holiday Meal, serving a hot, hearty feast for all.

Extend the joy through the weekend with our Family Retreat, filled with laughter, storytelling, games, and intergenerational activities. Choose from three flexible packages to create your perfect holiday experience! Stay tuned for registration details and make this Thanksgiving one to remember!

## Save the Date for a Festive Holiday Banquet!

Celebrate the season with a joyful gathering at Camp Cedar Ridge, where the beauty of nature meets the warmth of the holidays. Our dining hall will be decked in sparkling holiday décor, creating the perfect ambiance for your festive celebrations. Whether you're planning a luncheon, dinner, or a delightful Sunday brunch, our specially curated holiday menus offer something for everyone. **Reserve your event today and make this holiday season truly unforgettable!**

Contact us at: <https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/holiday>

## Second Annual Rockin' @ the Ridge Family Fun Fest – Saturday, December 6, 2025

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the 2nd annual Rockin' at the Ridge Family Fun Fest—a heartwarming, intergenerational celebration filled with holiday cheer! Last year's inaugural event was an at-capacity success, and we can't wait to create even more magical memories together this season. Enjoy festive activities for all ages, delicious seasonal treats, and the beauty of the holidays in a welcoming community setting. **Mark your calendar** and keep an eye out here for an announcement about when reservations will open.

**Sponsorship opportunities are available** to help make this special event even more magical. Stay tuned for details!

