

Camp Ten Trees Year in Review



Camp Ten Trees creates a loving and engaging youth camp environment for LGBTQ communities and their allies.

A Letter from Pez

(The following letter was contributed by Riley "Pez" Pickering, a longtime Camp Ten Trees camper, a current counselor-in-training, and a member of the Camp Ten Trees Advisory Committee. It appears here with his permission.)

When you attend Camp Ten Trees it changes your life. I know it changed who I was to the core, and made me the person I am today in more important and crucial ways than any one person or experience in my life ever has. It taught me so many things, and opened my eyes to the

world that has no limits and where anyone can be anyone.

Through the vast majority of my life, I never could whole heartedly say I felt like I fit in. Camp Ten Trees was the first place I can ever truly say that I felt unconditional acceptance, and true love for who I was from everyone surrounding me. I felt completely encouraged to be myself no matter who that person was, but most importantly I felt so safe that for the first time I let the most real and true version of myself shine, and the response in return was encouragement and pride.

At Camp Ten Trees I was taught to embrace my differ-

ences, and to embrace the differences of others. It taught me how to really love people for who they were, and not dislike them, or be disappointed in whom or what they weren't. Through this I found the strength to let the parts of me I had been told for so long to keep hidden finally find their voice, shine through and be heard.

At Camp I learned how to present myself to the world in a way that I knew I felt good about who I was. I learned how to come out, be out, and stay out. How to rejoice and take pride in life when it goes well, and how to withstand it

(Continued on Page 2)

From the Program Director

Hello, from Morgan (Sparrow) and the Camp Ten Trees office. As the Program Director I have had the honor and the privilege to be a part of camp in a year round capacity since the 2008 auction.

I am happy to report that this past year camp was able to engage in amazing collaborations with both the Bent Writing Institute and the Sister's of Perpetual Indulgence making 2008 "the best year ever" according to campers and staff.

Although Camp 2008 is officially over, camp 2009 is off to an incredible start. The commitment, dedication, creativity and energy of our year-

round volunteer staff is destined to make Camp 2009 even better than the last.

The success of each camp session hinges not only on the hard work and dedication of our volunteers but also on the generous contributions of individuals like you. Thanks to direct camper support at last year's annual auction and a generous grant from the Pride Foundation, 65 campers were able to attend camp at a reduced rate!

Camp Ten Trees believes that all children and youth deserve a camp experience regardless of their personal or family's ability to pay. Without donations from individual do-

nors like you, camp will not be able to uphold this belief in the future.

Whether you are linked to one of our campers, attend the annual auction or donate directly; Camp Ten Trees is grateful for your continued support. Please feel free to contact the camp office if you have questions regarding ways you can further support the mission of Camp Ten Trees as an organization supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer communities and their allies.

~Morgan Bauer
Program Director

Quick Stats: 2008

- States/Territories at CTT '08: British Columbia, California, Colorado, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Ontario, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington
- Week 1 Campers, 2008: 113
- Same Week, 2001: 23
- CITs (Counselors in Training), 2008: 10
- Week 2 Campers, 2008: 48
- Same Week, 2001: 11
- New Campers in 2008: 50
- Volunteer Hours in 2008: 24,000, equivalent to 11 full-time employees
- Number of youth served since 2001: 403
- Volunteer hours since 2001: 85,000
- Cost to Provide for a Camper for One Week: \$500
- Monies raised in 2008: \$119,000

Camp Ten Trees
1122 E. Pike St PMB 1488
Seattle 98122 206.288.9568
www.camptentrees.org
info@camptentrees.org



A Letter from Pez (Continued)

when it doesn't. I learned to love myself to the core, and never let anyone tell me how I should be or treat me in any way other than with respect and courtesy. I learned how to

stand up for myself, and for those I love and care about.

At Camp Ten Trees I was presented with a beautiful home, if not a little cold sometimes (after all we were in the woods) and the warmest family I had ever met or seen in my entire life. I plan on being a part Camp Ten Trees for as long as I can (hopefully the rest of my life) because I know that it will remain as a part of me, and in my heart forever.

They're lying when they say that Disneyland is the happiest

place on earth... because anyone who has gone will tell you it's Camp Ten Trees.


--Riley "Pez" Pickering


Pez has given us permission to share his story with all of you.


Please consider sending Camp Ten Trees a donation today to help more campers like Pez transform for the better. Money raised now will help us to build a sustainable Camp Ten Trees organization that will bring connection and transformation for years to come.


How to Help CTT: What You Can Do Now


 **Goodsearch it**
Browse with Goodsearch (www.goodsearch.com) instead of Google--each search donates \$0.01 to camp.

 **Buy a Table**
Our 2009 Auction will take place on May 23rd of next year! The Auction provides a huge portion of our annual support: can you commit to filling a table with seven of your friends?

 **Party On**
Throw a Fundraising Party--take the opportunity to enjoy time with friends while you raise money and awareness for CTT! Plus, you'll sharpen your mixology skills at the same time.

 **Join the Team**
There are several subcommittees of the CTT Advisory Committee working on all aspects of camp--from tracking down new funds to planning this year's programming. See the list of Volunteer Opportunities below.

 **Talk It Up**
Spread word of camp to your sympathetic friends, peers, and coworkers! A strong camp stems from a strong community.

 **Put Your Money...**
The most important help you can provide is funding--please help us ensure that camp can change lives every summer!

Important Dates: CTT in 2009

Annual Auction: May 23rd, 2009

Camp Dates for 2009:
(Please note the new session order!)

Session 1: For LGBTQ youth and their allies, ages 13-17: August 16-22

Session 2: For children & youth of LGBTQ and/or nontraditional families, age 8-17: August 23-29

Some Very Big Thanks!

Our gratitude goes out to the following foundations that have helped to make Camp Ten Trees possible:

- **The Funding Exchange**
- **The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**
- **The George and Patricia Ann Fisher Foundation**
- **The Pride Foundation**

Volunteer Opportunities

Administrative/Office: We are looking for reliable volunteers to devote two to ten hours per week to help us with general administrative office tasks.

Committees: Camp Ten Trees (CTT) is a fiscally-sponsored project of the Seattle LGBT Community Center/Queen City Community Development, a non-profit organization. CTT's organizational leadership is housed in an Advisory Committee, a governing body that reports to the Seattle LGBT Community Center and also supervises the work of the various CTT subcommittees and volunteers. We are actively recruiting committee members for the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees. Descriptions are as follows:

- **Advisory:** works on policies & procedures, organizational, staff and board structure, board of director recruitment, 501c3 and ACA Accreditation pursuit, general governance, etc.
- **Finance:** reviews monthly statements, reports on financial activities to the Advisory Committee. Assists in quarterly & yearly reports, audits, etc.
- **Fund Development:** works on annual auction, grants, donor development, etc.
- **Inclusion:** an ad-hoc subcommittee tasked with ensuring a diverse and representative CTT leadership structure.
- **Outreach & PR:** works on newsletter, brochure, pamphlet, website, press releases, seeking out outreach opportunities, tabling, etc.
- **Programming:** evaluates and improves summer camp programming, including activities, scheduling, and much more!

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