

YWCA aims to update Camp Cann-Edi-On

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York, PA –

The A-frame cabins at Camp Cann-Edi-On are sometimes claimed as boys' or girls' territory, and campers like to peek beneath cabin No. 13 -- rumored to be the burial site of a white horse named Max.

The A-frames are locked up, with issues like sagging floors and roofs making them unusable. But the YWCA York hopes they could be used for sleepover camp again someday, as the organization works to make improvements at the more than 80-year-old camp in Conewago Township.

With the help of the Kinsley Education Center, the YWCA is working to update Camp Cann-Edi-On. Kinsley is donating labor and equipment for work that needs to be done, and the YWCA is working to raise \$50,000 to cover the cost of materials.

"They kind of adopted Camp Cann-Edi-On," said Shawnee Hooper, the YWCA's school age child care director.

There's minor and major work to be done. A lot of the buildings at the camp -- established in 1930 -- have been there for many years and have begun deteriorating, she said.



Kristina Schindler, camp director for the YWCA, looks up an unused A-frame in need of repair that hasn't been used in years at Camp Edi-On in Conewago Township. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS - PAUL KUEHNEL)

"So they need some attention," she said.

Steve Taylor, apprenticeship instructor for the Kinsley Education Center, said that so far, a bathhouse has had roof and siding replaced, some new decking has been installed at the recreation hall, some sagging floors have been replaced, among other work. Eventually an outdoor bathroom and A-frame cabins will be repaired and rebuilt as needed.

First-year apprentices are doing the work, Taylor said.

"We get to use it as training. They get their buildings repaired to make them safe and usable," he said.

Kinsley is fitting the work in whenever it can. The center asked the YWCA to prioritize the items that need to be done, so they could start with the most important, said Deb Rohrbaugh, associate director of the Kinsley center.

Kristina Schindler, camp director for the YWCA, said one of the long-term goals is to be able to offer sleepover camp someday. Right now, the A-frame cabins aren't in the shape to offer that.



Malinda Fake, left, works with a group including Saul Jones, of York, showing them how to build a campfire Tuesday at Camp Cann-Edi-On in Conewago Township. The YWCA York is raising money for materials to make renovations that will be done by apprentices from the Kinsley Education Center. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS - PAUL KUEHNEL)

"I have parents that have attended this camp as a child," she said, and they remember sleeping over. She thinks some parents might like the option because it could be a place the kids could stay out in nature, but it's still not too far from home.

Camp Cann-Edi-On now hosts three sleepovers during the summer, for an additional fee, kids get pretty excited for those nights, Schindler said.

This week's theme at Camp Cann-Edi-On is creativity, and on Tuesday, some campers worked to create sculptures out of branches, leaves and debris they found around the camp.

Nearby, students from the YWCA's 21st Century program, which rented the camp, swam in the pool and participated in other activities.

The YWCA rents out the camp facilities to other agencies or families for events, and officials hope that with improvements they'll be able to do that more, beyond the summer season. "We can do so much year-round," Schindler said.

To donate

The YWCA York is trying to raise \$50,000 to pay for materials to make renovations at Camp Cann-Edi-On. Kinsley Education Center is donating the labor and materials.

To donate, visit www.ywca.org and click on "Camp Cann-Edi-On Appeal" under the "How you can help" tab or call the YWCA at 845-2631.



Kristina Schindler, camp director for the YWCA, walks through a grove of unused A-frames in need of repair. They haven't been used for years because of their condition, something the YWCA wants to change with the help of Kinsley Education Center. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS - PAUL KUEHNEL)



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