

CAMP DAGGETT

A tradition since 1925 of providing quality character building experiences through educational and recreational programs in a safe, fun environment; serving all ages with an emphasis on youth.

To all of the friends of Camp Daggett,

My first knowledge of Camp Daggett was as a Wallooner living on the West Arm opposite Camp. For many years, I saw camp from the water while boating, and watched as kids in canoes paddled by heading south for their overnight camp out. Friday nights always brought celebratory “happy noise” from the final night ceremony.

For the past 15 years I have known camp as a grandfather. All four of our grandchildren have attended Camp Daggett. Every year, my wife and I go with them for drop off on Sunday, and to pick up the following Saturday. They all absolutely love Camp Daggett. They can't wait to go each summer, and they hate it when their week is over. I've seen the magic, the impact, of Camp Daggett up close and personal.

However, those experiences were only a peek in the door. During this past year, first as a committee member, then as a Board member, and now as the Interim Executive Director, I have seen first-hand how much work goes into providing my grandchildren, and all Camp Daggett and Adventure Center campers, a growth experience they will treasure for a lifetime.

As well, I have come to understand how fortunate we are to have a dedicated staff that has been involved with Camp Daggett for literally decades, in many different capacities. This continuity is critical in assuring an excellent camp experience year after year. I have also learned that providing this outstanding character-building experience takes considerable funding and continual planning. Fortunately, as a result of our many generous donors, Camp Daggett is able to provide character-building experiences at a very reasonable price, and to a wide cross section of children from around the state and around the country.

Sadly, 2020 has proven to be an extraordinary year. For the second time in 95 years (and the first time in 75 years) the board was forced to cancel our summer camp program. The first time, in 1945, was in war time. This year, it is because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you can well appreciate, the cancelling of camp was a very difficult decision, and not simply because we knew so many children and counselors would be disappointed. We knew very well it would be a huge financial blow. There would be a big loss in revenue - not only from camp - but from our largest annual fundraiser, the golf benefit, which also was cancelled. Finding ways to cut costs to offset these losses was difficult. We needed to reduce our year-round staff to half time, and even with this reduction and other cost-saving measures, there are still ongoing expenditures necessary to maintain minimal operations.

That is why we are initiating the annual appeal earlier this year, in the hope that our donors will join us again in support of the amazing work we have done for 95 years. We are cautiously optimistic about 2021, but we need to be prepared in case the current situation does not improve to the point that our winter/spring and summer programs can continue.

We appreciate your support and your generosity in helping us through this very difficult time, and our hope is that we can raise the necessary dollars to help offset our loss of approximately \$300,000 in 2020, while supporting our normal operations for 2021.

We invite you to review the giving options, and give from your heart to support us in our 95th year. Also, the CARES Act amends the IRS Code by allowing taxpayers that do not itemize their deductions to take a limited above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 for charitable contributions, reducing the taxpayers' adjusted gross income.

Thank you for your support over the years, and for your consideration of this request.

For the "other fellow,"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Gross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Rick Gross
Interim Executive Director