

# La Foret

CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Providing sanctuary for all to consider the transcendent issues of life

February 2017

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## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Register Now for Summer Camp!

Feb. Social Dance Party

Employee Highlight: Alec Brokaw

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## Summer Camp Registration Begins Now!

It's already that time of year... Summer camp registration is opening already, so it's time to start thinking about your kid's summer vacation! Fill their summer with joy at La Foret- sunshine, friends, and fun activities all day long! We are the host venue of many different camps from several organizations. Follow the links for more information on each camp, and for easy on-line registration.



[RMCUCC.org](http://RMCUCC.org)  
[website](#)

In the Rocky Mountain Conference, we feel that nurturing faith is of the utmost importance. Qualities cultivated at camp help persons of faith change lives, build bridges, and transform the world. We hope to see you at an RMC Camp at La Foret!

### [Spring Youth Retreat](#)

--March 31-April 1 (Grades 6-12)

### [Women's Retreat](#)

--April 21-23 (Adult women)

### [Grandparent & Me](#)

--June 29 - July 1  
(Grandparents and kids 5-11 years old)

### [Pioneer camp](#)

--July 9-15 (entering grades 2-4)

### [Explorer camp](#)

--July 9-15 (entering grades 4-6)

### [Voyager camp](#)

--July 9-15 (entering grades 6-8)

### [MADD Camp](#) (Music, Art, Dance, Drama)

--July 16-22 (entering grades 9-12)

### [Contemplative Camp](#)

--July 16-22 (Conference Adults)

La Foret presents...



Kids Summer day camp  
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

June 12 - 16

June 26 - 30

July 10 - 14

July 31 - Aug 4

'Something's Movin' in the Forest!' reinforces an active lifestyle by starting the day with movement, balance challenges, fitness games, dance and yoga. We have daily treks into the woods, where time is spent hiking, collecting craft materials, recording sightings and experiences, creating maps, forest-inspired crafts, and more fun games outside. We also have an hour at the pool each day.

More information [HERE](#).

June 12 - 16  
June 19 - 23  
June 26-30  
July 10 - 14  
July 17 - 21

Midwinter Retreat - Feb. 17-20, 2017  
International Affairs Seminar - March 26-  
April 1, 2017  
Jr. Camp - June 11-17, 2017  
CYF Camp - June 11-17, 2017  
Chi Rho Camp - June 18-24, 2017  
Discovery Camp - June 22-24, 2017

Art & Acting in the forest is a week long summer day camp for kids 6-11 years old. Campers will have art lessons starting at 9:00 am, a break for lunch and swimming, then acting lessons in the afternoon, until 3:00 pm.

The mission of all Central Rocky Mountain Regional youth ministries is to help young persons to be aware of God's seeking love revealed in Jesus Christ and to provide opportunities to respond in faith and love. These programs are for Youth ages 5-18.

More Information &  
[Registration Here!](#)

[CRMRDOC.org](http://CRMRDOC.org) website

There is SO much fun to be had this summer at La Foret! We look forward to the opportunity to create a special place full of fond memories for your children. Whichever camp you choose for your kids, they will be safe, comfortable, happy, and completely taken care of here at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center.

## 'Dance in the Woods!'

*This Month: Learn Nightclub Two-Step!*  
~ Open to the public! Invite your friends! ~

Sunday, February 26th, 2017!



La Foret provides a delicious table full of snacks, and you are invited to B.Y.O.B. We will provide coffee, tea, water...you may bring beer, wine (21+).

We'll even have a chocolate fondue fountain!

Included is a nightclub two-step lesson at 6:00 pm, taught by Tasha. It will be a great introduction to some social dance moves to practice during the dance party. Nightclub is a slow, smooth

Employee Highlight:

**Alec Brokaw**

*Mitigation & Maintenance*

Alec started at La Foret only four months ago, and already he has helped in some huge projects and great improvements. Alec came to us with training and practice with a forestry and mitigation crew. With his knowledge behind a chainsaw, Alec helped just wrap up La Foret's year-long mitigation efforts. Now, we're moving into the shop improvements and even an addition to the building...all of which Alec will have a hand in!

Being a part of the maintenance crew on such a big, multi-building property is no small task - and Alec handles the challenge with a willingness to learn and helpful, can-do attitude. La Foret is thankful to have the hard working hands of Alec in our maintenance

dance that is still fun and popular for social dancing.

Tasha is there all evening, to help with questions and offer dance tips. We'll play music perfect for dancing Two-step, Cha Cha, west coast swing, Waltz, and of course, plenty of nightclub two-step!

Only \$10 per person, at the door.  
As usual, your money goes to La Foret, and the preservation of this beautiful nonprofit organization, providing safe space in support of community growth.

**SUNDAY,  
FEB. 26th, 2017**

Beginner \*Nightclub two-step\* Lesson  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Social Dance Practice Party  
7:00pm - 9:00pm

-- Private and semi-private lessons are also available! Click [HERE](#) for more information! --



*"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."*

- Vincent Van Gogh

department.



*"I first got into mitigation cutting with Mile High Youth Corps, a saw team that traveled throughout the state on cutting projects. During my time with the team,*

*I learned: how to select trees for cutting, safety behind the chainsaw, and many more sawyer techniques and forestry skills. With the team, we would travel around the state, camping five to ten days at a time near the work sites. Now, I'm still able to work in a forest, at La Foret - I've been able to continue in my experience as a sawyer, and apply my training and skills."*

-Alec

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## Guest Article from Rev. Chris Gilmore

Chris is in charge of all UCC summer camps

### What is outdoor ministry? Why do we go to camp?

In the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ we believe that outdoor ministry offers a sanctuary - a place where it is safe to explore new ideas, develop the language of faith, dream, and take risks as persons harmonize their lives in Christian community with the vision of the Gospel. What does this mean? It means that our expression of Christianity emphasizes Jesus' radical welcome, explores Biblical stories of a deeper truth, shares God's enduring love for creation, gives opportunity to humanity's spiritual longing for connection, and embraces the power of Spirit to transform lives. At camp, we encourage participants of all ages to consider important questions about God, faith, community, justice, and the sacred. We invite questions over answers, process over product, and personal stories over normative statements. The result is a people-centered, faith-enriching, holistic (serving mind, body, and spirit) experience. Through friendships, laughter, story, prayer, campfires, hikes, games, crafts, morning watch, worship, discussion, and God's ubiquitous presence at La Foret, our campers discover, rediscover, and deepen their faith. Outdoor Ministry radically connects faith and justice communities across the West. It is an integral part of the Rocky Mountain Conference's educational mission to local UCC parishes. It is also an open program welcoming campers from all walks on the spiritual journey. Our hope is that over the course of a week, each person will not only make life-long friends, but begin to think about who God is and what it means to be loved by God just as we are!



As we are getting ready to welcome everyone to camp this summer, it is a blessing to be a part of welcoming each person to La Foret! La Foret has been transforming lives and changing the world ever since 1946. We work hard to make each camp of the RMC one that will be life-enriching for each camper with well-trained staff, quality programming, and incredible volunteers.

If you have never been to camp before we hope you will join us at one of our two open houses. In Colorado Springs at La Foret on March 18th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (no-cost lunch provided) or at the conference office on March 23rd from 4:00pm - 7:00 pm. Both myself, Rev. Chris Gilmore (conference La Foret associate), and a member of the La Foret staff will be available at both open houses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, are interested in serving as a counselor, or would like to volunteer in other ways. Registration is now open to sign up for any of our summer camps!

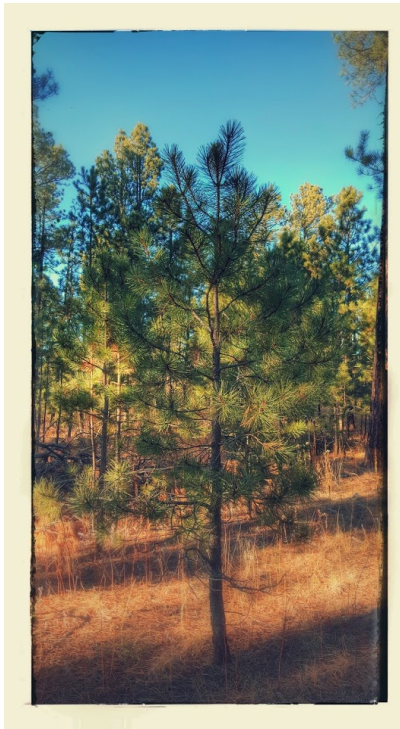
Peace and grace,  
Rev. Christopher Gilmore

[camps@rmcucc.org](mailto:camps@rmcucc.org)  
720-384-7028

Camp registration at: [RMCUCC.org](http://RMCUCC.org)

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## Renewal Day at La Foret



La Foret is dedicated to making our site the most perfect getaway for YOU, and whatever event is upcoming in your life. To continue in our hopes to impress you, we have developed a concept for a Saturday play-day at La Foret. During this light-hearted, Renewal Day, your congregation can visit and enjoy a mid-morning to late-afternoon event here at La Foret, planned by you/your group.

During our pilot events, we've seen two RMC congregations successfully spend a day on site in activities to build community, deepen relationships, and simply have a memorable, fun time together! During your day at La Foret, though you may end up sharing the grounds with other groups, the entire facility is available to share, and would even include a noon meal in the Dining Hall. Spaces available include a large meeting hall (with bathrooms), chapel, pool, hiking trails, sports courts, the labyrinth, and all the other parts of La Foret. To cover basic

operating costs, we are asking \$200 base fee and \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family of any size. A Practical minimum attendance for us is around 20 people, and we could accommodate up to several hundred. For more questions and to book a Renewal Day at La Foret, call Tasha at our office, 719-495-2743.

We want more people to know and use our facility, and the Renewal Day has proven a powerful and fun way to get people here. Events can be as structured as you and your group wish, or, you all can come and simply have fun enjoying the wonderful space at La Foret! Meet here or carpool down from your church, and we recommend using our unique chapel for your worship.



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## How YOU Can Help

## La Foret's Wishlist

- Utility vehicles
- Tennis net
- Sports & swim equipment
- Archery targets

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Trail maintenance
- Collect kindling in the forest
- Build a gazebo
- Outdoor clean-up

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STAY CONNECTED

