

## Spring 2019

### Looking for a Camp or Retreat?

Click on a link below to register

[Something's Moving in the Forest](#)  
(Registration Coming Soon)

#### UCC

[Spring Youth Retreat March 15 - 17](#)  
**Registration Closes March 1st**

[RMC Confirmation Retreat March 29 - 31](#)

[RMC Women's Retreat April 26 - 28](#)

[Pioneer Camp July 7 - 13](#)

[Explorer Camp July 7 - 13](#)

[Voyager Camp July 7 - 13](#)

[MADD Camp July 14 - 20](#)

[Contemplative Camp July 14 - 20](#)  
(Registration coming soon)

#### DOC

[Junior Camp June 9 - 15](#)

[CYF Camp June 9 - 15](#)

[Chi Rho Camp June 16 - 22](#)

[Discovery Camp June 20 - 22](#)

#### UU

[QUUest June 30 - July 6](#)

[Spirit QUUest June 30 - July 6](#)



## Bemis Day Camp

June 10-14, June 17-21

July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26



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## Meadow Restoration Fund



The meadow, just across the sidewalk from Ponderosa, will over time be restored to its natural beauty. A meadow restoration fund has been established in honor of Janet McCulloch. The goal of this gift is to use seeds that are native to Black Forest to create a natural meadow in the area between Ponderosa and the sports courts. If you would like to contribute to this fund you may do so by visiting our website and making an online donation or you can send a check to our office.

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## Transformational Stories - Danielle Raffa

On a snowy day in February of 2012, I arrived at La Foret on a bus with my fellow classmates. I instantly felt at home amongst the trees and the cabins, but I had yet to realize the impact this place would really have on me. I went to Regis Jesuit High School, which requires students in their junior year to take a retreat at La Foret called Kairos. The

word Kairos translates to “God’s time”. At my high school, it was a tradition that Kairos was kept secret by the upperclassmen who had attended the retreat. And even long after we’ve graduated, it is a secret that many Kairos alumni still keep to this day in order to uphold the tradition for those who have yet to experience it.

During the four days of my Kairos retreat, I experienced the most spiritual and emotional growth that I had ever felt in my entire life. Listening to my leaders and teachers share their life experiences at Inglis Hall, walking the paths amongst the trees while thinking about where I stand with my values, and staying up late in the cabins consoling classmates about their struggles when I hadn’t even known them just days before.

Kairos taught me how to love and be loved, how to learn and to listen, and how to live my values in my day to day life.

Kairos at La Foret made an incredible impact on my life and I was determined to share that with others. In my senior year, I became a Kairos leader and got to experience the retreat all over again in a different light. It was amazing to put in so much physical and emotional work to the retreat, and see the behind-the-scenes ways that God works in the retreat, and in life. Because of Kairos, I fell in love with creating unforgettable experiences for others and decided to make it a career. Today I am an Event Coordinator at Main Event Entertainment where I get the opportunity to plan incredible events for others. I also work as a Venue Manager at a wedding venue called Cielo at Castle Pines, and I love getting to continue to embark on my journey of creating memories for others that will last a lifetime. In my career and in my personal life, I am constantly aiming to create moments, big and small, that not only impact your experience, but impact who you are as a person. For me, La Foret will always represent at time in my life that I decided to let go of my mistakes, shortcomings, and regrets and to start living the life I wanted to live.



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## Helping to Restore the Forest



This past year we donated a total of 683 trees with a total height of 5,592 feet. These trees were transplanted from the east side of our property to areas throughout the Black Forest Burn scar. Not only will this help Black Forest recover, but it adds to the mitigation of La Foret.

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## Speaking of Mitigation

Have you ever wondered what all those tee pee shaped piles were scattered

throughout our property? Those were slash piles that were created during our mitigation process. In order to safely burn them, we had to have favorable weather and snow on the ground. We haven't seen that in awhile. This January we finally received some of that Colorado snow. 90% of our slash piles have been burned and are gone. There were over 100 fires safely lit in our forest over a four day period.



## A Note from Larry

We celebrate the Ordination last week of our newest employee, Rev. Logan Bennett. She has a fancy title, "Director of Transformational Programs." While maintaining the UCC summer events for youth and adults, she will increase the events in the spring and fall, focusing on programs for adults to make La Foret the premier site for progressive programs in this region. Examples include housing a theologian in residence with them offering lectures, workshops, and seminars. And not just theologians - scholars of note, scientists, consciousness researchers, pacesetters in social justice, leading journalists. Call her with your ideas! Stop in to meet her; contribute your ideas.

And as always, I want to say "thank you" to all of our supporters, donors and volunteers. We strive to be a place of peace and tranquility, providing natural sanctuary to all to consider the transcendent issues we each may face. You are welcome to call and drop by for a bit of time spent in a quiet, natural setting.

Peace,

*Larry*

La Foret Conference and  
Retreat Center

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