

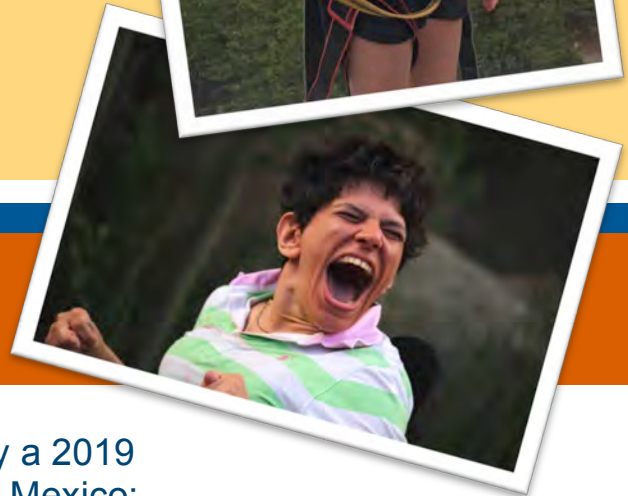
Camp Report

2019



Welcome to Rocky Mountain Village!

Located on 220 acres in the beautiful Rocky Mountains, Rocky Mountain Village is an overnight respite and recreation facility for people of all ages living with disability. In the summers, Rocky Mountain Village is a fully accessible sleep away summer camp serving children and adults living with disability. During the rest of the year, Rocky Mountain Village provides respite services for individuals living with disability as well as educational weekends and trainings.



“The Most Beautiful Experience of My Life”

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by a 2019 Rocky Mountain Village counselor visiting from Mexico:

“I still can’t believe you exist! This summer I had the most beautiful experience of my life. I went to a place where there are no obstacles for anyone, that is full of special people who give light to your life. Where you are laughing all day until your stomach hurts. Where disability is just a word. Where you can be yourself and feel free at the same time. Where you see miracles every day. It’s a place full of people with a wonderful heart.”

Chelsea's Boardwalk

The original Boardwalk, built in 1980, consisted of wood boards laid directly on the ground. At the time, it was built, it was revolutionary in its accessibility. Over the years, heavy use and mountain winters took their toll on this favorite camp feature, causing deterioration and rot. In 2012, Rocky Mountain Village began the process of rebuilding the Boardwalk. The new Boardwalk is redesigned with more switchbacks, making it less steep. It is also wider to better accommodate wheelchairs. Finally, a new handrail is being installed to provide additional balance and support to users.



The rebuilding of the original Boardwalk is nearly complete. In September, the Boardwalk was re-dedicated Chelsea's Boardwalk in honor of longtime camper Chelsea Van Dyk. Chelsea's family has been instrumental to supporting camp. Campers now have the chance to enjoy the mountain's streams, forests, wildlife and spectacular views.

Rocky Mountain Village is committed to expanding the Boardwalk to other parts of camp to make Rocky Mountain Village as accessible as possible for campers and staff. If you are interested in helping with the Boardwalk's expansion, please contact Tony Garcia at 720-979-4664 or tgarcia@eastersealscolorado.org.

Camperships

Camperships provide financial assistance to individuals and families to offset the cost of a summer camp experience for people living with disability. In 2019, more than \$60,000 in Campership funds were raised, supporting nearly 125 campers!

Cabin Awards

At the end of every session, staff at Rocky Mountain Village prepare a slideshow of the week's activities and present cabins with awards. Perhaps the most coveted award among counselors is the Squeaky Clean Award, given to the cleanest cabin. Counselors love this award because the winner gets a break from cleaning between camp sessions. Campers love the Big A Award, given to the cabin with the most camp spirit. Cabins work hard singing and cheering to show their enthusiasm for each other. Sometimes, cabins will get special, silly awards like Dancing Queens to celebrate their unique contributions to the magic of Rocky Mountain Village.



Camp Alumni Association

In 2018, Rocky Mountain Village created a Camp Alumni Association for anyone who has ever attended, worked or volunteered at Rocky Mountain Village. The response has been positive, generating wonderful connections with Alumni of all ages and abilities. The Camp Alumni Association includes couples, both among campers and counselors, who met their partner at Camp. The Alumni Association also includes families with multiple generations of Camp Alumni. One of the best things about the Camp Alumni Association are the photos from the past 60+ years that show Rocky Mountain Village (formerly Handicamp) as it has grown and changed and yet still stayed the same.



For more information or to join the Rocky Mountain Village Camp Alumni Association, please contact Alexis Marsh at 303-901-0921 or amarsh@eastersealscolorado.org.

Friendship Lodge

This summer saw the opening of the new Friendship Lodge in the center of Rocky Mountain Village, near the fishing pond and outdoor stage. With 32 beds, the new Friendship Lodge is a fully accessible, 7,500 square foot residential building. During the summer, it will house campers with disability and summer camp staff. In the off-season, it will host private rental groups. In addition to the bunk rooms, Friendship Lodge also includes private bedrooms for counselors, a kitchen, living area and fully accessible bathrooms. Friendship Lodge features a variety of ADA finishes, high ceilings, beautiful mountain décor and picturesque mountain views.



Easterseals Colorado and Rocky Mountain Village would like to give a special thanks to Lyda Hill Philanthropies, DLR Group, the Scarengella Family and the many community partners for their generosity and commitment to our campers and staff.

"Thank you to an extraordinary camp staff who make camp so special for people like me. You are all very much appreciated and loved by every single camper."

2019 Camper



Frontier Lodge Renovation and Expansion

Rocky Mountain Village is committed to providing on-site housing for its year-round staff of 12. The current housing available to staff is inadequate, both in terms of space and quality. To address this shortage, Rocky Mountain Village is embarking on a two-phase capital project. The first phase, the Frontier Lodge Renovation and Expansion, began in August of 2019. During this phase, Rocky Mountain Village will be remodeling the existing 600 square feet of space in Frontier Lodge, an original 1932 building, and adding 900 more square feet. The renovated and expanded Frontier Lodge will have an 800 square foot apartment to house 1-2 staff members. The remaining 700 square feet will be used for group activity space and storage. In the second phase, starting in 2020, Rocky Mountain Village will replace the A-Frame, a deteriorating staff residence, with a new, larger Staff Lodge.

If you are interested in supporting the Frontier Lodge Renovation and Expansion, please contact Sharon Kay Brown at 720-234-5976 or sbrown@eastersealscolorado.org.



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Archery

It had been decades since archery was available at Rocky Mountain Village. Thanks to a collaboration with CSU Extension 4-H in Clear Creek County, archery returned to Rocky Mountain Village in 2019. More than 500 campers, ranging in age from 6 to 70 and living with a wide variety of disabilities, got to experience the challenge and fun of shooting a bow and arrow this past summer. Some campers spent hours at the range, practicing and improving, returning during every open activity period. Even campers with limited arm mobility were able to participate using the adaptive cross-bow setup. Many campers cited archery as their favorite activity this summer.

One camper living with a degenerative condition that impacts her mobility had this to say about archery this summer:

“Every day I take back something my disability stole from me. I used to love archery. The feeling of holding a bow in my hands [again] was unreal. I felt powerful and strong and capable.”

