



Tall Turf Today

Spring 2018

Equipping Youth and Families for Lives of Reconciliation in God's World

Camp Tall Turf Summer 2018: Join Us for a New Adventure!

In the Message paraphrase, Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?" As we have been planning for the 2018 summer, Tall Turf has felt the power of God's message in Isaiah. God is calling us to look at Tall Turf through *fresh* eyes. We're excited about the new things God is doing here and hope that your family will join us for a new adventure this summer. Check out some of the many ways you can get involved below!



DISCOVERY SCIENCE CAMP (Ages 8-13)

July 10-14

Did you know that Camp Tall Turf spans more than 240 acres of land? During this session, campers will have the opportunity to become young explorers as they discover and learn about nature in the greatest science lab ever created—God's world! This session will include opportunities for hands-on learning experiences through nature study, science themed classes, an overnight campout, and more!

TALL TURF OLYMPICS CAMP (AGES 8-13)

JULY 17-24

Olympics week is an exciting session where campers participate in activities inspired by Olympic events, join in a variety of crazy competitions, participate in Opening & Closing Ceremonies and more! Campers will learn about different countries, as well as the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and encouragement. Your camper will still have the opportunity to enjoy all of their favorite camp activities such as canoeing, fishing, archery, sports, arts and crafts, and dance. Sign up early for this exciting week!

YOUNG LEADERS CAMP (AGES 8-13)

AUGUST 6-10

Looking for a unique camp experience that will help your child discover their full potential in Christ? Join us for Young Leaders Camp where campers will learn about the characteristics of positive leaders, discover their strengths, set and achieve goals, and learn the importance of working together. Through experiential activities and guided discussions, campers will be empowered to discover what leadership is all about.



FAMILY CAMP WEEKENDS (ALL AGES) June 29—July 1; July 6—8; July 27—29; August 10—12

Looking for an affordable and fun family get-away this summer? Come to Family Camp! We bring families together for great activities and fun family challenges. Your family can explore camp on a hike, participate in a human maze, play a game of volleyball, test your skills in a canoe and much more! Interactive sessions are offered throughout the weekend to strengthen your relationship as a family with Christ at its center. Join us for a weekend by the lake!

Save some time! Sign up now at www.tallturf.org.

The CEO's Corner

By Marcus Hargrave, President & CEO

Greetings all! Please know you are a valued team member in our organization.

Over the past year, Tall Turf Ministries has taken significant steps. Key highlights include:

- A strengthened and diversified Board of Directors adding a Hispanic Pastor and local business executive.
- Sustained improved financial performance for the second year in a row.
 - ⇒ Contributed support increased by 14%
 - ⇒ Program revenue increased by 39%
 - ⇒ Management expenses decreased by 36%
- Continued focus on collaborations resulting in support from Classis East GR of the Christian Reformed Church.
- Significant improvements made to camp property which will translate to a return on this investment.
- Helping to advance the movement for reconciliation in God's world by impacting over 600 youth and families.
- Initiated first steps towards a Capital Campaign to ensure continued improvement to facilities and program capacity.

Thank you again for your previous support. With your support in 2017, we brought more youth to Christ, and trained many groups across West Michigan on the topic of racial reconciliation. We have been asked to educate more groups, and will continue to do this. The result is a deepened understanding of the mission of Tall Turf Ministries, appreciation among constituents for the work TTM is doing, and an awareness of how much work still needs to be done.

Sincerely,

Marcus

Getting Ready for Summer

It's been a busy winter for our Site Manager, David Brassler. He and Site Manager Emeritus, Jim Brassler, have been hard at work giving our dining hall a much needed facelift. They have installed new paneling, fresh paint, and are adding new pictures and signs throughout. You can join them in sprucing up camp for the summer during our annual Spring Break Work Retreat April 4-7. All skill levels are welcome - we have everything from cleaning to raking to carpentry. There is no COST, and food and lodging are provided. Contact our office at (616) 452-7906 for more details. We hope you can join us!



The old walls are removed and the space is prepared for new walls.



New plywood is installed.



A fresh coat of paint helps to make everything look brighter.

Partners in the Reconciliation Journey

By Miriam De Jong, Program Director

Since it began, Tall Turf Ministries has been committed to the work of reconciliation. One of our founding biblical texts, Ephesians 2:14, states, “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” This past year, our LITs (Leaders In Training) and staff have sought to share this vision with others through teaching and learning



together with new partners. Two groups that we were privileged to share this journey with were the Episcopal Diocese of West Michigan and New City Neighbors. New City Neighbors Executive Director Alaina Dobkowski shared this about the experience:

“New City Neighbors' mission is to empower youth to reach their full potential. We work with a diverse community of youth through faith-based out of school time programs, social enterprise, and youth employment in the Creston Neighborhood of Grand Rapids. Our organization is committed to anti-racism, and we recognize that we need partners with us on this journey. A year ago we reached out to Tall Turf Ministries to see if they would be willing to help us as we began to intentionally have conversations about anti-racism with our high school staff (students are employed in all of our programs). The Tall Turf Team led our high school staff members through anti-racism training that was Christ-centered, historically based, and forward thinking. We are thankful for the training Tall Turf provided, it opened doors to further dialogue with our high school staff, impacting our entire organization. We are thankful that Tall Turf has partnered with us in our mission as youth are empowered in new ways.” We look forward to seeing how God continues to work through each partnership on the journey of reconciliation.



Get involved!

Looking for ways to become more involved with Tall Turf? Check out the opportunities listed below :

- Attend the Spring Break Work Retreat April 4-7.
- Help out with camper registration days.
- Sponsor a cabin for summer cabin decorations.
- Help pass out flyers in the community for summer camp.
- Be a prayer partner for a summer staff member.
- Sponsor a camper to attend a camp session.
- Sponsor a family to attend a Family Camp weekend.
- Sponsor summer staff lunch on registration days.
- Be a driver for Firehouse Kids' programs on Saturdays.
- Volunteer to serve in the kitchen during a camp session.
- Lead a training for high school Leaders in Training.
- Serve on the Tall Turf board.
- Help with web design and marketing.

If you're interested in getting involved with any of these opportunities, contact our office at (616) 452-7906.



GET TO KNOW DANIEL...

Position: Leader in Training **School:** Ottawa Hills High School Senior

What do you hope to do after high school?

I want to study graphic design & play basketball. My dream job is to own my own clothing company.

How have you been involved with Tall Turf?

I started coming when I was 9 or 10. I've participated in Firehouse Kids, summer camp, the Junior Leaders in Training program, and the LIT program.

How has Tall Turf impacted you?

It's been like a second home for me, especially during the summer. Also, it's given me a better understanding of racial reconciliation—challenging me to think about different perspectives. It's brought me deeper in my faith & leadership through challenging me to step out of my comfort zone. I've taken the skills I've learned at Tall Turf and put them into practice in my everyday life.

What's one of your favorite Tall Turf memories?

Going to Jackson, MS to do service projects and spend time with Dr. John Perkins.

What's one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I can solve a Rubik's Cube.



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