



# PINES TO PALMS



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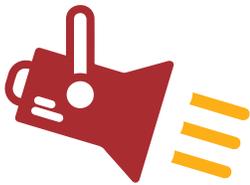
## YMCA OVERNIGHT CAMPS MARSTON | SURF | RAINTREE

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A newsletter for Alumni & Friends of YMCA OVERNIGHT CAMPS – MARSTON | SURF | RAINTREE

### Alumni Spotlight:



Greetings to all YMCA Camp Marston, YMCA Raintree Ranch, and YMCA Camp Surf Alumni! My name is Steve Morris and I am the new Alumni Engagement Director for the YMCA of San Diego County Overnight Camps. I'm very excited to be planning alumni events and reconnecting you with camp. We have a very exciting year ahead of us culminating with the opening of the newly renovated Marston Dining Hall in Fall 2018 (see upcoming events below).

This is our first of 4 newsletters to be published quarterly in 2018 and we'd love to feature stories about you! Please consider sharing a memory or camp experience that's meaningful to you so we can reminisce together. Send photos or articles to my email smorris@ymca.org or give me call if you'd like to discuss ideas for sharing (619) 564-9977.

Also on the horizon are 3 huge milestones for San Diego Y Camps; the 50th Anniversaries of both Camp Surf and Raintree Ranch in 2019 and the 100th Anniversary of Camp Marston in 2021!! There will be plenty more details to come on these 3 momentous occasions so stay tuned for updates on our website and in following newsletters.

It is my pleasure to be serving you and this amazing group of former camp staff; please contact me if you have any questions or would like to volunteer at camp, donate a photo or camp historical artifact, or would just like to visit your old stomping grounds.

If you haven't already registered as a Camp Alumni please do so at our  
NEW webpage: [www.ymca.org/camps/camp-alumni](http://www.ymca.org/camps/camp-alumni)

### UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS:

Family Fun Day Open House (all 3 Camps)	Sunday, May 6, 2-5pm
Camp Marston Alumni Day	Saturday, June 16, 2-7pm
Raintree Horse Shows (Alumni Welcome)	Friday's June 22-August 17
Camp Surf Alumni Day	Saturday, August 26, 2-6pm
Annual Beach Party @ Camp Surf	Saturday, November 3, 4-9pm
Marston Dining Hall Grand Opening	Fall 2018 (TBD)



I hope to see you at one of these events or hear from you soon!

#### Steve Morris

Director of Financial Development & Alumni Engagement  
YMCA of San Diego County – Overnight Camps  
Marston | Surf | Raintree

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By Tom Madeyski  
District Executive

"Did you get any snow?"  
"Is the lake at Marston full yet?"

These are questions I hear this time of year as winter turns to spring.

Yes, we did see snowfalls this year, the biggest being about 10 inches of the white stuff. It was a winter wonderland at Marston that week and we had 280 sixth graders with us enjoying School Camp. Soon after the beautiful snowfall, those students discovered valuable things about snow:

- If you don't wear gloves, making snowballs is really cold.
- Bread bags inside tennis shoes do not make good winter boots.
- When the snow thaws during the day, then temperatures drop at night, there is ice everywhere.
- It is easy to fall on ice.
- Falling on ice hurts.

Ah, the many lessons of life at camp!

(con't on next page)

**NOTES FROM TOM... (con't.)**

As to the lake, at press time for this newsletter, Lake Jessop at Marston is 20% full. We are hoping and praying for more winter rains.

This year, history is being made as we replace the old Camp Marston dining hall. The 89-year-old Gilmore Hall has seen thousands of children and families share fellowship & break bread together.

With over \$2Million raised, we will be demolishing almost all of the current structure, rebuilding and expanding. The new facility will feature 80 more dining seats, expand dining space by 65%, add four new bathrooms, open views to the mountains in the east, add a large deck, hand-washing station and an outdoor courtyard. Construction is underway and will be complete this summer.

**We are so thankful to the donors that made this dream possible:**

- YMCA of the USA Strategic Initiatives Fund
- Family of Dan & Vi McKinney
- Mark Foster, the Foster Family Fund at the San Diego Foundation
- County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program
- Hugh Bennett
- Ron Rouse
- Lisa Hamilton
- David Lehmann
- Swinerton Foundation



As construction winds down, we'll be sending invitations to the dedication of our new Dining Hall at YMCA Camp Marston. Hope to see you there!



# New Beginnings

**By Shari Walls  
Summer Director, YMCA Raintree Ranch**



My name is Shari Walls, new Summer Director of YMCA Raintree Ranch. Though my role here at the Y is wide and varied, I am most excited to be pouring myself into the western horsemanship program of Raintree Ranch Summer Camp. I originally hail from the Gulf Coast region of Florida, but I have lived and worked in many different places since then, holding a variety of positions within the camp, adventure, and youth leadership industries.

meaningful camp experiences to a host of youth and teens; I have no intention in reinventing something that is already working well. However, change is a part of progress. So, I am pleased to share that we'll be increasing the number of horses that we'll be utilizing for summer camp from 38 to 44. Additionally, this year's herd of Raintree Ranch horses will be coming from Arizona where the horses work full time as riding and driving animals for both youth and adults. In fact, over the Easter holiday weekend I took a road trip out to Arizona with our Raintree Coordinator and Head Wrangler to test-ride the horses that we'll be getting for camp. The three of us are very excited to introduce these beautiful creatures to all of our 2018 campers and we're confident that they'll be a great addition to our Raintree Ranch family for the summer season.

**"First you go with the horse.  
Then the horse goes with you.  
Then you go together."  
- Tom Dorrance**

The man quoted above has left an incredible impact on horsemen all over the world, and I think his words succinctly summarize my hope for what we'll accomplish through Raintree Ranch Summer Camp. Through my work and travels I've determined that creating opportunities to connect with horses is the best medium for helping youth and teens develop healthy relationships, integrity and character. I've been incredibly fortunate to keep horses in my life in some way, shape or form while moving around the country and I hope to pass on some of the lessons I've learned from my experiences managing horse farms, delivering foals, starting colts, moving cattle and exercise riding Thoroughbred Racehorses.

I've been asked countless times already about what changes I'll be making at Raintree this summer and I can say with a high level of confidence that Raintree Ranch will continue to be the warm, welcoming, and inclusive camp that so many campers and staff call "home". YMCA Raintree Ranch has been very successful at providing

When I'm not working I can often be found up at the Raintree Ranch barn where my three horses have settled in as full time residents. Risk, her 2 year old gelding Torrent, and the small but mighty, Breezy Lynn, have been providing warm welcomes to all of our visiting Camp Marston Outdoor Education students and Weekend Retreat guests. Risk and Breezy Lynn are seasoned riding horses and they even have their own camp résumé having packed kids out on trailrides for the past few years at our former camp home, Pathfinder Ranch in Mountain Center, CA.

I probably can't say it enough, I'm excited to be a part of YMCA of San Diego County through Raintree Ranch and I'm looking forward to 2018 Summer Camp which is quickly approaching.



# Shots from Summer!



## iCARE Corner: YMCA CAMP SURF iCARE PLAN

**DID YOU KNOW** YMCA Camp Surf has a Waste Reduction & Environmental Stewardship Plan? The strategy is to implement practices throughout the facility to reduce consumption of natural resources, minimize production of waste materials, and promote sustainable environmental stewardship.

Each quarter we will feature updates and highlights from Camp’s iCARE Plan. In this issue you’ll find the action steps and defining principals for each of the iCARE components:

### Steps:

- » All departments are involved in setting up systems and implementing the plan.
- » Bringing new information, technology, and ideas to the group is everyone’s responsibility.
- » Create a culture that values and is committed to waste reduction & environmental stewardship.
- » Develop the plan on a continual basis and update at least once every year.
- » Educate staff & participants about iCARE practices, including ideas to implement at home.



### iCARE =

**I**NTERRELATIONSHIPS - Plants & animals live in communities that meet their special needs, and are connected through a “web of life”.

**C**YCLES - The building materials of life (carbon, nitrogen, water, soil) are used & renewed over and over again.

**A**WARENESS/APPRECIATION/ACTION - Awareness leads to appreciation, which leads to action. We care about what we understand, and know-ledge allows us to make informed decisions which positively affect our family, community, and our nation.

**R**ESOURCES - The decisions we make every day have everlasting consequences.

**E**NERGY - The sun is the ultimate source of energy.

**STAY TUNED NEXT ISSUE** for more on camp’s specific processes to reduce waste & promote environmental stewardship. Here are 3 things you can do today to reduce your environmental footprint :

1. **RECYCLE** – Set up systems to make it easy and look for minimal or recyclable packaging to avoid wasting energy and valuable resources. [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)
2. **Bring Your Own Water Bottle** – 2.7 million tons of plastic are used to bottle water each year. That is 1.5 million barrels of oil in America alone... [www.container-recycling.org](http://www.container-recycling.org)
3. **Reusable Shopping Bags** – Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags each year. Only .06% is recycled..... [www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing.” – Albert Schweitzer

## Camp Surf Climbing Tower (a story of resilience)

By Clay Jones | YMCA CAMP SURF  
Outdoor Education Program Director

On a rainy day way back in 2003, then Camp Surf Executive Director, Mark Thompson helped guide the construction crew through the narrow dirt road that lines the perimeter of camp. Through driving rain, wind and mud, the team overcame to build Camp Surf's first climbing tower. Since then, through our 'Challenge by Choice' principles, the tower has given young people and adults an opportunity to develop new skills, set goals and work to achieve their personal best. This activity emphasizes our values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility while the positive energy and encouragement from cabin groups and spectators for the climbers is exciting to be around! The tower is also the site of Camp Surf's famous STEM-based 'Egg Drop' activity. Principles of Science, technology, engineering and math, are emphasized as campers work in teams to build contraptions from recycled materials to safely transport a raw egg as it tumbles 30ft off the tower – hopefully

unbroken! For 15 years our climbing tower has facilitated friendships fostered, goals achieved, and fears conquered.

Fast-forward to the first week of this spring, when we welcomed a crew from Challenge Works to remove the old wooden framing and climbing surface. Thankfully the poles, roof, and decking are all in great shape! The new climbing surface is made of Trex, a composite material of recycled wood and plastic. The wood fibers come from discarded pallets, sawdust, and wood chips, while the polyethylene plastic is mostly recycled materials like stretch wrap, packaging films, grocery bags and product overwraps. We

### FUN FACTS:

- The original climbing tower was paid for by camper family contributions and camper store donations! (Camper family contributions are also funding this upgrade.)
- The use of Trex reflects our iCARE Environmental Stewardship Plan (see the iCARE corner each issue to learn more).

chose Trex since it eliminates the termite and weather challenge we experienced with our wood surface so it is very low maintenance and will last twice as long! Two new belay beams, all new climbing holds and an angled climbing 'box' feature was installed to challenge even the most experienced Camp Surf climber with new angles, grips and diverse routes to negotiate.



# STAY CONNECTED

It's never been easier to keep in touch with camp news, camp friends, and find out about all the alumni events happening throughout the year!

Find us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on [Instagram](#) & [YouTube](#)

We're social.



[@ymcacampmarston](#)

[@ymcaraintreeranch](#)

[@ymcacampsurf](#)

and of course there's always....

## [www.ymca.org/camps/camp-alumni](http://www.ymca.org/camps/camp-alumni)

### OUR MISSION

The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind, and body.

## SAVE THE DATE

### FAMILY FUN DAY

Bring friends and family to Camp Marston or Camp Surf for an afternoon of fun and free activities!

**MAY 6, 2018**

[www.ymca.org/campfunday](http://www.ymca.org/campfunday)

