Before summer can arrive, we must enjoy the springtime, and Spring 2019 is going to be one for the books as the concert season begins and new programs are unveiled. We have had an incredible start to 2019, and we are excited to see what is ahead for the rest of the year. Summer registration opened on January 7, and since then the camper spots have continued to fill up. Almost every spot in all seven sessions of Camp ASCCA has been reserved with many people overflowing to the summer’s waitlist.

As the start of those summer sessions gets closer and closer, we still have several spring events to enjoy. We recently wrapped up our annual spring weekend known as Fun Fish, and the fun did not end on the water as we kicked off the ASCCA concert season with a special performance from an ASCCA concert alum. In April, we have several weekend camps setup with partnering organizations, but the newest weekend event will be the inaugural ASCCA Rookie Camp on April 26 through April 28 where families of first-time campers will have the opportunity to attend camp together and learn more about ASCCA summers.

We continue to create new experiences for our campers through program development, and the concert series continues to expand. These opportunities would not be possible without the support of the many donors, volunteers, sponsors and organizations who contribute to camp throughout the year. It is the Camp ASCCA spirit in each of you that keeps this place being the greatest place on earth for so many people from around the Southeast and even the world!
Meet Jacob Boyer, Adventure Program Specialist!

Join us as we welcome back Jacob Boyer to the Camp ASCCA Staff! He worked here for several summers in college on the program staff and is now coming onto the team as our full-time Adventure Program Specialist. In this position, Boyer will be responsible for the many adventure activities across the campus including the main zipline, Ziptower, the LPR Zipline, and much more. Keep reading, and you will learn more about Boyer and the path that brought him back here to the greatest place on earth.

I grew up in a square mile town in Mississippi called Caledonia and graduated from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in 2012. After high school, I attended Mississippi State University. In May 2016, I received my Bachelor of Science in Special Education. My childhood was filled with spending time outdoors and at summer camps. I started going to YMCA Camp Chandler when I was 13 and ended another summer the following year. Those two summers were my first taste of ropes courses. After that, I volunteered for two summers at their courses and eventually ended up working there the two summers following that. Upon leaving Camp Chandler, I found a summer role here at Camp ASCCA. After working for just a few weeks in adaptive ropes, I cemented my decision to change my degree from engineering to special education. Throughout the rest of my college years, I found myself working for an adaptive ropes course each summer either at Camp ASCCA or Easterseals Rocky Mountain Village.

Camp ASCCA led me to receive my degree and go on to Colorado for a Program Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator role at another camp, Easterseals Rocky Mountain Village. While there, I oversaw various camp programs, recruited/trained the volunteers, and assisted with many other camp tasks. After my time at RMV, I worked for the Joshua School in Denver. While there, I was helping teach children with autism and developmental disabilities both in the areas of academics and behavior management.

I am very excited to bring my experiences back to the place where it all began and help share my love for climbing and the outdoors with our campers. In my free time, I enjoy camping, hiking, climbing, fishing and kayaking. I also have been expanding some skills in the areas of woodworking and wood burning. What better place is there to share my hobbies and have fun with those I work with and for.

Thank You, Rotary District 6880!

In January, Administrator John Stephenson and Director of Marketing Dana Rickman visited the Rotary District 6880 midyear conference in Montgomery, Ala. where they had the opportunity to provide an update about Camp for the many Rotary clubs that support our campers each year.

John spoke about 2018 Camper of the Year Tim Dillard and shared the video featuring Tim and his counselor from this past summer. He also spoke with the clubs about the needs that Camp will have in 2019 and how they can help. Dana spoke about the fourth annual Jingle Jump fundraiser and how the Jingle Jumpers - many who are from some of the Rotary District 6880 Clubs - raised the most money in Jingle Jump history.

After watching this year’s Jingle Jump video, ASCCA board member Andy Gosselin spoke about the incredible relationship that exists between the Rotary clubs and Camp ASCCA. He is also the district Camp ASCCA chair for Rotary District 6880. At the end of the presentation, District Governor Sam Adams surprised John with a donation of $2,500. We cannot say thank you enough to the many clubs who continue to annually show support for the people we serve! It was a blast getting to see all of our Rotary friends and share so many incredible memories with them.
Throughout the year, Camp ASCCA receives support from a variety of organizations, and at the end of last summer, one of those organizations started what has been a bit of a competition between its different chapters from across the state. On last summer’s Elks Day, leaders of the Alabama Elks Association started a giving challenge that has helped Camp get a new tritoon boat.

Over the past couple summers, Aquatics Specialist Heather Chumney discovered a need for a bigger boat as many campers’ wheelchairs are getting heavier with new designs. The heavier chairs have limited the number of campers that can fit on the current pontoon boat for a single ride, and it has left many campers upset that they did not get the chance to relax out on the wake of Lake Martin.

As soon as the members of the Alabama Elks Association heard about the need, they took on the challenge of raising money for a new tritoon boat. Over the last several months, they have raised $12,366 for the $20k+ project and the amount climbs daily! We are so thankful for their willingness to see and meet needs!
In February, we held a special event at the LPR Zipline for the contributors who made the program possible in 2018 and beyond. Peter Levy, Donald Perkins and Glenn Roswal brought their families to Camp on Saturday, Feb. 16, and some of them even traveled from New Jersey. A few close friends of the families also made the trip including Greg Frith and former ASCCA staff member Jeanette Griffey.

While they were here, everyone had the opportunity to experience the incredible new zipline, but first everyone had the opportunity to tour the campus and see everything that has been updated since their last visit. Then, everyone gathered at the fishing pond to suit up for the most exciting trip across the water. After everyone had the opportunity to ride, a delicious dinner was served at the dining hall.

We cannot say thank you enough to Levy, Perkins and Roswal for donating enough to make this new camper favorite possible!

In February, high school students from around South Alabama visited Camp ASCCA for the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. More than 50 rotary clubs sponsor students from their areas to represent their communities and grow in their leadership abilities as they near high school graduation.