ASCCLA SUMMER 2018 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND WE ARE SO EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOU EVERYTHING WE HAVE PLANNED THIS YEAR.

The start of ASCCLA sessions is near, and we cannot wait for summer to begin! Over the past several months, we have been creating new program opportunities for campers and planning big events for our newest live music venue. After a year of hard work and extreme preparation, we believe this is going to be the best summer in ASCCLA history. From the new zipline at the fishing pond to the Big Stage at lakefront and everything in between, there will definitely be unforgettable moments all summer long.

Donations from Peter Levy, Donald Perkins, and Glenn Roswal allowed us to build the new zipline that will be the longest at Camp. Thus, it will be referred to as the LPR Zipline. In May, the Autism Society held their Making Connections weekend here, and they were the very first group to traverse across the fishing pond on the LPR Zipline. Springtime has flown by, and we cannot wait for all of our friends this summer to have the chance to zip across the water!

Now that the 2018 Program Staff is here and Camp Seale Harris has begun, we cannot handle the excitement as we wait for all of our friends to arrive for ASCCLA Session 1 next month. As always, the counselors will arrive a week earlier than the campers for training, and we have plans for them to hear from some of the people who have greatly influenced camp over the years. They will also be taught proper techniques for transferring campers, feeding at meals, wheelchair etiquette and much more.

In this newsletter, you can read more about what we have coming up this summer and the individuals and organizations who have shown continued support throughout the year! Also, as we continue to prepare for ASCCLA Summer 2018, we’d love for you to connect with us on social media and on our website at www.campasca.org.

Camp ASCCLA is a nationally recognized leader in providing outdoor recreation for people with disabilities and health impairments.

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Each year, we host a weekend of fishing - sponsored by the Civitans - for our campers to attend. They are able to fish from the ASCCA pond, the ASCCA boat dock, and they even get to make a trip or two out on a fishing boat with our volunteer boaters. The first fishing session of the weekend came with a bit of a chill and a brisk wind that seemed to keep some fish away, but when the boats arrived back in at the dock for lunch, several campers were sharing about the thrill of catching 12 or more fish (bream, bass, and crappie) out on the windy waters of Lake Martin.

The weather kept us on our toes all weekend as the wind picked up in the afternoons. However, nothing can stop us from having the BASS-t time out and about across the ASCCA campus. The campers and volunteers fished all day and all afternoon but took a couple evening breaks for a dance and a talent show. By the end of the weekend, one camper had caught more than 30 fish, and Cody presented the top three female and male fishers with awards made up of new fishing poles and tackle boxes. Over the weekend, we were also joined by several Alabama Civitans who helped complete a few projects around camp like raking pine straw, pruning bushes and much more.

LPR Zipline Opens During Autism Family Weekend

Twice a year, we offer weekend camps called Camp FROG to individuals with autism and their families from throughout the state of Alabama through a partnership with the Autism Society of Alabama. The first weekend of May was an exciting one as several families visited Camp ASCCA for the annual springtime Autism Family Weekend. The three-day session was made up of program rotations at zipline, boat rides and canoeing, and one afternoon round of free-choice activities included a visit to the waterslide. There were several new families visiting ASCCA over the weekend, so it was exciting to see so many moments of new experiences and true joy. However, the most anticipated activity of the weekend was the first-ever official camper visit to the new LPR zipline that traverses across the fishing pond. It was a new experience for everyone involved, including the ASCCA staff.

The families that chose to participate made the trip to the fishing pond on a people mover and then made the hike up to the top of the LPR Zipline. Every ride ended with a smile, and it was so exciting that even a few parents tried it out. Some campers were even requesting to go a second time, but there were so many participants that we didn’t have enough time before it got dark! We cannot wait to share this activity with all of our campers this summer. The adventure staff better bring the energy this summer because this activity is going to be a hit!
Where positive, life-changing experiences are happening every day.

**ASCAPALOOZA 2018**

Last year, we introduced you to one of our newest summer events, ASCCApalooza. This music festival is specifically designed to serve individuals with disabilities and offer them an opportunity to simply feel like they can be their true selves with some of their closest friends. The 2017 event was held at what was the new OutPost, and this year’s festival will begin at the OutPost and move to the newest live music venue at lakefront. We have big plans for the new stage, and ASCCApalooza is just one of many events that will be hosted on the massive stage for years to come. This location will be known as the Big Stage @ ASCCA and is going to be the stage for the headliner at ASCCApalooza while other artists will perform at the OutPost throughout the day.

Back by popular demand this summer, Sweet Tea Trio will be joining us. The group hit it off with our campers last year as they danced around and had campers sing with them on stage. Everyone will receive a special ASCCApalooza t-shirt at the beginning of the week, and they will have the opportunity to tie-dye them just like many people do before their favorite music festival. We’re excited for the entertainment opportunities that the new stage will provide!

**THE ASCCA SHOP**

The Camp ASCCA Shop is loaded up with new items for Summer 2018. We have new t-shirt designs, Popsocket grips for your phone, decals, and so much more.

Pick out your favorite items on our website or at the Camp ASCCA Shop during your next visit to Camp!

**HOW MUCH?**

- **T-shirts:** $15 each
- **Decals:** $2 each or 3 for $5
- **Popsockets:** $10

*All online prices are adjusted for shipping and handling*

**Lauryn Setzer**

Lauryn is a rising junior at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. This will be Lauryn’s first summer at Camp ASCCA, and she will be a PR intern for all seven ASCCA sessions. She founded her own blog called LauralineSpeaks where she told youth about current politics, and she also wrote for the GSU newspaper.

At Alabama A&M, Lauryn is studying Business Management and Administration with a concentration in International Business. She hopes to one day get her juris doctorate and create her own crisis management firm. In her free time, Lauryn enjoys drawing, dancing and learning new things about the world and people.

**James Free**

James is a senior at Auburn University studying Communications and Marketing. This will be James’ first summer at Camp ASCCA, and he will be a PR intern for 13 weeks. In 2015-2016, he served as Vice President of Communications for the Valdosta State Interfraternity Council (IFC).

James will be graduating from Auburn University in December and hopes to one day find a successful job in the PR/Communications field. In his spare time, James enjoys hanging out with his friends, especially if they are playing FIFA. He describes himself as a big extrovert, so just hanging out with people is his favorite thing to do.

**Meet the 2018 PR Staff**

**Clayton Smith**

Here’s a familiar face! Clayton has been a PR intern every summer since 2013. He is a Dadeville native and an upcoming senior at Columbia College Chicago studying Cinema Arts + Sciences.

Clayton hopes to one day work in the movie industry, specifically in producing and documentaries. Over the years, he has played an integral summer role in producing regular video content of all the activities offered at Camp. Last summer, his biggest project was a feature focused on the inaugural ASCCApalooza music festival. In his spare time, Clayton enjoys watching movies, playing piano, and listening to music.

**Lauryn Setzer**

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On Saturday, May 12, a special event was held by the Central District Alabama Elks Lodges in support of Camp ASCCA. The Lodges hosted the “Second Chance Prom - Dancing Through the Decades” at the Bessemer Civic Center. It was an opportunity for dancing and fun with friends to some of the many musical hits that have come about over the years. Similar to a high school prom, formal attire was requested, and the evening included a special four-course dinner, live band and a DJ.

The event also included a silent auction that helped raise money to support our campers. Administrator John Stephenson had the opportunity to attend the event and it was an exciting time for everyone involved. The Alabama Elks play a big role in our successes each year, and their support allows us to continue adding new opportunities for the incredible people we serve!

On April 24, Director of Marketing/Communications Dana Rickman visited the Enterprise Rotary Club for a special presentation. At the spring meeting, members of the Enterprise Rotary Club presented Camp ASCCA with a check worth two camperships. This donation will help campers attend summer camp through the ASCCA Campership Fund. This special club has been donating for many years through the Jerry B. Brunson Enterprise Rotary Club Fondation, Inc. In the past five years, they have donated more than $8,600 to help campers attend summer camp. We are thankful for the continued support from the Enterprise Rotary Club!

Another organization that has shown tremendous support over the years is the Charles & Isabel Hall Foundation. Each year, they sponsor a week for individuals with disabilities from Alabama and Florida to come to Camp and get the full summer camp experience. This year, they donated $10,000 for the annual Camp Rocks visit in May and for additional ASCCA camperships. There is an endless list of organizations that we are thankful for and that have continued to show their support for the 42 years we have been operating. You can check out a list of all of our 2017-2018 contributors by visiting our website at www.campascca.org!