It’s the Holiday Season

THIS YEAR AT ASCCA WAS THE PARTY OF A LIFETIME, AND WE ARE SO THANKFUL THAT YOU CHOSE TO BE ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

The fall season came and went faster than ever before, but we were able to fit in plenty of fun adventures like a concert under the stars with the Alabama Recreation & Parks Association, Fall Family Weekend and a Camper of the Year celebration. In October, we hardly had much time to prepare for the flood of applications that arrived during this year’s Early Bird Registration. Our camp families reached a new record of applications complete with more than 200 people signed up for Summer 2019 by the end of November.

Now, here we are after the most incredible Christmas Weekend in ASCCA history, and we cannot believe that another year is already coming to a close. This year’s holiday weekend was an unforgettable one with a visit from Santa, plenty of Christmas crafts, a massive amount of sweet treats and a holiday concert with the band, To The 9s. On Saturday, Dec. 15, campers, staff, volunteers and members from the Alabama Elks Association joined together for the fourth annual Jingle Jump fundraiser at the swimming pool and later enjoyed a dinner that was decorated perfectly for Christmas and included a delicious meal provided by the Alabama Elks Association.

The Jingle Jump was our most successful fundraiser yet, and we could not have done it without the support of all of our donors, staff and friends. We cannot say thank you enough to all of you for your continued support of the people we serve and the programs we offer here at Camp ASCCA. Keep reading for more information about everything that has happened at Camp ASCCA over the past few months, and we hope you have an unforgettable holiday season!
ARPA Weekend 2018

Every September, participants from therapeutic recreation programs across the state travel to Camp ASCCA for a weekend of adventure. Groups from Hoover, Dothan, Muscle Shoals and Anniston make the drive for a time to remember. This year, we offered programming like zipline, waterslide, fishing and much more.

Many of the individuals who make the trip also come to camp during the summer, so it is basically a great big family reunion. The weekend was full of music including a talent show on Friday night, but the most exciting moment of the weekend was Saturday night’s concert under the stars at the Big Stage with The Band of Heathens. It was an incredible evening full of happiness and positive energy. The band even shared with us how great it was to be in an environment with so many genuine smiles and kindness.

After Sunday morning breakfast, campers headed out for a couple more program rotations, and then everyone was set to pack up and head home. We always have a great time with the ARPA groups and look forward to seeing them again next year!

Camper of the Year: Tim Dillard

At the end of each summer, the ASCCA summer staff selects that year’s Camper of the Year. This year, the staff nominated ten campers, and the field was voted on and narrowed down to the top three. Then, a second voting round took place to narrow down the top three to one individual. The 2018 Camper of the Year is Tim Dillard!

The staff members choose the nominees based on what makes each person unique and how their summer experience was that year. There are a variety of qualities that are considered, for example, how much the camper enjoys the summer camp experience, the energy and happiness that he or she exudes, how they encourage other campers, friendliness, and overall enthusiasm.

Tim is a perfect example of each of these qualities, and anyone who has known him over the many years he has attended camp would say the same. Tim has been coming to camp for so long that he often considers himself a leader around the campus. There are not many people who can make you laugh quite like Tim can, and he is remembered every year for his sense of humor and positive personality. Tim is from Andalusia, AL, and he always talks to everyone about growing up there and how thankful he is for the Andalusia Rotary Club and their support to help him attend camp each year. Tim loves everything about Camp ASCCA and even shared his thoughts earlier this summer in one of our “Campers of ASCCA” feature videos. You can check it out on our Youtube page.

This year’s Camper of the Year plaque was presented to Tim at David’s Catfish House in Andalusia on Nov. 8. Tim was joined by the ASCCA full-time staff and his family for the special event. Tim did not know that he would be receiving the award, but once Camp Director Matt Rickman started talking about the best camper of the summer, he immediately had a smile on his face. As this year’s recipient, Tim was able to attend our ASCCA Christmas Weekend this month free of charge and will get to experience the fun and festive opportunities that Camp ASCCA has to offer people with different abilities.

Camp ASCCA Fall Family Weekend

ASCMA Fall Family Weekend comes every October, and it is a great opportunity to reconnect with friends after an incredible summer. This year’s weekend was nothing short of spook-tacular! Every day came with its own festive programs like Friday night’s haunted trail, Saturday’s costume party, and Sunday’s talent show at the OutPost. Here are just a few memories from the weekend!
Where positive, life-changing experiences are happening every day.

Camp ASCCA’s fourth annual Jingle Jump fundraiser was held on Saturday, Dec. 15, and it was a huge success thanks to campers, staff, donors, volunteers and friends. All fundraising began on November 1st and lasted until the final jump into the ASCCA pool on December 15th.

This year, we had 51 jumpers participating in the fundraiser, and they all worked together to raise over $46,000 to sponsor campers with disabilities to attend summer camp. The funds raised this year have the potential to support 63 full camperships.

All participants who reached their goal of $350 or more had to jump into the ice cold ASCCA pool during our annual Christmas Weekend. This year, the pool was almost as cold as last year at 41 degrees. On the day of the final jump, many participants jumped into the pool solo or with other members of their fundraising team, and they were all wearing their most festive Christmas gear. We would like to say thank you to everyone who donated this year and helped make this event possible!

Peggy Long and Anne Herndon are the team that raised the most money at more than $12,000.

Caroline Kelly is the counselor who raised the most this year at $1,910.

Cale Galloway is the camper who raised the most this year at $1,045.

Happy Holidays!

Freezin’ for a Reason
ASCCA Jingle Jump 2018

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Camp ASCCA teaches us all a lot about life, and they’re often the most meaningful life lessons we’ll ever get. Program Director Amber Cotney shares a moment about one friend who taught her a lesson she will carry with her forever.

“This picture was taken in 2002. It was my third year working at Camp. I was only 17. I didn’t know anything about life or love, but I was so content and felt this abundance of trust and happiness just sitting in the floor clapping. Ty loved to look at us in the mirror. She would wave and smile and watch herself touching my face, and it always made her so happy.

I didn’t realize it then, but she was teaching me a huge lesson. Ty and I saw one another in that mirror in the most genuine loving way for no reason other than that’s the way it was. I think that’s the greatest lesson Camp has taught me over the past 19 years.

If you just see people for the person they are and not all of the differences you may have, you’ll probably have a lot of fun just sitting in the floor clapping together.”