



SUMMER UPDATE

for Donors and Friends





The composter being installed



Volunteers hard at work on the shower house porch



Cabins almost completed

Learn More About The Special Campaign for Opequon Quaker Camp at Annual Session!

Public Phase of Campaign Kicks Off in August

After 8 months of conversations, engagement, and exceptional generosity throughout our Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Camp communities, the Special Campaign for Opequon Quaker Camp now approaches \$500,000 raised in gifts and pledges - **70% of our \$700,000 goal.**

“It’s time to invite everyone in our BYM community to learn more about the importance of the project, the campers and families we serve at Opequon, and the many ways that everyone can help!” explains Arthur Boyd, Special Campaign Clerk. “I hope that everyone will look for much more information at Annual Session - and come celebrate with us!”

GOAL
\$700,000

70%
TO GOAL

Meetings Host Special Campaign Presentations

Special Campaign Committee members and BYM staff are so grateful to the Meetings that have already hosted presentations about the Special Campaign.

As of publication, Stony Run, Charlottesville, Richmond, Bethesda, and Alexandria Meetings have welcomed informational sessions ranging from 10-minute updates to hour long power-point presentations.

If your Meeting would like to host a presentation, please contact us at development@bym-rsf.org

Thank you!

Thanks to our Special Campaign Supporters, Opequon Quaker Camp Opened June 29th!

That Saturday, 64 campers will be driving up the newly graded and graveled nearly half mile long driveway to be welcomed by staff, who arrived at Opequon a week earlier for training, learning, bonding and prepping to welcome our very first group of Rolling Ridge campers!

2024 Camp Sessions

2 two-week sessions running from June 29th through July 27th.



“At BYM Camps, we believe that people from diverse backgrounds can come together, build authentic friendships, have ridiculous amounts of fun, make lifelong memories all while living in a community where everyone is seen, heard and valued.”

Jared Wood

Director, Opequon Quaker Camp



What Makes Opequon Quaker Camp Special?

Opequon Quaker Camp is designed to unleash our campers' creative spirits. By exposing campers to many different art forms in a fun and physical way, Opequon strives to highlight the connections between creation, nature, self-expression, and spirituality.

A camper's time at Opequon is structured around our morning Art Workshops. At the beginning of each workshop cycle, campers choose from an array of different options - from life-size mural painting to movie making - that they'll focus on for a three-day period. Each cycle culminates in a camp-wide Art Walk, a celebration of community and creativity where every workshop gets to share their creations with the entire camp.

Afternoons and evenings are very busy, as the campers choose from a variety of games, crafts, or environmental activities. Each cabin also spend one to two days living in the wilderness and strengthening their bonds in age and ability-appropriate ways.

STRIDE Campers at Opequon

26 campers of color, recruited and supported through BYM's STRIDE Program (Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments), are part of BYM Camps this summer. The majority are attending Opequon.

Rachael Carter (they/them) currently serves as the STRIDE Coordinator within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Rachael specializes in racial equity work and has been committed to the study and practice of Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) work over the past decade.

BYM F/friends participate in this "radical inclusion" at Opequon and other BYM camps by volunteering to support STRIDE campers and their families before, during and after their time at camp.

“We believe in and embrace radical inclusion! The “radical” means that we expect the community to be changed and shaped by the inclusion we are seeking rather than simply asking people to join and conform to what already exists. Opequon is our most diverse Camp, with the highest percentage of campers and staff of color, as well as campers and staff identifying as members of the LGBTQ community. We know that families and campers who participate in STRIDE not only receive benefits from being part of camp but that (like all community members) their unique perspectives, personalities, strengths and spiritual leadings contribute much to the broader camp community.”

Rachael Carter

STRIDE Coordinator,
Baltimore Yearly Meeting



Opequon Work Weekend

Hard Work and Joy!

By Gretchen Hall, Alexandria Friends Meeting

“Let’s go!” responded my daughter Rachel when I suggested we share May Work Weekend at the new Opequon Quaker Camp. I was eager to put my feet on the ground at Rolling Ridge, our new camp location. I figured that as a donor who is also asking others to support our new Opequon site, I’d like to experience it in person.

Equally important was the opportunity to share a mother-daughter weekend of working together. Since Rachel lives in Argentina, we cherish time together.



On a beautiful May morning, we drove the curving roads through spring-green forests leading to Opequon. Finally, we saw the camp sign and turned up the last dirt road. Thank goodness for the road re-grading!

We found the camp inviting with open green space, woody areas separating the two cabin groups, then common buildings in the middle along the sloping hill. The dining hall resembles any camp dining hall we had experienced with indoor seating or outdoor picnic tables for all. The kitchen was filled with equipment lovingly transported from the old location, ready to be washed and organized by our work crew. We shared fantastic meals thanks to the good cooks in our group of volunteers.

Other common buildings are the lodge, shower house and craft center, the latter chock full of supplies carted in from the prior campsite. Rachel and I scrubbed the shower house but left unpacking arts supplies for others. Working in teams, our group cleaned gutters, filled construction holes, dug trenches for pipes, and built floors for the new cabins.

The whole weekend long, we could imagine the voices of campers exclaiming over their creative arts opportunities, discoveries of wildlife – maybe scary? – and telling stories or singing lustily. We departed filled with joy at our new Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge!

THANK YOU!



Gretchen Hall

We are so grateful to all of our BYM community who have made their commitments to the Special Campaign.

Summer 2024 at Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge is possible because of YOU!

THANK YOU!

Arthur Boyd

Clerk, Special Campaign for OQC,
Stony Run Friends Meeting

Al Best

Richmond Friends Meeting

Gretchen Hall

Alexandria Friends Meeting

Jon Nafziger

Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Victor Thuronyi

Adelphi Friends Meeting

Barb Platt

Clerk, BYM Development Committee,
Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

Sarah Gillooly

BYM General Secretary

Brian Massey

Programs Manager, BYM Camps

David Hunter

BYM Camp Properties Manager

Nikki Holland

BYM Development Manager

Barbara Wille

Special Campaign Support

