

# Quest West News

The Newsletter for Camp Quest West

## Reminder: Essay Contest Deadline Coming Up



A middle schooler you know could win a trip to summer camp! It's an essay contest

centered on our camp theme: evolution! Middle school students (grades 6-8) living in the Western United States can submit a short (200-400 word) essay on one of our provocative questions:

1. Should Intelligent Design be taught in school along with evolution? Why or why not?
2. What, if anything, does evolution tell us about the interconnectedness of life and how we should treat each other?
3. Is science the only way of knowing about the universe, or are there other ways of knowing? Explain.

Entries are due by March 15 so sharpen your pencils, power on your computers and turn on your brains! Get a contest application and find the complete rules on our website at

<http://www.campquestwest.org>.

## Camp Options Summer 2008

### Kids Camp July 13-19

Camp Quest West continues the tradition with our third summer season of fun and freethought! Early bird registration special \$390 until May 1st, \$460 thereafter.

### Teen Adventure Camp June 26-30

Camp Quest West is proud to open registration for the first ever Teen Adventure Camp, to be held in the Seattle area! We have contracted with Wild and Scenic River Tours to provide the white water rafting expertise and food service. We'll meet-up around 4:00 p.m. on June 26 in Seattle and take the Wild and Scenic River Tours van to the camp site. The next three days will be filled with rafting excitement, hiking beauty and provocative evening freethought discussions. After breakfast on June 30, we'll return to Seattle. Space is limited, so sign up early. The cost for this exciting experience is \$500.

Big kudos to Seattle Atheists who agreed early on to provide chaperones for this trip. These big-hearted freethinkers are taking their own vacation time to make this possible. They're doing it because they know freethought is for everyone, including teens!

**Kyle Hepworth** (pictured at right), president of Seattle Atheists, will be one of the chaperones on this trip. His organization has been active doing a wide variety of community outreach activities including



blood drives, holiday gift wrapping fundraiser at the mall, hosting tables at fairs, water stops during marathons and more. They are in a perfect position to remind young people that Freethinkers are an important part of the community

and can make a difference in the world. We welcome Kyle and his rowdy band of adventurers to the Camp Quest West family!

### Mini Family Camp July 17-20 Kicks Off!

Camp Quest west is proud to announce our first ever Family Camp! Our vision is of building community in a relaxed atmosphere. Families will have plenty of time for relaxing in the great outdoors and participating together in optional organized activities like hiking, gold panning, campfires and crafts. Family camp is tent camping in the great outdoors with meals in the main lodge and hot showers in the bath house, unless you're one of the early families who signs up for one of our very few cabins for an extra fee. This camp is intended for families with younger children, and offers a relaxed family atmosphere. Family registration fee is \$25. Meals: \$120/adult, \$80 for children 5-8, \$50 for children 3-4, children under 3 free.

**Julie Willey** (pictured at right) is the primary driver of this exciting endeavor. She is a mother of 4 great kids and an electrical engineer. She has a passion for learning, creating and collaborating. When she is not goofing off with her kids she enjoys tinkering with all things electro-mechanical. Julie and her family are leaders in the Silicon Valley Humanist Community Family Co-op program.



### Volunteer Highlight

We want to acknowledge Dwain Deets' leadership over the last three years as our Marketing Director. Back when no one had ever heard of Camp Quest West, Dwain was willing to step in and make things happen. When we needed a webmaster, Dwain decided he would figure out how. When we needed a photographer, Dwain said, "I'll figure something out." Dwain was the counselor other staffers said could "be trusted with anything," someone you could "give a job to do and know it would get done right."

Dwain has taken over as the Editor for Atheist Alliance International's *Secular Nation* Magazine and has had to resign from his marketing duties at Camp Quest West in order to focus his time on the magazine. While we will certainly miss his stalwart talents at Camp Quest West, we look forward to seeing many wonderful editions of *Secular Nation* and greeting him fondly at Freethought gatherings. Dwain remains available to offer advice to Camp Quest West volunteers. We will always consider Dwain a part of the Camp Quest West family!

We also want to thank Paul from San Diego who is stepping in to help manage flyering for the Essay Contest and our webmaster who stepped in to assist with the newsletter.

This is also an opportunity for other volunteers. If you're interested in marketing, there could be a home for you at Camp Quest West. We'd like to divide marketing into two areas: media and grass roots. Media marketing would include things like press releases and articles for local newsletters. Grass roots marketing would include activities like sending out house party kits and

managing volunteers putting up flyers or staffing camp fair booths. Future marketing gurus should apply now!

## Director's Corner



You may be surprised to learn that February, March and April are some of the most critical and active months for camp preparation. While most folks are still thinking

about wool sweaters and rainy day activities, we're busy getting the word out about camp, recruiting camp counselors and registering campers!

Here's a small sample of what's going on:

### Camp Fairs

We'll be hosting tables at the following camp fairs:

**Saturday March 1st**  
Westgate Mall in San Jose, CA (10am-4pm)

**Saturday March 8th**  
Concourse Exhibition Center (8th and Brannan from 10am-3pm)

**Saturday April 5th**  
Galleria Mall in Roseville, CA (9am - 5pm)

Feel free to drop by, play our Wheel of Science and chat with our representatives. Alternatively, if you'd like to volunteer to spend a few hours staffing the table, give us a holler at [west@camp-quest.org](mailto:west@camp-quest.org)

### House Parties

We like to follow up camp fairs with house parties enabling camp enthusiasts and parents a chance to connect and get to know us better.

- **Silicon Valley**  
Host still selecting date, stay tuned
- **San Francisco**  
Host still selecting date, stay tuned
- **Sacramento**  
April 20, 1-3pm. Call (650) 949-3192 for address

We're also talking with folks in Portland and Phoenix about possibly hosting house parties. If you might be interested in hosting a house party in your neck of the woods, let us know. We have a house party kit with all the goodies and we know how to use it!

### Staffing Application for 2008 Camp Counselors Now Available

If you fondly recall camps of your youth and would like to help us recreate that experience for the next generation, you're probably just who we're looking for. The Application is available online on our Volunteer page. Go to <http://www.campquestwest.org>.

### Registration

We have registration for all camps available online and a mail-in form for the kids and teen camps. Believe it or not, 13 campers and two families are already registered! Last year, we registered 30 campers between March 30 and April 30, so we are feeling confident about hitting our target of 45 campers for this summer session!

As you can see, we're gearing up for a great Summer Season!

## Other Events of Interest to Camp Questers

On Sunday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto, California, the Humanist Community (a big Camp Quest supporter) will be hosting Clowns Without Borders. Moshe Cohen is founder/director of the US branch of the international organization Clowns Without Borders. Moshe will perform in his European character for 20 minutes. After the children go to Sunday School, he will remain for the adult audience until noon, speaking as himself, answering questions about his work, and showing pictures of Kosovo and Chiapas.



### About Camp Quest West

Camp Quest West is a summer camp emphasizing critical thinking for girls and boys ages 8 to 17. It is affiliated with National Camp Quest (Ohio), the first secular summer camp for youth in the history of the United States. Camp Quest was specifically designed for children of atheists, agnostics, freethinkers, humanists, Unitarians, or whatever terms might be applied to those who maintain a naturalistic worldview. We are operating officially as a sub-committee of Atheist Alliance, an IRS 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and can accept checks under the Camp Quest West name. Contents © 2008 by Camp Quest West.

### Camp Quest West Key Contacts

#### Camp Director

Chris Lindstrom – [director@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:director@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Treasurer

Adrienne Mowery – [treasurer@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:treasurer@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Registrar

Gloria – [registrar@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:registrar@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Program Director

Sean Laney – [program@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:program@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Fundraising Chair

Bev Church – [fundraiser@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:fundraiser@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Staffing Director

Roy – [staffing@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:staffing@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Family Camp Coordinator

Julie Willey – [west@camp-quest.org](mailto:west@camp-quest.org)

#### Marketing

TBD – [marketing@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:marketing@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Website Development

[webmaster@west.camp-quest.org](mailto:webmaster@west.camp-quest.org)

#### Camp Director's Contact Info

50 W Edith Ave #2  
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(650) 949-3192

#### Donations may be sent to:

Camp Quest West Treasurer  
PO Box 225127  
San Francisco, CA 94122-5127

#### Camp Quest Website:

<http://www.campquestwest.org>