



# The Messenger

## Spring 2025

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### On a Mission

*By Alec Deppe, Director of Programs and Retreats*

Since the founding of Camp Iodiseca in 1963, it has been our mission to provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration to individuals and groups of all ages. We have been very blessed in this mission, as it has continued for more than 60 years! This has been made possible through countless donations as well as volunteers, campers, and staff that have supported this mission along the way. In just two months, we get to begin another summer with this mission at our forefront! However, we still have many needs before we get there.

Our biggest need for this summer is camp scholarship funds. Camp scholarships are used in two ways: first, to support campers in need, so they can attend camp, and second, they are given to campers who are attending Iodiseca for the first time! Last year, we gave away over \$4,000 in scholarship funds and anticipate that need growing this year. We currently have less than \$1,000 in our scholarship fund, leaving us with a significant amount of ground to make up before this summer.

Additionally, Camp is in need of in-kind donations. Over the years, we have been blessed to receive and therefore save a substantial amount of money on paper products, office supplies, cleaning supplies, etc. Our need for these items is a continual one. The biggest needs going into the summer are paper towels, tissues, napkins, stamps, and cleaning supplies. Additional needs are listed on our website: <https://campiodiseca.org/needs-list/>.

Lastly, we are still in need of camp counselors. Specifically, we need 1-2 more male and female LCMS, college-aged, young adults to serve in this role. Camp counselors are directly responsible for caring for our campers throughout their time at Camp. All of our staff serve as Christian role models and witnesses to the Christian faith for our campers. Weary about working with kids? That is why we train all of our staff in activities, safety, and theology! Staff training begins in late May, and our camp season goes through the beginning of August. If you know someone who could be good for this role, please encourage them to consider it! They may also contact Program Director, Alec Deppe at 319-848-4187 or [programdirector@iodiseca.org](mailto:programdirector@iodiseca.org) for more information.

Your support in any of these areas is greatly appreciated and helps us to continue the 60+ year long mission to provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration to individuals and groups of all ages.



## New Endeavors!

Horses have been a part of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca’s summer program for nearly twenty-five years! Though this program has ebbed and flowed over the years, it has become one of our summer program’s greatest strengths. Over the past couple of years, we have seen long waitlists for our Horse Camps (including campers ending up on the waitlist within an hour of registration opening) but have also added an additional session of Horse Camp at the end of our summer programming. We now have nine sessions of Horse Camp, meaning it’s offered during every session throughout the summer! The additional session has helped us bridge the gap in the demand for horseback riding at Camp but not allowed us to fully meet said demand.

This has led us to look toward expanding Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca’s horse programming. Doing this will require a big investment. Camp would first need to purchase 4 horses that would live at Camp year-round. Naturally, additional costs to house horses year-round include hay and general care. On top of these costs, our horse facilities need major improvements to be able to house horses year-round and run proper “off-season” programming with them. The estimated start-up cost is \$205,000. A more detailed breakdown of the estimated expenses can be found on our website.

What will this additional horse programming look like? When will it start? Our current plan is to have a soft launch of the additional horse programs this fall, with a full launch set for Spring 2026. The additional horse programming will include weekly riding lessons and weekend trail rides. These programs will provide an additional opportunity for our current camp supporters, including campers who are unable to get into a Horse Camp or those who would like to spend more time riding horses as well as retreat guests. They would also provide Camp with an opportunity to reach people who otherwise would not attend or possibly even know about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Overall, the expanded horse programming will allow us to both strengthen and increase Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca’s user-base, allowing us to better provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration to individuals and groups of all ages.

To help us best capitalize on this opportunity to further our mission, we will need your financial support as well as your input. To make a donation toward this new endeavor, you may go to <https://campiodiseca.org/believe/> or mail in a check with the provided envelope. To view a more in-depth outline of our program plan, go to <https://campiodiseca.org/new-horse-programming/>. At the bottom of this page, there will also be a five-minute survey for you to provide your input which will support us as well! Thank you for all of your support, and we look forward to a blessed 2025!



**High school horse campers going for a ride on the recreation field**



**A camper grooming a horse to begin lessons for the day**



**Camper trail rides!**



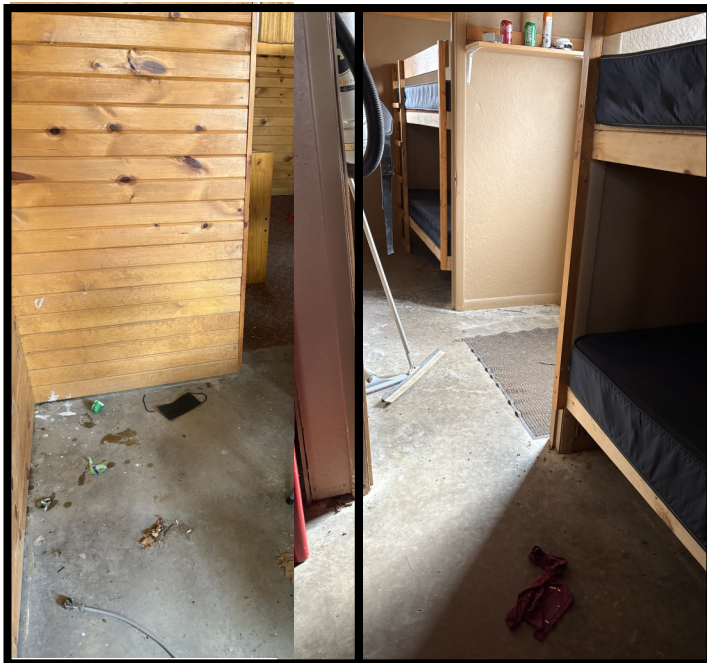
**Open your camera to follow this link to our new Horse Programming webpage!**







## **SPRING CLEANUP- MAY 3**



One of the cabins in need of cleaning

On May 3rd, join us here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as we get things ready to go for a busy summer camp season. We're going to clean up across the main site, including Mary and Joseph Cabins as well as clearing some trees and branches. Weather permitting, we will look to do some work around the horse arena as well!

We'll have tasks for people of all ages, so you can bring the whole family! Plus, lunch is included! Email [sitemanager@iodiseca.org](mailto:sitemanager@iodiseca.org) to let us know that you are coming. We appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!

## **2025 IMPORTANT DATES**

**May 1: Registration Discount Deadline #2**

**May 3: Spring Cleanup**

**May 21-23: IDE Theological Symposium**

**June 11: First Day of Summer Camp**

**July 26: Summerfest & Auction Fundraiser**

**July 29-August 1: Higher Things Confirmation Camp**

**October 10-11: IDE Confirmation Retreat**



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## Thrivent Choice

In 2024 our Thrivent Choice participants designated over \$10,000 in support of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Help make this year an even better year in Thrivent Choice donations by designating your dollars today! Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836), state “Thrivent Choice”, and designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!

**Each donation must be completed manually as funds can no longer be designated via automatic repeat.**

