



Outdoor Ministries Association  
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Church of the Brethren

*“Connecting, Enlivening, and Supporting the Dynamic Ministry of the CoB camps.”*

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February 2024

Dear Colleagues in Outdoor Ministry,

Over the last year, camps across the country have seen rekindled interest in camps as people reengaged with camps post pandemic. We pray that was your experience as well.

The Board of the Outdoor Ministries Association met frequently during this period, provided community sharing opportunities, and made connection with all the camps a priority. Membership fees remain flexible to allow camps to join with what they could afford. As the world has slowly opened, we have new challenges; we need each other to explore new responses and resources. Each individual member is vital to successfully supporting the whole camping community.

OMA membership connects you to a community of people who understand the challenges you face. You will enjoy:

- Regular communication with other camp professionals
- The latest denominational and Christian camping information as it occurs
- A reduced fee at the annual retreat and gathering.
- Mentorships
- Eligibility for environmental grants
- Opportunity to recognize outstanding staff and volunteers
- Connection, communication, and camaraderie

We are asking you to join the OMA community in carrying out the important work of ***Connecting, enlivening, and supporting the dynamic ministry of the Church of the Brethren camps.*** At OMA, we aspire to ***tend the fires of outdoor ministry*** taking place at each local camp across the country but we can't do it alone. Your annual camp membership provides both the collegiality and financial support we need to keep the fire burning in all the important ministries you provide.

Please take a moment and **renew or start your OMA membership for 2024.** If your camp maintains its membership from year to year, we thank you for your continued support. If your camp hasn't been a member for a while, we ask you to join us. Being a member of OMA means that you're willing to help provide financial and professional support the association needs. When we commit and join, we are all stronger. The goal is to have 100% membership from all the camps this year. We will need everyone to partner with us to make that happen and we hope we can depend on you.

Camp membership is based on your annual camp budget, with a minimum membership fee of \$100. The cost of membership and list of tangible benefits is represented in this chart:

<b>Outdoor Ministry Associa on – 2024 Membership Levels and Benefits</b>					
	<b>Camp (\$100-\$700)</b>	<b>Congregation (\$150)</b>	<b>Individual/Family (\$50)</b>	<b>Professional/Staff (\$100)</b>	<b>Lifetime (\$750)</b>
Professional member(s) and benefits*	X				
\$25 Annual Retreat Discount (1 person)		X	X	X	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
Retreat Scholarships Available	X	X	X	X	
Staff and Volunteer Award Nominations	X				
Environmental Grants (up to \$1000; only \$500 w/o membership)	X	X			
Eligible for Four Horseman Fund Support	X	X		X	
Membership Certificate	X	X		X	X
OMA Decal	X	X	X	X	X

***\*Professional Memberships Included in Camp Memberships:***

*Based on Camp Fee Level: \$100 - \$399 = 1 member; \$400 - \$699 = 2 members; \$700+ = 3 members*

These costs are necessary for us to continue providing the **grants** for environmental projects, scholarships for professional development, and the administrative fees connected to OMA communications. Please contact **Garry Pearson** serving as this year's Membership Coordinator, at [garrypemail-ucd@yahoo.com](mailto:garrypemail-ucd@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about membership.

You'll find a **Camp Information/Membership Form** on the OMA web site. Additionally, we can send you the membership survey link. We are grateful for the information you can provide so that we can be up to date, as well as for your membership dues that go directly to the association's work. Camp membership allows your camp to apply for up to \$1000 from our **Environmental Grant Fund** for special projects at your camp, nominate persons from your camp for the **staff and volunteer awards**, and apply for **leadership development and professional growth** resources from the Four Horseman Fund. Please encourage other staff, volunteers, or supporters within your organization to become individual/family or professional members of OMA.

Also, keep an eye out for information about the **OMA Annual Retreat** scheduled to be held at **Camp Mack, Indiana from November 17th to 21st, 2024**. This is a great opportunity for professional growth, networking, rest and renewal, fellowship, and good old-fashioned fun!

**Thank You** for your commitment to your local camp and your support of the wider network of outdoor ministry through OMA!

Blessings as you plan for the life God brings to your ministry this year.

Garry Pearson 2024 OMA Membership Coordinator