

Camp Odyssey Currently Set for Third Year (June 23-29)

The Camp Odyssey program is set to go forward for our third straight year. As always, our program will start with our week-long residential summer camp.

We have been blessed to work again this year with 4H to reserve camp at their 4H Center in Salem on June 23-29, 2013.

Camper Recruitment Goal: 100 Applications by March 31

We are looking for campers for the 2013 camp! Our goal is to get 100 applications by March 31st so we can then focus on training staff and setting up the actual camp in the following months. You can help us by personally talking to youth and youth organizers and by sending them the camper application.

The application can be found on our website: <http://www.nwcampodyssey.org/2013CamperApplication>

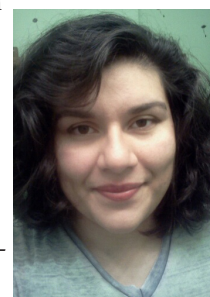
Any youth ages 14-18 years old living in Oregon can apply. We are committed to decreasing barriers to access of high quality leadership and "diversity" program for youth by providing Camp Odyssey at no charge. So please let youth, parents and youth organizers know that camp is free!

New Board Members

The Piece dba Camp Odyssey welcomes our two newest Board members, Amanda Martinez and Rob Macy to the Board. They join current members Kayla Johnston and Nicole Potter and re-elected officers, Willie Raw and Linh Ngo as Co-Chairs, Doug Honma as Treasurer and Kellie Holloway as Secretary.

Amanda Martinez first joined Camp Odyssey in the Summer of 2012 after graduating from Southern Oregon University in Ashland, OR with a Bachelors in Sociology and Spanish. After 5 years of living away, Amanda has returned to Portland where she currently works with Open Meadow Alternative Schools in a program called Step Up at Gresham High School.

Amanda was born and raised in Portland, OR (Woop woop!) Grew up in NE Portland and moved to SE Portland in her teenage years. A graduate of Franklin High School, Amanda was always involved in some club or event in and out of school. She was in Upward Bound, a TRiO program at PSU which led her to many post-secondary opportunities.



Camp Odyssey has been tremendous heart work for Amanda. Camp Odyssey has been a way for her to continue and challenge oppression and inequity through an intersectional lens.

While **Rob Macy** has only recently begun working with Camp Odyssey, he's very eager to begin assisting The Piece with their communications and marketing. Rob has been working for the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon in their communications office since his graduation from Portland State University in 2010. Rob studied Marketing and Advertising Accounts Management for four years before deciding that he wanted to specialize in non-profit marketing and communications. For the past several years he has been committed to using his business marketing background to provide tangible and working solutions to the complex, and often financially strained, non-profit sector.



After attending Camp Odyssey's Reunion Camp in early January he's very excited to be an actual camp staff member this June.

Staff Recruitment Commences

We are also looking for new volunteer camp staff. Please personally talk to people you know and forward our new staff application. The application can be found on our website: <http://www.nwcampodyssey.org/2013StaffApplication>

We are looking for anyone interested in youth or "diversity" work. We have a very high staff to camper ratio of about 2 or 3 campers to 1 staff to maintain a quality, effective, and safe program. We will have a good amount of returning staff, but new staff are very much needed to grow our Odyssey community and maintain the integrity of camp!

Marketing and Outreach Team to Work on Recruiting Underrepresented Groups

Mohammad Alarja, Tom Gevurtz, and Debbie Hansen have joined with Camp Odyssey youth, led by Willie Raw and Kellie Holloway, to focus on recruiting underrepresented groups. As you may know, Odyssey's camp curriculum requires a balanced representation of youth and staff from diverse backgrounds to make the program effective.

The group will be looking to bulk up our attendance with those who identify as Jewish, Muslim/Arab/Middle Eastern, Native American, Rural and Transgender. If you know of campers or staff who identify in these areas, we would love your help in talking with them about Camp Odyssey!

Odyssey Program Attends Annual ALF Reception

Thanks to Tom Fuller (ALF I) and Robin Teater who helped allow Willie Raw and Kellie Holloway to mix it up with the current and Senior Fellows at the Annual American Leadership Forum of Oregon Reception this January.

Odyssey Youth's Story in Equity Foundation Newsletter

The Equity Foundation has been a supporter of Odyssey since its founding and has continued their excellent support in Odyssey revival years. Recently they featured one of our camper's stories on their website. We've included this inspirational story below:

"As I was approaching the middle of the year and my 11th year of life, I found myself in a special ed class with kids who could easily kick the crap out of me -- like every other year since first grade. But when I started the year I had no idea that it would change the rest of my life forever. Well, back to the middle of the 6th grade, I always had this feeling like school was more than just an obligation (it was hell.) The way some kids would walk down the hallway like they ruled made me wonder why I was with people who are mean to people who might walk, talk or look slightly different, like me. My teacher told me in early November that if I worked really hard I could try to take the test to get out of the class around Christmas time.

As Christmas/Hanukah time approached I asked her when I could schedule a time to take the test. She looked deep into my eyes and told me that I would never get out of special ed, and that's when depression struck my 5 foot, skinny body. Somehow I made it through to the middle of 8th grade, and almost made it to the end of middle school. But all the feelings were shoved deeper and deeper down into my body that decided to blossom into a non-sleeping, hurt, broken kid. I didn't sleep for more than two hours a night for 4 months and started to improve during the summer. As my summer went on, my mother told me about a camp that needed more kids to come to camp. I said no, of course. The last thing I wanted to do was go to a summer camp with a whole bunch of preppy kids. But apparently that was the perfect thing to do for a kid who trusted no one at the time. So I ended up going and learned that it was more than just a summer camp, to say the least.

Camp Odyssey benefited me in so many ways but mostly it showed me how much I needed people in my life which helped me so much to know that I had support no matter what entering high school. Also I gained a male mentor that I will never forget, my man Mohammed (a.k.a. Momo). Staff like Momo helped me because he sees me as a normal person and not someone that's trans or has physical differences! Camp Odyssey also changed me because I saw stuff in myself that was not right also. I changed the way I said, acted, And saw things in my head. I noticed that I became stronger as a person and started advocating for myself more when I started high school."

Camp Odyssey is a program of The Piece. Learn more at www.nwcampodyssey.org

January Camper Retreat Report & Photos

On Saturday, January 12, Camp Odyssey hosted its winter reunion retreat for last summer's youth at Canyonview Camp in Silverton. Attendance for the retreat included 21 campers from last summer, 9 youth leaders, and 10 staff. The focus of this retreat was to reflect and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Odyssey program so that we can continuously improve the quality of camp.

A reoccurring comment that kept coming up during the group discussions was that the youth are eager for Odyssey program events throughout the school year. As a result we're currently hard at work on increasing the number of meet-ups, activities, and events that Camp Odyssey is involved with! Be sure to keep an eye out for news and information in the coming weeks for developments on this.

Special thanks to the campers, youth leaders, their families, and staff for coming to the retreat!

