

La Prensa de Mi Pueblo

Vol. XXVII, No. 1 The Newsletter of Mi Pueblo, the Culture Camp of Concern for Children, Inc. Abril 2023

Notas del Director

Notes from the Director
Bill Gruber

Welcome back or, for new families, welcome for the first time to Mi Pueblo Camp!

We are excited to plan our 2nd full-time Teen Program this year, after the success of last year's Program. Teens entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade, in the fall of 2023, and those teens who just graduated in 2023 from high school, are eligible to participate in the Teen Program. See the Registration Form.

All volunteers and Camp families are invited to gather before Camp begins at our annual pizza party at the **Embassy Suites Hotel in Beachwood** on **Sunday, June 18th at 6 pm.**

Camper fees are the SAME as they have been since 2019. The fees for teens in the Teen Program, and for all volunteers are the same as last year. The only fee change is there is no longer a reduced fee for 9th graders.

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Questions?

If you have any questions at any time about Mi Pueblo or just want to talk to someone about Camp, contact:

Bill Gruber, Director
216-371-3570;
gruberWL@aol.com; or
Peg LeRoy, Human Resources Coordinator
920-680-8837;
peg.leroy@yahoo.com

The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends

It is time for Campers, Teens and ALL volunteers and instructors to register for our 31st Mi Pueblo Day Camp which will be held the week of **June 19 to 23, 2023**, at Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.

The Camp hours will be **9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**, Monday-Thursday, with early release on Friday. The annual **Fiesta** will be held on **Friday, June 23rd from 6:30-10 pm** at Forest Hill Church.

This year's Camp Theme, is **The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends, La Historia de MesoAmerica - Civilizaciones Antiguas y Leyendas Indigenas.**

We will enter the undersea ancient world of Talokan (from the film Black Panther 2), and go back in time to explore the ancient peoples of Central America, whose living relatives call Central America home today.

We begin on **Monday** with our annual opening ceremony, and a celebration of the importance of water for life. On **Tuesday** we look to the stars and Sun for guidance. **Wednesday** is a celebration of the sustenance food brings, especially at a Camp picnic in the park. On **Thursday** we learn of the influences of the ancient world on us today. And on **Friday** we honor the ancient peoples, ending in the annual Fiesta on Friday evening.

All campers, teen and young adult volunteers, and parent and other adult volunteers, including Teachers, **MUST** be registered for Camp! Get started by filling out the forms sent with this La Prensa, including the **Camper/Teen/Volunteer/Teacher Registration Form**, and the **Camper/Teen/Volunteer/Teacher Information Form**.

Camp fees are the same as last year, except for the elimination of the

Reduced fee for 9th graders. The fees for Camp include a T-shirt, lunch, and snack each day, take home gifts, classes and special events each day. Note, that once you register for Camp, you will receive a mailing in June with all the key information you will need for Camp.

As you fill out the forms, please consider volunteering to help plan and organize the Camp. We really need help with the Teen Program. Planning is going on now --- so there are ways you can help before Camp.

Help is needed on **Friday, June 16th at 6 pm** to load up the truck that carries our

Camp supplies from the Palus home in Parma to the Church.

Also, we need you to help **set up Camp** on **Saturday, June 17, from 9 am to 12 noon**, and **Sunday, June 18, from 12 noon to 3 pm.**

On **Sunday, June 18th**, at 6 pm, the evening before Camp, we will have our annual volunteer and Camp family get together (and pizza party) at Embassy Suites Hotel in Beachwood.

There are many ways to help -- donations of raffle/auction items, baking desserts, setting-up/cleaning - up, and money donations -- are all vital to make the Camp special and allow everyone to participate.

Important Dates!

Mark your calendars for these important dates and become an active part of *Mi Pueblo '22*.

May 7 - Planning Meeting - 3 pm by Zoom
May 31 - Registration Deadline for Camp
June 4 - Planning Meeting - 3 pm by Zoom
June 7 - Payment/Registration Deadline
Fri. June 16 - Pack up Truck - 6 pm Palus'
Sat., June 17 - Camp Set-up - 9 - 12 noon
Sun., June 18 - 12 noon - 3 pm
Sun., June 18 - 6 p.m. - Orientation Meeting - at Embassy Suites Hotel
Mon. - Fri., June 19 - 23 - Mi Pueblo '23
Fri. June 23 - Fiesta - 6:30 - 10 pm

Keep up to date on Facebook or at MiPuebloCamp.org

31st Mi Pueblo
June 19 - 23, 2023

Volunteers Make Mi Pueblo

Mi Pueblo's success comes from many people contributing their time and talent both before and during the week of camp. The Planning Committee needs your help! Just fill out the volunteer form or contact Bill Gruber, Peg LeRoy, or Liz Dessofoff, or you can show up for a Planning Committee meeting.

As you can see from the box to the right, we still have many staff positions open. We also still need help both before and during Camp.

Our teachers this year are:

- Culture** - Elia de la Garza
- Games** - Doug Palus, David Dessofoff
- Dance** - Mónica Cerpa
- Crafts** - Mariela Silberberg
- Music** - Patricia Bussert
- Spanish** - Luz Elena Klopp

Note: Staff assignments subject to change.

Administrative & Instructional Staff

- Camp Director** - Bill Gruber
- Asst.** - David Brooks
- Volunteer Coord.** - Liz Dessofoff
- Human Resources Coord.** - Peg LeRoy
- Asst.** - Tamara Miller
- Treasurer** - Claudia Madden
- Operations Coord.** - Cindy Palus
- Curriculum Coord.** - Ana Burpee
- Camp Nurse** - OPEN
- La Prensa Editor** - OPEN
- Assts.** -
- Fiesta & Recipe Booklet** - OPEN
- Special Events Coord.** - Cindy Palus
- Photographer** - Laura Blake
- AV Specialist** - OPEN
- Fiesta** -
- Fiesta Raffle/Silent Auction** -
- Fiesta Stage Manager** - OPEN
- Camp Sales Coord.** - OPEN
- Costumes Coord.** - OPEN
- Food Purch. Coord.** - OPEN
- Desserts Coord.** - OPEN
- Kitchen Coord.**
- Assts** -
- Child Care** - OPEN

Camper Homeroom Staff:

- Pre-K** - Carmela Rause
- K** - Carrie Wagner, Shannon Harris
- 1st, 2nd** - Coord - Geri Butt
Assts. -
- 3rd, 4th** - Coord. - Kelly Ream
Assts. -
- 5th, 6th, 7th**
Coord. - Grant Cordle
Assts. -
- 8th, 9th (Senior Campers)** -
Coord. - Brian Collins
Assts. - Andrew Pockrandt

Teen Coord.

Teen Program:

- Victor Garbade
- Lizbeth Broache
- Andy Brooks

Assistant Teachers:

Mi Pueblo Contest!!

To get everyone thinking about our 31st Camp theme, *Mi Pueblo* is again having a contest. This year we will celebrate "**The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends.**" We will explore the ancient civilizations of Central America and delve into the world of Talokan (Black Panther 2).

THINK & RESEARCH about the characters from the film Black Panther 2 from the undersea world of Talokan, or about the history of peoples living in Central America at the height of the Mayan, Olmec, Zapotec, Aztec and other peoples and their great cities.

Draw a picture or write a short story about your favorite character, place or legend from ancient Central America.

Then fill out the form below and attach it to your work so we know who you are and submit by **Wednesday, June 21st**. Two prizes--one for stories and one for art work--will be awarded in eight age categories. The contest is open to all *Mi Pueblo* Camp families and volunteers. Prizes include tote bags, hats, books and other surprises. Written essays need to be limited to no more than 100 words. All entries will be judged by a panel of *Mi Pueblo* teachers. Winners will be announced Friday, June 23.

Mi Pueblo

The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends
La Historia de MesoAmerica - Civilizaciones Antiguas y Leyendas Indigenas

Contest Entry Form

Please include this information with every entry to the *Mi Pueblo* "**The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends**" Contest. If your entry is an essay, make it **no more than 100 words**. Be sure to include the full name of the entrant.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grade (entering Fall 2023) ___ Pre-K ___ K-1-2 ___ 3-4 ___ 5-6 ___ 7 ___ 8-9 ___ Teen ___ Adult

Write a short story/essay or create a picture that depicts one of our daily themes (see the list on pg. 4). This entry represents: _____

Mail your entry to: Bill Gruber, 2714 Leighton Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120, email to GruberWL@aol.com, or hand it in to the *Camp Office* by **noon, June 21st**, the third day of Camp.

Key Facts About *Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp '23

Camp Location: Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd. (corner of Monticello Blvd. and Lee Rd.), Cleveland Hts., OH (Mi Pueblo has rented the Church's facilities for 31 years.)

Dates: Monday through Friday, June 19 - 23, 2023.

Times: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (early dismissal on Friday TBA)

Friday Night Fiesta: June 23rd - 6:30 - 10 p.m. at Forest Hill Church.

Ages: Camp classes are offered for: (1) children entering Pre-school/Kindergarten in the Fall of 2023 through those entering 7th grade, and (2) Senior Campers who are entering 8th and 9th grade.

Child Care: Child care may be provided for a volunteer's child(ren) up to 2.5 years of age.

Pre-K: Children 2.5 years to 4 years may participate in the Pre-K Class as a regular Camper if the child is ready for a half day schedule of classes and activities and half day of play time. Staff will reach out to parents of these children to discuss the options.

Fees: Campers (including Senior Campers) - \$220/child. Campers of parent volunteers - \$180/child (volunteers must hold significant pre-Camp position or work all 5 days at camp). Campers of members of Planning Committee - \$140/child. Teens in the Teen Program (See below) - \$100. Adult Volunteers \$50 if no Camper/Teen registered/\$25 if 1 or more Camper/Teen registered. Note: There is no longer a reduced fee for 9th graders.

Scholarships: Concern for Children does not want to have any child miss the opportunity to attend camp. Therefore, need-based scholarships are available. To apply, send a written request to Bill Gruber, 2714 Leighton Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44120 or gruberwl@aol.com.

Payment of Fees: FEES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 15th, BUT PLEASE SEND IN REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REGISTRATION FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER MAY 31st REQUIRE A \$20 LATE FEE.

Registration: You can register by mailing or emailing in your registration forms, and send a check or pay at [Mi PuebloCamp.org](http://MiPuebloCamp.org). You will receive more Camp details in early June. Refunds of 100% will be made no later than May 31st, 50% no later than June 15th, 25% no later than June 20th. NO CAMPER REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 7th. FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER MAY 31st REQUIRE A LATE FEE OF \$20. PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY JUNE 15th.

Teen Program: The goal of the program, in its 2nd year, is to balance the work and fun of Camp. The Teen Program will consist of: 1. Volunteering, 2. Organized activities, and 3. Socializing. There will be cooking classes, team building games, dance troupe, forums led by alumni and special guests, and much more. It'll be a memorable week and *Mi Pueblo* looks forward to your teen's participation in the program. Those teens entering 10th grade (called Interns) will automatically be enrolled in this new program. Teens entering 11th grade and 12th grade and those who graduated this year (2023) have the choice to enroll in the teen program or to instead work as full-time volunteers in a homeroom or class. To cover the costs of this program, there is a teen fee of \$100 for participants in the Teen Program. For teens who register to volunteer full-time, there is an adult/teen volunteer fee of \$50. For any questions or comments, please contact Ana Burpee at bmariana12@gmail.com, or Andy Brooks at brooks362@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in June.

Sponsor: *Mi Pueblo* is sponsored by Concern for Children, Inc., an Ohio not-for-profit corporation, which is a parent support group for adoptive families. ALL CAMP FAMILIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF CONCERN FOR CHILDREN, INC. — SIMPLY ADD YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO YOUR REGISTRATION FORM — THANK YOU!

Housing: *Mi Pueblo* has many options for out-of-town families who need housing. Whatever you choose, MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY. Most *Mi Pueblo* families like staying together. This year we have a group rate of \$129/night at the Embassy Suites in Beachwood, with a limited number of rooms available at this rate, so make your reservation early; the rate is only available until Sunday, May 17th. Call for reservations at, 1-800-317-1960. Ask for the "*Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp" rate, \$129/night. If you have trouble, contact Bill Gruber at gruberWL@aol.com.

More Notes from the Camp Director (Continued from p. 1)

The Camp fees are never sufficient to pay all the expenses of Camp, so we depend upon donations and sales of raffle tickets, and bids on the silent auction, at the Fiesta in order to provide a fun, exciting, educational, authentic and safe Camp experience. *Mi Pueblo* provides scholarships for families (and for any fees) to ensure that no one is ever turned away for lack of funds.

We are also an all-volunteer Camp, and so lots of helpers are needed – please consider volunteering--- even if you can't attend during the week of Camp. We need bakers to help make and send in desserts, and sewers to help with costumes. I hope to see you soon! Bill

Mi Pueblo Fundraising

Camp fees are never enough to cover the expenses of Mi Pueblo Camp. Also, we provide full and partial scholarships each year to ensure that no family is turned away due to an inability to pay the fees. *Mi Pueblo* relies on direct donations and various fundraising efforts. Mi Pueblo is operated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and donations are tax deductible. CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF YOUR DONATION COULD BE MATCHED BY YOUR EMPLOYER.

Auction and Raffle

Please consider donating items for our annual silent auction and raffle to be held at the Fiesta. We can use tickets to events and sport contests, gift certificates, items from Latin America, etc. Contact Cindy Palus if you have any items to donate: dcpalus5@aol.com.

Concern for Children

Concern for Children, Inc. is the non-profit parent organization of *Mi Pueblo* Camp. CFC has helped support the Camp since its start. That alone should be a good reason why all Camp families should **join CFC as a member** (it's only \$30 per year). It is easy to do thru your Camp Registration Form. In addition, CFC has helped families who have adopted children in Latin America in the US for 40 years, and continues to help families and children in Latin America.

Volunteers New to *Mi Pueblo*

All new volunteers assigned to a homeroom must have a background check and an interview. Any new volunteer not working directly with children is required to have a background check done.

Background Checks

Volunteers and Teachers working directly with children in classrooms and homerooms are required to have a background check done semi-annually. You will be contacted after registration if you need a background check.

FutureCamp Committee

The Committee is continuing its work --- if you are willing to volunteer, contact Hope Carroll hopecarrollhope@gmail.com. With enrollment in the younger Camp grades falling, fewer adoptees coming into the US from Latin America, and *Mi Pueblo* leadership aging and their children moving on, the Planning Committee believes the Camp needs to take a serious look at the future of *Mi Pueblo*, with the goal of keeping the Camp going and keeping it strong.

The Future Camp Committee is chaired by Hope Carroll, and other members are Ana Burpee, Becky Parr, Carolyn Holland, and Bill Gruber.

The Committee is considering recommendations regarding how Camp is structured, whether it remains a week-long Camp or becomes a long weekend, whether more of the activities become family activities, and how we can keep the teens active and interested.

We also need to develop job descriptions and consider how to divide up jobs (including for in-town and out of town volunteers). Succession planning for leadership roles is critical as the current leaders age and/or their children are no longer involved with Camp. Our main goal is to engage former Campers and other young adult Latinos to take over key positions at Camp.

Keep up to date on Facebook or at MiPuebloCamp.org!

Needed:

- **Volunteers—teens and adults—to help pack the truck with supplies the Friday before Camp, and to come and help set up on Saturday and Sunday that weekend (June 16-18)**
- **Teen and young adult volunteers willing to help out with the opening ceremony. Please let us know if you will help out.**
- **Teens and young adults willing to help out with other activities during Camp week.**

2023 Camp Theme

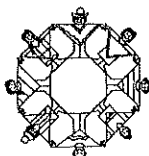
The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends

La Historia de MesoAmerica - Civilizaciones Antiguas y Leyendas Indigenas

Each year we have a new theme at Camp to keep the curriculum fresh and bring excitement to the week. This year's Camp theme is "**The History of Mesoamerica - Ancient Empires and Indigenous Legends.**" As the week progresses, we will explore the ancient civilizations of Central America. The daily themes are listed below. [Note the order and name for each daily theme is subject to change]

Daily Themes:

Monday - Water - Talokan (Black Panther)
 Tuesday - Astronomy, Sun gods, summer solstice
 Wednesday - Foods
 Thursday - Then and now - influences that we see today
 Friday - Ancient Peoples



Mi Pueblo Day Camp
 Sponsored by Concern for Children, Inc.
www.concernforchildren.org
 Bill Gruber, Director
 2714 Leighton Road