

## CONGRATULATIONS DIVISION 67!

### CAMP ROSENBAUM BUILDS BRIDGE OF TRUST

*New dock at Slusher Lake dedicated at ceremony*

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Alex Pajunas — *The Daily Astorian*  
Emil "Swede" Nyberg, the Lieutenant Governor of the Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Division 67, who coordinated the dock's construction on Slusher Lake, welcomes Camp Rosenbaum kids during a dedication ceremony Monday.



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Tracy Crews, a Salmon Trout Enhancement Program biologist with the Tillamook office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, spills a tank containing 60 trout ranging from two to six pounds each into Slusher Lake. More than 1,000 trout had been released for the dedication of the dock.



WARRENTON - Girls and boys were landing speckled pink rainbow trout left and right Monday at Slusher Lake near Warrenton.

Camp Rosenbaum is in full swing again this week for its 37th year at Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, and now kids have a new dock to use as they try to pull lunkers from the lake.

"I just heard they needed a new dock a couple years ago, and they really do great things with kids here, so we did what we could," said Emil "Swede" Nyberg, lieutenant governor of the Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Division 67, at a ceremony dedicating the new dock.

Each year, 165 children ages 9 to 11 from disadvantaged backgrounds spend a week at Camp Rosenbaum, where they learn that police officers and military personnel are normal people just like them.

"These kids come from some tough backgrounds, and they don't always have very positive interactions with authority," said Rachel Strobel, a Portland police officer working as a counselor for the seventh year.

"Maybe they saw an officer arrest a parent or sibling, so they have this negative view of us," said Strobel.

Oregon Air National Guard members and Portland police officers work as counselors and assume camp nicknames like Babyface, Phlik and Smiley. At the end of six days, after developing bonds with the children under their care, they appear in their uniforms to drive home the point that authority can be trusted.

"This way, they get to know us as people first, and I'm always amazed by their reactions when they learn I'm a police officer."

Tracy Crews, a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, contacted Nyberg in 2006 when she heard that the Kiwanis leader was just the person to wrangle money and organize labor to build a dock.

Crews, leveraging funds from the Youth Angling Enhancement Program and Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, had stocked the lake with 1,000 trout and thought the campers deserved a better fishing platform than the original rickety dock.

Nyberg raised funds through Kiwanis and a short, new dock was built. He went to watch the campers use it and recalls a young girl awkwardly casting for the first time and landing a 24-inch rainbow. "I just knew we had to build a bigger dock then," he said.

Nyberg went to work requesting funds from The Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Foundation, the Air National Guard, the Rosenbaum Foundation and the Samuel L. Johnson Foundation. Engineers volunteered labor, donations accumulated, Bradwood Landing LNG became a corporate sponsor and of course the Kiwanis Club of Astoria-Warrenton pitched in, and a large addition was added to the dock allowing for 20 campers to fish at one time.

By Nyberg's estimates, all the donations, including time and labor, add up to nearly \$40,000, and he and other Rosenbaum supporters watched Monday as the kids learned to cast - sometimes tangling lines and nearly hooking counselors - and reeled in fat rainbows from the shallow water around the new dock.

Trysten Hendricks, a 10-year-old camper from Portland, had fished once before but "not at a pretty place like this." She said that after only one day at the camp, she had already made a "ton" of friends and declared that if she caught a fish, the other half of the dock would be required to eat worms. "There's a lot of mosquitoes here, but it's way better than where I live," she said.

Lt. Dawn Deland, with the 142nd Fighter Wing of Air National Guard, said "some of the stories these kids tell you about their lives are just shocking. They just don't get a chance to be kids. Here, they get that chance."