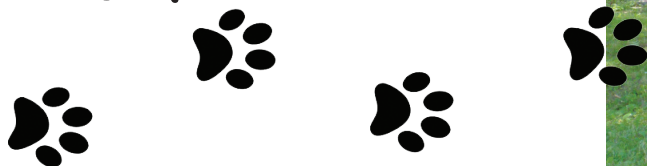


David and Toby's Story: Helping Campers navigate Green Lake



Greeting each camper upon arrival with a welcome packet and a smile. Finding solutions and fixing problems. Cleaning campsites. Repairing, building and painting picnic tables. It's all in a day's work for volunteer Camp Ranger David Grieger.

The best part of David's job is interacting with campers. He said "It is truly humbling and heartwarming to hear their stories and to share in the lives of these folks during their camping experiences."

David, a retired American Baptist pastor and hospital chaplain, had spent a lot of time at Green Lake before volunteering. He and his wife Anne met in 1974 while working on summer staff: Anne was a lifeguard, David a summer staff counselor. They later enjoyed decades at Green Lake vacationing with their kids, attending conferences and bringing groups from churches. "Green Lake is a second home for us, a place of spiritual renewal and growth," David says. Summer of 2015 was his first time as a volunteer. He and Anne, also a volunteer, came from Maryland and set up camp for the summer in their RV.

However, David's volunteer partner was not Anne. It was Toby, their black Labrador and greeter par excellence. Toby is a licensed therapy dog trained through Pet Partners, a national leader in animal-assisted therapy, activities and education. He and David visit Frederick, MD-area nursing homes, hospitals and schools. Seems Toby also enjoyed his summer job, as David tells this story:

"I greeted a family which included two Down syndrome kids. One of the boys hugged Toby



Toby and David



Anne



Toby

for about five minutes; Toby responded with lots of licks. This was the family's first time camping at Green Lake and they were impressed with the history of the grounds I provided, as well as the welcome provided by Toby. The mom said: "we will be back later in the summer when we can spend more time. Thanks for your welcome."

Campers say they appreciate having someone who represents the conference center focusing just on campers. One day he visited a family during their late breakfast. They offered Toby watermelon and took a picture of him and David. At the end of their stay they stopped by the Grieger's RV to say goodbye . . . to Toby! David loves helping campers, despite his sidekick stealing the show. Green Lake delights in volunteers like David, Anne and Toby!

To learn more about Green Lake's volunteer program or to apply online, visit glcc.org. Questions? Contact Sandra Wimpelberg: SandraW@glcc.org or (920) 294-7333.