



# CENTRAL SDA MESSENGER

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## Oshkosh 2019 by Amelia Geery

The Oshkosh camporee has now come and gone. It would take hours to write out everything that happened during the week, so I'll just write about my favorite highlights.

The rest of the Sentinels left on Sunday, but I left the day before in the truck. We spent the first night somewhere in Kansas, then the second night was in the town of Appleton, Wisconsin, which is about a half hour away from the camp site. It was very hot and humid the first day of the camporee. We were already so tired after setting up camp, but it was only noon.

It was crazy walking to the activities for the first time on Tuesday because it really felt like we were walking through a small town. That evening was the first Main Stage Event. Before the stage actually started, there were a lot of people running around with their country's flag. It was really cool to see all the different countries that were there. You could hear cheers whenever a flag went by a club from that country.



On Wednesday, our club did the blacksmithing honor. It was a very cool experience. After the blacksmithing we hustled over to the food court then over to the hangers to do a nunchuck class from a club from Hong Kong. They first showed us how to make some DIY nunchucks and had us practice with those first before giving us the real ones. Some people in the Hong Kong club were filming and taking pictures, and I can't help but wonder if somewhere in China there are people laughing at a picture of me hitting myself in the head with a nunchuck.

Thursday we took a break from the hustle of the camp and went off-site to the YMCA. It was nice to spend some time in a place with real toilets. Plus it was nice to be out of the constant heat and sun for just a little bit.

It rained pretty much all morning on Friday so a lot of the roads were pretty muddy. It had rained earlier in the week but it had usually stopped by the time we were done with flag raising in the morning. We were very fortunate that our site wasn't muddy at all. The site across from ours had a tent that was basically right on top of a puddle.

Our final day was Saturday. We participated in the attempt (which was successful) at making the world's largest human cross. Everyone was extremely worn out by the time we got back to our camp after the morning church service and the human cross. We all just relaxed a bit after lunch before beginning to take down our site.



Saturday evening we headed to the last stage event.

It was bittersweet singing the theme song for the last time and watching the nightly play end, but sadness was forgotten while watching the ending firework show. As soon as the fireworks ended our club headed back to our site. By then everything had been taken down and was loaded up onto the truck and bus. The bus left Oshkosh and traveled through the night until they got home Sunday evening but the truck just drove for about an hour then stayed the night in a hotel.

I have so many fond memories it's hard to try to just write about a few. A lot of people have asked me what my favorite part of the trip was, but I really have no idea what it was. My least favorite parts was using port-a-potties for a week straight and having to take five minute showers, but it was tolerable.

I had an amazing time at Oshkosh. No fights ever broke out in the club so I'd say the week was a success. I know I'm looking forward to going to Oshkosh in 2024, and I hope that others in the club can say the same.



**Main Worship Service: Saturdays @ 10:50am**  
**Please join us!!**  
[www.abqcentral.org](http://www.abqcentral.org)

## Women's Ministry Craft Day a Success

The turnout was great for the **Fall Women's Ministry Craft Day** held by Women's Ministry leader Rose Flores. Attendees were treated to delicious hot cider, teas and assorted treats. Crafts were fun such as "Cinnamon Broom Floral Swags", "Spaghetti Muffins," and harvest "Bible Verse Bookmarks". Volunteers helped with crafts, decorations and food. A beautifully decorated table held uplifting literature that attendees could select to take home. Rose read an inspirational poem that will be available in hard copies soon.



### God's Invisible Qualities- By A Simple Seeker

The temperatures are finally starting to cool, school is in full swing, and the fall colors will soon be all around us. This might be the best time of year in New Mexico, and remembering these warm and peaceful days makes it easier to put up with the chilly chaos of the Windy Season every spring. And one of my favorite things to enjoy during the fall is the energetic and sometimes comical presence of the hummingbirds that visit us every year.



If you want to see these fast, feathery creatures up close, put out a feeder. If you really want to get to know hummingbirds, put out more than one feeder. It won't be long until you have a number of these little birds visiting your yard. Then take some time to watch and listen. You'll soon recognize the distinctive buzz-hum of their wings and the rapid-fire chirp of their throats as they race to and fro in your yard. Watch how they feed and fly. It makes me smile.

Beyond the joy of observing their amazing qualities, the tiny flying miracles are clear evidence of a divinely-created world. Their wings beat so fast (50-80 times per second); they can hover, maneuver, and fly in a straight line at over 60 miles per hour. Their bodies – wings, tongues, muscles, and hearts – are designed to function at levels much higher than other birds and yet are remarkably efficient. And even with all of these extraordinary characteristics, some of the smaller hummingbirds weigh less than a dime.

But even at peak efficiency, they need LOTS of fuel to do what they do. If we tried to be a hummingbird, we'd have to consume calories equivalent to more than 1500 veggie burgers and drink over 20 gallons of water a day. And the water would mostly be needed to cool us off when we expended all that energy. If we moved and burned energy at a hummingbirds' level, our hearts would have to beat more than 1000 times a minute, our body temperature would rise to over 700 degrees -- we would burst into flames! If you have time, look up more about the hummingbird. It's well worth it.

What's truly amazing about these creatures, though, is that all of their unique and amazing characteristics (I did not list them all here) must be present simultaneously and altogether. They could not have evolved piece-meal. If any characteristic were missing, the bird would not survive. But God does not make anything that is incomplete or flawed. The hummingbird is a masterpiece of Creation and is a reminder that we serve a loving, all-powerful God who cares for us in even the smallest details of our lives. As Paul wrote: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen..." (Romans 1:20).

God's eternal power and divine nature is all around us, if we just stop and look for it.

How many people does it take to make ice cream???

This was the question at the recent ice cream social. Fun was had by everyone (and Brian's homemade ice cream was a hit!)



The church got a much needed refresh at our recent work bee



Newness of Lives



On October 12th **Larry Wilson** and **Debbie Martinez** joined their lives and hearts together in marriage

**Shontae Escobar** gave her life to Christ through baptism

