Ross Point Camp and Conference Center on the Spokane River at Post Falls reports that about 70 percent of the campers who come to their sponsored camps are from American Baptist churches. In addition, many churches are having their own camps and retreats for their churches, rather than just sending children to regional age-group camps.

“We host youth camps for several churches in the region,” said Marta Walker, camp administrator. “Our summer is full, with a few openings for smaller groups.”

So if an age-group camp does not fill the site, a group may rent space during the same week for better use of the facilities.

Ross Point sponsors will be four weeks of youth camps one week of family camp and a week of Camp Journey.

More than 200 youth attend the camps for senior high, junior high, junior camp for those in grades four to six and a camp for those in grades two to four.

Camp Journey is for children ages seven to 17 who have been touched by childhood cancer. Previously the camp was sponsored by the American Cancer Society and held at Ross Point. Three years ago, Ross Point took full responsibility for it, including raising funds so the children can come.

Camp allows people time away from normal life, time to build community and spiritual lives, she said.

Its motto is “providing a haven for engaging, encouraging and equipping.”

Marta appreciates the opportunity to be part of a ministry that has such value for so many lives.

“More young people who came to camp as children are now becoming volunteers and serving at camp as adults, because they value what a lifelong difference their camp experience made in their spiritual walk,” she said.

Paid staff is responsible for campers’ experiences and safety on the high ropes course and the climbing wall. There is a paid lifeguard for the water sports, which include swimming, canoeing, kayaking and aqua jump.

Ross Point hires some counselors, but up to three-fourths are volunteers. Volunteers also direct the age-group camps and plan the activities.

Ross Point often rents space for family reunions, church retreats and university conferences.

For information, call 208-773-1655 or visit rosspoint.org.