

# Introducing the CDSS Commons!

by Sarah Pilzer, CDSS Director of Operations

For us here in the office, one of the most highly anticipated features of CDSS transitioning to using Salesforce is the integration of our website and database. Before now, any online transaction (camp registration, membership renewal, donation, etc) required staff to spend time and effort to manually process the information before entering it into a database record by keystroke. I am very excited to share with you that we are now poised to implement a new innovation that will give you a brand new set of online tools for more efficient communication with CDSS. Welcome to the CDSS Commons!

## What is the CDSS Commons?

We are creating a digital community space, built on the Salesforce Community Cloud platform, which will integrate with Salesforce record data to allow logged in users secure access to information about yourselves and your interactions with CDSS. With its own unique look and feel, the CDSS Commons is intended as a companion to our website (cdss.org) and not a replacement for the majority of our online resources, such as the Organizers' Portal and the books and music Store.

## Why should I use the CDSS Commons?

The CDSS Commons will be the place where you can manage the contact information we have on record for you and your household, register to attend camp, renew your membership, and make charitable donations to support our work. The online forms related to these areas that were previously found on cdss.org will now exist in the CDSS Commons.

It will also be the home of our newly revamped Member Directory! That's right; we're bringing back this sorely missed benefit in a new format. As a member, you will have access to a special section of the Commons where you'll be able to search for and connect with other members in your local community and beyond.

If you are a leader of a Group Affiliate, you will be able to use the Commons to keep your entry in the Affiliate Directory up to date so that dancers, musicians, and singers can know all about the amazing activities you organize.

We will continue to develop additional features for the CDSS Commons to enhance your experience of the community and bring you further benefits.

## How can I access the CDSS Commons?

When the CDSS Commons launches, you will receive an email welcoming you to the community and instructing you on how to log in for the first time. Some parts of the Commons will be publically available, but logging in is the only way to see data specific to you. You can navigate between cdss.org and the CDSS Commons through hyperlinks on both websites.

Please be on the lookout for more communication from us over the next few weeks regarding this new technology. We expect to go live in early January and I know I speak for the entire CDSS staff when I say we will be thrilled to see you in the Commons!

**CDSS offers a wealth of opportunities to hone your skills in dancing, singing, calling, and playing at our summer camps for adults and for families. Join us this summer to lift your spirits and refresh your soul! [cdss.org/camp](http://cdss.org/camp)**



photo by Mitch Diamond