

THE WILDERNESS WAY



Wilderness Way Camp School Newsletter

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Details, Hon, Details,



Three inches. A very small measurement, right? Shouldn't be a big deal...until you square a tent. We had been using binder's twine with tape on the ends cut to the measurements that we needed for squaring our tent. The string for our "B" measurement had stretched from 11' to 11'3" because we were being careless and messing around. After we had put on our 3 bottom siderails, we noticed they were not level. The slope of the ground is very extreme at that spot. Our plan was to put our two side rails at the theoretical ground zero, two feet. Well, we placed them at the two feet based off the two front uprights, which is about 7" difference. Our back one was resting on top of that, making for a very unlevel pole. This mistake set us back a whole morning and afternoon worktime!

The Bible warns us not to worry about all the little details. Yes, solve problems as they come up, but don't stress about getting everything just perfect. Life is going to be messy sometimes. That's okay. Just love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor more than you love yourself.

But just because it is an inevitable fact that problems come up, does not mean that we shouldn't make them right. For our uprights, we spent 45 minutes just trying to figure out what exactly the problem was. We took out our back upright and re-squared our tent. To fix our side rails we popped off the left side rail and our back siderail. We raised them 7". That left three empty notches on our tent. We patched them using chunks of pine carefully carved to fit the notch snugly and glued them into place. I think this tent has become one of my favorite tents, merely from the amount of work that went into it. We solved our problem!

Abby C- Pathfinder

Problem solving is a tool our campers learn to use in every area of camp. Through daily life our campers begin to build the muscle of how to solve problems. As they develop and strengthen this muscle through applying it in various situations around camp, the camper, when faced with a problem in her personal life, can apply those same problem-solving steps. With the help of her group, she can begin to identify ways she can overcome those obstacles in her life that hold her back from experiencing authentic relationships with God and others.



Woods Women Olympics



Many days at camp are filled with solving problems, building tents, and simply the everyday routines of camp. However, every now and then you need to shake things up! A break from the routine, an event to look forward to too, and a chance to build relationships around fun memories. So, it was with the Woodswomen Olympics event our awesome supervisors orchestrated. With the trophies Chief Lena crafted for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ready, LET THE GAMES BEGIN.

Overcast skies blanketed the event for a chilly evening, perfect for the timed events of chopping wood and kindling, making piles of pine shavings, cutting the best notch, and felling a tree just right to pop a balloon lying on the ground. The games began as Trailblazers, Pathfinders, and staff squared away with 1st prize looming in the balance. Smiles stretched across many faces as different girls were able to challenge each other and staff on their abilities to split the perfect piece of kindling, surpass each other on the size of their shavings pile, or have cut the most rigid notch. Toward the end of the evening Pathfinders were leading in points, followed by staff, with Trailblazers in last place. The final challenge was tree felling and Chiefs from both groups and two staff went head-to-head. This challenge carried a lot of points for the winner which could completely sway the overall results. The two staff members fell their tree first barely nipping the balloon followed by Pathfinder chiefs who fell their tree narrowly missing the balloon. Trailblazer chiefs were last to fell their tree, however the resounding pop of the balloon as their tree struck the ground propelled them to win the round. With this point swing no one knew who the overall winners were. As groups waited for supervisors to tally the points, aromas of the beef stew cooking over a nearby fire wafted through the air making everyone hungry. But alas the results were in with a small margin separating 1st and 2nd place. Pathfinders were the champions! Now who would be second?

With Trailblazer chiefs executing their tree felling challenge to perfection they propelled their group past staff taking a solid grasp of 2nd place.

Having good memories being made and everyone having a full belly of beef stew and biscuits, groups headed down trail for evening routines and bed. A campers' past can be filled with unpleasant memories, and in some instances these memories attempt to dictate a girl's future. While camp does push into helping a girl process these experiences, sometimes a girl just needs to get out of her head and go make some good memories. For girls with traumatic experiences events like the Woodsman Olympics are times healthy relationships are forged. When a girl needs to process her past a chief has already established a healthy relationship and has an in-road to speak into the situation. We want to thank all those who have invested in our camp to enable us to continue bringing hope and help to hurting girls and their families.



Father Daughter Banquet

Recently camp hosted a Father-Daughter banquet to encourage good and healthy memories to be made between fathers and their daughters. Prior to the banquet Chief Tim lead a group discussion with the fathers on the need for both bonding and boundaries to be present in a parent-child relationship. A father needs to have boundaries in the girl's life, yet without a healthy bond those boundaries can/will drive her away from relationship. The conversation led to the thought of how to balance their daughters' endless needs with the needs of their other children in the home, especially if this girl doesn't "deserve" it. As the fathers wrestled with some of these hard questions, they arrived at the idea that in and of themselves they are incapable of giving their daughter everything she needs.



This can be a scary place since the implications are that you are "not enough". How many men struggle with that thought? As the conversation continued more seasoned camp fathers turned and encouraged the newer ones that as hard as this journey can be, don't try to figure out the entire situation. Take small bite sized steps and push into the tools camp provides and see where it takes you. This event was a golden opportunity for the fathers to bond with their daughters. The evening kicked off with campers serving their fathers steaming plates of roast beef, potatoes, and green beans. After topping the hearty meal off with peanut butter & chocolate dessert and coffee, Chief John took over the evening. For those of you who may not know, Chief John has the uncanny ability to take simple things in life and create activities resulting in lots of laughter and giggles. As fathers stepped out of their comfort zones to sing silly songs, play games, and do word puzzles with their daughters, good healthy memories were being made.

At camp this is part of our goal, to reconnect a father's heart with their daughters' and vice versa. Also to help a young girl process past trauma so she can receive the love of a father without trying to sabotage the relationship, just to see if he really does care about her. We seek to lead a girl to the understanding that despite the past hurt and trauma, Jesus can and will heal her relationships and give her a future, if and only if she allows.

Will you join us in prayer that bonds between fathers and daughters will continue to heal and grow?

Welcoming Chief Jen

Hey there, I am Jennifer Swarey and I come from Michigan. I'm the second oldest in a family of 11, compiled of 10 girls and 1 boy. So while I definitely don't profess to be an expert where it comes to girls, I do understand them quite well and the typical "girl drama" and such :) I have lived on a farm all my life and will always love the animals and outdoor work aspect. If working cattle and making hay can be considered a hobby, that's the hobbies I have. The outdoor environment of the girls camp and just the chance to shine God's love into young girls lives is the big thing that drew me here. When I first heard about the camp

in 2018 while in Greece, the whole 2 year commitment seemed a bit too much for me. Then in 2021 it was brought up again through some conversation and I felt more ready for a commitment like that. So after some time and prayers I contacted the camp and here I am. I've only been here a short time and still learning about camp and what to expect of my life here, but I feel very privileged to be here. Being a confidante to the girls and still leading them correctly is my goal, but also my biggest fear of not accomplishing that. So I'd definitely appreciate prayers for wisdom and a clear mind as I start this new chapter of life.





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Staffing Transitions Around Camp

For the past 6 years Chief Brandon and his family have been at camp, as he filled the role of maintenance. He has facilitated summer youth work groups, fixed many things around camp, and together with his wife Jenny, have brought a good spirit to camp. Recently he has transitioned into a P.R. role working to promote our camp. His goal is to spread the word to potential staff, partners of camp, and families needing help with their daughters. If you are interested in having him speak at your church, school, or other organization please call our office at 864-972-0611 and ask for Chief Brandon.



Current Staff Needs:

- 1.A Camp Cook
- 2.Service Coordinator
- 3.Thrift Store
 - a.Long term volunteers
 - b.Local volunteers
 - c.Married couple to manage a Thrift store

As always, we rely on volunteer staff and are open to talking with interested individuals about upcoming opportunities at camp. You can call the office for more information at 867-972-0611 and ask for Chief John.