

The Wilderness Way



Wilderness Way Camp School Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 2, May 2018

The Oconee Ice Cream Depot

An ice cream/concessions trailer was something that Director Chief Bill and former staff have been thinking of for a long time. Late last year, we were finally able to put that dream into action! Our first steps toward this new venture began in the fall of 2017. Chief Bill and maintenance man Chief Brandon traveled to Georgia to purchase the concessions trailer that would become 'The Oconee Ice Cream Depot'.

Our menu items include soft served ice cream, snow cones, bagged snacks, coffee and other drinks. We are anxious to get started before the summer begins, and it looks like we will be able to be fully licensed and up and running before May is over!

"We have two goals. First of all, we want to provide top quality refreshments to the fine folks in southern Oconee County. Secondly, we want to make a whole lot of money for Camp. This will support our Camp goal of replacing our older vehicles from the 90's, with something newer and more reliable." – Chief Bill Collins

For our local readers, we would love to serve you a sweet and delicious treat! Please come and visit us; we will be located at the enter/exit point for Highway 11 off of Highway 24, across from West Oak High School.



We are so grateful for our volunteers who will be serving 'behind the counter'. Miss Natalie and Miss Grace have traveled from PA and NY to offer their time and energy at the trailer. They have already put their creative ideas to work as they help get things finalized before opening day!

Proceeds from the Ice Cream Depot will go towards aiding Camp in various financial needs. We appreciate your prayers and support as we begin this new and exciting adventure!



A Bit of News from Wilderness Way

The downstairs portion of our office area got a face lift a few weeks ago: new flooring! We were very thankful for a hardworking group from Bethel Baptist Church that came and offered their Saturday to come do the job for us. So, with the furniture moved out, and the many hands ready for the day, the work began! The old carpet was torn out and the floor was prepped for the new vinyl that was being installed. After hours of diligent labor and work, the project was completed. Thank you, Bethel Baptist, for your help in making improvements to Camp! We really appreciate the new flooring and the fresh feel it adds downstairs.



The beautiful, finished product!

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

We want to say 'Thank You' to all those who were involved with our golf tournament earlier this month! We appreciate the way you have helped support Camp; whether by participating or helping with the organization of the event. It was a beautiful day to golf and we hope the participants enjoyed the time spent outside.



Carts ready for action!



Plenty of prizes and giveaways!

Staff Spotlight



Denise Danson brought her organizational skills here to Camp about 4 years ago. As a secretary, she is a main help in keeping things running behind the scenes. While she does lots of office work, she also has touches outside of the office as well. We appreciate the thoughtful and pretty centerpieces she puts together for our tables in Chuckwagon. When there are events, she does a large amount of the decorating and helps with the organization.

Outside of Camp, Miss Denise enjoys investing time in church and doing DIY projects and crafts. She also enjoys bigger renovation projects that involve power tools and trips to Lowes.

"Lowes is my mall!"

Her enjoyment of crafty things and home improvement projects has given her friends the idea to give her the nickname 'Martha Vila' (a combination of Martha Steward and Bob Vila).

We appreciate all the work Miss Denise has quietly completed behind the scenes and what she adds to our 'Camp family'!

The Suwannee River: Take 2

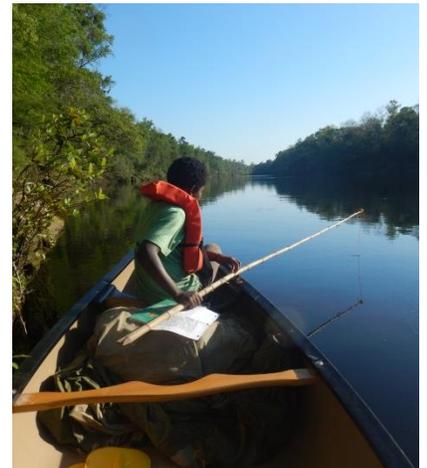
A glimpse into the Trailblazers' Suwannee River trip

Does the name 'Suwannee River' sound familiar? If so, it's probably because you read about the Pathfinders' recent adventures there in our last newsletter!

The Trailblazers decided that they wanted to explore this river, too, and worked hard to make it happen! They spent about 3 weeks traveling, learning, exploring, and enjoying God's great creation. There were lots of alligators spotted, and turtles, too. They would have loved to see a wild manatee (like the Pathfinders were blessed with seeing) however, their trip wasn't during the right season to see manatees.



Since the Pathfinders had already conquered this river, they were able to point out a fun and unique campsite for the Trailblazers to use. There was a tidy sleep circle as well as huge tree, great for climbing, swinging, and exploring! Not to mention a great swimming area and a good cooking space too. The Trailblazers were thankful for the Pathfinders tip and enjoyed their stay in the campsite.



The adventurous Trailblazers awoke to the wonderful song of Rise and Shine. After they stuck their hands under their fly tarps, they sleepily stumbled through trip tent routines. After their sleep rolls and tents were stuffed into the canoes, they sat down to a feast of deliciously flavored oatmeal, and beef sticks; as well as applesauce! At approximately 10:00, we set out upon the great Suwannee River. Not long after we started, I spotted a young alligator. Chief Yolanda said that she thinks that it was about 3 years old! Around twenty minutes later, as we rounded the bend, all at once most of us saw a large amount of birds eating the carcass of a dead hog! Right as they disappeared from view, we spotted an alligator lying on the sand! He was probably about seven feet long! In all, we saw a total of three alligators today! We ate a delicious lunch of fluffer-nutters, then had a delightful siesta in the sand and sun! We paddled around two and a half more hours until we found the campsite that PF's would have camped in on their second night!

—Alexis H., TB



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Opportunities to Help at Camp

Would you like to become involved in what Camp does and be a part of our vision to help girls? There are a few upcoming needs that Camp has and we'd love to have you partner with us in fulfilling them!

- **Volunteer for our Ice Cream Trailer** – We are looking for at least one more dedicated and hardworking volunteer to help us serve our community.
- **Camp Cook** – Do you enjoy being in the kitchen? Camp is looking to bring in another cook to help serve our staff and girls. This position would include being involved with some Camp duties outside the kitchen as well. We are looking to have the position filled by July 2018.
- **Group Chiefs** – Camp is looking to fill upcoming positions for group Chiefs. If God is calling you to serve in this way, please call our office and ask to speak with Chief John Bowman.
- **Hosting a Youth Group** – Camp is anticipating a summer work group coming from PA to do clean-up and some projects around our property! This 60 person youth group is planning to come June 17th – 23rd. We are reaching out to our community to see if there is interest in hosting them for an evening meal.
- **Housing for August 31st – September 2nd** – Our Camp is hosting the Wilderness Road Therapeutic Camping Association annual conference during the dates listed. We are anticipating 250 guests and could use some help with housing for Friday and Saturday nights. If you live within 15 miles of Camp and are interested in sharing your home, please call our office and ask for Chief Ashley.

If any of these opportunities interest you or your family, please contact us via phone or email. We appreciate the help, involvement, and prayers of the people within and surrounding Camp!