

THE WILDERNESS WAY



Wilderness Way Camp School Newsletter

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Our Journey

“Wilderness Way Girls Camp has been and continues to be such a blessing to our daughter and to our entire family. We adopted our daughter when she was young and were soon aware that some things went on in her life that must have been very difficult. We tried to help her and point her to Jesus over and over. The battle was real, and she struggled immensely. She wanted to serve Jesus, but because of the pain embedded in her heart, she failed time and time again. We felt frustration, she felt hopeless... it was a never-ending cycle. Some of our other children were so upset at the amount of time we were spending with just her. Because of a dark choice she made one night, she ended up in ER and then onto a mental hospital. It seemed as if she and we got some relief at this point. But soon, she was back making bad choices again.

We had been in contact with Wilderness Way different times and finally decided it was the time for Cami to go and receive help outside of our family.

The journey that she walked with the help of her amazing chiefs was one that we could write a book about. Cami finally dug deep and faced the pain. The little girl inside of her desperately needed relief.

She worked hard, Neil and I worked hard, and her chiefs worked hard, to show her the way that would set her heart free.

Even though Cami graduated from camp, that did not end our relationship with the amazing people at camp. Chief Tim checked in and was available to walk through some hard things with Cami and Neil and I after she was home. Today, Cami is doing her best to live her life making a difference for the kingdom. She has had numerous challenges to work through, but is choosing to serve Jesus and process through things in a more healthy way. For many years, Cami has wanted to help girls who have been through the same things that she has been through. She continues to have a heart for those who are hurting and is pursuing counseling classes at this time.

As I look back and reflect over our experience with Wilderness Way Girls Camp, we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity that Cami had to be able to live in a healthy and structured environment, have people who cared for her heart, and give our family the support we so desperately needed. The kingdom is a better place because of our amazing friends at camp”

- Neil and Cheryl Martin

Cami wrote an article for our June newsletter. This is the family experience from her parents' view. Our camp opportunity has never been a quick fix, nor has it ever been a sure fix. Through dedication by camper, family and staff, we regularly witness hope achieved such as in the Martin's Journey. -Bill Collins



New Tents

After many years and countless nights of use, and multiple repair jobs, we now have a new set of trip camping tents. We got some financial help and a good discount. Before launching out to some river trips, we held some camp wide tent training in our chuck wagon.

Lake Santeetlah

Trailblazers spent part of August paddling around Lake Santeetlah in the mountains of North Carolina. What a beautiful, peaceful place to practice for a river trip! Trailblazers will journey down the Suwannee for three weeks in September/ October.



This Would Bee a Story

There was a bit of a surprise in the Pathfinders' wood yard this summer. Abby was splitting some firewood when, lo and behold, she sliced down the side of a wood bee tunnel. These critters, also called carpenter bees, tend to drill into, then tunnel up the grain of dead trees or exterior wood framing. Females lay their eggs in these tunnels. As is typical at camp, Abby gave names to each bug.

Welcoming New Chiefs!

Chief Annie Kauffman and Chief Amanda Martin came in late August to help and make a difference at camp! Chief Annie is a new Pathfinder Chief and Chief Amanda is a new Trailblazer Chief.



Harvest Time

October typically brings images of change around camp. Our campers continually follow the path of a morning glory. They morph from a morning of wearing hoodies, to become bare armed in the daytime sunshine to retracting back into their hoodies as evening comes. Our leaves turn color and drop of the trees. We often start having more Dutch oven cookouts and marshmallow roasts. It is an amazing time to be alive.

This September, I saw some new images of change I had not noticed before. In South Georgia, I saw some cotton fields. In some of the fields, it looked as if there had been a blizzard of cotton. The field was completely covered in the white boll, no leafy green or brown branch was seen – completely white. Some of the other fields were in various stages of development – the cotton ball was less opened and thus I saw much more of the green leaves and brown.

I was reminded of a mixture of verses One being John 4:35 “Do not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’?”

Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, that they are white for the harvest.” laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.””

What field are you in? Where has God placed you? Are you more of a sower, or a reaper as presented in John 4:36.... “ so he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.”

Previously, I had not noticed the aspect of the sowers and reapers – may rejoice together. It appears that they saw the value was in the harvest of which both were a part – i.e. each other’s labor helped the produce a productive harvest. I am assuming this aspect would carry through to the various gifts and talents God has given to you and others. In the field in which you reside; what opportunities do you have to share what you have been gifted with? Thank you for being attentive in caring for the field you are in. Are you observing that you are rejoicing with your other co-laborers? If not yet, I think it is a worthy goal. - Chief John Bowman, Camp Director



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End of Year Giving

Considering end of year charitable giving??? We can help you with that.



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Turkey in the Hole

Saturday, November 19



Thanksgiving celebration at camp will be Saturday, November 19, 2022. Our community is invited to join us in thanking our Lord, our Creator, our Savior, our Sustainer for His rich blessings! We begin campsite tours at 10:45. a.m. After some singing and skits around noon, our girls will dig up the turkeys from the coal bed. Our feast will begin around 12:30. We supply the birds, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, bread and drinks. We ask that guests bring a side dish or two, especially vegetables. Please RSVP at (864)-972-0611 by 11/17.