

The Wilderness Way



Wilderness Way Camp School Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 2 October 2019

Standing in the Gap

Nearly all of our staff spent Labor Day weekend alongside the staff of eight other camps on the grounds of Ohio Wilderness Boys' Camp in eastern Ohio. This was our 26th annual conference of the Wilderness Road Therapeutic Camping Association. Great fellowship, inspirational teaching, good singing, and exceptionally delicious food characterized this gathering of over 350 staff and families.

Our theme of "Standing in the Gap" brought clarity to our roles of helping to hold ground while broken walls of our boys' and girls' lives can be rebuilt. We used the image of olden day soldiers defending a walled city where attackers had pounded and pummeled holes in the walls. Human defenders stepped in while others made repairs. It took a team effort for achieved success.

While actual wall defenders typically had a quickly shortened lifespan, we recognized the current role as one requiring great commitment and definitely not an 8 to 5 job! As a part of camp community, we were reminded of the need for unity, a commitment to following Jesus no matter what and much exercise in grace.

Ohio Wilderness Boys Camp staff did a phenomenal job of hosting the WRTCA conference!

--Bill Collins, Executive Director

WRTCA CONFERENCE MOMENTS...



Chief Lena's catch during a breakout group at conference



Chief Helen Lindstrom, who helped start the first year-round girls camp, addresses the gathering of WRTCA staff



Enjoying a fish fry by the pond on OWBC grounds

Turkey in the Hole

A Fall Tradition of Celebration, Community, and Thankfulness



We are excited about and anticipating our annual 'Turkey in the Hole' Thanksgiving celebration! Every year, the staff and camper groups here at Camp do some extensive planning for a day celebrating community and of course, thankfulness!

General Information: Save the date for **Saturday, November 23rd** and please RSVP to our Camp office by **November 21st** (864-972-0611) if you would like to come. Campers and staff offer late morning tours before sharing in songs and skits. Just after noon, we dig up turkeys and prepare them for a delicious lunch! If you plan to attend, please bring two sides OR a side and a dessert to share. Donations are accepted, but this year we are blessed with sponsors to cover costs. Anything beyond expenses will go towards a new trip bus for the groups. This event is outdoors so please check the weather and dress accordingly; come see us!

Current Sponsors: Webb Heating and Air | Hochstetler's Country Store | Powell Insurance Group
And they are good partners with camp, too!



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A Quick 'Turkey in the Hole' Preparation Recap:

1) Staff and campers work together the evening prior the event. Gloves are donned and turkeys are basted with seasonings, wrapped in multiple layers of foil, and then wire tied by staff. | **2)** The hole(s) are dug by our camper groups and logs/wood are then arranged in the best way possible to get coals to fall into the hole. | **3)** The kindling is lit and slowly, larger pieces of wood are added. Eventually, the smaller fires become one large fire that is fed wood by staff and campers. (Everyone is closely supervised throughout the entire process!) | **4)** Once the hole is filled with red, glowing coals, the foil wrapped turkeys are added and covered. After 12 hours of slow cooking, they are dug up and prepped for lunch! | **5)** The turkeys come out golden brown and so delicious and juicy! And yes...they do smell as good as they look 😊

Thrift Store Update

A strongly dedicated staff and awesome community support have caused our thrift stores to thrive! They have become our camp's largest funding source. With improved thrift stores' support, we have lowered our sliding tuition fee scale to help keep families from experiencing financial crisis while their girl is in our care.

Would you like to help camp in a quick, easy way? You can donate your used and/or unused goods to one of our thrift stores; it keeps us funded! We have multiple locations here in our local area of South Carolina. Come shop with us or you can even consider volunteering! Call our thrift store coordinator, Zeb, at (864) 873-7475 with questions about any of the above.

Visit our website (www.wildernesswaycamp.org) and click on the 'Thrift Stores' tab to see which location is nearest you!

An Interview with a Famous Chief

Hello! This is Kayla reporting from Wilderness Way Girls Camp on August 27th, 2019. I'm going to interview a famous chief in the youngest group which are called the mighty Trailblazers! This chief is really funny and can tell the most obnoxious animal jokes (which is called 'Lion King jokes'). Her name is Chief Althea Wimer! (Applause sound effect.) So, Miss Wimer, what was your favorite part about the Outer Banks bus trip? Well, Miss Schrock, to be honest it was either chasing the snake at Pettigrew State Park or eating by the side of the highway. Interviewer: what was your favorite meal to cook on the trip? Chief Althea: Oh, that's a hard one. I really like the pizza pasta we had...even though we didn't have the pizza sauce. Interviewer: what was your favorite chief surprise you bought? Chief Althea: Hands down, it was the party poppers, they were so great! Interviewer: what was your favorite place that ya'll went to? Chief Althea: Roanoke Island Festival Park, it was quite the day. Interviewer: what was the most enjoyable part of your trip? Chief Althea: when we went to the ocean was the most enjoyable part of our trip. Interviewer: thank you Miss Wimer for letting Noel Network interview you today. This is Kayla reporting. See ya'll next time on Noel Network.

-- Kayla S. TB

'The Hollow'

Little bits of news and information from our neck of the woods!

My Experience as a Great Peanut Butter and Jelly Veteran

By: Alia Summy (Graduated Pathfinder)

Two of the most exciting things for me in my life are being in the great outdoors and spending time with close friends. Those were just two things that I enjoyed very much about hiking on the Chattooga Trail with a few other camp graduates. One big thing I took away from the trip was how to maintain a positive attitude even when things don't go like you planned or when times get very challenging. During our three day trip, it down poured at least three times. Most of our things got wet and muddy, but we handled it very well and continued enjoying being together. The whole trip was an excellent idea and it was a huge success! I was reminded of many important lessons I learned during my time at camp. The trip will definitely help me to improve even more at home and I hope it will do the same for the other girls as well! A few more grand things happened on this wilderness adventure also. We got to swim in the Chattooga River and under King Creek Falls! We got to enjoy wonderful camp food like dirty grits and Gato Gato. And we got to spend time appreciating nature and all the wildlife God created! Overall, I was greatly encouraged and refreshed by being a part of the hiking trip. I appreciated Chief Ashley especially for planning the trip and for the other campers who made it so much fun! It will absolutely be a highlight of my summer!



July 4th weekend is an eventful time for many. This was true for a half dozen camper alumni. Invitations were offered and quickly snatched up last spring. The girls all had a part in planning a three day backpack trip along the Chattooga River in the upper parts of our county. A camp staff and a former staff helped lead, but had minimal responsibilities as the former campers all excelled at making the trip a success. There was rain...much of it, but it never dampened the spirit of this group.

New Staff Introductions

We would like to introduce you to a few new staff that has come to Camp recently! We are excited to have them on board and joining in on helping our campers work towards making good and life changing choices.

Miss Emily Mann joined Camp as a support staff. She can be found throughout Camp helping take care of miscellaneous projects as well as working with our groups.

Miss Althea Wimer came on as our new Trailblazer chief. She has learned and is learning about life in the woods and is doing a great job at taking care of her group!

Miss Karalena (Lena) Weaver is our newest staff member and joined Camp as our Pathfinder chief. She also is learning about life downtrail and is doing great with her group!

Camp received a big blessing in the midst of the summer heatwave. A troop of young, hard workers came down from Apple Creek, Ohio to help with many camp needs. This group from Anchor of Hope Mennonite Fellowship added a metal roof to our leaky shower house, split and stacked literal tons of wood, helped rebuild a campsite tent, and applied a fresh coat of paint in many places. It was a pleasure hosting these folks as they sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

P.S. Buckeyes and Tigers got along just fine!





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**Bringing help and hope to
hurting girls and their families.**

**wildernesswaycamp@gmail.com
www.wildernesswaycamp.org**

...INSIDE!

- Past campers hike the Chattooga Trail
- Upcoming Turkey in the Hole 2019
- Anchor of Hope youth's amazing work week
- Staff attend WRTCA conference

Amazon Smile

Many people opt for the convenience of online shopping these days and Amazon is usually your 'one stop shop' for many items that may be on your Christmas list. Yes...we said 'Christmas'! It still feels like summer around here but we know that Christmas will grace us with its presence before we know it!

This year, we encourage you to sign up at smile.amazon.com and designate 'Wilderness Way Camp School' as the charity for Amazon to donate too! When shopping this way, Amazon will donate a ½ percent of all your purchases towards Camp. (While it may not seem like much, it does slowly add up and the extra funds, no matter how small, are a blessing to Camp!)

This is still shopping through Amazon where you would need to use your personal account. However, for Amazon to be able to donate to Camp, you will need to log in at smile.amazon.com first.

Thank you for considering this possibility and...happy shopping ☺

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.