



EQUIPPING BOYS FOR LIFE

Wilderness SUNRISE

Summer 2016

A SPECIAL DAY FOR FAMILIES

At camp, we spend a lot of time and energy helping boys deal with many issues, finding solutions to their problems, and equipping them for life. What isn't as much in the limelight, but is of equal importance, is helping families with their issues as well. Our Family Workers work tirelessly with families to help them become better parents and prepare them for the return of their son. The final goal of their son's time at camp is reunification and preparation for the next step in their journey.

One of the ways that camp provides opportunities for families to strengthen their relationship with their sons is Families Day. On Memorial Day, all of the boys families are invited to spend a day at camp. There are contests where boys are able to highlight their skills at lighting a fire, loading a canoe, and other activities. The boys share experiences, songs, and stories during a program. The families visit the campsite where their son is living. The day is capped off with a lunch that provides time for families to be together, fellowship with other families, and become better acquainted with staff.



Families are often encouraged as they watch their son, sibling or grandchild take part in the day's activities. They can see growth and a sense of pride in his work as he demonstrates life at camp. Hope can begin to flourish as they watch him in action.

"I see a tremendous change in my grandson."



Here are some comments from the most recent Families Day:

"You can see and feel God's hand here. I see a tremendous change in my grandson. It was exciting to see the camaraderie among the group"
– Grandmother

"My son enjoyed giving a tour of camp to his brothers and grandparents. It was great to see his pride – wanting to keep the campsite clean. It's a great indication of a change in him."
– Mother

"It was good to see how much our son grew – who he was a year ago compared to where he is now. I really enjoyed the singing." – Mother

"It was great having my mom here, seeing the family and having a great time with them." – Camper

"I loved seeing where my grandson is actually living. It reminded me of camping trips that we have taken. I'm a bit envious. You all don't take 69 year olds up here, do you?" – Grandfather

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A SPECIAL DAY FOR FAMILIES

CONTINUED

"The singing was great. He comes home singing all the time."
– Mother

"It was so nice to actually see the places and things my grandson talks about in his letters." – Grandmother

"The skit and the singing were very nice, especially when everyone joined together at the end. You are not only impacting the campers, but their families as well!" – Grandmother



"Thank you for all you did for our family." – Parents

"Thank you to those who support Fair Play. Everyone that gives is helping God to work in some young man's life and his family in restoring them to health. Why wouldn't people want to support a ministry like that?" – Parents

"You're not only impacting the campers, but their families as well."

"We would like to thank you for such a special Families Day. We know that a lot of work and planning went into making that day a special day for everyone."



TRIPS ARE FUN BUT THERE IS A GREATER PURPOSE

For many boys, trips are a highlight of their time at camp. While trips are meant to be fun, informative, and exciting, there is a greater purpose for their existence.

The first step of any trip is planning. The boys decide what kind of trip they would like to take – hiking, canoeing, or bus. They agree on a subject that they want to study while on the trip. They then do research ahead of time, often sharing their findings with the other groups. They plan all of their meals and submit a food list to the cooks. They decide the route they are going to take, where they are going to stay, and the places they want to visit.

Trips provide many opportunities for strengthening relationships as they share fun experiences, work through problems that crop up, and share their daily responsibilities. Just like they do at camp, each evening

they evaluate what they learned, good things that happened that day, and things they can improve the next day. Groups build confidence, trust, and pride through their accomplishments.

The importance of the cornerstones of camp - problem solving, structure and routine, planning, evaluation -are magnified for a group as they rely on each other to complete the trip they planned. For many groups, trips are a big step in their collective and individual growth. Years later, former campers still talk about how they enjoyed trips and the impact trips had on their lives.



CAMPER TRIP ARTICLES



Flightastic Day

The day started at 6:45. We got up and made sure our tents were clean and did chores. We went to Kitty Hawk and saw a monument of the Wright brothers. We saw two full scale planes of the Wright brothers. It was amazing. When we went to the monument there was a man and woman who had a dog that we petted. Then we ate lunch at a picnic table. We ate fruit and nut mix, slim jims and banana chips. We also had brownies and to top it off we had a sundae from McDonalds. Then we drove back to campsite. We wrote articles, ate supper, and went to the dock and read the book before we went to pow-wow and bed. -Travis, Trailblazers

I Can't Believe It

Oh my goodness I can't believe I'm in the Florida Everglades. A lot of people think that the Everglades is all swampy but it actually isn't. In some areas from shore to shore it is about two to three football fields big. It is amazing. You can hear the birds and see them flying around. You can also hear the wolves and feel the sun and the wind. The island we are camping at is called Picnic Key. From here you can see the gulf of Mexico and other islands. Florida is beautiful. -Dilyn, Frontiersmen

The Completion Of The Foothills Trail

We began at Table Rock State Park. It was a 1 hour drive to the park. We hiked in and began our journey on the Foothills Trail. We all thought it was easy at first but then we got to Bald Knob. That was when we started saying it is too hard to go, but we kept encouraging each other. We finally made it to campsite.

Our campsite was a cool place and I think I had the coolest view. Then we ate supper and went to bed. The next morning we got up early and hit the trail. We had to hike 4.3 miles that day. We also had to refill our water bottles. It was a long hike.

Ten days later we were on the trail to the biggest bridge on the Foothills called the Million Dollar Bridge. It was somewhat shaky but we all loved going across it. After that we had to go up a really big hill. We had to take a lot of breaks because we all got tired. Finally, we made it to campsite!

The last day we woke up early in the morning and hiked the trail right away. It was 7.2 miles on the trail to Oconee State Park. It was a long way there. Then there it was "The Bus". We were so happy! The End.

-Gage, Pioneers



STAFF NEWS

DEPARTURES

- Supervisor Michael Hunsberger will be finishing his time at Fair Play at the end of August. Michael began as chief in 2006 at camp where he met his wife Iva who was the head cook. They married in 2009 and returned in 2011 to supervise. *"Camp has given us the opportunity to love and serve people that need to see Christ's love,"* Michael comments. *"The return has been to be loved by them with the same type of love and to leave camp with many life-long friends."* Thanks to Michael and Iva for faithfully serving at camp. Please continue to pray for them as they follow God's leading into a new phase of life.
- Jenn Yoder will return to Michigan after serving at the Thrift Stores.



STAFF NEEDS

- Thrift store: Guys and Girls Needed Immediately



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