



EQUIPPING BOYS FOR LIFE

Wilderness SUNRISE

Fall 2016

CAMP MADE ME FEEL LOVED AND ACCEPTED

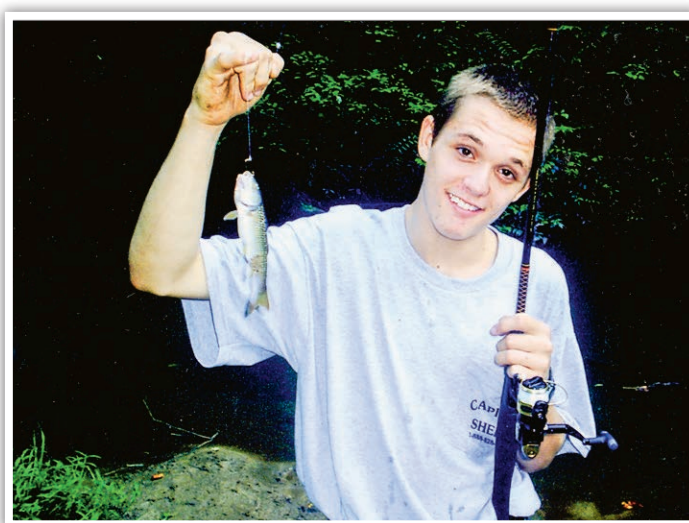
When Brandon came to camp in 2003, he was a violent and angry boy. Adopted at one year old, he lived with his adoptive father and stepmother after his parents separated. At age 9, his father died suddenly. He then went to live with his adoptive mother.

Feelings of abandonment and rejection overwhelmed his young heart. He began to act out by fighting, cursing, skipping school and partying. He attempted to stab his stepmother, set their house on fire, and ran away numerous times. After being suspended from school, his mother was at her wit's end.

A social worker informed them of Fair Play, and they contacted a family worker. After visiting camp, he knew it was the place for him. He loved the outdoors and recognized that something had to change before ending up in jail.

At camp he learned how to express grief in a totally different manner rather than acting out. Together

as a group, he with the other campers learned how to help each other express their feelings in a productive way. "The more I attempted to help others



with their problems," Brandon recalls, "the more I experienced healing for myself. I learned to think about others more than myself. We suffered together as a group."

One of the first things we learned at camp was the importance of solving problems. "We would circle up and talk about the problem until it was solved. We learned not to run from our problems but to face them head-on. These problem solving skills helped to prepare us for our future."

Chief Kevin remembers that Brandon arrived at camp soon after he started as chief. "Because Brandon and I were both new at this camp thing, we bonded pretty quickly," he recalls. "I remember many nights, after the group was in bed, that we would talk. I would sit on his footlocker as he shared about the difficult things in his life."

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CAMP MADE ME FEEL LOVED AND ACCEPTED CONTINUED

“Brandon allowed myself and other camp staff to walk his journey with him.” Kevin continues. “It was a joy to watch as

he learned how to play guitar, solve problems, work together with his group, and submit to authority. Obviously there were many difficult times, but he continued to grow into a man. He became a close friend with my wife, Sheree, and I and has stayed in touch over the years.”

“Camp is the first place I really felt accepted and loved,” Brandon remarks. “Every night the Chiefs would tuck us in and tell us they loved us – no matter how bad we had been that day. We were a rough group, but they stuck with us. There is not a day goes by that I don’t think about camp. I stay in regular contact with some of the other guys. Fair Play is located in a beautiful area but it’s the people that make camp – not the land!”

Camp helped Brandon to be a father to his son and step daughter. He is a skilled carpenter and construction worker. “Thank you for helping me to get my life on track!” Brandon concludes. “If it had not been for Fair Play, I would either be in jail or dead!”

TRAIL NOTES

Daniel Hochstetler,
Executive Director

Loving God and Others

It seems that one of the hardest parts of life is to keep it simple. There are so many things that clamor for our attention. To maintain a healthy balance of responsibilities and priorities is a constant struggle.

I am convinced that it is not so much removing tasks and responsibilities from our lives as it is maintaining the proper focus. When life looks complicated, remember that the Gospel is simple. Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ We would engage the world differently if we stopped and looked at each opportunity we face through these lens.

Life at Camp is no different. When boys and staff look at problems and difficult situations and desire to love God and love others, life stays simple.

God has given us much to praise Him for this summer. Many of you faithfully supported Camp through prayers, financial gifts, and other needed items. It is both humbling and encouraging to be on the receiving end of these gifts. Thank You for the generous ways you have blessed Camp!





THE FRONTIERSMEN GO TO WASHINGTON

Even to the most passive observer, it's clearly presidential election season in America. And so the Frontiersmen, to prepare for an upcoming trip, began studying United States history and how the government works. As they learned, they shared their findings during chuckwagon sharing time with the other campers.

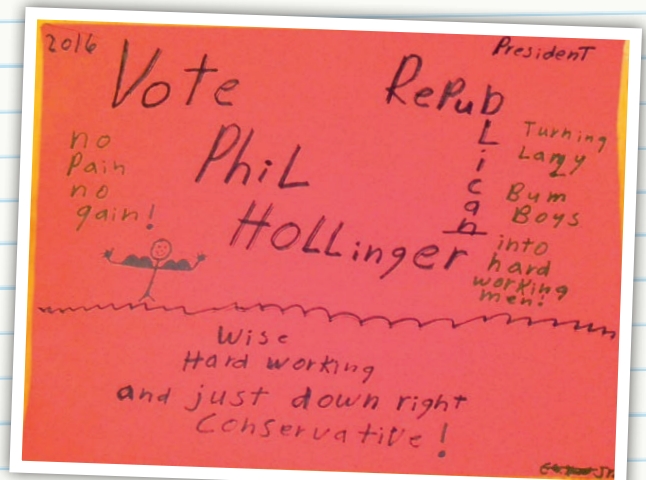
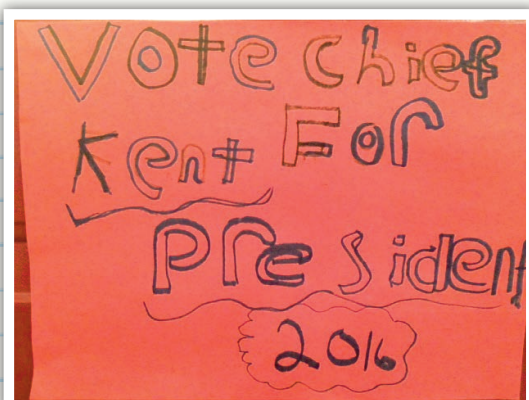
To more clearly illustrate how the process works, camp created a House of Representatives (two campers from each group) and a Senate (four chiefs). They solicited ideas from the citizens (the rest of the campers) and went through the process of debating, voting and passed a new law which was quickly vetoed by the sitting "president", Chief Daniel.

A presidential campaign was launched to replace the incumbent president. The three family workers were the candidates. Chief Phil promoted a "no-pain - no-gain" platform. "We have to work

hard for what we get. No handouts!" Chief Kent had a more liberal platform - "let's do what seems right and take care of everyone." Chief Paul was more middle of the road. He accused the other candidates of falling either into the "do what feels good ditch" or "work for everything ditch".

While all three candidates had fairly equal support, Chief Kent was able to sway enough people with his liberal agenda to win the presidency. He gave his inaugural speech during sharing time which promised good things for everyone.

To further their education, the Frontiersmen sat in on a Westminster City council meeting to witness local government. Next they made a trip to Columbia, SC to observe how state government work. The final part of their study was a three week trip ending in Washington DC to explore the nation's capital.





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STAFF NEWS

ARRIVALS

We look forward to having the new staff members learn their new jobs and grow as individuals. Please pray for them as they adjust to life at camp.

Thrift Store

- Micah Schrock, Topeka, IN
- Rebekah Hershberger, Abbeville, SC

Frontiersmen Chief

- Justin Troyer, Dundee, OH

Camp Receptionist

- Trina Beachy, Westminster, SC

Supervision Team

- Marcus & Megan Troyer.

We are excited to have Marcus and Megan Troyer join our supervision team. Marcus served as a chief several years ago. It's great to have their passion and excitement at Camp.

DEPARTING

Thrift Stores - Thanks for doing a great job serving customers at the Thrift Stores.

- Jenson Coblenz, Millersburg, OH
- Andrea Yoder, Hillsville, VA
- Jensen Troyer, Gambier, OH

Frontiersmen Chief - Thanks for allowing God to use you in the group.

- Jordan Swartzentruber, Nappanee, IN

STAFF NEEDS

- Thrift Store Girls Needed Immediately
- Thrift Store Guy Beginning of Year
- A Chief in June, August and November
- A Cook in May



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