

The Wilderness Way

WILDERNESS WAY CAMP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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A recent letter from a past camper to current campers

Dear Campers,

I am sitting here on my sofa, thinking... about Camp mostly. I'm remembering the good times, the laughter, the canoe trips, the smiles and success. But Camp wasn't all fun and rainbows. No, there were challenges and pain. I remember the inner fights I had with myself. I recall the times where I was in so much pain I couldn't even cry. There were times when I felt I was losing every battle I was fighting. At times, I refused to try because it looked and felt too big, too hard. Does any of that sound familiar?

True, I'm on the other side of that now...in some ways. I still have things to work through, but at Camp, life is all about focusing in on pain and healing. So many of you are in the very spot I just described. I'm here to tell you what I was told then. Yes, it's hard. It's painful. It's challenging. But in the middle of the pain and feelings, please don't lose sight of your goals. It's so easy to do, I know. But remember, this is the time when you get to work on improving YOU. Your camp-stay will be hard, but hard is not bad.



Think about this: you can quit now or drift carelessly through your camp-stay and live, at best, a mediocre life and get through life ok. Or, you can dig in, embrace the pain for, at the very most, 2 years and afterwards live a joy filled, successful life of meaning, of meeting goals, of healthy relationships.

Since graduating, it's been hard coming home and trying to enter into adulthood.

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But, even in the struggle, I still feel set up for success because of Camp (and no, no one is paying me to tell ya'll this). It's true...if you embrace what Camp has to offer, you'll learn a whole lot of invaluable skills. Let me tell you guys some things I've learned from Camp.

First, respect and flexibility. Those are so helpful for maintaining good relationships with bosses and parents. Even just that "small" thing of saying "yes, Chief" gets you in the habit of responding well to your authority.

Listen and learn as much as you can about boundaries in relationships. While I learned a lot about good boundaries, I still sometimes wish I had been more willing to hear and put into practice the wise advice my Chiefs and group had given me. Because oftentimes in relationships, people won't know how to set boundaries

and it's up to you to either set them for yourself or to choose not to engage. An, in any relationships, good boundaries are needed. Another big deal is learning how to persevere through the hard. I have encountered a lot of people who think they are entitled to an easy life and expect everyone around them to step around them. But Camp has taught me

to embrace the hard and overcome it. Often, that

includes the 5 steps of problem solving. So, please learn those well! My mom still made me use that after I left,

which I am grateful for.

One other thing is the power of family. There is something so secure in knowing that wherever you are, whatever people have left or hurt you, your family will always be there when you need them. So dig deep into those into those relationships back at home. This world is filled with broken families, but we don't need to stay that way in our families!

So, my encouragement to all of you is to dig deep into your growth, keeping your goals in mind. Think honestly about who and what you want to be and work hard for it, not letting anything stop you. And you guys are totally capable of doing great things because ya'll are great people.

But Camp has taught me to embrace the hard and overcome it.



A FORMER CAMPER

THE BUNKHOUSE

We want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all who supported this project via financial, material, or labor donations. We also wanted to say thank you to Fair Play Community Chapel for their generosity over the past years for the use of their church facilities for previous work group lodging.



A few days after bunkbeds were built Pleasant Valley Youth group came for a work week and y'all it went smooth! With this new facility hosting groups is more seamless as the building is located on camp property and while it's specifically designed for youth groups we can also host different guests of camp. It has 2 dorms containing 24 beds each, 3 bathrooms with showers in each dorm, and a larger gathering room. We are excited to use it for more upcoming groups. Along with youth groups, we can also be more hospitable for skilled volunteer work crews, guests for camp events, etc.

As more people come and stay in this building, our goal is that they will catch the spirit of camp and see how Wilderness Way is bringing hope and help to hurting girls and their families. Again, we can't say it enough, but **THANK YOU** to all who helped make this building a reality!



**WE INVITE OTHER YOUTH GROUPS TO COME VISIT CAMP.
WOULD YOU HELP US SPREAD THE WORD?**



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Fair Play, SC 29643

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- BUNKHOUSE COMPLETION
- FORMER CAMPER LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT
- NEW STAFF

Meet our new staff members



Steve, Janice, & Hadassah Hurst from Pennsylvania joined camp serving in the maintenance role.



Miss Sherry, from South Carolina, started as a school tutor.



Chief Francine is from Tennessee and has recently joined camp to be a Chief in our Pathfinder group.



Miss Kyla, from Pennsylvania, has joined camp staff as a cook's helper.