

The Wilderness Way

WILDERNESS WAY CAMP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Change, For the Better

Some believe fall is one of the most beautiful times around camp. Summer is waning and surrendering its heat to the cooler temperatures which beckon chuckwagon to prepare the fireplace! The yellow poplar leaves compete with the orange oak leaves as to which can blanket the forest floor first. Seasons of the year point to an infinitely wise and powerful God who values variety, knowing the importance of change and how it's vital to growth.

What happens though, when one of those seasons is marked by early life trauma and one is stuck in that season of life? Can growth continue? Many of the families we work find themselves stuck in a hard season of life hoping to find the "other side". If we are honest, many of us can find ourselves stuck in similar seasons of life.

At camp a girl along with her chief and group members live life with this purpose of wanting a different season for themselves. Yet often they (dare I say all of us) can blame the unchangeable things in their lives for the reason they are stuck? Can you blame them with reasons like "if my mom wouldn't have given me up for adoption", "if I wasn't abused", etc.? But growth isn't easy.

A camper has many mirrors into her life...her group. They often will call out the hypocrisy, pinpoint the issues while also being a support. Through learning and implementing many different principles of camp such as evaluating, learning to trust, problem solving, setting goals, etc. a girl learns what the changeable factors are in her life and applies the focus there. Moving on to the next season of life requires her to evaluate and discover what the "thing" is that holds her back. But doing so requires walking the path of feeling the pain, processing it with the group, and experiencing the acceptance of one's deepest secrets that define them.



In this Newsletter:

- PG 2 – Parent Camper Dinner
- PG 3 – Pathfinders' Flint River Trip
- PG 4 – Christmas Donations

Continued on page 2

Parent Camper Dinner



Parents rolled into camp about as nervous and excited to see their daughters, as their daughters were to see them. Past experiences where events were blemished by points of contention and frustration are very familiar. However, this was not one of those times, but was designed for past issues to be laid down and simply build memories together. Supervisors planned a 'Carnival Game' theme for the evening. As girls and their parents raced to eat a donut on a string, pop balloons using darts, or knocking pumpkins off a shelf, seeds of better relationships were being planted. The evening finished with a wonderful meal in chuckwagon followed by girls sharing songs and Bible memory with everyone.

'Change, For the Better' continued...

Once a camper embraces humility and accepts that her group and chiefs are not leaving her no matter what, she safely begins to open up and process life. It is beautiful to watch a scared, hurt, and hard heart soften and become like a little child again, trusting caregivers, wearing a spirit that is free, and seeing the light return to one's eyes. And in doing so, embraces change and the next season of life, with those that love her the most. Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."



During her time at camp, a girl is provided every opportunity to see that God can do a new thing in her life. That He can bring forth a new refreshing season so relationships can grow where previously a desert existed. Lord willing, this is the hope we look to continue to provide.

In this season, we are grateful to God for bringing us through another year of much change. He's been faithful even when we cannot see the other side, giving us what we need for the next step. We are thankful to all who have partnered, supported, and prayed for camp this past year. You have helped us reach girls for Jesus and in doing so are helping to "set the captives free". God bless you all richly this Thanksgiving season and don't forget to embrace the change of seasons. God uses it to grow His children up into who He has designed them to be.

Current Staff Need: Chief – we have a need for a young lady 21+ to serve as a group Chief.



Pathfinders' Flint River Trip

The Pathfinder group recently returned from a 19 Day trip on the Flint River where they had many experiences from the vantage point of their canoes. A few highlights were being able to see 'gators, meeting with the Flint Riverkeeper, learning the river's history, and swimming in a clear spring.

Trips require a group to spend a considerable amount of time working together researching, planning, and preparing all the details.

This is followed by experiencing the results of a well planned trip, while also living with the things they missed.

On this trip the group prayed for some specifics they were hoping for in their campsites each night. Things like a good swimming hole and little to no poison ivy to name a few. The group experienced God answering their prayers by providing great campsites often with little 'extras' like a pretty view or easy access without steep embankments.

"We prayed for two campsites both asking for little poison ivy and thorns and have gotten sand bars with some really pretty views and little to no poison ivy...To me this shows me that God is with us and truly answers our prayers. I think you should try it and see if you see how God works in your life."

-Kayla R.





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