



COVE VALLEY CAMP

News

Fall 2024 Volume 20 Issue 2

www.covevalleycamp.com

Family Camp

It was another wonderful family camp weekend this past July. We had the opportunity to sit under great teaching from Jeremy Miller of Rosedale Bible College for our sessions. Free time enjoying the playground, pool, lake, trails, and of course the porch rockers was enjoyed by all. There was also the excitement of the volleyball tournament and holey canoe race for those more competitively minded. All in all, family camp weekend was an amazing time to come together with

other believers to collectively worship, grow, fellowship, and play. It was one of the highlights of our summer and we look forward to many more to come!



- Darcie Crider (pictured with family above), Family Camp Committee Member



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Golden Age Retreat

June 3-7 was our Golden Age Retreat. Brian Emery from Salem Ridge Community Church led our time in the Word of God which was very powerful. He led us in Discovery Bible Studies and we usually had a hymn to go with our study. We all benefited greatly from our time in God's Word and from our prayer times together. Meal times are a highlight of our days as we enjoy delicious food and fellowship. We had a couple special bird/nature walks.



We again had a competitive and challenging shuffleboard tournament, and we even played corn hole. Fellowship activities included comfort knotting, fishing, jigsaw puzzles, and plenty of rocking chair fellowship, and good refreshing mountain air. We enjoyed "Knock on Wood" a night of music on the marimba, hymn sing with Steve Ocker and our talent show is a highlight which we were joined by the camp staff. They train the week of our retreat, wait on us at mealtime and we pray for each of them as they embark on a Summer of Ministry.

We hope you can join us next year June 2-6. Mark your calendars!!

- The Golden Age Retreat Committee, Jerry & Anna Roth, Darlene Shaffer, and Deb Martin



SOAR RUN WALK

This summer was a very different summer for me than normal. Over the past 3-4 years, I started to have some issues with my lower back and this Spring it became dramatically worse. As summer approached, I was unable to run, jump, go off the diving board, and do many other active things that I would normally enjoy during a week of camp. This article though is not about my back, it is about how God works here at camp.

God knew what He was doing when He led me to this summer's theme verse in the Fall of 2023. As summer was approaching, I became very down and overwhelmed, which led to me being unsure that I would actually make it through the summer. Like Peter walking on the water, I needed to take my eyes off of the "waves" around me and focus on Jesus. Throughout the summer, I would cling to the theme verses (Isaiah 40:28-31) every time we would say them before a meal. Verse 29 says, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." That was and is me. Then comes verse 31, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."



As I hoped in the Lord, He would renew my strength. I couldn't "run" or "soar", but I could walk. I couldn't do much, but God placed a great group of staff around me for support. Another way that God used my back injury is that I was able to connect with a different group of campers than what I normally do. I would sit on the sidelines with those that were injured or not feeling up to playing the game. I would give rides in my golf cart, also known as "The Cripple Carriage". I was able to really connect with campers and staff that had a sprained ankle or knee and needed a ride to Chapel.

Even though the summer was different, I am always amazed at how God works and uses Summer Camp. This year we had **23 campers make First Time Commitments for Christ, 11 campers Rededicated their lives, and 64 campers prayed for Assurance of Salvation.**

One other highlight for me was being able to serve alongside my oldest son, Samuel. He was a Junior Counselor, A/V Tech, and Kitchen Aid. During camp in past years, he would tag along with me to prep/lead games, prep the waterslide, and many other projects that might arise. This summer, he had his own responsibilities and it was so much

fun seeing him grow and step into various "official" camp leadership positions.

Thank you for your prayers for the Cove Valley Team as we served together here this summer. It is amazing to be a part of what God is doing at Cove Valley Camp!!

- Eric Roth, Program Director

Thanks AJ!

This spring we had a large staff transition. AJ Eshleman moved on from the Program Assistant role at Cove Valley Camp after many years of service. As a teen, he served in the Kitchen, as an A/V Tech, and was also a Jr. and Sr. Counselor. He was in the Program Assistant role from 2017-2018 and 2020 through the spring of



2024. AJ helped to strengthen and grow the Program with his many unique gifts and talents that were missed this summer. He built solid friendships with the staff and was a vital part of the team. His favorite place to be was behind the scenes or behind the camera. I'm very thankful for his friendship and the many years that we were able to serve together here at Cove Valley Camp. - Eric



UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Adult Retreat

October 18-20

Chicken & Shrimp Supper

FRIDAY, October 25

Fall Work Day

November 2

Membership Banquet

November 2, 6:30 pm

Hobby Retreat

December 6-8

Sr. High Retreat

Grades 9-12

January 10-12

Jr. High Retreat

Grades 6-8

January 17-19

Elementary Retreat

Grades 3-5

January 24-26

Primary Day Retreat

Grades K-2

February 8

Benefit Auction

February 21

Operation Cooperation

Jr. Staff Applicants

Ages 15-17

March 7-9

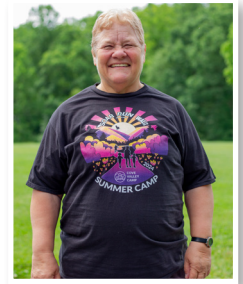
Camp Reflections

Camp is the only place to be in the summer (in my opinion). It is the combination of God, kids, and fun.

The pool is F-U-N whether it is water polo (think rugby in the water), basketball, crazy exercises, tag, being tackled, or creating games. I laugh so much in the pool! It is a place of building relationships that extend beyond the pool. I love the pool!

What I love about crafts has got to be seeing creativity take place. Put out supplies and see what develops. Glued styrofoam cups become people, machines, and animals. Tiles set on fire and tinfoil, glue, and cardboard become works of art. Spin art is paint magic. Crafts show we are made in God's image and our creativity comes directly from Him. My camp friend says, "A singing camp is a happy

camp." It's true. Seeing the faces and hearing the voices brings joy to my heart. It is an added thrill to hear singing outside of chapel. May the songs also ring loud and clear in hearts and minds outside of camp.



Praying for and looking for spiritual conversations is a high priority. It's so sweet when those expected and unexpected opportunities come. This is a huge take-away from camp - to have that same prayer and mindset always.

Getting a front row seat to watch God work- that's camp, the only place to be in the summer.

- Julie Brookens, Bridge Coordinator

This past summer has been similar yet different compared to previous years. Going into camp I was excited to see what God had in store, but at the same time, I felt unprepared for the craziness that camp brings. In the midst of rushing into a chaotic schedule, I had my eyes fixed on God rather than the waves around me. Our theme verse for the summer was Isaiah 40:28-31 and starting with our staff orientation week, I began to see our theme verse come to life. Even though my team's planning seemed to be brought together later than preferred, God still showed up in the lives of our staff. By the end of the first week I knew that God was working and that He would continue to provide for our every need. There were multiple times this past summer where I did not have the answers and energy at camp, but it was in

those moments where God sustained me. One of my biggest takeaways, and this is something that I am still dwelling on, is that God is THE CREATOR. I will not be able to understand or comprehend His ways because they are higher than mine, but even in the midst of the unknown when I am weary, God is still the one that is all knowing and everlasting. His power, and love, is beyond my comprehension, so whatever season I am in, I need to continue to fix my eyes on the everlasting God who does not grow tired or weary. My hope is not in my works but in my everlasting Father.



- Julianna Subirias, 2024 Female Program Director's Assistant



I feel that this summer has been a great experience for me. When I came in for the first time I knew practically nobody and I was definitely nervous. However, from the very first week I have seen God working in and through both the staff and campers. Cove Valley has allowed me to grow in my faith and my friendships in a way that I was not expecting. I am glad God brought me here for the summer and I am excited to see the fruit of his work at camp for many years and generations to come.

- Braeden Heatwole, 2024 Male Program Director's Assistant



One perk of being on the Program Crew this summer was the cabin that scored the most points by saying verses and winning games was able to cover us with shaving cream at the end of the week.

2024 Summer Camp Staff

A/V Techs

Christiana Ebersole
Kara Hanson
Asher Lehman
Hope Lehto
Samuel Roth
Rylan Showalter
Lily Tatz
Taylor Thompson

"My campers got saved!!"

Jr. Staff (Counselors/ Kitchen Aides)

Gabriella Burns
Nyah Carbaugh
Johannah Denlinger
Adelaide Dietrich
Rae'na Dieugenio
Asher Dunlap
Rinnah Dunlap
Brookelyn Eby
JJ Garcia
Rhiannon Gaskill
Gracie Kidd*
Malachi Krawczak
Alivia Landis
Rachel Lehman
Grace Monday
Yakaira Priest
Rubi Reyes
Chloe Sollenberger
Joshua Sollenberger
Estella Turri
Dylan Varner
Aubrey Wilhide
Selena Zook

Maintenance Helpers

Josiah Ebersole
Shane Eshleman*
Elijah Frey
Cole Hauquitz
Braden Lehman
Kevin Sheeler*



Nurses

Christine Bowman
Kara Frey
Mary Horst*
Anna Lehman
Kristen Lehman
Janel Long
Deb Sarvis*
Stephanie Smith

Sr. Counselors

Levi Bowman*
Wyatt Boyer*
Ethan Crider*
Lilly Deviolet*
Kara Dunlap
Malachi Dunlap
Talya Kuriakose
Ezra Lehman*
Liliana Metz
Lauren Miller
Matt Morgan*
Josiah Murphy
Cole Patullo
Madelyn Patullo
Elise Reed
Fred Skroban*
Morgan Stevenson
Moses Vidal
Ethan Ward



Bridge Coordinator/Crafts/ Eagles Speaker

Julie Brookens

"God strengthened me when I was really weak and empty."

Cooks

Norma Barnes
Alleene Dean
Deloris Elliott
Sarah Eshleman
Sheila Forrester
Cheryl Frey
Lydia Hostetler
Cheryl Martin
Kim Martin
Amber Myers
Heidi Myers
Taylor Myers
Becky Sauder
Ashley Socks
Jolene Utermoehlen
Lisa Wadel



Kitchen Host/Hostess

Bella Eby
Gloria Martin
Aubriana Socks

Program Director's Assistants

Braeden Heatwole
Julianna Subirias



Trading Post Manager

Valerie Roth

"My testimony was what all my girls needed to hear."

Wilderness Hawks Camp Mom

Stephanie Skroban



Wilderness Hawks Leaders

Delton Lehman
Ben Skroban

Speakers

Jason Barthlow
Brian Emery
Matthew Geary
Jessica Lehman
Connor Martin
Hannah Martin
Jeremy Miller
Emily Utermoehlen

"God showed me that I have a place here at camp and can be a good counselor"

"I saw God move in the hearts of my campers and they responded."

Lifeguard

Emily Frey



Elective Leaders

Joshua Frey
Jodi Glenny
Lynn Hanson

* = Volunteers

"God gave me wisdom and patience when I needed it. He gave me opportunities to have deep conversations with my campers. He opened my campers' hearts to His voice and gave me wisdom to speak over my campers."

2024 Summer Camp



"God showed up during the testimonies at the cabins."

"When I was scared or shy, God gave me courage."



"God gave people wisdom to speak into others' lives and changed our lives."



"God led more people to accept Him as their Savior."



"God helped me with my anxiety."

"I saw my best friend get saved!"



Wilderness Hawks

As I have worked with Wilderness Hawks the past 4 years I have seen many campers arrive fully submerged in the world's distractions and lies. The battle for their hearts can be overwhelming. But till Friday of each week of camp my faith in the Gospel is confirmed.



Faith is strengthened as I watch campers, unplugged from technology, begin to notice the revelation of God in the world around them. They learn the names of trees, notice flowers, get dirt under their nails, and hear the sounds of Creation, and their cynicism and arrogance begins to weaken and faith begins to awaken.



Campers, some of whom have never read the Scriptures, at least not for themselves, open their Bible each morning and hear Jesus' voice and discuss it with their clan.



Through the wonder of camping young men and women are forced out of their shells of fear and pride to gain confidence building a fire, cooking a meal, piloting a canoe, communicating and problem solving



with their team, and I am reminded that God is at work in this world - healing the broken, freeing the captive, and bringing the dead to life, even right here at Wilderness Hawks.

Thank you to Cove Valley - all the staff, volunteers, and donors - for making this work of God possible!



- Delton Lehman, Wilderness Hawks Leader

Let's Make A Deal

As the Program team and I were brainstorming ideas of how to drive home the theme verses of Isaiah 40:28-31, we kept coming back to the opening questions in verse 28, "Do you not know? Have you not heard?" In reading those lines, it made us think of game shows. Over the course of the summer, we played many different game shows with the campers that each ended with a Biblical truth. Some of the weekly games that we played were To Tell The Truth, Minute To Win It, and Let's Make A Deal. Other game shows that only had a one-week run were Password, Family Feud, and Deal Or No Deal. Each of us took turns hosting and participating in the game shows.



In "To Tell The Truth", all three contestants would claim that they had done the same thing. For example, "I took scuba diving lessons." Then the host would ask questions to each of the contestants about the scuba diving lessons. Judging by the answers, the campers would need to try to decide as a cabin which person was telling the truth. Takeaway: How do we decipher what truth is? By comparing it to God's Word.



In "Minute To Win It" each of the contestants would be paired up with a camper and have one minute to complete a task. Different tasks included, racing around the Dining Hall with a rubber chicken, completing a relay race, being led blindfolded through a maze of tables, and more. Takeaway: Who are the voices that we are listening to for guidance? We need to be listening to God's voice.



In "Let's Make A Deal", a camper would have the opportunity to come up front and choose between three unique prize containers. The campers would need to listen to a sales pitch about why they should choose a certain box. The prizes in the boxes varied: a rock, cup of water on your head, dirty sponge from crafts, popsicles for your cabin, jumping in the lake, free candy, or a free soda. Each week ended with the ultimate gift, God's gift of Salvation. - Eric



New Canoes

The past few summers after every Wilderness Hawks' canoe trip, the leaders say the same thing, "We need to get some new canoes!"

Thanks to the generosity of Brandt's Church VBS and the 2024 Family Campers, this need will be addressed. Together they donated \$2,740 to go towards the purchase of canoes. We are very grateful to those from the Brandt's Church VBS and from Family Camp that donated toward this cause!



Meet Lynn

In April of this year I started working in the office at Cove Valley Camp. Previously, I have attended here as a camper for 10 years, and I started working as summer staff in 2020. When I experienced summer camp for the first time, it amazed me how much people talked about Jesus, and they genuinely seemed to love Him. Ever since then, I knew I wanted to work here.

Over the years, camp has been a place of so much growth and getting out of my comfort zone; through the highs and lows, God has used my time here as a camper and as a staff

started going to camp. It's no surprise then that Cove Valley is a second home to me, and I have many fond memories from this place. I also chose to be baptized here in September, and that was amazing!

This past summer was very different from my previous summers working as I started this new role at camp, and it was filled with unique challenges, experiences, and highlights. In the midst of uncertainty, God faithfully provided and placed me in this position, and it is truly a blessing to serve here and use the gifts He has given me.

- Lynn Hanson, Program Assistant



Upcoming Support Opportunities

Chicken & Shrimp Supper

FRIDAY, October 25
4-7 pm

Adults.....\$30
Children.....\$10
(Ages 6-12)
Take Out*....\$20

*Take out meals are pre-portioned.

Meal Includes:

All you can eat BBQ Chicken, Steamed & Fried Shrimp, Homemade Pies & Cakes, and much more!

Fall Work Day

Saturday, November 2
8 am - 4 pm

Lunch is provided. If you are planning to attend, please contact Paul at: maintenance@covevalleycamp.com.

Membership Banquet

Saturday, November 2
Meal starts at 6:30 pm

Come see how God has been using your money through the camp to change lives. Email Allen to reserve your spot: execdirector@covevalleycamp.com.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee
Jonathan Rotz (24)
President
Charles Dean (26)
Vice President
Stephanie Smith (25)
Secretary
Chad Wadel (27)
Treasurer
Peter Frey (25)
5th Member

Evan Dean (27)
Royce Eby (26)
Devin Horst (24)
Delton Lehman (24)
Hans Lehman (25)
Scott Sollenberger (26)

Full Time Staff

Allen Eshleman
Camp Director
Paul Frey
Maintenance Director
Eric Roth
Program Director

Part Time Staff

Julie Brookens
Bridge Coordinator
Amy Frey
Food Service Director
Lynn Hanson
Program Assistant
Darlene Shaffer
Housekeeping

Cove Valley News is a triannual publication of Cove Valley Christian Youth Camp.

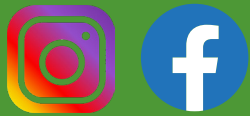
Editors: Eric Roth & Lynn Hanson





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Mercersburg, PA 17236

Follow us on
Facebook and
Instagram to stay
updated on the
latest camp events
and to see some
fun memories.



@covevalleycamp

Cove Valley
Christian Youth
Camp exists to
provide a place and
the opportunity for
Christian teaching
and fellowship
along with
wholesome and
guided recreation
in a Christ-like
atmosphere.

Upcoming Events

Chicken & Shrimp Supper
Friday, October 25
Membership Banquet
November 2

Fall Work Day
November 2
Hobby Retreat
December 6-8

Help us save money on postage and printing by receiving the newsletter electronically.
To do so, email programassistant@covevalleycamp.com and provide us with your email address.

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Open Rental Dates

Weekdays Available (call for open dates)

To check for open weekends go to www.covevalleycamp.com and select "Check Availability" under the "Rental Facilities" menu.

For more information visit: www.covevalleycamp.com.

Praises:

- * 408 total camper registrations
- * The 98 Campers that made a commitment for Christ this summer
- * 23 campers made a 1st time commitment
- * The many Summer Staff that served God with their whole heart at camp this summer
- * Donated money toward new canoes

Needs/Wish List:

- * Cornhole Boards
- * Volunteers to help with projects around camp
- * Air Hockey Table
- * Foosball Table
- * Funds to replenish the Scholarship Fund

Prayer Requests:

- * God's Wisdom and Direction for the upcoming Winter Retreats
- * For lives to be impacted for Christ at our Young Adult and Winter Retreats
- * God's provision through the Chicken & Shrimp Supper and Membership Banquet
- * Wisdom & Discernment for the Board as they lead