

Backwoods Bulletin



"They
helped
everyone his
neighbor;
and everyone
said to his
brother, Be of
good
courage.

Isaiah 41:6

Teamwork is Key

"Would you be willing to share some of your impressions of camp for the Backwoods Bulletin?" asked camp secretary Miss Jamie one morning while breakfast was being cleaned up. Instantly my mind went in several directions.

"I'll give it some thought," was my response. So, here I am, wondering what direction to let my mind take me. Many thoughts and impressions have come in the short while that we have been here, but what would give you the clearest picture of camp and inspire you with the work here?

Five days a week, three times a day when all is going well, both groups of campers, together with their chiefs and all the on-duty staff gather in the main room of chuckwagon to eat their meals together. On the wall above the tables is the camp mission statement, "Forming successful relationship skills." Observing the group in this setting one quickly realizes that while the main focus of camp is on the campers, the mission statement aptly applies to everyone present!

The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," has often been quoted in recent years. While it has a nice little ring to it, it takes on a profoundly deeper meaning in the Sleepy Creek setting. (Continued on next page)

Teamwork. "All hands on deck." "Everybody needs somebody." "Everybody needs to be needed." These are all quotes that come to mind as I try to describe the camp spirit. An acronym for Team is Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

Who makes up the camp team?

1.The campers. Sixteen to eighteen boys in 2 camps, the Frontiersmen (11-14 years) and the Trailblazers (15-17 years) make up this part of camp. The boys must be willing to work together in nearly every aspect of their daily routine. When this willingness is lacking, everything and everyone stops and circles up until the team purpose is again embraced.

2.The chiefs. There are four of them on the front lines. These young men spend 5 days a week, 24 hours a day with the campers, endeavoring to maintain constant focus on the goal of growing relationship skills in the campers.

3.The chief supervisors. These two chiefs are the line behind the front line. These young men are standing behind the chiefs, providing support thru organizing projects, having tools and supplies ready, and being on call and available at all times to assist in the campsites with whatever needs arise.

4.The maintenance chiefs. These two young men's focus is on keeping things running smoothly. Their job varies from taking out the trash, changing a lightbulb, maintaining and repairing vehicles, helping with construction projects, taking someone to the airport, and doing everything in between. In general, they are ready and available for whatever job needs their assistance.

5.The cooks. These 3 young ladies are responsible to feed this whole crew 3 meals a day, 5 days a week. (Two days a week the campers do cookout in their campsites.) Meal planning and grocery shopping is done to provide balanced, nutritional, and tasty meals. These meals are on time every time with a willingness to accept the disappointment of occasionally having no campers come in to enjoy the

effort they have invested in a meal due to circle up or tardiness. Instead, they have to send PB&J sandwiches out to camp for the boys and chiefs to munch on.

6.The secretary. This young lady tackles the mountain of paperwork, reporting, scheduling, and many other duties that are important and often unnoticed.

7.The program director. The young family man who is willing to give of himself to helping with the campers, listening to and advising the chiefs, organizing activities, directing the maintenance men, and filling in where a hand is needed.

8.The education director. Another young family man whose focus is on connecting with the campers, especially relating to helping them with basic education needs and fanning the flame of enthusiasm for projects at the campsite or filling in wherever a hand is needed.

9.The camp director. This seasoned family man has the clear understanding of how the wilderness program is meant to function and is responsible in helping keep all personnel focused on the goal. He has a finger on the pulse of all the aspects of camp operations. Another important aspect of his job is to maintain contact with each individual camper and connect with their families at home.

10. The Conference Care Committee representative. This experienced brother invests countless hours encouraging, sharing ideas, helping to keep the maintenance men focused and busy, and working on the many different aspects of the camp infrastructure. The responsibility of keeping the CCC connected with camp operations, maintaining communication with the local camp board, and the recruitment/scheduling of camp staff is also on his list of duties.

11.The local camp board. The board is comprised of eight brethren chosen by local congregations to assist in leading camp operations, overseeing and managing the financial aspects, and giving direction and support in any capacity they can. Once a month a board meeting is held onsite at camp.

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12. The families of the campers and camp personal, together with their home congregations. This part of the team brings awareness, much needed financial support, many messages, letters, phone calls, care packages, and above all, thousands of prayers imploring our heavenly Father's grace and blessing on the united camp effort.

Teamwork. All for one, and one for all!

Consider with me for a moment the canoe trip that the Trailblazers have currently embarked on, 2 chiefs, 8 campers, 3 weeks, 150 miles on the West branch of the Susquehanna River. Tremendous research, planning, organization, packing, weekly supply drops, and commitment have and are being put into this! Imagine the team vision and unselfishness which is absolutely necessary for a successful venture! Yes, the ten members of the team are experiencing the river, but the rest of the team back at camp is also reaping abundantly for their heart investment in the excursion. What kind of relationship skills would we learn if five couples would set out on a three week canoe adventure?!!

The team effort outlined in Is. 41: 6&7 stirs my mind and heart, "They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage. So, the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil saying, it is ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved."

"Hey, you've got this," was heard among the campers' chatter one day, the boys pulling for each other. Selflessness sets us free to be a part of the team. Hebrews 10:24 puts it this way, "Let us consider one another, to provoke unto love and good works." When I am aware of others in a measure that moves my heart, I can begin to catch the vision. When the vision stirs in my heart, the desire to become involved is ignited. In order for the team spirit to begin to take root, I must be willing to submit to the order of the program. Having a vision but not submitting to the team structure and order will be a detriment to myself and the rest of the team. When vision and whole-hearted embracing of the team order is in place,

excellence will result. Why?? Because it is God's order. God's plan. God's structure.

This is God's team. May He inspire each team member with vision. May each one embrace and yield to the structure of God's team. In so doing excellence can and will be the end result. With this picture in our minds, we can see that not only the campers benefit from being part of the team, but all members of the camp team learn, grow, and prosper in their lifelong pursuit of successful relationships.

May the vision, the obedience, and the excellence all be a testimony to the goodness and grace of God! May every aspect of the effort be a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving unto Him! May God richly bless Team SCBC! -Sheldon Haynes



Trailblazer's Hiking Trip



Date: April 3-5

Destinations:

Sleepy Creek Lake

Devil's Nose

Day 1

We left camp about 12:30 and hiked over power line. We were supposed to leave at 8:00. It was pouring rain, and when we got to the back side of our mountain, we found out that we couldn't cross the crick to get to the Tuscarora Trail that leads to the lake. We had to bushwhack two miles to the dam. We set up camp and went fishing. All our stuff was soaked. No fish.

- Trailblazer Camper



Day 2

We got up at 6:30 and had breakfast. Then we went fishing. We had lunch and then started hiking to Devil's Nose which is seven miles. We hiked six miles to where we spent night.

-Trailblazer Camper



Day 3

It's a cool cloudy morning. I have no idea where we are at. We are fixing to make breakfast.

- Trailblazer Camper



Niagara Falls, Here We Come!

Who:

Frontiersmen Group

Destinations: Niagara Falls, Ohio
State Reformatory, and Ohio Air
force Museum

When:

April 16-20

Day 1

We got up from camp and went up to the bus and finished packing our bus. We left about 9:30 and got to camp at 5:30. We got camp set up about 6:30.
- Camper



Day 2

We went to Niagara Falls and ate at Sonic. The bus broke down so we walked 2.5 miles to a Mexican restaurant. -Camper

Day 4

We left the Air Force museum and went to a Mexican restaurant. We were then going to camp but the bus had a code, and we could not erase it. The bus could only run 55 mph, and at the end it was only running 10 mph. -Camper



Day 3

We got up and drove to the reformatory. We saw some prisoners. We ate at Jasper's house.
-Camper



Campers' Work Projects

Fifth row of chapel benches added



Beautiful ponds along
chapel trail



Rock walls at Fron-
tiersmen's camp



Trailblazer's craft tent foundation



Great things are never
done by one person.
They're done by a team of
people.



Wildlife in the woods



Glow worm



Eastern newt



small mouth bass



Invasive species



Fawn found by trail



Northern ringneck snake

White Tailed Deer

The white tailed deer grows up to 5ft. at the head. Every year the female deer has one or two fawns. Fawns are brown with white spots. Mules have antlers and females don't. Every year bucks shed their antlers. The best time to see a deer is before sunrise and after sunset. Side note: We saw a fawn by our trail which made me want to write this. The End. -Frontiersmen Camper

Progress Report

Chief Housing- Chiefs have moved in and are enjoying more space.

Chief Supervisors' Living Quarters- Chief Supervisors now reside upstairs at Chuckwagon with newly painted walls and a beautiful red door.

Administrator's Office- The downstairs bedroom at Chuckwagon has been repainted and new flooring laid to provide an office for the administrator.

Fire Marshal: A visit has been made, and they given us advice on what changes need to be made for us to get compliant.

Land- Three acres of much needed land were purchased.

Goodbyes

Thank you, Chief Benjie, for your two years of chiefting the Frontiersmen Group.

Chief Jerrick and Chief Ryan, thank you for your much needed help on the maintenance crew!

Welcome

To Chief Bryce Schmidt from Deridder, and David Klassen from Red River. Your help on the maintenance crew will be greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to all of you for your continued prayers and support of Sleepy Creek Boys Camp.

