



# Backwoods Bulletin

"Vulnerability  
is not weak-  
ness; it's our  
greatest  
measure of  
courage."

-Brené Brown.

## The Cry for Help

As the canoe oar glided in and out of the sparkling water, the lone person's eyes took in the beauty the day held. The sun's rays felt warm on the back. Crisp autumn leaves slowly fluttered to the ground while the Canadian goose call could be heard on the breeze. A huge buck stood motionless watching the passerby, and a motorboat floated near some bullrushes while its occupant silently waited for the fish to bite. Life seemed good, and time flew by. Suddenly, the lone figure's reverie was broken when the sun's rays were replaced by a biting, cold wind. The realization that the storm clouds had quietly been building behind him without him realizing hit him as hard as the wind had. The shore was a long way off and with the biting wind now against him, he realized the peaceful canoe ride had turned into a nightmare. But the blood that flowed through his veins never let him give up. With his head bent, he gave it all he had to make it back to shore. As he was endeavoring to make headway, he remembered the fisherman, but who wanted to ask for help and admit that he couldn't make it back by

himself? This thought made him try even harder. Using all the strength he had and with the words "I can do this" pounding in his head, he started closing the gap between him and the shore. But alas, the wind grew stronger and started pushing him back out. Frantically, he kept rowing. Once again he thought of the motorboat and fisherman, but hadn't it been from his mistake of not seeing the storm brewing that had gotten him into this mess? How could he ask for help now? He kept rowing but to no avail. Finally, in desperation he called out to the fisherman who had just started making his way to shore. The fisherman cheerfully threw him a rope, and twenty minutes later they were both safely on shore.

The man in the canoe turned to his rescuer and thanked him. Then he asked, "You don't even know me. Why did you help me?"

The fisherman replied, "I was the one fighting the waves last week and needing help." He pushed back his hat and then continued. "Life is like that. God puts people in our lives to help us. All we have to do is ask."

"Lean on me when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on." This is a song we sing at camp that fits the camp setting so well. Camp is made up of many individuals each filling their place. Each one of these people have different personalities, different strengths, different weaknesses. Willingness to lean on God and cry out to each other for help makes camp run smoothly.

"Sometimes asking for help is the bravest move you can make."- Carrie Fisher.

Humbleness and vulnerability go hand in hand. To be vulnerable means that I must admit that I am not strong enough to do it alone. It's easy for that thought to be head knowledge, but is it a heart matter? Vulnerability takes a willingness to break down the walls I have built around me and share my heart with my fellow traveler, to lay out all the pieces and not keep a few of the broken ones hidden. As I become willing to be open and share, a stronger and deeper relationship is able to form. Pride can make me want to cover up my true feelings by putting on an optimistic air about me, unwilling to admit that today I need help. That doesn't mean "wearing my feelings on my sleeve" as the saying goes, but when someone truly asks, can I truly tell them?

The struggle to be vulnerable is real, and makes crying out for help hard, but the strength that it brings is amazing. It is my desire to push past the fear of being open so I can experience the freedom and closeness it will bring. "Vulnerability is not weakness; it's our most accurate measure of courage."

-Brené Brown

-Miss Jamie

"Sometimes asking for help is the bravest move you can make."

-Carrie Fisher



# Things I'm thankful for while at camp...

(Written by campers and staff)

Pow-wow  
Chief Daniels  
Shoes  
I learned to appreciate home more  
I can help my problems  
The helpful attitude from everybody  
Chiefs  
No wind  
Pink tinted ridges  
I'm thankful God runs this camp  
Fire  
Prayer  
Rubik's cube  
For parents who love and care for me the best they can  
Figuring life out  
Whitetail deer  
Vespers- it's an awesome feeling to sing with the groups  
Strangers that become like family  
How real God is to me now  
Spring fed streams  
Friends

A nice chief's house  
The serene chapel setting  
God's love  
Beautiful weather  
All the good food the cooks make  
Being able to spend time with awesome boys  
Cool weather  
The seclusion and quiet setting of camp  
My group  
My campers  
Camp family  
An office with windows  
Back country roads and beautiful views  
God's nearness  
Wildlife  
Warm showers  
God's direction when there are no answers  
The progress seen in campers  
Swimming in the cold waters  
An awesome feeling to sing with the groups  
Hugs from the chiefs  
Good food  
My bed  
The tremendous group of people I'm surrounded with  
Warm clothes



# Frontiersmen's Canoe Trip



## Frontiersmen's Canoe Trip

On September 18, 2023, Frontiersmen started out on a two week canoe trip down the Susquehanna River. The first campsite we stayed at, we had hamburgers with just ketchup for supper, but they were really good!

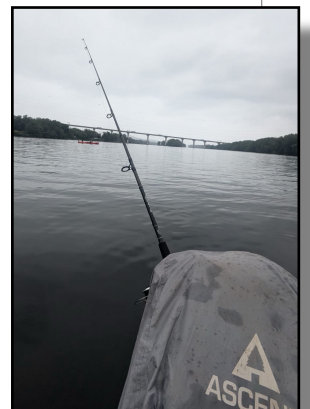
Sometime on later nights, our sleeping

bags were almost more comfortable than beds back at camp. We caught some smallmouth bass and ate them. They were pretty good. One week into the canoe trip, we met Chief Jake at a dam

for restocking. That

night was pretty late. One week and about one hundred miles after restocking, we got picked up. On the way back to camp, we stopped at Little Caesars and got pizza. Then we drove back.

-Written by a Frontiersmen Camper





# Colonial Williamsburg History Trip



## Trailblazer's History Trip

It was Monday October 28, 2024, when the Trailblazer group pulled out at 2:08pm. We drove four hours to Chickahominy Park and Campground. We set up camp and made supper. While some of us cooked supper, the rest of us went to the playground and played tag. The next day we toured

Yorktown. We left campsite a little late so we only had

time to visit the museum. We checked out the museum and then watched a fifteen minute film. Then we walked through the museum. There was a big replica of a wooden sailing ship. It was really cool. We all went to the gift shop. Then we drove to Jamestown and walked around the town or at least where it used to be. Then we went to the gift shop. By the way, we each had \$60 in souvenir money to spend so every gift shop was a must. Then we drove to the Jamestown Museum and watched a film and walked through the museum. Next, we went to another gift shop where I bought a book and then we went back to the campsite. We had supper and went to bed. The next days we toured around Colonial Williamsburg and spent the rest of our money.

Then we ate at Pizza Hut and Subway on the way home.

-Written by a Trailblazer Camper





# Observations in the Woods



Bear spotted in the woods near  
Frontiersmen campsite



Campers' centerpiece  
decor



We're ready for those cold nights!

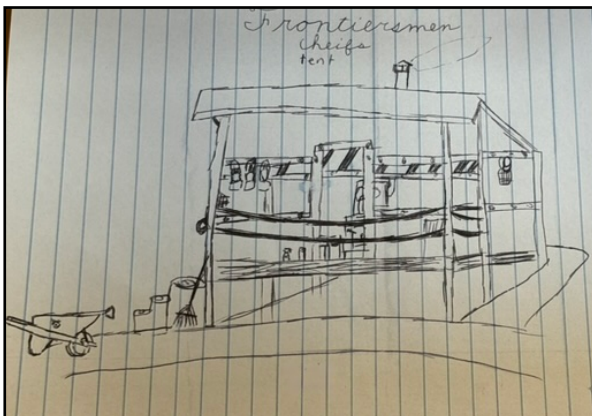
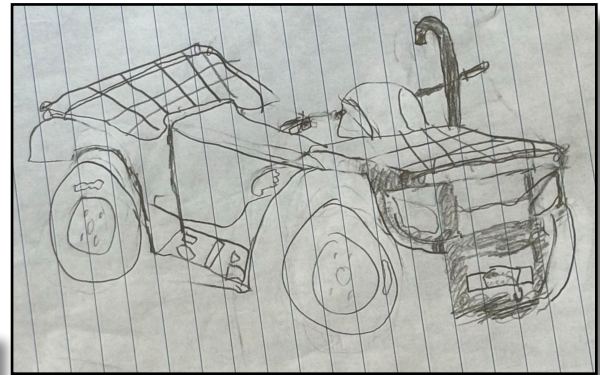
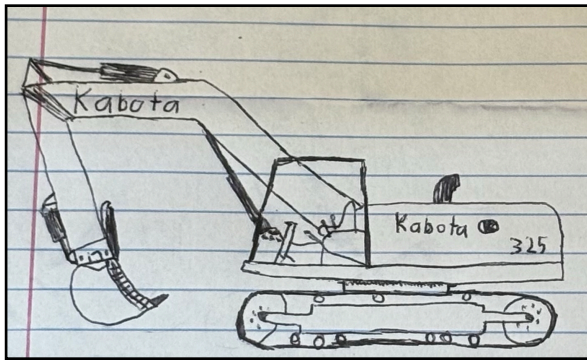


Plastic is on and ready for winter!





## Artists' corner





## Welcome

To Chief Richard and Raelle Schmidt and family from Deridder, LA. They are here filling the role of family worker.

To Caleb Bender from Eakly, OK, and Jessie Hersberger from Limes Springs, IA. Maintenance guys definitely help keep this place afloat!

To Tye Johnson from Macon, Mississippi. Tye will be chiefing the Trailblazer group.

To Matt Unruh from Dewberry, Alberta. Matt will be chiefing the Frontiersmen group.

Also, former maintenance Dave Klassen is now chiefing for the Frontiersmen group.

## Goodbyes

Thank you, Chief Terence, for giving of your time and talents for the past two years. Camp is a better place because of you.



## Progress Report

Over 2,000 pines were planted throughout the property. Thank you to the Shipensburg youth for helping with that project.

Two more bedrooms were added to the basement of chief's house. A shout out to Jason Warkentin for helping complete that project.

Seven acres and a house were purchased close to camp.