



COVE VALLEY CAMP

News

Fall 2023 Volume 19 Issue 2

www.covevalleycamp.com

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*BEEP! BEEP!
I'M A SHEEP!*

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Family Camp

"Hey mom, how many more weeks until Family Camp?" A question I answer seemingly weekly - approximately 51 weeks before Family Camp begins. It's no surprise my children look forward to it. I remember being their age and going to Family Camp year after year, each time being more fun than the one before. Now as an adult, it is so precious to see them living and loving the same experiences that I did at Cove Valley.

This year was no different. Doug Lehman brought rich messages on developing a strong, Biblically based culture for your individual family. Saturday evening everyone gathered to watch the volleyball tournament, and on Sunday afternoon the weekend wrapped up with the annual Holey Canoe Race. Our family returned home exhausted and yet refreshed from another wonderful weekend of fellowship. Looking forward to next year!

- Emily Utermohlen,
Family Camp Camper



Golden Age Retreat

Golden Age Retreat was the first week of June. David Kochsmeier from Bethlehem, PA was our speaker. We spent the week studying the fruit of the Spirit and were very blessed by the spiritual input. We enjoyed a lively shuffleboard tournament that came right down to the wire. Carl and Clifford pulled out the win.

We enjoyed many special days of fellowship and great food. The Delawder family were a special blessing in music and testimony, and Ralph Lehman's family provided an interesting afternoon teaching us the art of chair caning.

One of the things we hope to improve for next year is our attendance. Come spend a special week with us at Cove Valley Camp June 3-7, 2024.

- Jerry Roth,
Golden Age Retreat Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ham & Seafood

Supper

October 28

Fall Work Day

November 4

Membership

Banquet

November 4, 6:30 pm

Hobby Retreat

December 1-3

Sr. High Retreat

Grades 9-12

January 12-14

Jr. High Retreat

Grades 6-8

January 19-21

Primary Retreat

Grades 3-5

January 26-28

Primary Day

Retreat

Grades K-2

February 10

Camp Sale

February 23

Operation

Cooperation

Jr. Staff Applicants

Ages 15-17

March 8-10

Hobby Retreat

March 8-10

The Ride Called Summer Camp

The last three years and probably for many more to come, my family and I have made the pilgrimage to Cedar Point, the roller coaster capital of the world. We enjoy days of thrills on exciting rides that blast-off and take us on terrifying rides through the sky, but return us safely back to Earth.

I've come to realize that a massive roller coaster is the perfect analogy for summer camp. Getting on the ride is what takes the longest. First you have the long line, which is months and months of prayer, planning, recruiting, training, and much more. Second, you have made it through the line and are getting on the coaster. You still need to be strapped in and safely secured, Staff Orientation. We finally start the arduous climb up the hill, Registration. You feel the car straining as it climbs the hill. The excitement is building in your stomach as you see the campers' excitement in their eyes when they arrive. Then you crest the hill and are met with a thrilling drop, highs, lows, loops, twists, and turns. In a flash, you are back at the platform and climbing out of the roller coaster car, Camper Pick-up/Closing Staff Meeting. It is a great feeling of joy knowing that we made it. "Wow! What a ride! How is it over already!"



There is no time to wait! The second that your feet hit the exit platform, you start sprinting around the building, and hop back into a waiting roller coaster car, because there is no line and the next week of camp is about to begin. This process continues over and over for all of June and July. Some weeks, have different highs and lows, and twists and turns, but they are all amazing rides!

In the blink of an eye, the last week of summer camp is finished, there is no need to run, because that was the last ride of the season. "How did the end get here so quickly?" Your body is broken down, neck is sore, and your back is stiff from the multiple bumps, twists, loops, and turns that you have went through from riding the ride over and over. As you walk to your vehicle and look back at the silhouette of the roller coaster in the setting sun, you are grateful that you are finished riding for this season, but are already looking forward to the ride again next year.

- Eric Roth, Program Director

Wilderness Hawks

- Wilderness Hawks photos on page 6.

"You spent a week in the woods with teens? Sleeping in tents? Cooking over a campfire?"

I search back through memories, trying to find the right words to answer the incredulous question. I remember a camper calling me over to watch them confidently start a fire - a task they couldn't have imagined executing at the beginning of the week. I recall meeting a camper months after camp, and hearing him tell me his favorite tree, a sycamore, and that he learned to identify it at Wilderness Hawks Camp. I smile, remembering the startling cry that erupted from a camper as he yanked his long-sought-after first fish from the pond and jubilantly held it up for all to see.

My mind drifts through countless conversations I had with staff and campers

in the glow of a campfire; talking about life, faith, and how to follow Jesus. I remember the feeling of slipping into my sleeping bag at the end of the day, exhausted from a day well spent, and drifting off to sleep, serenaded by the frogs in the pond.

With all this in mind, I look back at my friend, smile, and simply say, "Yeah. I did."

- Delton Lehman, Wilderness Hawks Leader



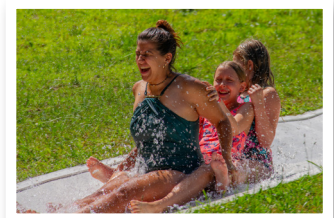
Benedid's Camp Reflections

Hello, everyone who reads this message. This summer was incredible! The Lord showed Himself in very interesting ways and helped me understand several things. This summer, I thought I had everything under control, but He showed me once again that I don't have everything secure. He is in control of every situation in our lives. He helped me see how difficult it is for us human beings to surrender control of our lives to Him. Our feelings, goals, and objectives in life are sometimes not aligned with the timing we desire but with the timing He has prepared.

The way the Lord showed Himself this summer was amazing. When we needed staff, He said, "I will look for people who are working for the first time and make this summer unforgettable for the campers." He equipped these new people with everything they needed to move forward and impact the lives of these

campers, showing them what God can do through people. God transformed the lives of those who were unsure of His existence and convinced them of His reality. He gave lost people the opportunity to know Him and experience His wonderful nature. Once again, the Lord demonstrated that He is the Good Shepherd.

The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing. I hope that you also accept Him as your shepherd. Yes, I am speaking to you. God bless you.
- Benedid Reyes de Leon (aka Bob/Wolfredo), 2023 Program Director's Assistant



Julianna's Camp Reflections

This summer was one filled with so much joy, fun, growth, and learning. As a camp we dove into Psalm 23 and looked beyond the normal takeaways from this passage. During one week of camp I remember seeing this passage in a new light. One of our speakers talked about walking through the valley of the shadow of death. He spoke about how we will all walk through that valley, but even when we go through those tough spots God is still with us and protecting us. Sometimes God will lead us through the valley to get where we need to be. This summer God has shown me how He is MY Great Shepherd. He is leading me to good places even when the route we take is through a dark valley.

There were moments this summer where I questioned myself, wrestled with God, and chose to trust God with my heart. With every new day, God continuously showed me His love, provision, strength, and grace in the most simple moments. There were so many precious moments that I had with our staff and campers that I would have missed if my eyes were not continuously fixed on Jesus. I was able to see our Seniors step up and willingly listen to God's voice countless times, I was able to share God's love with the girls I counseled, and I was able to witness God's

power and provision in so many ways! A highlight from my summer came when I was a Senior Counselor for Cardinals. I was a little worried entering the week, but I was also filled with excitement for what God had planned. The last night of the week my JC and I made a plan to take half of the cabin and talk to them individually about their walk with Christ. My very first conversation with one of my girls stands out from others that I have had in the past. She was filled with wonder and so many questions. It was a privilege to be able to answer her questions and to see the growth in her throughout the week but also see the impact that her older sister had made on her and her family. It has been amazing to serve at camp once again and to see the ways that God has carried, led, and strengthened us this summer. I'm excited to see where He continues to lead each and every one of us this year!

- Julianna Subirias (aka Betsy), 2023 Program Director's Assistant



2023 SUMMER CAMP STAFF

* = Volunteers

A/V Techs

Kara Hanson
Mya Heckert
Gracianna Murphy
Lily Tatz



Bridge Coordinator/ Lifeguard/Crafts

Julie Brookens

Cooks

Norma Barnes
Alleene Dean
Deloris Elliott
Kristi Eshleman
Sarah Eshleman
Sheila Forrester
Cheryl Frey
Lydia Hostetler
Karen Kane



Cheryl Martin
Kim Martin
Amber Myers
Heidi Myers
Taylor Myers
Anna Roth

*"God sustained me
when I felt weak."*

Becky Sauder
Jolene Utermoehlen
Lisa Wadel

Elective Leaders

Joshua Frey
Jodi Glenn
Justin Martin*
Ethan Sollenberger
Kristen Varner

Jr. Staff (Counselors/ Kitchen Aides)

Mason Anderson
Johannah Denlinger
Asher Dunlap
Rinnah Dunlap
Josiah Ebersole

*"God's Presence shone
through in the midst
of chaos."*

Lena Emery
Elijah Frey
Rhiannon Gaskill
Garrett Grove
Jackson Henschel
Hope Horst
Gracie Kidd



Talya Kuriakose
Marah Lehman
Nathan Lehman
Liliana Metz
Anna Moyer
Daniella Overcash
Samuel Roth
Rylan Showalter
Aubriana Socks
Cohen Socks



Seth Sollenberger
Laura Stevens
Taylor Thompson
Estella Turri
Selena Zook

Kitchen Host/Hostess

Erykah Damico
Bella Eby
Asher Lehman
Gloria Martin

Lifeguards

Emily Frey
Ben Glessner
Carter Wilt

Maintenance Helper

Avery Strick
Kevin Sheeler*



Nurses

Christine Bowman
Mary Horst*
Janel Long
Kristen Lehman
Maria Martin
MacKenzie Miller
Stephanie Smith

Program Director's Assistants

Benedid Reyes del Leon
Julianna Subirias

*"God gave me strength
and energy for
each day."*

Speakers

Michael Henry
Travis Kisamore
Nanette Lackey*
Brooke Lehman
Doug Lehman
Jessica Lehman
Paul Lundy
Keith Probst



Sr. Counselors

Corrina Angle
Levi Bowman*
Juan Samuel De Leon
Lilly Deviolet



Kara Dunlap
Malachi Dunlap
Zach Fields
Ty Grove
Lynn Hanson
Callie Houck
Ezra Lehman
Josiah Murphy
Cole Patullo
Madelyn Patullo
Maggie Possinger*
Alia Probst
John Puckett



Fred Skroban*
Morgan Stevenson
Ethan Ward

Trading Post Manager

Valerie Roth

*"God opened the hearts
and minds of campers"*

Wilderness Hawks' Camp Moms

Stephanie Skroban
Emily Utermoehlen

Wilderness Hawks Leaders

Delton Lehman
Ben Skroban

2023 SUMMER CAMP



"God answered a lot of prayers, and in the midst of chaos His presence shone through."



"Making bonds that I feel like will last a lifetime!"



"The best part of the week was getting to know the counselors...and the waterslide."



"I saw God work through selfless acts of service and humility."



"I'm so excited to learn more about Jesus!"



"God helped me face my fear of canoeing."





Follow the Shepherd

If someone you know has been at camp this summer, you have most likely heard them sing, "BEEP! BEEP! I'M A SHEEP!" For that, you can blame Betsy, Bonita, Braveheart, and Bob (aka Wolfredo). They came to camp this summer to help the campers visualize the theme of "The Lord is My Shepherd".

Sheep are not the brightest, so it was very easy for Wolfredo to infiltrate the flock as "Bob". Throughout the week, the three sheep struggled to keep their eyes on the Good Shepherd and follow His instructions. "Bob" easily pulled Betsy away from the flock, because she just wanted to do her own thing. Bonita was distracted by the shiny things of this world and absorbed in herself. Braveheart doubted

the Shepherd's Word and trusted what "Bob" said over what the Shepherd said. Braveheart's decision to trust "Bob" over the Shepherd, led to Wolfredo revealing who he was and sheepnapping Braveheart. Betsy and Bonita then led the campers on a mission to save Braveheart by finding the "Key of Righteousness".

After their exciting experiences, the sheep realized that by listening to the Shepherd's voice and trusting Him, they do not need to be afraid of Wolfredo.

This applies to each of us. We need to always be listening to and following the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus. "BEEP! BEEP! I'M A SHEEP!"
- Eric



↑ Sheep Pictured Left to Right: Bonita, Betsy, Braveheart, Bob/Wolfredo

The Bridge Discipleship Program

Summer camp often brings an upswing in the spiritual lives of staff. The immersion into the Bible along with interaction with fellow believers has much to do with that. The purpose of The Bridge is to do the same - provide the Bible-immersion and fellow believers - only between summers. How is The Bridge going to do that? Through weekly assigned Bible readings and questions, through monthly Bible teachings, and through mentorship.

For the initial year for The Bridge, eleven participants signed on! That is exciting! It's exciting to me that these eleven young people desire to learn and grow in the Lord. So exciting! Our first meeting involved parents, mentors and, of course, Bridge participants. Yummy-in-my-tummy food followed by a few get-to-know-ya games started the evening. Then, singing and a special word to mentors and parents in particular with a look at II Timothy 1 and the sharing of faith from generation to

generation. Prayer rounded out the night with parents and mentors surrounding and praying for their teen as well as all of us praying together. The Lord answered my driving-to-camp request that we would leave lifted up and excited about the journey ahead of us--.

Food (still yummy in my tummy), games, and singing were included in our first evening of biblical teaching. An auction using fake money (my version of Isaiah 55's buying for free, without money) led to a deeper look at our salvation. Have you taken a deeper look at your salvation recently? - Julie Brookens (aka Bonita), Bridge Coordinator



Upcoming Support Opportunities

Chicken & Seafood Supper

Saturday, October 28
3:30-5:30 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 4
8 am - 4 pm

Lunch is provided.

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

Membership Banquet

Saturday, November 4
Meal starts at 6:30 pm

Come to our Membership Banquet and see how God has been using your money through the camp to change lives.

Board of Directors

Jonathan Rotz (24)
President
Charles Dean (26)
Vice President
Stephanie Smith (25)
Secretary
Chad Wadel (23)
Treasurer

Evan Dean (23)
Royce Eby (26)
Peter Frey (25)
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

AJ Eshleman
Program Assistant

Amy Frey
Food Service Director

Darlene Shaffer
Housekeeping

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

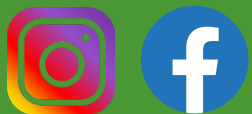
Editors: Eric Roth & AJ Eshleman





5357 Little Cove Rd
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Follow us on
Facebook and
Instagram to keep
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

Ham & Seafood Supper
October 28
Membership Banquet
November 4

Fall Work Day
November 4
Hobby Retreat
December 1-3

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.

Change Service
Requested

NONPROFIT
ORG
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Open Rental Dates

Weekdays Available (call for open dates)

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

For more information visit: www.covevalleycamp.com.

Praises:

- * 438 total camper registrations.
- * The 167 Campers that made a commitment for Christ this summer.
- * 25 campers made a 1st time commitment
- * The many Summer Staff that served God with their whole heart at camp this summer.

Needs/Wish List:

- * New Canoes
- * Cornhole Boards
- * Fishing rods
- * Pool Noodles
- * Insta360 One RS
- * New Dodgeballs – Contact Eric for specific details.
- * 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 Winter Retreats.
- * God's provision through the Chicken & Shrimp Supper and Membership Banquet
- * Wisdom & Discernment for the Board as they lead