



COVE VALLEY CAMP

News

Spring 2025 Volume 21 Issue 1

www.covevalleycamp.com

2025 Winter Retreats

This winter we were blessed with snow for three of our retreats! We had so much fun sledding, playing games, and learning more about God. Our speakers (Nate Marshall, Jason Wenger, Julie Brookens, and Erin Martin) taught us about how to pursue "RiFaLoPe" and flee evil – see 2 Timothy 2:22. Thanks to all of the staff that volunteered their weekends to make the retreats happen! It wouldn't have been possible without your help!



"This year I went to the Senior High Winter Retreat for Cove Valley. Going into the retreat, I felt so far away from God, and I could not understand why. I was reading the Bible and praying everyday, but I still felt disconnected. At the retreat, almost every message was focused on your heart. This gave me the realization that my heart was not in the right place. So, I decided to re-dedicate my life to Jesus. Ever since then I have felt at peace, my prayers have become more genuine, and I have grown closer to God." ~Rae'na DiEugenio

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We have an urgent
need for a Male
APD, Senior
Summer Staff,
ages 18+, and
Lifeguards!
More info inside
this issue.

Fan into Flame The Gift of God

When I think of camp, the first thing that I think about is sitting around a campfire. You can't have camp without a campfire. It is essential for chapels, plus cooking s'mores and other delicious food.

My Top 3 Cove Valley campfire essentials:

1. Sticky Fingers - It doesn't matter if it's my kids or campers, someone ends up with sticky fingers and a sticky face. This usually comes from the 4th s'more that they've made and shoved into their mouth in 5 minutes. William, my 11-year-old son, is a master at burning his marshmallows. His s'more strategy is focused completely on speed and quantity.
2. Singing - Most weeks of camp end with a chapel service around a campfire at the Meadow or Streamside. These end-of-week chapels are normally filled with the most raucous and excited singing, as everyone has become comfortable and are enjoying their last night together.
3. God moving - It is amazing how God moves in the hearts of the campers and staff at the campfire chapels. I love seeing cabins huddled together around the campfire as they share struggles and pray for each other.

In 2 Timothy, Paul talks about a different type of fire. He reminds us to "Fan into flame the gift of God". God has given each of us gifts, but it is up to us to use them. It would be very easy for me to not use the gifts that God has given me and coast through life, but by fanning the flame, I am actively engaging with what God is doing in my life and in the lives of those around me. His Spirit at work in me will give me a "spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline".

This summer we will be learning together what it means to live our life "on fire" for God. What will our lives look like if we are actively engaged with what God is doing around us? As we fan the flame, the light and warmth of Christ's love is shared with those around us. My prayer for everyone that comes to camp this summer is that they will be able to "Fan into flame the gift of God" and shine bright in a world that is full of darkness. - Eric



2025 Summer Camps

Eagles (grades 9-11) - June 8-13

Goldfinches Daycamp (grades Pre K-2)
- June 16-18

Jenny Wrens (grades K-3) - June 18-20

Cricketeers (grades 4-5) - June 22-27

Blue Jays (grades 7-8) - June 29-July 4

Cardinals (grades 5-6) - July 6-11

Hummingbirds (grades 3-4) - July 13-17

Night Owls (grades 10-12) - July 21-24

Wilderness Hawks

Osprey (grades 8-9) - June 15-20

Red Tails (grades 6-7) - June 22-27



"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." - 2 Timothy 1:6-7

You can now register online at: www.covevalleycamp.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Fun Fest

May 18

Golden Age

Retreat

June 2-6

Hobby Retreat II

For Parents of
Goldfinches Day
Campers

June 16-18

Family Camp

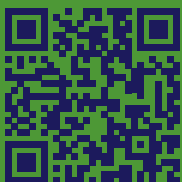
July 18-20

Summer Camps

June 8 - July 24

**Save \$ on
summer camp if
you pay in full
by May 18th!**

Scan to Register:



Summer Staff Needed!

Do you or someone you know want to make an impact for God's Kingdom, right here in Franklin County, PA? We are hiring for all Senior Summer Staff positions. For more info and to apply, please visit the "Employment" page on our website: www.covevalleycamp.com.

Specific areas of need

- Lifeguards
- Male and Female Senior Counselors (18+)
- Male Assistant Program Director



Scan to Apply:



Youth Work Weekend

This year's work day was rainy in the morning and sunny in the afternoon, but our volunteers showed great dedication by working hard through all kinds of weather. We were able to complete many of our projects thanks to those who came. We had over 70 volunteers serving on Saturday!

The youth that participated in the evening activities were challenged by our Chapel speakers, Jesse Dunlap and Julie Brookens. Thank you to everyone who attended the Youth Work Weekend and volunteered during our Spring Work Day!

Completed Workday Projects:

- Adding & leveling mulch on the playground areas
- Clearing & chipping branches in the meadow
- Cleaning up debris around Vesper Hall
- Cutting & clearing downed trees at the Streamside Chapel
- Building changing rooms at pool
- Cleaning insects out of light fixtures
- Repairing Gaga Pit's drain
- And much more!



Chicken BBQ

\$6,279.33 Raised – Most ever raised at the spring meal
299 people served – highest since 2021





**COVE
VALLEY
CAMP**

*All activities
are free!*

FAMILY FUN FEST

May 18 - 3-6pm

Door Prizes!

- ACE Hardware of Mercersburg - \$25
- Compadres Gift Certificate - \$35
- The Cone Zone Gift Card - \$40
- Lakemont Park Mini Golf Passes - 4
- Lizzy's Gift Cards - \$25 x 2
- Mamma's Pizza of Mercersburg - \$25
- Milky Way Gift Card - \$25 x 2
- Tractor Supply Gift Basket
- Wild Annie's Gift Card - \$25



Meet emergency personnel from M.M.P.W. Fire Department and check out a fire truck. You won't want to miss the grand finale of the day with a Drafting Demonstration at **5:45 pm** at the lake!

Fishing Derby



- 3-5 pm - Person with the largest fish wins a **Fishing Rod** donated by **Keystone Outdoors**.
- Please bring your own fishing gear and bait.
- Open Catch and Release fishing for everyone.

Activities For All!



Join us for a day of Family Fun at Camp!

Activities Include:

- Axe Throwing
- Barrel Rides
- Bounce House
- Camp games
- Cooking S'mores
- Crafts
- Face Painting
- Hay Ride
- Nature Activity
- Petting Zoo
- & More



Picnic Meal! (4-6 pm)



On a donation basis, as long as supplies last. Menu: hamburgers, hot-dogs, chips, applesauce, cookies, and more.

Pay in Full for Summer Camp to receive the discounted rate!

Benefit Auction Report

Benefit Auction – Wonderful Blessings!

Working with the Benefit Auction for so many years has been hard work, but a joy. So much goes into it and so many people make it a success. Everyone is needed. The Lord has blessed the auction more than could ever be imagined. As businesses and individuals donate, I get to know the stories behind some of the items. As the auction progresses, those bidding on the items don't know the backstory and how much it adds to the value of the item. I want to tell them the story about each item. It is amazing what God lays on the hearts of the donors.

An antique car carrier, handcrafted turtles, bowls and lamps, hand painted scenes of camp, new Milwaukee and Stihl tools, freshly made pies and stickie buns mean so much because of the love that accompanies them as they go up for sale. Even used items that were donated with the hope that the camp would gain more from the proceeds than they will.

I have a great appreciation for the donors as they share a part of themselves to further the ministry of the camp.

Then there are the buyers. Before the auction, God knows who is going to get what and how their donation will help more children know the Truth of God's Word. Some come to get a good deal – hopefully those days are over at our auction. "It's for the children!" says Shawn, as he gets \$20 more for an item. At this last auction the item that brought in the most was a last-minute item.

We want to thank those who donated and those that bid on items to make this last auction the best one ever. The booklet ads, online, silent and live auction brought in \$27,880.81. Adding the food stand increases the amount to \$30,624.99. After expenses \$28,398.73 went toward furthering the ministry of the camp by spreading the truth of God's Word. – Allen

2025 Membership

Jr Members

Braden Lehman
Dakota Vaughn

Single Memberships

Darwin & Martha Bender
Wendy Bollinger
Michael Brand
Richard Crider
Evan Dean
Eugene & Fern Diller
Gary & Patti Eby
Royce & Christa Eby
Caden Eby
Chris & Deloris Elliott
Allen & Sarah Eshleman
Vernon & Luanne Horst
John & Linda Horst
Brent & Mary Horst
Dustin & Janelle Horst
John D. Lehman
Larry & Helen Lehman
Eric & April Lehman
Delton & Charity Lehman
Deb Martin
Mary Lois Martin
Robert & Beverly Martin
Rodney Martin
Glenda Martin
Chester & Jane Martin
Mary L Martin
Margaret Martin

Erin Martin
Jason & Amanda Myers
Jessica Picone
Dave Rittger
Eric & Valerie Roth
Jerry & Anna Roth
Frank & Tina Scheib
Darlene Shaffer
Esther Showalter
Randy & Kristin Showalter
Carolyn Showalter
Joel & Kelley Shradley
Ben & Stephanie Skroban
Sam & Pat Sollenberger
Seth Sollenberger
Darrel & Penny Strite
Britt & Emily Utermohlen

Joint Memberships

David & Sarah Arthur
Curtis & Linda Berry
Jeff & Ann Burt
Adam & Anita Chupp
Paul & Ronda Clemmer
Dale & Ethel Clugston
Ethan & Darcie Crider
Charles & Alleene Dean
Ron & Ruby Denlinger
Dwayne & Brenda Eby
Dean & Twila Eshleman
Gary & Cheryl Frey

Paul & Amy Frey
Peter & Angie Frey
Paul & Faye Ann Goliwas
Mark & Jennifer Hanson
Dale & Wanda Horst
Devin & Wanette Horst
Chester & Helen Horst
Jason & Mindy Horst
Sanjeev & Rebekah Kuriakose
Joel & Mary Kyler
Ralph & Joanna Lehman
Gerald & Joyce Lehman
Hans & Jessica Lehman
Duane & Kristen Lehman
Delmar & Karen Martin
Larry & Diane Martin
Stephen & Lucille Martin
Royce & Cheryl Martin
Chevy & Hannah Martin
Roger & Jorja Price
Phil & Pam Risser
Jonathan & Alecia Rotz
Carl & Sue Ann Sarvis
Eugene & Deb Sarvis
Linden & Ruth Showalter
Kenneth & Pam Singhas
Scott & Shannon Sollenberger
Caleb & Katelynn Sollenberger
Troy & Niki Stevens
Dan & Audrey Swartzentruber
Ray & Wilma Wadel
Chad & Lisa Wadel
Nelson & Wendy Witmer

Board of Directors

Jonathan Rotz (28)
President
Charles Dean (26)
Vice President
Stephanie Smith (25)
Secretary
Chad Wadel (27)
Treasurer

David Cook (27)
Evan Dean (27)
Royce Eby (26)
Peter Frey (25)
Devin Horst (28)
Delton Lehman (28)
Hans Lehman (25)
Scott Sollenberger (26)

Full Time Staff

Allen Eshleman
Camp Director

Paul Frey
Maintenance Director

Eric Roth
Program Director

Part Time Staff

Sarah Eshleman
Food Service Assistant

Amy Frey
Food Service Director

Josh Frey
Campground Host

Lynn Hanson
Program Assistant

Darlene Shaffer
Housekeeping

Ben Skroban
Maintenance Assistant

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

Editors: Eric Roth &
Lynn Hanson





5357 Little Cove Rd
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

Family Fun Fest
May 18
Golden Age Retreat
June 2-6

Summer Camps
June 8 - July 24
Family Camp
July 18-20

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.

Address Service
Requested

NONPROFIT
ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mercersburg, PA
Permit No. 15

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:

- * Safety for the work day volunteers
- * God's Provision through the Benefit Auction, Chicken BBQ, and many generous donors
- * Many volunteers that help with projects around the camp
- * The many Summer Staff that applied and have been hired

Needs/Wish List:

- * Lifeguard
- * Male Assistant Program Director
- * Male and Female Senior Counselors
- * Pool Noodles
- * A New Foosball Table
- * Hammocks

Prayer Requests:

- * Pray that God would lead the needed staff to camp (Lifeguard, Sr. Counselors, Male APD)
- * God's Wisdom and Direction for the leaders during Summer Camp
- * For lives to be impacted for Christ at our Summer Camps, Family Camp, and Golden Age Retreat
- * Wisdom & Discernment for the Board as they lead