



COVE VALLEY CAMP

News

Fall 2025 Volume 21 Issue 2

www.covevalleycamp.com

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Golden Age Retreat

June 2-6, 2025 was our Golden Age Retreat at Cove Valley Camp. 42 of us were registered and we had a wonderful time together. Our speaker for the week was Roger Myers who brought inspiring messages from the Word of God and the hymnbook. We studied a number of hymns in depth and were inspired how they connected us to Jesus Christ.

Our auction brought in \$872, which was donated to Cove Valley for the scholarship fund. We enjoyed comfort knotting, jigsaw puzzles, rocking chairs, many special conversations and encounters with God. At 7 am each morning many of us joined the bird/nature walk with Larry Lehman and Paul Clemmer. We enjoyed a harp concert by Lauren Swain from Needmore, PA. We learned how to do string art from Krista Dunlap. Our shuffleboard tournament was a big hit and provided some fun competition with Roger and Jay winning the tournament!

We were blessed to have several new people, some of whom camped at the new campground at Moss Spring. Mark your calendars for June 8-12, 2026.

- Jerry and Anna Roth, Committee Members



Family Camp

Our family had a wonderful time at family camp this year. We really enjoyed all of the activities that we were able to choose from. Cove Valley gifted us a weekend where we were able to unplug and spend some much-needed time together as a family. Life is so busy and it is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day activities. We felt refreshed and encouraged leaving family camp. We cannot wait for next year!

- Kari Turri (pictured below with family, 2nd from right)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Adult Retreat

October 17-19

Chicken & Seafood Supper

FRIDAY, October 24

Fall Work Day

November 1

Membership Banquet

November 1, 6:30 pm

Hobby Retreat

December 5-7

Sr. High Retreat

Grades 9-12

January 9-11

Jr. High Retreat

Grades 6-8

January 16-18

Elementary Retreat

Grades 3-5

January 23-25

Primary Day Retreat

Grades K-2

February 7

Benefit Auction

February 20

Operation Cooperation

Jr. Staff Applicants

Ages 15-17

March 13-15

"That's FIRE! I'm a FAN! 2 Timothy 1:6-7!" These are phrases that you would frequently hear this summer at camp. Our theme verse calls us to "Fan into Flame the Gift of God." We related as many activities as possible to this theme. If you won the daily cabin clean-up, your cabin received a fan for your table. We had a prize necklace made out of fan blades.

We also handed out the daily, "I'm a Fan!" award before almost every meal. After receiving the award, you would be serenaded with a once in a lifetime rendition of an "I'm a Fan" song. It could be "Taps", "Jingle Bells", or many other amazing song options. We also had lots of other fire-related games.

Here are some things from this summer that were FIRE! It was FIRE to watch God provide the needed staff. He always provides, but the toughest part is that it isn't in my timing. There were many weeks that I was short a Nurse, but God provided at the last possible minute. Thank you to the many Nurses that jumped in to serve!! Some other ways that God provided was with lifeguards. Often, I am struggling to find one, but this year, God provided two and a couple to be back-ups. I'm very thankful for the team of staff that I was able to serve alongside of this summer.



It was FIRE to get the chance to play two roles of a lifetime, Swiper and Barry. One is a famous fox and the other is a made-up troll. I loved creating the weekly antics with Brittany and Julie. Our initial goal was to not do the exact same scene twice, so that the staff who are here all summer would experience something new, but there were some favorite episodes that ended up being repeated. Often

Boots would lose her temper with Barry and/or make bad decisions. This would end up with food or water flying through the dining hall and screams of terror were mixed with laughter, because you never knew where the food or water would end up. This was a fun way to incorporate the theme verses, 2 Timothy 1:6-7 into each day. Boots, Barry, Swiper, or even Dora took turns learning valuable lessons from God's Word. (page 6)

The most FIRE thing was watching God at work in the staff and campers' lives. We had 10 First Time Commitments, 9 Rededications, 90 prayed for assurance of their salvation, and 52 made other specific commitments.

I am always amazed at how God works through Cove Valley Camp! I'm honored to serve alongside the great team here at camp and to be a part of what God is doing for the

last 15 summers! THAT'S FIRE! I'M A FAN!

- Eric Roth (aka Barry/Swiper), Program Director



"I'm a Fan" of these campers! Some of the fan winners from the summer.

Camp Reflections

This summer was my very first time working at Cove Valley. I had been a camper twice before, but I never imagined that God would lead me back as a staff member. Working at a summer camp taught me a lot about myself and about the incredible God we serve.

I praise the Lord for the community at Cove Valley. There were many moments throughout the summer when God brought about meaningful conversations just when I needed them most. Whether it was a kind word of encouragement, a note, a prayer, or a compliment, it felt almost too perfect how God used His people to uplift me at just the right time. Isn't that just like God?

This wasn't just a personal experience—it was something I saw happening all around me throughout the summer. Whether it was support staff glorifying

God through songs around the campfire, or counselors taking time to listen to campers and share the hope of Jesus, it was deeply moving to witness God at work.

The community at Cove Valley reminded me how important Christian fellowship is. Surrounding yourself with like-minded believers can truly build you up. I'm so thankful that Cove Valley provided a Christ-centered environment where I could grow in my faith and experience the joy of a genuine Christian community.

– Brittany Martin (aka Dora),
2025 Assistant Program Director



The Power of a Story – It can be proven that there is power in a story. We realized that repeatedly through staff testimonies. As part of each chapel, a staff member had the privilege to tell their story of God's work in their life. Real. Relatable. God's story and our story in tandem. The power of a story.

How God can use the interests and honed skills of a young boy to impact His kingdom was the story of Nate Saint told by speaker Emily. I think listeners were surprised by Nate's shortened life at the very hands of those he was trying to reach. But after his death, forgiveness over fear led to the salvation of people in that very tribe. Lessons from the power of a story.

Dora the Explorer came alive this summer with a cast of Dora, Boots, Barry and Swiper. Brittany was the perfect Dora while Eric played Barry and Swiper

with pizzazz and humor! Then there was me as Boots (a monkey dressed in a sloth costume), Dora's sidekick. Dora had her work cut out for her because...well...Boots often went off. Barry and Boots had issues whether at Barry's Bakery, Burgers, Burritos, Bowties, or Zoo. Wrong choices again and again meant Dora had to use II Timothy 1:6-7 to correct and redirect. The show was a reminder to apply God's Word to life and live with a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. Oh, how I need them. All. Thanks, Dora for the lessons. The power of a story. (Check out page 6 for Dora pics!)

– Julie Brookens (aka Boots), Bridge Coordinator



Nacho Cheese is FIRE!



At the end of each week, the cabin that scored the most points by memorizing verses and winning games received a BIG prize. What would be a great prize that is related to FIRE? Cover the Program Staff with Nacho Cheese of course!!

2025 Summer Camp Staff

A/V Techs

Genevieve Barthlow
Gabriella Burns
Sophia Denlinger
Rae'na Dieugenio
Carrie Fortney
Kara Hanson
Asher Lehman
Samuel Roth
Taylor Wetzel
Laura Whitlock

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

Jr. Staff (Counselors/

Kitchen Aides)

Allison Besore
Lydia Book
Kelsi Chilcote
Adelaide Dietrich
Josie Dulebohn
Asher Dunlap

Elijah Frey
Malachi Krawczak
Rachel Lehman
Lily Martin



Rubi Reyes
Cohen Socks
Kevin Sheeler*

*"Three of my campers
accepted Jesus!"*

Nurses

Christine Bowman
Heather Gilbert
Kristen Lehman
Janel Long*
Kelly Shekey
Stephanie Smith

Ethan Crider*
Charles Dean*
Lilly Deviolet*
Malachi Dunlap*
Evelyn Ebersole
Bella Eby
Caden Eby*
Zach Fields*
Ty Grove*
Chord Kipe
Talya Kuriakose
Braden Lehman
Connor Martin*
Matt Morgan*
Kate Morris
Elise Reed
Evelyn Schmoyer



Bridge Coordinator/Crafts

Julie Brookens

Cooks

Norma Barnes
Adeline Bowman
Alleene Dean
Deloris Elliott
Grace Elliot



Rinnah Dunlap
Rhiannon Gaskill
Brooklynn Kuhns
Colson Lehman
Quinn Little
Carson Morgan
Olivia Murphy
McKenna Seylar
Chloe Sollenberger
Joshua Sollenberger
Estella Turri
Dylan Varner
Aubrey Wilhide

Assistant Program Director

Brittany Martin



Morgan Stevenson
Julianna Subirias
Moses Vidal
Ethan Ward

Trading Post Manager

Valerie Roth

*"God gave me courage
to come out of my
comfort zone."*

Speakers

Elizabeth Barthlow
Brandon Hill
Nanette Lackey*
Brooke Lehman
Delton Lehman
Paul Lundy
Roger Myers
Fred Skroban*
Emily Utermoehlen
Dan Weaver

Wilderness Hawks

Staff

Ben Skroban (leader)
Stephanie Skroban (mom)



*"God sustained me
and moved in the
campers' lives."*

Sr. Counselors

Lauren Bowman
Levi Bowman*

Kitchen Hostesses

Alivia Landis
Yakaira Priest

Lifeguard

Jayden Whitaker

*"God helped the staff work
really well together, and do
it for His glory!"*

Maintenance Helpers

Josiah Ebersole
Gary Frey*

Elective Leaders

Justin Martin*
Ethan Sollenberger*
Kristen Varner



*** = Volunteers**

*"I saw Him take the 'scariest' kids (behavior-wise) and turn them into a kid who was rededicating his life to Christ.
The Holy Spirit will work!"*

2025 Summer Camp



"I accepted
Jesus into my
heart!"



"We have power through
Jesus. Even though we're
small, we can still be used
by Jesus."



"We were
brought closer
to God by being
surrounded by
other Christians."



"God changed
my life."



"I was reassured
in my faith."



"God changed
my perspective on
His power to help
me trust Him more."

Wilderness Hawks



This year at Wilderness Hawks I saw God working for the benefit of the campers. We had a thunderstorm roll in while at the pool. As we waited it out under cover of the Pine Room the campers played games and the staff watched the weather. The storm got progressively worse, dumping rain in sheets. I stood at the door and imagined all the tents filling with water, rain flies coming down and sleeping pads floating away. I stood and prayed by the door "God please let it not be that bad". We came up with backup plans for moving everyone out of the campsite and as the rain slowed the staff and I went

to investigate the damage. Miraculously only 2 tents were soaked. The rest of the tents had little to no water in them. With a few towels and one or two new sleeping bags the campers were ready to bed down, maybe a little damp but not soaked. We ended up moving one clan. I couldn't believe that it wasn't much worse. I was reminded that God cares about the little issues as well as the big, he had it under control even as I stressed over it.

– Ben Skroban, Wilderness Hawks Leader

Dora and Friends



For more info on Dora & Friends, please read the articles on pages 2 & 3.

The Bridge

We are looking forward to a third season of The Bridge program. The Bridge is for teens who will be ages 14-17 at the start of the 2026 Summer Camps.

One of the reasons for the Bridge Program is to be a "spiritual bridge" between the summers that will help fan the flames of the campers' and staff members' faith.

The purpose of The Bridge is to disciple teens with the desire that they become fully-devoted followers of Christ all the days of their lives. It can be a tool to help them see a clear path, their next steps, to get from here to there. It will be an opportunity for godly guidance and discipleship at a time when their faith is becoming their own. It is a way to track their spiritual growth while acting as a bridge for summer-to-summer growth.



The Kick-Off is September 5-6!
Scan the QR Code below for more info or to sign up for The Bridge.



Upcoming Support Opportunities

Chicken & Seafood Supper

FRIDAY, October 24
4-7 pm

Prices are subject to change.

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 1
8 am - 4 pm

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

Membership Banquet

Saturday, November 1
Meal starts at 6:30 pm

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

Opportunities to Give

Would you consider a donation to Cove Valley Camp? We have a variety of ways for you to make a tax-deductible financial gift.

1. Appreciated Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds
2. IRA Charitable Rollover Gift - Starting at 70 1/2, you can send a gift from your IRA without paying income tax on the withdrawal, satisfy your required minimum distribution, and reduce your taxable income.

What better way for your hard-earned donation to be invested! Thank you for considering these options and please share with your friends! Please contact your financial advisor if you have any questions.

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 triannual publication of Cove Valley Christian Youth Camp.

Editors: Lynn Hanson & Eric Roth

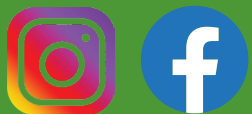


CHRISTIAN CAMP & CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION
MEMBER



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

| | |
|---|---|
| Chicken & Seafood Supper Friday, October 24 | Young Adult Retreat October 17-19 |
| Work Day/Membership Banquet November 1 | Hobby Retreat December 5-7 |

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
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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 99 Campers that made a commitment for Christ this summer
- * 10 campers made a 1st time commitment
- * The many Summer Staff that served God with their whole heart at camp this summer

Needs/Wish List:

- * Solid Cornhole Boards
- * Volunteers to help with projects around camp
- * Air Hockey Table
- * Foosball Table
- * Donations to help 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 & Seafood Supper and Membership Banquet
- * Wisdom & Discernment for the Board as they lead