



COVE VALLEY CAMP

News

Spring 2026 Volume 22 Issue 1

www.covevalleycamp.com

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2026 Winter Retreats

*This year was a typical Pennsylvania winter! You didn't know what to expect! The Sr. High Retreat was spring-like with mud, the Jr. High Retreat ended early because of a massive incoming snowstorm, and the Elementary & Primary Day Retreats were in the single digits with snow. Through it all we had a blast sledding, playing games, and growing in our faith. Our speakers (James Reaves, Julianna Subirias, Keith Probst, and Emily Utermoehlen) challenged us to "Be Strong & Courageous" – see Joshua 1:9. Thanks to all of the staff that volunteered their weekends to make the retreats happen! It wouldn't have been possible without each of you! **BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS!!!***



"This weekend was the first time I dug deeply into Joshua 1:9." – Camper

"I saw God work in the hearts of many campers." – Counselor



Fall 2026

Job Opening for the Program Assistant Position. Contact Eric for more info: program@covevalleycamp.com

Salt & Light

I have always loved taking road trips, but it is hard to top being a dad on a road trip. My favorite moment is when you are driving at night and everyone falls asleep. The laughter and fighting becomes peace and quiet. My boys know that when we get home, they will be carried into the house.

Suddenly, the peacefulness of the drive is shattered by an urgent, "Dad! I gotta go!" Instantly, the stillness of the night vanishes! We are in between rest areas and have 20 miles until the next one. For the remaining minutes, the conversation consists of: "Can you hold it?" "I don't know, maybe." "How much longer?" "I don't think I can hold it!" Then, we see it in the distance...the light from the rest area! We have one mile to go! Relief starts to set in, but as a dad you know that you could still end up being too late. As the light grows brighter, shoes are tossed on and the one that needs to go is told, "Get ready to jump out with me!" We squeal into a parking space and sprint into the rest area with a sigh of relief and a sense of victory.

We exit the restroom, with our mission accomplished. Most parents will know what the next question is: "Dad, can we get an Auntie Anne's pretzel?" The answer is a resounding, "yes". We have defied all odds and completed our harrowing mission successfully. Nothing tastes better than a salty soft pretzel after the last 20 stressful minutes. Success!!

God is calling each of us as Christians to be how that Turnpike Rest Area was for my family and I. We were drawn to the light, knowing that what we needed was there. Our lives also need to be seasoned with salt, just like an Auntie Anne's pretzel.

This summer, we will be challenged to grow in our faith, so that we can be the "Salt of the Earth" and the "Light of the World" for those we meet each day. See you at Summer Camp!! - Eric



UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Fun Fest

May 17

Golden Age

Retreat

June 8-12

Family Camp

July 24-26

Summer Camps

June 14 - July 30

2026 Summer Camps

Eagles (grades 9-11) - June 14-19

Goldfinches Daycamp (grades Pre K-2) - June 22-24

Jenny Wrens (grades K-3) - June 24-26

Cricketeers (grades 4-5) - June 28-July 3

Blue Jays (grades 7-8) - July 5-10

Cardinals (grades 5-6) - July 12-17

Hummingbirds (grades 3-4) - July 19-23

Night Owls (grades 10-12) - July 27-30

Wilderness Hawks:

Ospreys (grades 8-9) - June 21-26

Red Tails (grades 6-7) - June 28-July 3



"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:13-16

Register online at: www.covevalleycamp.com

Save \$ on
summer camp if
you pay in full
by May 17th!

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 currently hiring for 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

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



Scan to Apply:



Youth Work Weekend/Spring Work Day

This year's work day was a mix of rain and sun, but our volunteers showed great dedication by working hard through it all. We were able to complete many of our projects thanks to those who came. We had over 80 volunteers serving on Saturday!

The youth that participated in the evening activities were challenged by our Chapel speaker, James Reaves. Thank you to everyone who attended the Youth Work Weekend and volunteered during our Spring Work Day!



Completed Work Day Projects:

- Wood Shed filled with firewood
- Cleaned up downed wood around camp
- Rockers put out
- Cleaned up Moss Spring area
- Filled Moss spring Wood Shed
- Poles Painted
- Old gaga pit walls disassembled
- Dining Hall deep cleaned
- Cleaned Red Truck's interior
- Flower Beds prepped for summer



Spring Hobby Retreat

The Spring Hobby Retreat was our biggest to date, with 21 ladies bringing their creativity and talents

to Lakeview Motel. One thing I love about the Hobby Retreat is seeing all the ways God has created us with different interests and gifts. This retreat was probably the one that had the most

diversity in hobbies. We had paper & digital scrapbooking, watercolor painting, quilting, rug making, reading, diamond art, photo sorting, decorating bags, and more! There was also plenty of food and fellowship--connecting with old friends and making new ones. If you would like a weekend away to work

on a long forgotten hobby, to start a new project, or just enjoy time with other ladies, please join us December 4-6, 2026. Register early--spots are limited!! ~Valerie: Retreat Hostess





COVE VALLEY CAMP

All activities are free!

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.

FAMILY FUN FEST

May 17 - 3-6pm

Door Prizes!

- ACE Hardware of Mercersburg - \$25
- Andrews Farm Market Gift Baskets
- Compadres Gift Certificate - \$25
- The Cone Zone Gift Card - \$40
- Lizzy's Gift Cards - \$25 x 2
- Mamma's Pizza of Mercersburg - \$25
- Milky Way Gift Cards - \$25 x 2
- Philips' Flower & Gift Shop Gift - \$25
- Tractor Supply Gift Basket
- Wild Annie's Gift Card - \$25

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 Rides
- Nature Activity
- Petting Zoo
- & More



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!



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 & Chicken BBQ



This year's Auction brought in \$24,490.02, with a record 99 buyers and a blessing of 339 items in the online, silent and live auctions. Look for a different, larger venue for the auction next year.



The Chicken BBQ served 425 people and raised \$10,044. Both numbers were record-breaking. God is good!



We are always looking for ways to improve and move forward with the ministry. We have started making plans for playground renovation and improving and expanding the paved areas at the camp to better handle the traffic going in and out of camp. If you would like to contribute to these projects, you may do so in a variety of ways. Stocks, Bonds, Donor Advised Funds, and QCD's are all ways you can give to the camp. Talk to your financial advisor or Allen at camp.

2026 Membership

Jr Members

Elijah Frey
Josiah Frey
Carson Morgan
Dakota Vaughn

Members

Wendy Bollinger
Evan Dean
Marlin & Doris Ebersole
Gary & Patti Eby
Don & Sandy Eby
Caden Eby
Royce & Christa Eby
Chris & Deloris Elliott
Allen & Sarah Eshleman
Vernon & Luanne Horst
Gerald & Beverly Lehman
Larry & Helen Lehman
Braden Lehman
Caleb Lehman
Natalie Lehman
Deb Martin
Mary Lois Martin
Glenda Martin
Chester & Jane Martin
Margaret Martin
Erin Martin
Jessica Picone
Dave Rittger
Eric & Valerie Roth
Jerry & Anna Roth

Frank & Tina Scheib

Darlene Shaffer
Esther Showalter
Sam & Pat Sollenberger
Darrel & Penny Strite
Britt & Emily Utermoehlen

Joint Members

David & Sarah Arthur
Darwin & Martha Bender
Curtis & Linda Berry
Levi & Lauren Bowman
Michael Brand
Jeff & Ann Burt
Adam & Anita Chupp
Dale & Ethel Clugston
David & Lisa Cook
Ethan & Darcie Crider
Charles & Alleene Dean
Dwayne & Brenda Eby
Paul & Amy Frey
Peter & Angie Frey
Ray & Dottie Geigley
Paul & Faye Ann Goliwas
Clement & Donna Haldeman
Devin & Wanette Horst
John & Linda Horst
Chester & Helen Horst
Brent & Mary Horst
Jason & Mindy Horst
Alan & Margaret Jaymes
Ray & Sharon Kuhns

Sanjeev & Rebekah Kuriakose

Joel & Mary Kyler
Ralph & Joanna Lehman
Gerald & Joyce Lehman
Hans & Jessica Lehman
Anthony & Anita Lehman
Delmar & Karen Martin
Larry & Diane Martin
Stephen & Lucille Martin
Connor & Cheyenne Martin
Chevy & Hannah Martin
Matt & Kelly Morgan
Roger & Lou Ann Myers
Lynn & Angie Petersheim
Phil & Pam Risser
Jonathan & Alecia Rotz
Carl & Sue Ann Sarvis
Eugene & Deb Sarvis
Linden & Ruth Showalter
Kenneth & Pam Singhas
Job & Stephanie Smith
Scott & Shannon Sollenberger
Caleb Sollenberger
Dan & Audrey Swartzentruber
Ray & Wilma Wadel
Chad & Lisa Wadel

We would love to welcome you as an association member. Membership means so much to the camp. Looking for 13 more members.

Board of Directors

Jonathan Rotz (28)
President
Charles Dean (26)
Vice President
Stephanie Smith (29)
Secretary
Chad Wadel (27)
Treasurer

David Cook (27)
Evan Dean (27)
Royce Eby (26)
Peter Frey (29)
Devin Horst (28)
Delton Lehman (28)
Hans Lehman (29)
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



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

Family Fun Fest
May 17
Golden Age Retreat
June 8-12

Summer Camps
June 14 - July 30
Family Camp
July 24-26

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
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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:

- * Male Assistant Program Director
- * Male and Female Senior Counselors
- * Volunteer to help with the mowing team
- * A New Foosball Table
- * Funds for the upcoming Playground and Pavement Improvements

Prayer Requests:

- * Pray that God would lead needed staff to camp (Male APD/Sr. Counselors)
- * 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