

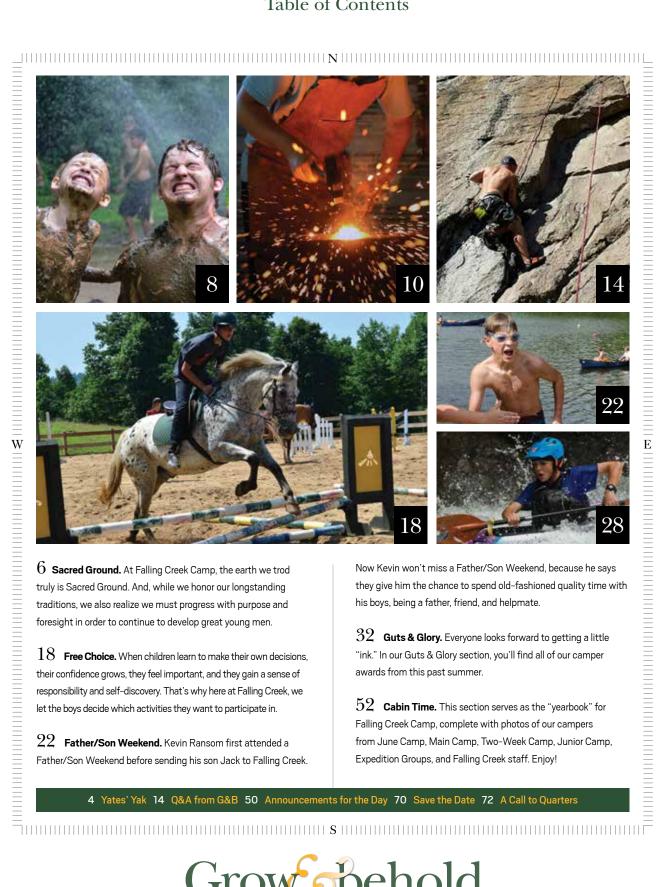
FALLING CREEK CAMP

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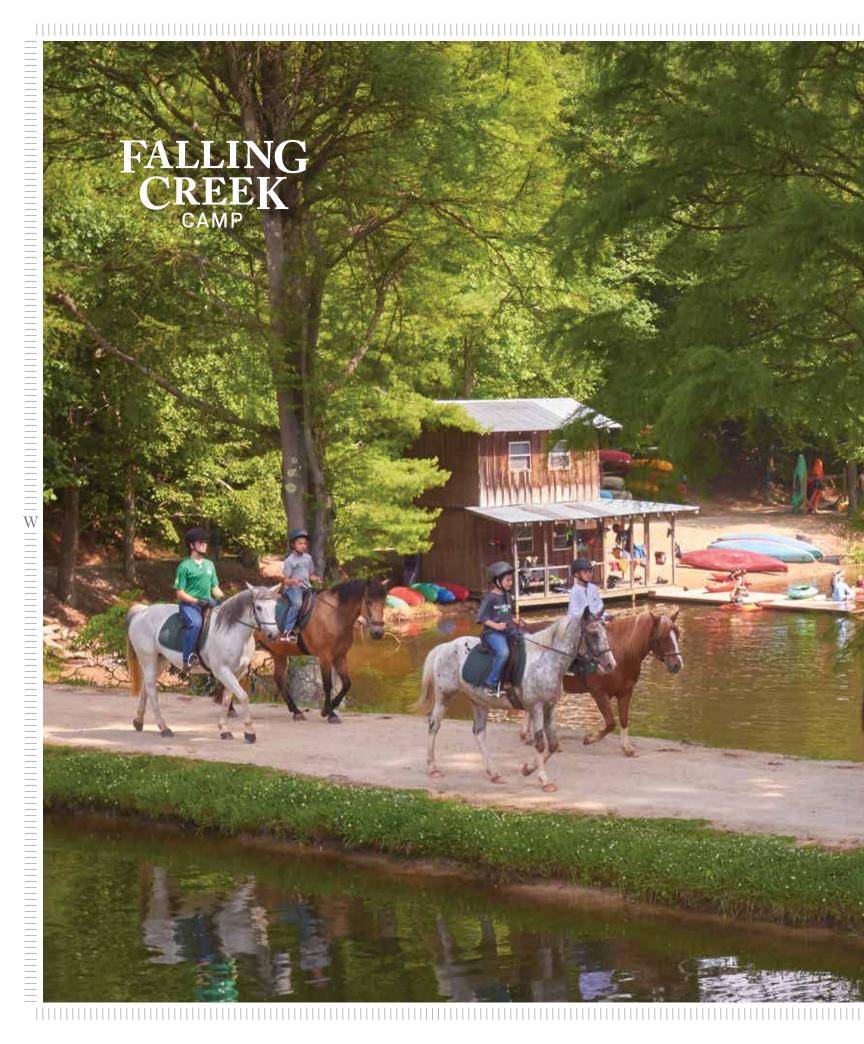
how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!

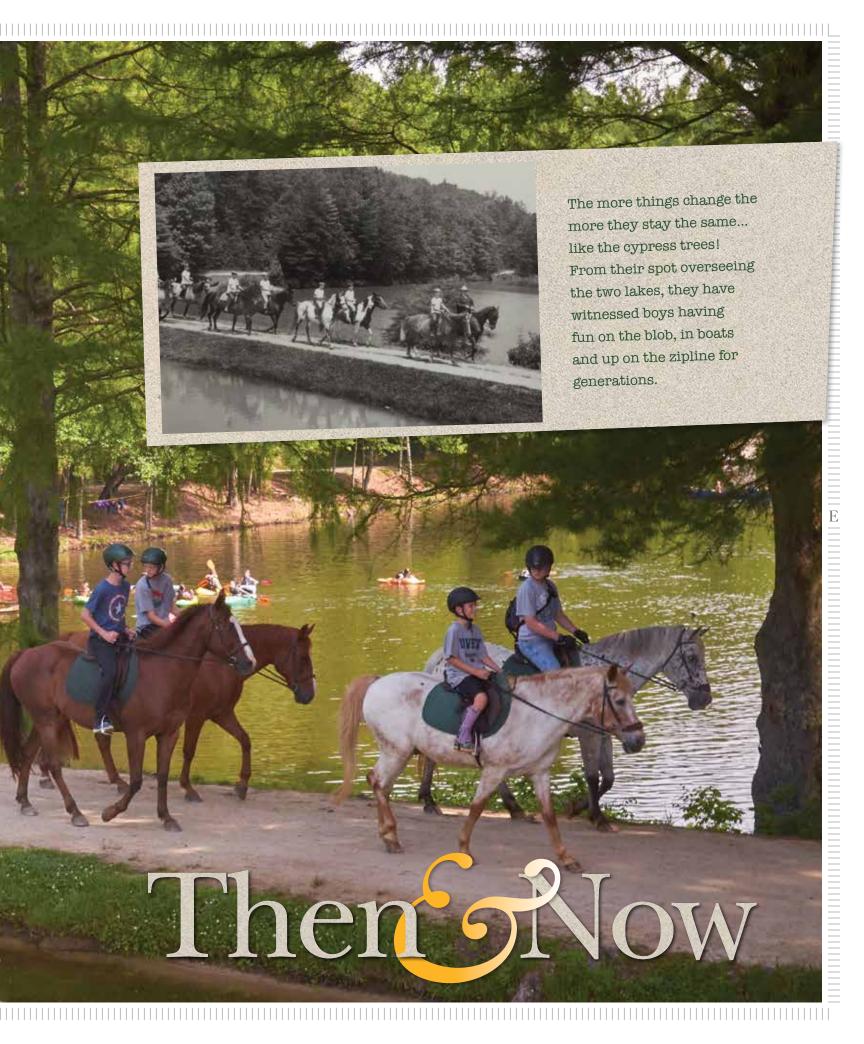
—Psalm 133:1

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Welcome to the first issue of Grow & Behold



c. '69

Falling Creek Camp (FCC) was founded in 1969 by Jim Miller III as an independent Christian camp for boys and the brother camp of Camp Greystone. Jim purchased the land in 1968, and opened for the first season the following summer with 110 boys for one 7-week session.

The name for our new magazine stems from the old expression, "Lo and Behold!" an exclamation beckoning others to "Look and see!" It was used to announce things considered vitally important, even startling — and that meaning holds true today as we invite readers to *look and see* what is new, innovative, exciting, and even life-changing here at Falling Creek Camp.

In switching the word "Lo" to "Grow," the name also reflects our mission to provide a program, setting, and leadership where boys have the maximum opportunity for *personal growth* and fun as they develop an understanding of their relationship with nature, their fellow man, and God.

To that end, the word "Behold" tells a story of its own, serving as a subtle reminder of our theme verse from the book of Psalms: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!"

I like maps — tactile instructions that, when folded properly, make that familiar rectangle that fits perfectly in your back pocket, ready for an expedition. I guess you could say I'm a geek when it comes to maps, and won't let go of my trusty well-worn atlas. I tried to share my affinity for maps and their benefits to our children by introducing them to geocaching. With my compass and map, we hit the trail. After many years, we still enjoy these fun treasure hunts in the woods, but now, with an "app for that," our 5-year-old can handle the navigation and I don't have to wrestle a map back down to pocket-size.

This inaugural issue of **Grow & Behold** magazine is dedicated to William "Scotty" Scott who has demonstrated unselfishness over the years as a counselor and friend to Falling Creek Camp. He carries the true spirit of Falling Creek in his heart.

Outdoors, a map can be the solution to the puzzle. Some buddies of mine and I enjoy adventure races. You have to plot your way from beginning to end and pick up checkpoints at different locations. This detailed representation of the area with lines, direction, and names has all the answers, if you don't mind bushwhacking occasionally to find your way. Maps also tell a story about a place. Topography lines show peaks and valleys, and how steep they might be if I dare to go that way, as well as offering a hint of how great the reward might be at the top. They show points of interest, paths I could take, creek crossings, and a way around the well-traveled route (did I mention I like bushwhacking?). Maps help you discover new places you've never been and find your way back to familiar places.

It is for reasons such as these that we feel a map is an appropriate symbol of one's time at Falling Creek. Each camper and staff member is given a map their first year. It serves as a reminder of their journey. We encourage seeking Waypoints. In navigation they are a set of coordinates that represent a fixed location, or an objective along a planned course on one's journey. Falling Creek developed its Waypoints tradition so campers and staff will have intentional objectives throughout their journey based on their interests. There are Waypoints for each individual's unique course at Falling Creek. Currently, Waypoint markers can be earned in 28 activities, 4 expeditions, and 23 specialty achievements.

Of course, as with a map, you need to know your starting point and the direction you are headed in. It's no coincidence that Moral Compass is one of the four pillars of the Falling Creek Code (do the right thing, act



Annie using her map and compass skills with Yates during a father/daughter adventure race in 2006.

with integrity, take responsibility for your actions, tell the truth). Falling Creek is a place where young men can be at their best. As life takes twists and turns, any experience takes you from where you are and magnifies your character. You must have your true north clearly in sight. We like to think that Falling Creek helps with that foundation when our boys are back home.

Marisa and I are fortunate to be connected with this place and the people who bring it life for the campers each year. We would not want to be anywhere else. This is our tenth season as owners/directors, and we've just experienced our best summer ever. To partner with parents and help give their boys a strong foundation to become upstanding men is a humbling call and one that we honor and hold in high regard. My own 12 years as a camper, CIT, and staff member at Falling Creek in the 70s and 80s was a life-changing experience that shaped my character, courage, resilience, and view of community. It prepared me for success in college leadership, commercial real estate, as a parent, and now as camp director.

It is with great pride that we present this inaugural edition of *Grow & Behold* magazine, which will replace the camp newsletter, Green & Gold book, and brochures. So now our main two forms of communication will be the magazine and our website

(www.FallingCreek.com), which, if you haven't seen it lately, is beautiful and packed with helpful information. Of course, you can also keep up with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We believe *Grow & Behold* will serve as a unique, timely, and informative reminder — kind of a continuation of camp — throughout the year. It's also a great way to remember and keep in touch with friends from the Falling Creek community.

We're so glad your family has chosen to join us on this exciting journey... no need to unfold your map, just turn the page and enjoy the sights and stories that are... Falling Creek Camp.

Yates Pharr





The Pharr Family: Back: L to R, Annie, Lucy, Mary, Front: L to R, Yates, Danielle, Jasmine, Marisa.

Waypoints Map

Achievements are rewarded with Waypoint Markers at the end of each session and are proudly displayed on a frameworthy map of Falling Creek's campus. New campers and staff receive a map after their first summer.



Fall 2015

Editor:

Creston Mapes

Design:

Steve Parker Design

Editorial Contributors:

Mickey Herman, Catherine Tindall Kendall, and all of us at FCC.

Photographic Contributors:

Ben Burnett, Madi Carter, Honey Davis, Tad Dixon, Thomas Dooley, Brad Fay, Ray "Raybot" Hailey, Jez, Kevin Meechan, Jerry Mucklow, Kevin Pelsinski, Tommy Penick, Nadia Razavi, Maddie Roberts, Carter Tindall, Bri Williams, and other FCC paparazzi.

Cover Photo: Jerry Mucklow

545 SACRED GROUND

On opening and closing days, loyal Falling Creek alumni — returning, sometimes after decades, to drop their sons off at camp — often remark about the relative sameness of life on top of the mountain. "This place hasn't changed a bit," they say. And they're right, in some ways, it hasn't. But they're also mistaken, because in many ways, it has.

"There is a place in North Carolina where my friends and I like to go, and my spirit never leaves there."

—Verse from the FCC version of "Will The Circle Be Unbroken"

W

Certainly, the notion of stability seems incompatible with that of progress. However, after nearly 50 years in operation, Falling Creek continues to demonstrate that what is implausible is not necessarily impossible. For, the camp's continued success is due to its time-tested ability to honor tradition while fending off stagnation, to progress meaningfully, not just for progress' sake.

Founded in 1969, Falling Creek is a relative newcomer to the summer camp capital that is Western North Carolina. As neighboring camps begin to plan for their centennials, Falling Creek is poised to charge into only the second half of its first century. But what Falling Creek lacks in age it more than makes up for with its robust pedigree and storied traditions. While such heritage is varied in source, much can be attributed to Camps Greystone, Sequoyah, and Mondamin, established in 1920, 1924, and 1922, respectively.

Jim Miller, III worked at Camp Sequoyah in 1967, purchased the property for Falling Creek, and opened its gates in the summer of 1969. When Jim established Falling Creek, he borrowed traditions from Camp Greystone, the girls camp his family founded nearly



five decades before. Green and Gold competition, a source of friendly rivalry between cabins, and within activities, is one such tradition. Honor Council, a camper-led leadership development program unique to Main Camp, is another.

Camp Sequoyah, before it closed its gates in 1978, shared with Falling Creek both its traditions and, in some cases, its counselors. When Chuck McGrady, a Sequoyah alumnus and eventual owner-director of Falling Creek, began as a counselor in 1979, he remembered feeling oddly at home. "When I arrived at Falling Creek, it all came together," he says. That feeling was hardly coincidental. Candlelight campfire, a time-honored conclusion to our longer sessions, is a

product of Camp Sequoyah, as is Falling Creek's Native American-themed tribal structure and Indian Lore program. Three times daily, the legacy of Camp Sequoyah lives on when the blessings are sung before each meal at Blake Dining Hall.

Still other traditions central to the contemporary Falling Creek experience harken from Camp Mondamin, another boys' camp situated along the western shores of Lake Summit. From Mondamin comes Morning Assembly, a program following breakfast during which the entire camp community gathers for skits and songs. Falling Creek's paddling program finds inspiration from Camp Mondamin's distinguished whitewater heritage.



The FCC Bell serves as our camp clock, waking us up, shepherding us to activities, calling us to meals, and sending us to rest at the end of another full day. The sound of the bell is one alumnus remember fondly.



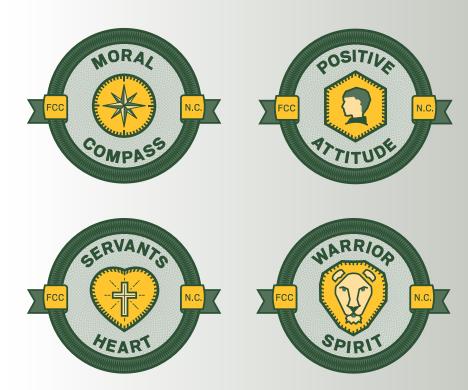
For every borrowed tradition there exists more than enough unique to Falling Creek. Wild, Wild, West and Deep Woods Capture the Flag, two favorite all-camp games played several times each summer, are long-time favorites. A glance at the porch of the Landsports Hut reveals a list of names by year; these are the winners of Falling Creek's Ironman triathlon, held annually during the camp's longest session.

In appreciation of the importance of nurturing free choice and decision-making in the development of young men, Falling Creek stepped outside the box in a big way. To both campers and the casual observer, camp remains free of the distractions technology and social media can bring. Behind the scenes, however, Falling Creek has developed an advanced proprietary attendance, progression, trip planning, and medical tracking system. In a world that is becoming increasingly structured in the neighborhood and schoolyard, the implementation of this tablet-based camper management system allows boys the freedom to choose their own adventures — a hallmark of Falling Creek — while remaining accounted for during the day.

For many Falling Creek alumni, the Candlelight campfire is among their most cherished memories. Here, campers are reminded that a single candle — representative of one's talents and abilities — light the world. Though deference to the sanctity of this ritual remains important, there is value in striving to keep camp both fresh and meaningful. In a nod to both storied tradition and meaningful progress, we have introduced a candle-lit procession at the conclusion of each week's campfire.

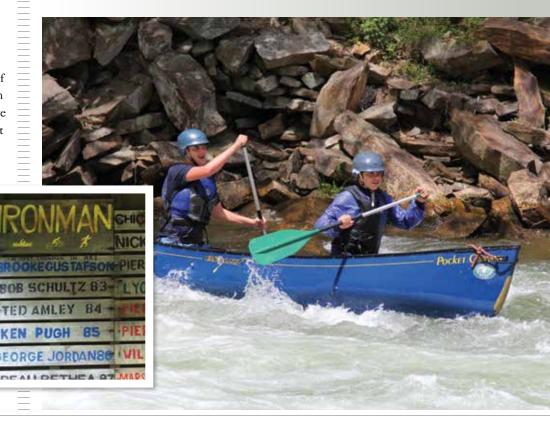
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Adaptation of the Honor Creed into the Falling Creek Code; a creative solution to the maintenance of a balance between autonomy and safety; the inclusion of candlelight in campfire on a weekly basis. These are just three examples of Falling Creek's relentless effort to adapt for an exciting future. There are countless more, many of which are illustrated throughout this publication. Falling Creek's success demonstrates that such progress can coexist with longstanding tradition. And together, they will carry camp into an impactful future with our prime purpose in mind: the development of great young men.



THE CODE

Despite its abundance of well-worn traditions, Falling Creek is hardly resting on its laurels. Recognizing the significance of the values outlined in its longstanding Honor Creed, Falling Creek upholds The Code. A set of four values — Warrior Spirit, Servant's Heart, Positive Attitude, and Moral Compass — the Falling Creek Code is an integral foundation of our community.





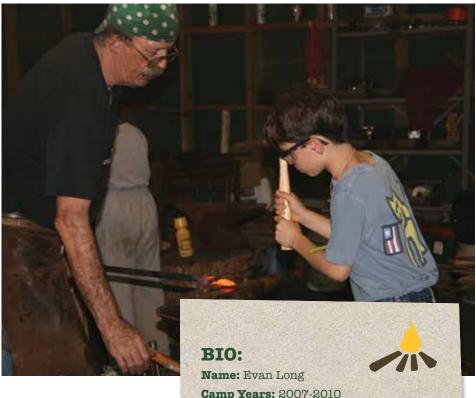
Evan Long

Former Falling Creek camper Evan Long is now studying aeronautics and astronautics at Stanford University (Class of 2018) in Palo Alto, California.

hen Evan was 15 and attending Falling Creek, he became mesmerized with the blacksmithing program and the man who led it, George Matthews. Indeed, Evan was so intrigued and impacted that he later wrote about the experience on college essay questions when applying to Stanford, Princeton, and other elite schools. Evan's essay is part of this story.

Before we share that, a bit more about this young man named Evan Long. Evan attended the prestigious Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts, where he graduated summa cum laude in 2014. While at Groton, he served as president of the Debating Society, prefect of the Jazz Band, head of Groton Christian Fellowship, peer counselor, admissions tour guide, and co-captain of the tennis team.

After his acceptance to Stanford — in part thanks to his



George Matthews mentoring a camper in his pursuit to make an arrowhead.

Camp Years: 2007-2010

Inspiration: George Matthews

Fondest Memory: The time Matt Lamon kept us all up an extra hour in the cabin, gathered around a little flame on the floor, and had us write down our fears and faults, talk about them, and then put them in the flame, because they didn't define us. Watching that little piece of paper with "fear or failure" written on it blacken, curl, and finally disappear was a great moment.

thought-provoking essay on Falling Creek's blacksmithing program — Evan has become deeply involved with the Stanford Student Space Initiative (SSI). SSI is Stanford's largest project-based student group, with a budget of \$550,000, which Evan manages as its CFO. He is also a member of SSI's High-Altitude Balloon Team and was a founding member of the SSI Policy Team.

Evan relishes his work with SSI, which has flown a zero gravity experiment with NASA, inspired 60 teams in 20 countries to launch high-altitude balloons, and certified 25 students for high-powered rocketry. Over the next year, SSI teams will send the first university-built rocket to space, launch two satellites, send a high altitude balloon across the country, develop a space-based optical communications system, and much more.

The reason we wanted to share Evan's college application essay is because it explains why the Falling

Creek experience is about much more than having fun, making lifelong friends, learning new skills, and going on adventures. The fact is, boys apply what they learn at camp in their future lives. What happens at Falling Creek has the potential to impact their entire life's journey. Exciting, isn't it? And just a little bit intimidating, too.

Evan had this to say about the connection between the SSI program he loves so much, and Falling Creek's blacksmithing program. "SSI has become the largest project-based group at Stanford in two years by sticking to two central tenets: accessibility and hands-on work. We offer the chance to get your hands dirty with really cool stuff on the day you walk in, and we teach the skills necessary for a new member to contribute to the team. While I can't claim responsibility for that formula, it's clearly a successful one, and I think it is what defines the blacksmithing program at Falling Creek Camp."



Evan Long in his early years as a blacksmith at Falling Creek.

E



Evan Long's college application essay.

"Fleas of Hades!" bellowed George Matthews, master blacksmith, gesturing at the tiny fireworks spontaneously emerging from his iron bar's lemon-hot tip. We 15-yearold apprentices exchanged sideways glances. Was this watered-down profanity or an anachronistic interjection? Ultimately, it proved to be neither.

Fleas of Hades are burning particles that flit from a superheated bar. According to George, these pyrotechnics indicated that the bar had cooked too long and should cool briefly before being worked. While ancient blacksmiths may have cursed the Fleas as vengeful spirits, I was simply fascinated and baffled.

More mysteries emerged as I labored at the forge. George sternly warned me not to quench — douse with water — higher grades of iron, because, as he gleefully demonstrated, they would become brittle and shatter. I learned to gauge temperature by color of the bar — lemon indicated ideal temperature, while anything hotter spewed Fleas.

This art, blacksmithing, is the manipulation of energy and matter for a functional and beautiful result. George shapes metal with full knowledge of how it will respond to his influence, but his expertise is not only a result of the vast repository of past trial and error, which he also possesses. George is a scientist.

My curiosity piqued by the fleabite scars I had just obtained, I stayed late one day to ask George why the Fleas of Hades phenomenon occurred. He explained that the Fleas were not iron, but carbon: tiny impurities in the iron bar, dissolved during smelting, that strengthen it. At sufficient heat, the iron bar becomes permeable to oxygen's entry by diffusion. Upon contact, the carbon ignites. The expansion of the released carbon dioxide within the metal propels the carbon

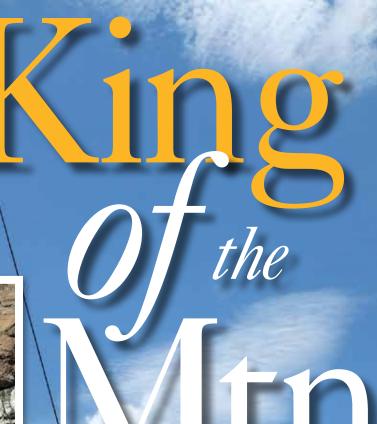
specks like a miniature jet engine. The carbon flies briefly, burning.

George's explanation of a visually dramatic phenomenon on an atomic level galvanized my interest. I returned home overflowing with boyish excitement, having broken through a mental barrier. I saw clearly that an invisible set of rules governed every object in existence. George mastered some of these laws, as has every blacksmith before him, from the first bronze weaponsmith to Henry Bessemer and his steelmaking process, and it gave George the power to mold metal into useful and elegant forms. This epiphany had implications beyond blacksmithing, generating a great enthusiasm for the insights science classes granted into the workings of our world. Sadly, no science lab thrill has ever topped opening a blast gate, feeling the heat soak my skin, and removing the iron to hammer the blade of a tomahawk.

My education has provided me with answers to questions I would once have asked George, but he set me on the path to find them myself. I now know not to quench high-grade iron, because rapid temperature decrease locks the molecules in a brittle crystalline structure. I have learned that iron's emission spectrum governs its color progression, as hotter iron releases higher-energy photons with shorter wavelengths, the change terminating at white when photons of all visible wavelengths are being emitted. Most importantly, George's example taught me that knowledge truly is power. I want to gain the power to design airplanes through aerospace engineering, and if I learn to sculpt an airfoil with half the grace with which George sculpted an iron bar, I will consider my education worthwhile.



SSI is Stanford's largest project-based student group, with a budget of \$550,000, which Evan manages as its CFO.



Falling Creek alumnus Jamie King is Partner and CEO of Camp + King, one of America's hottest advertising and marketing firms. Based in San Francisco, the agency was founded by Jamie and partner Roger Camp in 2011. It works with three of the top 50 advertisers in America:

DISH® Network, Google, and Hershey, among other well-known clients. In 2012, Camp + King was named one of the hottest digital agencies in America, and in 2015 they were named one of Ad Age's Best Small Agencies in America.



Jamie began coming to Falling Creek Camp after attending one of the film nights. The year was 1978. To follow are some of Jamie's memories about his years at Falling Creek



Jamie's mom on the train. That is Libby Hanna (Miller) handing her her train ticket. Libby's grandfather, Dr. Joseph R. Sevier, founded camp Greystone for girls in 1920.

Grow & Behold: Tell us about your family's summer camping experiences. We understand your mom was a Greystone girl?

Jamie King: My Falling Creek experience actually began in 1955 when my mom, Peggy Landis (now King) boarded a train in Cincinnati bound for Camp Greystone in Tuxedo, North Carolina. The camp had two Pullman cars reserved for its campers. The train started in St. Louis, made a stop to pick up the Lexington and Cincinnati campers, and then arrived in Tuxedo the next morning. Libby Hanna, later Libby Miller (wife of Jim Miller, founder of Falling Creek), was my mom's chaperone on that train ride.

I was formally introduced to Falling Creek in the spring of 1979 when I attended a Falling Creek Film Night at the Brown's home in Northfield, Illinois. Donnie Bain was the presenter and it was actually an 8MM film shown on a projector. I began attending Main Camp, then known as 6-week camp, in the summer of 1979.

Grow & Behold: How did your family decide Falling Creek was the camp for you?

Jamie King: My parents always pushed me to seek out experiences beyond my immediate borders and comfort zone. They believed these types of experiences would help shape me into a more well-rounded individual. With my mom having grown up a Greystone girl, she knew Falling Creek would be that kind of place.

Grow & Behold: Where's your hometown? Do you remember your first impression of camp?

Jamie King: I grew up in Evanston, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. I started going to Falling Creek when I was 8 years old, and have vivid memories of my first arrival at camp. I knew no one and much of what I saw and heard seemed foreign to a kid from a northern city. Steve Longenecker was the first person I met and he made quite an impression on me. At the time, he was the director of the climbing program and was a legend in the North Carolina climbing community. That morning Steve was doing a demonstration next to the Morning Watch area, with ropes and equipment that all seemed technical and intimidating to me. However, by 1984 I was named one of the camp's outstanding climbers and was one of only two campers that year to complete the "Bloody Crack" route on Looking Glass Rock. I trace my climbing hobby, something I still do today, to that moment when I first saw Steve at Falling Creek.



Jamie has helped build some of the world's most iconic brands, including Altoids, Starbucks, and Walmart, to name a few. A strategist by trade, Jamie has won six Effie awards for advertising effectiveness, a demonstration of his desire to build his clients' businesses. Jamie completed the Kellogg School of Business Executive Program and the Hyper Island Interactive Advertising Executive Program. In 2009, he was named one of Crain's "40 Under 40."

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1984 Reservation North (now known as Mohawk) Cabin Photo. Jamie is on the far left of the front row. Yates' brother

Grow & Behold: What are your fondest memories of camp?

Jamie King: There are so many fond memories of camp. Bivouacking on Devil's Courthouse Rock, learning how to handle a bow and arrow, and doing a three-day solo in the woods are prominent in my mind — but it is difficult to pinpoint just one. I think what I loved most about camp was what I refer to as the "structured boyhood" that camp enabled. Run, jump, swim, paddle, shoot, climb, craft, build, throw, and ride, while learning to be a teammate, gentleman, brother, naturalist, and leader. That is Falling Creek to me.

Grow & Behold: Give us a rundown of how many summers you attended, which sessions you attended, and some of your family camp history.

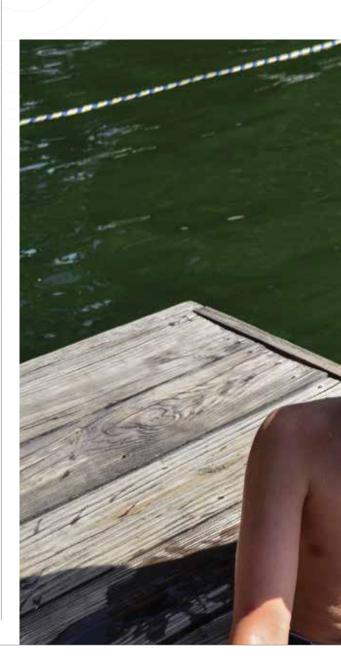
Jamie King: I attended Main Camp (6-weeks) at Falling Creek from 1979-1984. I returned for the first time with my son Wesley in 2010 for Father/Son Weekend. My brother-in-law, Dave Powers, and my nephews, Harry Powers and John Henry Powers, joined us for Father/Son Weekend in 2011. Wesley and Harry started attending 2-week in 2012, and returned in 2013, and both attended Main Camp, July Session this past summer. John Henry joined them this summer as well.

For some history, my mom was a Greystone girl from 1955-1959. She returned as a counselor in 1963 and again in 1983. My sister Caroline King Powers was

a Greystone girl from 1979-1985; her last two years were as a sailing counselor in training.

Grow & Behold: Are you still in touch with any camp friends?

Jamie King: Former camper and friend Austin Lowery and I worked together on the Camp + King Cubs, a team in the Mill Valley, California, Little League. He was the team manager and I was the team sponsor. Wesley King and Owen Lowery (also a current Falling Creek camper) played on the team together. I reunited with my former cabin-mate Stephen Pharr last year when he and his wife were visiting and hiking in Mill Valley.



Grow & Behold: What specifically did you learn at camp that you have applied to your life?

Jamie King: I became a CEO at the age of 36 and am currently the Founder and CEO of a successful advertising and marketing agency in San Francisco. A life lesson I draw on, that I took from Falling Creek, is that truly effective leaders spend more time earning the respect of their peers than their bosses. I was named to the Falling Creek Honor Council in 1984. Honor Council Campers are those who most exemplify the code and values of Falling Creek. Throughout the camp session, the Honor Council helps work with camp leadership to shape how camp is running. What made this designation so special was that I was voted

onto the Council by other Honor Council campers, not by counselors or camp management.

Grow & Behold: What do you remember about your best counselors? What did they teach you and/or role model for you?

Jamie King: Steve Longenecker was my most memorable counselor. He taught me to rock climb, he taught me how to be a naturalist, and he taught me how someone can be a unique individual while still functioning quite well within a team or community.

Grow & Behold: Quite well, indeed. Thank you, Jamie, for your time and the great memories.





Nominate Someone
Have an idea for
someone you would like

Grow & Behold to feature in the alumni spotlight?

yates@fallingcreek.com

Wooley King John

Let us know:

Wesley King, John Henry and Harry Powers enjoying free swim together this summer.



Remember the days when your son flatout refused to get dressed for pre-school? Fortunately, you were bigger and stronger, so you could wrestle him into an outfit and get him to school, pretty much on time. Try as you might, it was difficult to disguise how frazzled you were when you pulled into the parking lot 15 minutes late.

Free Choice

Camp-Code for,

"The Boys Decide"







Thank heavens for the calm, wise teachers back then, who advised, "It's important to give your son some choices. Let him feel he has some control over his life — within limits, of course." Needless to say, they didn't mean, "Son, would you rather get dressed and go to pre-school or stay in your pajamas and watch TV all day?" The more appropriate choice might have been, "Son, do you want to wear your bulldozer T-shirt or your Panthers' jersey today?" The latter was a simple, age-appropriate choice, with no right or wrong answer.

The pre-school teachers were indeed onto something. The ability to make wise, heartfelt choices is a vital characteristic of independent, successful

teens and adults. Indeed, experts say that allowing children to make their own decisions can increase their confidence, feeling of importance, and personal delight. Child development experts say that teaching young people good decision-making skills is one of the most powerful ways to teach them responsibility and self-discovery, and to encourage them to be successful, happy, contributing members of society.

No Time Like the Present

What does making wise choices have to do with camp? At Falling Creek, we have deliberately structured our activity schedule to provide our campers with numerous opportunities to practice making sensible,





independent decisions that have no right or wrong answer. On Opening Day, campers begin to flex their "choice making muscles" when they design a schedule that is tailor-made to suit their personal interests. Each day consists of six "structured" activity periods, so each camper chooses his six favorite activities. With 28 activities on the roster, there are more than enough options to excite boys of all ages.

There are also two "free choice" periods each day, one before lunch and one before dinner. Free choice activities give campers an opportunity for free time. Boys might choose to hang out at the waterfront, catapulting their friends off the blob, zooming down the roller coaster, plummeting from the rope swing, or doing cannon balls off the diving board. Other free choice options include working out at Frank's Fitness or getting involved in pick-up games of basketball, tennis, Ping-Pong, or indoor soccer. Some boys choose to play in the creeks, making dams. If a camper would like a slower pace, he can sit and play chess with a friend or simply read a good book. Regardless of personal preference, they all show up happy and hungry when the bell rings for meal times.



Many boys bring passions from home to camp with them. For example, each summer there are boys at Falling Creek who excel at club soccer, AAU basketball, tournament tennis, and a myriad of other activities they already love. It's up to the boys how much time they devote to those "main sports" while at camp. Experts argue that children who specialize in activities too young can get burned out and suffer from overuse injuries. Other coaches believe the opposite, that, "If you want to play at the highest level, you need to practice year-round."



By The Numbers:

of Staff are Former Falling Creek Campers or Returning Counselors.



Lulu In Dog Years!



Miles of Professionally-Built Trails.



At Falling Creek, we respect each camper enough to allow him to be the "expert" for the summer. Your son will have the freedom to go with his gut and choose the combination of activities that feels right to him. That might mean choosing kayaking, rock climbing or riflery, which he can't do back home, or it might mean pursuing his "main sport" as much as he possibly can so he's a step ahead when he returns home. Boys often choose activities to be with their friends, or because the counselor teaching it makes it so much fun. He might want to try an activity that is brand new for him, because he knows camp is the perfect place to experiment and learn. There are truly no right or wrong decisions when it comes to choosing activities at camp. What is certain is that your son will have to make some tough choices. A camper can't possibly participate in all 28 activities during a single summer. But isn't that the way life goes? Boys are forced to prioritize, and what better place to practice doing so than at camp, where there are no negative consequences?

Decisions, Decisions . . .

After lunch on Opening Day, our counselors put on hilarious skits to introduce themselves to the campers and to sell "their" activities. It's Marketing 101, camp-style.

After activity skits, the boys head up to the gym with their cabin counselors to sign up for their ideal schedules. Tables are set up for each activity in case the boys have questions. Cabin counselors make sure the process runs smoothly. Once each camper has chosen his schedule, he then gets to choose from a wide variety of out-of-camp adventures. It is not uncommon for 10 trips out of camp most days. Your son might choose a mountain biking trip in Dupont State Forest or Tsali, or a paddling trip on the Tuckaseegee River or the Nantahala. Or he might pick a trip to Sliding Rock or

a trail ride on his favorite horse. On average, we have over 100 boys each day mountain biking, backpacking, paddling, sailing, and rock climbing in the mountains of western North Carolina during June Session (3 weeks) and Main Camp (4 weeks).

Checking In

Parents sometimes ask, "Why isn't my son choosing to do something other than what he initially signed up for?" Or, "Why is he not taking advantage of the trips and special sign-ups?" The boys are coached and encouraged regularly to sign up for the specific activities they want. Our counselors suggest activity options as a part of their normal discussions, especially during Evening Embers. Cabin counselors check in with the boys, and follow a series of specific prompts we require them to ask about activities when they meet with their campers individually each week. Trying new activities is also often a theme or topic during Morning Watch, Church, Campfire, and Morning Assembly. We make sure the boys know about all the opportunities for activities, special sign ups, and adventure trips. We make ourselves available after morning announcements and encourage them to ask any questions they may have.

You would think most boys would want to take immediate advantage of special sign-up activities, especially the outdoor-related ones. But many times the boys just want to stick with the in-camp activities they enjoy so much, even with all the prompting and encouragement they receive from counselors.





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Falling Creek Campers Come From 12 Countries and 36 States.



Giddy up.Falling Creek Camp

Falling Creek Camp has 24 Horses That Enjoy the Grass and Views from 6 Different Pastures.



The Days of our Lives

With "sign ups" out of the way, it's time for the fun to begin. Activities commence immediately on the first full day of camp, which means your son has yet another decision to make: how seriously will he pursue his activities? It is totally up to him. Some boys arrive at Falling Creek sick to death of being graded by teachers and evaluated by coaches. All they want to do is "chill." They would rather focus on the fun, which is fine with us. Other boys want to participate in as many unique activities as they can while they are here, mastering new skills along the way. We love that, too. That's why we have implemented a camp-wide progression system that gives campers the opportunity to build confidence as they advance through five levels within each activity: Level 1 – Scout; Level 2 – Explorer; Level 3 – Challenger; Level 4 – Ranger; and Level 5 – Warrior.

Each level has a set of criteria a camper must complete in order to advance. The level system is similar to the Boy Scouts' rank program. Progressing from one level to the next is based on a camper's effort, and includes leadership and service components. Some levels can be achieved in a few days, while others take several summers. Campers who reach the *Ranger* and *Warrior* levels are recognized permanently on the *Hall of Fame Board* on the side porch of the dining hall.

Flexibility: In our DNA

This is camp, so flexibility is in our DNA. We mention that because, as interests are discovered or developed, campers change their minds. When the boys want to tweak their schedules, they can do so each Sunday when they also sign up for new out-of-camp adventures.

As you can see, we give the boys a great deal of freedom so they can follow their hearts and begin to experience making their own choices. Choice extends to other things — if you choose not to hang up your wet bathing suit to dry, you will have a cold, wet bathing suit the next time you need it. This is a natural consequence, but one without harsh or long-term, negative outcomes.

We believe it is never too early to practice making smart decisions, especially in an adult-supervised environment like Falling Creek Camp. As author and speaker Anthony Robbins puts it, "Our lives are shaped by the choices we make. Success and failure are not overnight experiences. It's the small decisions along the way that cause people to fail or succeed." We see successful young men all around us!



Ever since their son Jack had heart surgery at age two, parents Kim and Kevin Ransom were proactive about finding activities that could build Jack's strength and confidence. When Kim saw an article in Time magazine that mentioned Falling Creek Camp, she was gripped by it. "We've got to send Jack there," she told Kevin.



Kevin Ransom (center) with his two sons, Uncle Wade (right), and characters from Father/Son Weekend skits.

Before sending Jack to Falling Creek for the first time at age six, Kevin had the chance to attend one of the popular Father/Son Weekends with Jack. "It's magical," Kevin says. "People say that it's where boys go to become men, and men go to become boys. It's an almost indescribable feeling and place."

Since that summer back in 2007, Kevin and Jack (now 13) have attended Father/Son every summer, eight in all; they've been joined the past two summers by Jack's younger brother, Cooper, who is six.

Anticipating the Magic

"We start gearing up for it around January, looking at the dates on the calendar," Kevin says. "The boys are just pawing at the ground, anxious to get there. And once we do, we just eat up everything there is to do while we're there, and then it's gone, and we have to wait another year. One of the long-time counselors there, Kyle, jokes with me each time he sees me because I'm not only at Father/Son Weekend every year, but I'm the last to leave camp after dropping Jack off. I don't stay to linger with Jack. I stay because I just love being in that environment. I have to make my trek around the lake every time."

Father/Son Weekends have been going on at Falling Creek for two decades. There are two each summer, one in May and one in August; each runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. Yates and Marisa believe it's critical that fathers and sons have an outlet like camp,

where they can bond. "We want to be a compliment to families' goals to raise exceptional young men," Yates says. "Father/Son Weekends offer an opportunity for dad and son to have a memorable adventure together. And, as with Cooper, it allows the son to learn what it's like to be at camp if he has not been a Falling Creek camper before."

Freezing Moments in Time

When fathers and sons set their chosen rocks along the Ebenezer Wall and gather by the shimmering lake as the sun goes down, Kevin says it is always a sobering reminder of his role as a father. "We sing taps. Someone explains how a fire has been built in that pit every summer since Falling Creek started. You get caught up in the history. You come together as a brotherhood. I never leave there without a tear in my eye and just really understanding how important my kids are to me, and how important it is for me to be a good dad.

"As busy as our lives are, it really teaches me that the most important thing is to be there with my sons, as a father, a friend, a helpmate, and to share those experiences with them," Kevin says. "One of these days they are going to leave and they aren't going to remember that you bought them a new bike, or what they got for Christmas. But they are going to remember, 'Oh man, I went to camp with my dad and we did some really cool things."

Cooper Ransom very excited to be at camp with his dad and family!

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Families Attended a Father/Son Weekend This Year.





"There's some stuff that goes on there that mom doesn't need to know about."

Kevin Ransom, father of Jack and Cooper Ransom

Always Changing, Always the Same

"We put the Father/Son Weekend on our calendar every year, not just because of the amazing time we get to spend outdoors with our sons, but because Yates, Marisa, Frank, and the whole team make the camp different every time we go," Kevin says. "They add new things and change up the father-son activities. For the older boys they added an adventure racing event and now you can go on an out of camp adventures, like trout fishing. Two camps have never been the same for us. But one thing always remains my favorite; I have to get to the rollercoaster that goes into the water. It's the first thing I want to do when I get there and the last thing I want to do before I leave camp. I ride it as many times as they'll let me."

As parents, Kevin and Kim realize their children are going to grow up needing to know how to size things up, make wise decisions, and take risks at times. "We don't want to insulate them from those things," says Kevin, who relishes the opportunities he gets during Father/Son Weekend to explore nature and teach life skills, like how

to make a fire, tie a knot, navigate the woods, and even shoot guns, and bows and arrows. "That's the really great thing about Falling Creek is they really want to push the boys to try new things, and there are lots of great folks there to help along the way."

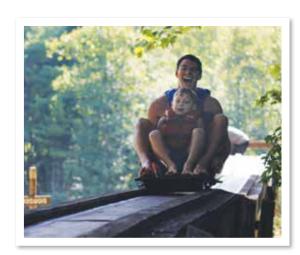
Kevin and Kim say eight years of summer camp adventures at Falling Creek have done more than they had ever hoped for Jack. "We really see how much he's matured when he comes home from camp," Kevin says. "He comes back much more confident about making his own decisions and taking risks. He thinks things out, he knows how to plan, and all those things he's learning at camp." A hiker fiend, Jack logged about 80 miles backpacking at Main Camp last summer, and he has developed a love for blacksmithing.

A Tradition, a Home Away From Home

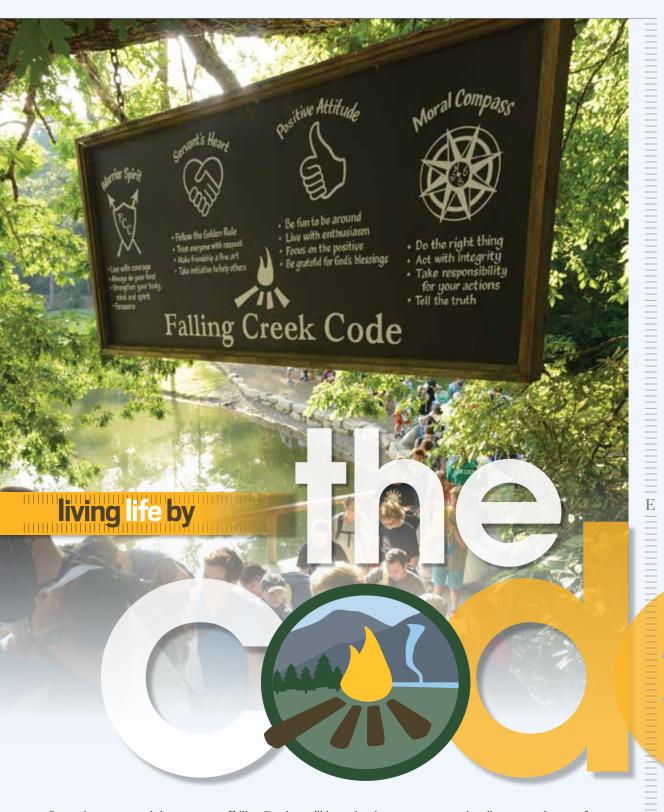
Neither Kevin nor Kim had any experience with camp when they were growing up. But, since becoming involved with Falling Creek eight years ago, they have vowed to always make camp an integral part of their lives. To that end, daughter Sarah, 11, attends Camp Cherokee, in Kings Mountain, South Carolina, for two weeks each summer.

"I have so many emotions when I think about Falling Creek," Kevin says. "I think when I am old and gray, I am going to remember something from every Father/ Son Weekend I've attended. I think I'll be able sit down with my boys and have those conversations and talk about those memories when they have their kids. And somehow, some way, if we live anywhere near Falling Creek, my grandkids will be there to have those same kinds of experiences. I hope to be going with them as the old grandfather."

Kevin and Kim Ransom are raising their three children in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Kevin is an attorney with Moore & VanAllen.



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Sure, when you spend the summer at Falling Creek, you'll have the chance to roast marshmallows around a campfire . . . improve your game and climb the tennis ladder . . . dash through the woods on Wild, Wild West Day, and a thousand more incredible opportunities. But did you ever stop to think that one of the best things about being a camper at Falling Creek is getting to spend your summer with a bunch of really great guys?

If you had to pick, who would you say is the most important, really great guy at camp? Your first reaction might be to name your favorite counselor, and that's a nice thought. But hang on. Think again . . .

Could it be that the most important "really great guy" at Falling Creek is you? Not because the world revolves around you, but because if you choose to follow The Falling Creek Code, you can have a positive influence on everyone at camp. How great is that? After all, there is no better feeling than making someone else's day.

It Isn't Nerdy to be Nice at Falling Creek

Camp is the perfect place to practice being the best you can be. We make it easy by encouraging everyone from the youngest camper to the oldest counselor to follow the FCC Code. Soon, every camper realizes it isn't uncool to be helpful. In fact, the opposite is true, and treating others the way we would like to be treated proves to be a most satisfying way to live.

It is expected that we will all try our hardest to follow The Code. So, let's take a look at the four parts that make up The Code.



Positive Attitude

Having a positive attitude means being fun to be around, living with enthusiasm, and focusing on the positive. Let's make sure you've got that straight, the rule at Falling Creek is to have fun and be enthusiastic. Seriously? Yep, your job when you are a camper at Falling Creek is to be fun to be around.

So, joke around, be silly, and don't just chuckle, but laugh out loud with your cabin-mates and at yourself, and at the goofy skits in the dining hall. Sing at the top of your lungs at Morning Assembly. Encourage your teammates on your ultimate Frisbee team. Laugh it off if you lose. Congratulate the winners. Have fun out there. And most importantly, be grateful for God's blessings. Stop and look up at the clouds. What do you see? A dolphin? A dragon? Appreciate the breeze on a hot day. Delight in the cool lake after you've worked up a sweat in the game. Enjoy the lullaby of the crickets and bullfrogs at night. God's creation is magnificent, and you are right in the middle of it. Notice and be thankful.

Warrior Spirit

Hmm, that's certainly not a phrase you hear every day. What exactly does it mean to have a Warrior Spirit? Here at Falling Creek, it means to "live with courage, to persevere, and to always do your best." Not a day goes by that you aren't presented with a chance to demonstrate courage while you are at camp. Even on Opening Day, it takes courage to hug your parents goodbye and settle into cabin life with a group of new friends. It takes courage to try something new, like taking a hairpin turn on a mountain bike. And it takes courage to stand up for what is right instead of what is popular.



Without ever using the word "persevere," a camper from Chattanooga perfectly summed up the Warrior Spirit when he described his love for rock climbing. He said, "Climbing is really fun. It teachers you to overcome obstacles. When you're in the middle of a rock and you have to finish a really tough move, you think, 'Oh my gosh, I can't do this. It's way too hard!' That's how life is sometimes, but you've got to just push through it. Commit yourself to getting to the top of that one move. And then get to the top of the next route. And then all of a sudden you are on top of the rock. Celebrate and just let go! You find that you can make it to the top of almost anything if you set your mind to it."

Servant's Heart

To have a Servant's Heart is to treat everyone with respect, and to treat others the way you would like to be treated. It means taking the initiative to help someone without being asked. Demonstrating a Servant's Heart can mean doing something really simple, like putting the balls away after you play basketball or helping the counselor clean up the arts and crafts supplies before dashing off to your next activity. It can mean introducing yourself to the new camper and suggesting that he join you on a trip to sliding rock. It can mean inviting someone to meet you at the lake to swim during the afternoon free choice period. Having a Servant's Heart means making friendships a fine art!

Moral Compass

Last, but certainly not least, the FCC Code expects our campers and counselors to have a Moral Compass, which means to act with integrity, to tell the truth, and to take responsibility for our actions. Here's an example. We offer a can of Cheerwine at the weekly cookout of hamburgers and hotdogs. We have enough Cheerwine for everyone to get one. Could you cheat and sneak a second can? Of course you could, we operate on the honor system around here. So the question is not could you take a second drink but, should you? No way! You know better than that, and you shouldn't dare your friend to break the rules either. While daring your friend to sneak a Cheerwine is not the biggest disaster in the world, daring your friend to break other rules later in life can have serious consequences. So why not practice pointing your moral compass in the right direction when you are young?

Here's another perfect example — You hear a few other boys whispering about a fellow camper. They approach you, wanting you to chime in on their unkind comments. "That isn't cool, guys," you say. "Keep it positive." That's acting with integrity, even when only a few people are watching. That's what it means to follow your Moral Compass.



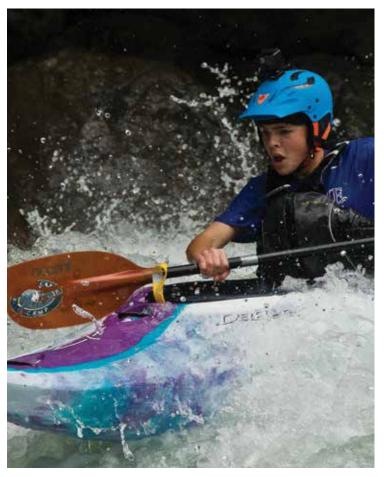


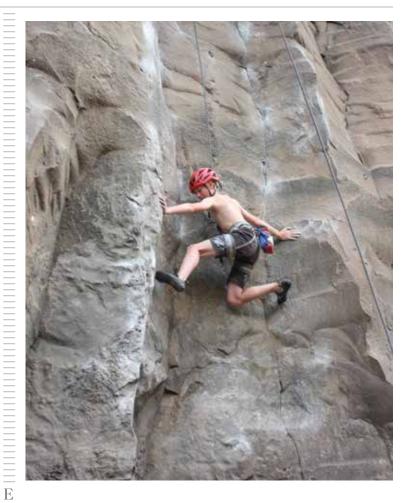
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ake a 30-foot plunge over a waterfall in a kayak. Hang on a rock face overlooking Utah's Wasatch Mountain range. Backpack amidst the splendor of Yosemite, one of the crown jewels of the American National Park system.

All summer long our campers do it. They go on adventures. They take risks. They grow and mature and see the world in heart-pounding new ways, beyond their wildest imaginations. And when they get back to "reality," they feel like they can conquer the world.

Falling Creek Expeditions are an offshoot of our traditional camp program and take place right after Main Camp ends. The expeditions are led by experienced FCC staff members who focus on helping campers develop character and enhance their leadership skills. Under the guidance of outstanding role models, participants learn strong outdoor living skills as they share responsibilities on rocks, rivers, and trails in some of the most picturesque landscapes in the world.













HUCK Ecuador

HUCK Ecuador is a nine-day kayaking expedition based out of the Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, a wonderful headquarters for lodging, warm showers, and outstanding meals. During the day, the group will explore two very different river systems. Some days we will paddle large volume rivers that will provide big water fun. Other days we will paddle tight and technical creeks, outstanding venues for the boys to hone their boat control skills. Not only will this trip be full of exciting paddling memories, but there will be many other highlights as well, including a visit to the equator and "mitad del mundo," or the middle of the earth. On the way to the lodge, we will cross the Andes Mountains, which involves driving over a 14,000-foot pass. As we descend from the pass we will watch the scenery change from high elevation cloud forest to the heart of the Amazon jungle headwaters.

Dates: July 23 – July 31

HUCK Ottawa

HUCK Ottawa is an eight-day kayaking program on the Ottawa River, located just outside Canada's capital city. While in Canada, our campers spend a thrilling time on a world-class river learning river running skills and play-boating moves, and just having a fantastic time. Canada is well known for having some of the best rivers in the world with an abundance of warm, deep water, and amazing river features. HUCK Ottawa is a great stepping stone for boys who have paddled at Falling Creek during the June and Main camp sessions and are looking for even more adventurous whitewater.

Dates: July 25 - August 1



SUMMIT Utah

SUMMIT Utah is an eight-day rock climbing program that takes place in the amazing Wasatch Mountain range just outside of Salt Lake City. The Wasatch

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is made up of five major canyons each of which provides world-class climbing areas. The number of climbing options in these five canyons is truly mind blowing. During Summit we will climb a wide range of rock types and route lengths. Our campsite will be located just below 11,000 feet, near the head of Little Cottonwood Canyon. From camp we will be able to enjoy wonderful sunsets, outstanding wildflowers, and the perfect jumping off point for our rest day activity — a hike/scramble to the top of Mt. Superior, one of the major peaks in the Salt Lake City skyline. Atop Mt. Superior, the group will be awarded with amazing views of both sides of the Wasatch.

Dates: July 25 - August 1



BLAZE Yosemite

BLAZE Yosemite is a nine-day backpacking trip to one of the crown jewels of the American National Park system. During BLAZE the campers begin at a far removed trailhead, away from the hustle and bustle of the valley floor far below. As the campers hike they encounter massive cliffs, cross rivers, and enjoy the wonder that is the High Sierra. We will hike along the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, then turn south to camp near the famous Merced Lake. From there, we hike up the valley, passing near the base of Half Dome. The trip concludes with a hike up the valley where we will marvel at the view of EL Capitan, made famous by Ansel Adams.

Dates: July 23 – July 31



CRANK Park City

CRANK Park City is an eight-day mountain biking trip to the only IMBA - Gold Level ride center in the world. What makes an area a gold level ride center? Trails, lots and lots of trails. These trails range in difficulty from those simple enough for "first-timeon-the-bike" level riders to trails that challenge even the most accomplished professionals, all in one place. From the small main street of Park City, we will have access to over 400 miles of riding trails without ever setting foot in a car. The highlight of the trip is the Wasatch Crest Trail, which runs from the top of the Park City Mountain Resort all the way to Salt Lake City. On the Wasatch Crest Trail, the boys will ride at almost 11,000 feet, enjoying amazing views in every direction from the ridgeline. Then, follow the trail, descending 7,000 feet off of the ridge to the valley floor.

Dates: July 25 - August 1



guts&glory

Awards-All Sessions

Arts & Crafts

Craftiest of them All:
Jackson Singhal
Most Imaginative: Patton James
Most Creative: William Morton
The Not so Starving Artist Award:
Bram Rawlings
The Not so Starving Artist Award:
James Peyton

Archery

Ghost Arrow: Graeme McNeish Ghost Arrow: Mac Riser Range Rat: Andrew Cowan Range Rat: Phillip Zaki

Basketball

Brick City: Calder Schmidt
Defense of the Summer: Jacob Disch
Little Big Man: Daniel Fanning
Most Improved: C.D. St.Hilaire
MVP: Locke Johnson
The Hustler: Austin Abdallah



Backpacking

Footsteps Award: Julian Meyers Pathfinder Award: North Goodwin Sting King: Sam Bass

Blacksmithing

BA - Blacksmithing Apprentice: Charlie Cavatoni Best in Show: Brogan Maloney Best Knife in Show: Ward Bissell Grant Little Award: Mike Burgdorf Hero: Axel Hicks

Climbing Wall

Crusher Award: James Singhal Got Pysched Award: Ryan Hack Kid Crusher: Rodrigo Esteve Most Improved: Henry Bryan No Guts No Glory Award: Sam Chambers Ultimate Burley Man Award: William Haga

Cross Country

Fastest Mile: Whit Traweek Mr. XC: Sam Bowers Runner's Spirit Award: Charlie Price Runner's Spirit Award: Will Kercher

Fishing & Fly Fishing

Best Conversationalist Award: Jack White Golden Reel Award: Will Jackson Holy Carp Fish: Henry Michalak The Rod Killer: Henry O'Hagan

Flag Football

Defensive MUD: Ned Hull Mr. Football: Thomas Preston MUD: Ryder Ballard Offensive MUD: Will Baggett

The HEAT

Mr. FCC Award: Phillip Zaki Mr. FCC Universe: William Haga The HEATed Spirit: Patrick Simon

Horseback Riding

Buddy Award: Ari Chen Cruz through Award: Shane McNiff Razz Award: Jackson Monroe Run with the Herd: Davis Dickinson Run with the Herd: John Robert Wallace Wilbur Award: Brennan Lummus

Indian Lore

Apelachi (Helper): Coley Brown Gahzinga (Little Chief): Colin Moffett Leatherman: Ward Bissell Pipeboy: Campbell Killian Red Feather: Sammy Moss Wanbli Waste (Grand Eagle): Hunter Sketch

Lacrosse

Lax Bro Award: Coker Ford
The "Lax Bros" Bros Award:
Charlie Pipes
The "Lax Bros" Bros Award:
George Pipes
The "One More Shot" Award:
Frank Dinkins
Most Dedicated: Henry Cato
Most Improved: Sam Chambers
Sweat-Lax Award: Eliot Koch

Mountain Biking

Better-Shredder: Graham Perers Colin Barrett Award: Mick Masone Moab Ratz: Evans Collier Moab Ratz: Hays Edmunds Moab Ratz: Hugh Seton Saddle Sore Award: Chris Fuge

Music

Award of Positive Attitude & Perserverance: Sam Chambers Eddie Ate Dynamite Tune it Up... Award of Musical Progression: Spencer Mermans Pickin & Grinnin Servant of Music: Carlos Penzini Pickin & Grinnin Servant of Music: Carter Freeland The Hills Are Alive with the Sound of Music Award: Jack Laurent Thunderstruck Warrior Award: Bram Rawlings

Nature

Master Insect Collector: Max Melton MIN - Most Improved Naturist: Henry O'Hagan MVP - Best Camper: William Ashcroft Nature MVP: Ryan Hack Nature Ninja: Sam Yarborough

Paddling

Just Keeps Going Award: Charlie Pike Little Stokeball Award: John Briggs Most Improved: Bright Crosswell Most Improved: John Allen MUB (Most Valuble Boofer): **Brad Hull** Staff Helper In Training & Biggest Boofer: Henry Nixon

Pottery

Helping Hand: Bo Johnson Helping Hand: James Peyton Persevering Potter: Thomas Wilson Mr. Potter Award: Turner Riggs So Many Pieces, Not Enough Glaze: Ionah Disch The Bright Light: Jake Brooker

Rock Climbing

Gil-Zilla: Jonathan Unumb King Sloth: Brad Fay King Sloth: Gibbs Hooper Mini-Crusher: Jack Gowen The Cerebral Sloth Award: Martin Eleta

Billy Dixon Award: Marshall Hanson Billy Dixon Award: Stevie Frickle High Score: Barron Cohen Top Shot: Alexandre colas des Francs

Sailing

Danger Zone: Harrison Little Danger Zone: Warren Fulk Dock Rat: TJ Killian Most Improved: Jack Sprinkle Most Improved: Parker Schneidau

Soccer

Ballon D'or: Evan Fuertes Ballon D'or Youth: RJ Poffenberger Best & Fairest: C.D. St. Hilaire For Narnia: Cole Hunger Golden Glove: Miles Jernigan Small But Mighty: Gray Mollenkcamp

Tennis

Die Hard Tennis Fan: William Darragh Most Improved: Ward Lilly Newcomer of the Year: **Jack Schondelmayer** Newcomer of the Year: Turner Riggs Swagalicious Swaggyfresh: Jack Frost Tennis Rats: Baker Wilkins, Hampden Geer, Jack Lipscomb, Marshall Sinkler, Spivey Woodard, Whit Tiller

Theatre

All the World's a Stage: Thomas Stamoulis Bud's Just Wanna Have Fun: **Bud Gidiere** Center Stage Award of Excellence in Theater: Miguel Esteve Mountain Lion of Courage: Henry Osborne Spirit of the Stage Award: Logan Jones Triple Threat: Christopher Unumb

Swimming

Flip King: Tommy Ruan Floaty Stand Record: Benton Blair Hardest Positive Worker: Andrew Basinger Most Improved: Russell Wyatt Warrior Spirit: Rowan Sullivan Waterpolo/Dock Rat: Rett Hill

Ultimate Frisbee

Ballin on a Budget Award: Thomas Preston Can I Lead Stretches Award: Bo Phillips Zero to Hero: Alfredo Lelo De Larrea

World Beat

Go Do Go Do Gun (Award of Good Timing & Technique): James Gregory Most Improved: Bo Phillips Most Improved Drummer: Jon Coleman Rhythm: Bradley Tarbutton Rhythm of Heart: Ari Chen

Rhythm of Heart: Davis Brown

Woodshop

Happy Helper: Charlie Brumback Mustache of Max Manliness: Jack Lipscomb Mustache of Max Manliness: Stevie Frickel Shop Rat: Cole Hooper

Shop Rat: Harrison Faison

Iron Man-Champion

Sam Bowers

Iron Man Participants

Aidan Borges Alexander Grande Andrew Calton Austin De La Torre Ben Monroe Bobby Schaffer Calder Schmidt Charles Broad Charlie Oliver Charlie Pike Chip Butler Colyer Haddock Cooper Williamson Garrison Rabalais Graham Drennan Gray Mollenkamp Gray Smith Griffin Millet Harrison Oswald Hutson Ford **Jack Adams Jack Ransom Jacob Spitzer** James McGregor James McIntvre Jay McArthur **Jim Williams Joel Funderburk** John Allen John Czabala Lance Broad

Liam Stephens

Luke Williams

Mauricio Madrazo Max Feild Park Bruner Patrick Molnar Richard Guerard Robert Riser Thomas Morton Tomas Perez Walter Miller Will Abdallah Will Andrews Will Burke Will Kercher Will Pittman William Boynton William Walker Winston Smith

Mark Van Kirk

June Camp Cleanest Cabin **Awards**

CHEROKEE TRIBE Cabin Comanche: Daniel Roper, Kyle Adams Avery Kessler Jr., Braxton Bonner, John Greeley, Nathan Puchalski, Parker McCollum, Rowan Sullivan, Stephen Greenleaf

CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Honeymoon: Mike Nuckles, Sidney Parham Benjamin Elliot, Charles Blanchard, Noah Glasgow, Owen Kelly, Patton Jaynes, Wells White, Will Crimmins

TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Watauga: Alex Jackson, Nathan Stichter Benjamin Simmons, Edward Desloge, Graham Carroll, Henry Pipes, Lane Marshall, Sam Coleman, Waters Jordon

IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Rolling Thunder: Adrian Barnes, David Subers Charles Price, Jackson Edwards, James Peyton, Noah Garman, Whit Traweek, Will Sternbergh, William Haga

CREEK TRIBE:

Cabin Cheoah: Amy-Lee Breckenridge, Ashley Peele, Jules Mary, Nadia Razavi, Brittany Rohrer



guts&glory

Main Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 8: Zach Briggs, Matt Sutton, CIT- John Osborne Hampden Geer, Harry Powers, Matthew Westmoreland, Owen Lowery, Spivey Woodward, Tut Linen, Walker Borgmann, Wesley King

CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Honeymoon:
Mike Nuckles, Sydney Parham,
CIT- Jim Lynch, Aidan Borges,
Brian Urbano, Charlie Allen, George
Voelker, Landen Lewis, Warren Fulk,
Whit Nuckolls, Will Kercher

TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Watauga: Alex Jackson, Nathan Stichter Baker Dill, George Trammell, Holden Dewey, Joel Funderburk, Nicholas Provosty, Spencer Hurst, Tomas Eleta, Will Broxterman

IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Black Hawk: Jonathan Dudley, Preston Newsome Andrew Calton, Charles Broad, Chris Fuge, Cole Hunger, Graham Drennan, Henry Nixon, Jack White, Joel Adams, John Peters, Rett Hill

CREEK TRIBE

Cabin Hideaway: Casey Moran, Ray Kunnen, Stephanie Mimbs

2-Week Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 6: Breaux Tubbs, Peter Gregory, Court James, Hardy Reisner, Henry Wilhelm, Holden Freno, Jack West, Jonathan McCall, Lars Dabrowiak, Max Gross

CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Honeymoon:

Mike Nuckles, Sydney Parham Carter Dixon, Connor Sandoval, Conor Corby, Geroge Niedringhaus, Henry Boehme, Henry Tabb, Lawton Jordan, Mac Durham

TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Sitting Bull: Josh Freeman, Will Walters, Buntaro Yoshida, Caleb Runyan, Carter Ashmun, Gage Gettys, Gray Takacs, Michael Mullens, Rhodes Feild, Webb Hodges

IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Canoni: Len Wallace, Austin Brotemarkle, Ramsay Good, Sam Alexander, Sandon Brown, Theo Erwin, Wilder Breckenridge, Will Hanson

CREEK TRIBE

Cabin Hideaway: Casey Moran, Ray Kunnen, Stephanie Mimbs Cabin Cheoah: Ashley Peele, Amy-Lee Breckenridge, Brittany Rohrer, Jules Mary, Nadia Razavi

Junior Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 3: Daniel Sinclair, Marcus Rennicke, Alexander Diffley, Braxton Hines, Brooks Arnold, Griffin Cheatwood, Robert Lynn, William Albright, William Hogan, Zach Plyler

CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Honeymoon: Mike Nuckles, Sidney Parham, Henry Chiao, Joseph Keenan, Joseph McGirt, Ralph Yarbrough, Roy Shoemake, Tucker Wolf, Tyler Ruggieri, Will Putman

TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Black Elk: Dylan Kennedy, Neil Newsome, Alex Ebert, Charles Kirk, Colin Carroll, David Meier, Reese Hensley, Samuel Chase, William Killoy, Wyatt Sandberg

IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Red Cloud: Johnathan Dudley, Kris Rodriguez, Edward Peterson, Henry Douglass, Jack LaPiana, Jex Frankel, Ryan Ruggieri, Tomas Marin, Wesley Forster

Progressions-All Sessions

Arts & Crafts Ranger

Jackson Singhal Wesley Castillo

Arts & Crafts Warrior

Whit Nuckles

Archery Ranger

Andrew Basinger Connor Lewis Dane von Hoven Phillip Zaki Ryan Spears Scott King Xavier Cardoza

Archery Warrior

Andrew Basinger Dane von Hoven Jack Clark John Czabala William Locke Edward Desloge

Basketball Ranger

Austin Abdallah Bennett Smith Finn Gottlieb Reid Brown Ryan Spears Vance Young

Basketball Warrior

Finn Gottlieb Will Abdallah

Backpacking Ranger

Julian Meyers North Goodwin

Backpacking Warrior

Jack Sprinkle

Blacksmithing Ranger

Axel Hicks Brogan Maloney Cole Jernigan Jacob Wood Tomas Perez William Pearce

Blacksmithing Warrior

Brad Fay Charlie Cavatoni

Iacob Wood

Mike Burgdorf

Tomas Perez

Climbing Wall Ranger

Stephen Sweeney

Climbing Wall Warrior

Walker Crosby

Cross Country Ranger

Bobby Schaeffer Will Kercher

Fishing & Fly Fishing Ranger

Walker Crosby

Fishing & Fly Fishing Warrior

Walker Crosby

Flag Football Ranger

Bennett Smith

Bennett Turner

Cameron Fields

Carsten Dowdy

Charlie Rawlings

George Voelker

Jack Currence

Iames Kinard

Jesse Samples

Juan Diego Campuzano

Liam Stephens

Marshall Hanson

Miles Gensler

Richard Guerard

Rvder Ballard

Sam Moss

Vance Young

Walker Crosby

Flag Football Warrior

Bennett Smith

Rvder Ballard

Vance Young

Walker Crosby

The HEAT Ranger

Finn Gottlieb

William Haga

The HEAT Warrior

Phillip Zaki

Horseback Riding Ranger

John Robert Wallace

Iulian Dufour

Shap McCoy

Stevie Frickel

Horseback Riding Warrior

Jackson Monroe

John Robert Wallace

Shap McCov

Stevie Frickel

Tom Yoxsimer

Walker Crosby

Indian Lore Ranger

Ford Cobbs

John Peters

Scott King

Tre Cloud

Indian Lore Warrior

Harlan Stone

Tre Cloud

Lacrosse Ranger

Anderson Tomlin

Hutson Ford

Robert McCoy

Mountain Biking Ranger

Ben Wacholtz

Bennett Zimmerman

Chris Fuge

Ford Cobbs

Gray Smith

Havs Edmonds

John Peters

Kellen von Hoven

Lewis Jaynes

Mick Masone

Scott Hilderbran

Winston Smith

Mountain Biking Warrior

Bennett Zimmerman

Chris Fuge

Evans Collier

Ford Cobbs

Mick Masone

Music Ranger

James Lilly

Patrick Nagy

Music Warrior

Carter Freeland Patrick Nagy

Nature Ranger

Anders Bensch

James Gregory

Lawson Robinson

McRae Wallace

Rodrigo Esteve

Sam Stevens

Paddling Ranger

Alex Madrazo

Andrew Calton

Ben Giersch

Bright Crosswell

Burns Bissell

Charles Brooks

Eddie Cassels

John Allen

Mark Shoda

Mauricio Madrazo

Paddling Warrior

Charles Broad

Jim Williams

Pottery Ranger

Baker Wilkins

Bram Rawlings

John Nowicki

Turner Riggs

Pottery Warrior

Joel Adams

Turner Riggs

Rock Climbing Ranger

Andy Bru

Charles Harris

Charlie Oliver

Gibbs Hooper

Jack Gowen

James Singhal

Liam Horn

Luke Culbertson

Mark van Kirk

Peter Kurschner Ryan Doster

Rock Climbing Warrior

Brad Fav

Harrison Oswald

Riflery Ranger

Adrien Toulemonde

Aidan Borges

Alex Colas des Francs

Bradley Tarbutton

David Efird

George Trammell

George Voelker

Jack Yoxsimer

Iames McGregor

Ioel Funderburk

John Westmoreland

Marshall Hanson

Matthew Diiorio

Nathan Becker

Robert Gluck

Stephen Sweeney

Will Philpott

William Locke

William Morton

Xavier Cardoza

Riflery Warrior

Alex Colas des Francs

Stevie Frickel

William Boynton

William Locke Xavier Cardoza

Sailing Ranger

Burt Young

Eliot Koch

Harrison Little

Isaac Gilman

Jack Sprinkle

TJ Killian

Ward Iarvis Will Andrews

Sailing Warrior Jack Sprinkle

Soccer Ranger Adrien Toulemonde

Alex colas de Francs

Andrew Coleman

Andy Bru Cade Warner

Gray Mollenkcamp

Hampden Geer Harry Powers

Hill Nixon

Iack Foster

Jack Lipscomb

John Henry Powers Lander Lewis

Park Bruner



guts&glory

Patrick Simon Spivey Woodward Wesley Bruner Whit Hiller

Soccer Warrior

Grant Stallings Miles Jernigan

Swimming Ranger

Connor Curreri

Swimming Warrior

Connor Curreri Rett Hill

Tennis Ranger

Alex colas des Francs Baker Dill Bennett Turner Carter French Maclean Turner Marshall Magruder Thomas Wakefield

Tennis Warrior

Alex colas des Francs Bennett Türner Jack Schondelmayer Jack White Thomas Wakefield Walker Crosby

Ultimate Frisbee Ranger Ward Bissell

Woodshop Ranger

Calder Schmidt
Harrison Little
Jack Lipscomb
Jack Roussel
Jack Yoxsimer
Locke Johnson
Michael Burgdorf
Scott King
Stevie Frickel
Tom Yoxsimer
Walker Jarvis

Woodshop Warrior

Brad Fay
Harrison Faison
Jack Lipscomb
Jack Yoxsimer
Michael Burgdorf
Phillip Zaki
Scott King
Stevie Frickel
Tom Yoxsimer

Honor Council

Andrew Calton Ben Monroe Bennett Broad Bennett Turner Calder Schmidt Charles Broad Charlie Pike Esteban Samayoa Evan Dyer Graham Drennan Harrison Oswald Henry Koch Henry Nixon Hill Nixon **Iack White Jack Yoxsimer Jackson Monroe** Jay McArthur

Juan Diego Campuzano Kaito Kanazawa Phillip Zaki Rory Kemm Ryder Ballard Sam Bowers Tom Yoxsimer Tomas Perez Tommy Wisdom Tre Cloud Ward Bissell Whit Nuckolls

Staff Honors

Green & Gold Award

William ""Scotty" Scott

5th Year Staff

Alex Nunner
Andrew Cobb
Dr. Charlie Niemeyer
Dr. Steven Feingold
Kyle Jeffries
Liz Barfield
Neil Newsome
Sam Long

10th Year Staff Frank Tindall

15th Year Staff Nathan Newquist

30thYear Staff

Jim Goodrum

Activity Leaders

ARTS & CRAFTS: Ionathan Dudley

ARCHERY: K.D. Lemons

BASKETBALL: Denzell Garrett,

Xavier Crain

BACKPACKING: Matt Kornegay

BLACKSMITHING:

Tommy Carroll

CLIMBING WALL: Kevin Slafsky

CROSS COUNTRY:

Preston Newsome, Zach Rivera

FISHING & FLY FISHING:

Will Walters

FLAG FOOTBALL: Alex Nunner

The HEAT: Zach Rivera

HORSEBACK RIDING:

Amy-Lee Breckenridge

INDIAN LORE: Will Ehrhardt

LACROSSE: Sam Long

MOUNTAIN BIKING:

Len Wallace, Colin Barrett,

Dwayne Maynard

MUSIC: Tania Battista

NATURE: Ashley Peele

PADDLING: Taylor Barker,

Andrew Worsham, Jez

POTTERY: Stephanie Mimbs

ROCK CLIMBING: Devin Horgan

RIFLERY: William "Scotty" Scott

SAILING: Peter Gregory

SOCCER: Sam Trenski

TENNIS: Andrew Cobb,

Mike Nuckles

THEATRE: Tania Battista

SWIMMING:

Lauren "Lozzie" Jansen

ULTIMATE FRISBEE:

Neil Newsome

WOODSHOP: Will Vogan

JP Pak

In August, Col. William "Scotty" Scott was awarded Falling Creek Camp's prestigious Green and Gold honor, given each year to one staff member who best exemplifies The Falling Creek Code — Positive Attitude, Warrior Spirit, Servant's Heart, Moral Compass — and who is known for carrying the Falling Creek spirit of unselfishness in his heart.

A 31-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Scotty has headed up Falling Creek's riflery program for nine consecutive summers, helping campers achieve their riflery goals. He is known as an exceptional mentor for campers and staff members alike. Scotty's father taught him how to shoot pistols and rifles when he was a boy growing up in Virginia and later in Maryland. Those skills would be honed when he entered the Marine Corp.

"I keep coming back to Falling Creek because it gives me a chance to make a difference in boys' lives," Scotty says. "It gives me the opportunity to run the riflery range, to make it safe, and to make sure the boys have a good time participating. It exposes them to the fact that firearms are okay and that they can be handled in a safe and sane manner; and that you can have a lot of fun shooting at targets."

Scotty entered the Marine Corp as a young man and spent a year serving in the Vietnam War as a helicopter gunship pilot escorting transport aircraft in and out of the combat environment.

Scotty and his wife Melissa first heard about Falling Creek when they were taking a class at Blue Ridge Community College, where they ran into a gentleman who taught blacksmithing at the camp. He invited them to visit. When they did, word quickly got out that Scotty knew his way around a rifle, and the rest, as they say, is history.

While in the Marine Corp, Scotty attended night school at Transylvania University where he earned a degree in pre-law. He went on to earn his MBA from National University in San Diego.

Scotty completed a one-year program of study at the Industrial War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C. In 1990, he became commanding officer of a squadron at the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26 in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He served in the first Gulf War, offloading military ships and preparing them for combat.

Scotty served as a commanding officer at a large military facility with a huge civilian workforce in Cherry Point, North Carolina, that did \$1 million in business a day overhauling aircraft engine components. He later worked as a program manager for Lockheed Martin before he and Melissa moved to his current home just down the road from camp in Travelers Rest, South Carolina.

When asked if he would be coming back to lead the riflery program for the tenth straight year next summer, Scotty got a gleam in his eye. "I ask myself that same question at the end of each summer. Right now the answer is yes."

We wouldn't want it any other way.





Green Gold



Previous recipients of the Green and Gold Award who are on staff this summer (back row, left to right):

Robert Kirby, Jez, Ben Williams, Jerry Metcalf; (middle row, left to right) Simon Wilson, Jim Kurtts,

Nathan Newquist, Kyle Jeffries; (front row, left to right) Peter Bishop, Jim Goodrum, Steve Longenecker,

Mickey Herman.



Tribes: Cherokee Catawba Tuscarora Iroquois Creek

> 146 Staff



Falling Creek often plays an integral role in boys' growth and maturity, in their confidence level and social skills, in their spiritual foundation, and in their entire outlook on life, nature, humanity, the world — and their place in it.

But frankly, some boys and their families can't afford Falling Creek. That's why we offer scholarships to camp that our alumni, parents, grandparents, staff and friends can give to as tax-deductible contributions.

American Camp Association Campership

These funds generously provide campership opportunities for boys for whom Falling Creek would otherwise be out of reach. Your gift will make it possible for boys from around the country to benefit from the Falling Creek experience.

You may give online: FallingCreek.com/about-us/giving

Or you can mail your check* to:

American Camp Association 5000 State Road 67 North Martinsville, Indiana 46151-7902

* On the memo line of your check, write Falling Creek Camp campership.

Western North Carolina Counties Campership

This scholarship fund was established in 1992 by Director Emeritus Chuck McGrady, and his family through the Community Foundation of Henderson County. It enables boys from several western North Carolina counties to attend camp, who otherwise would be unable to do so.

You may give online: FallingCreek.com/about-us/giving

Or you can mail your check* to:

Community Foundation of Henderson County c/o Falling Creek Campership PO Box 1108 Hendersonville, North Carolina 28793

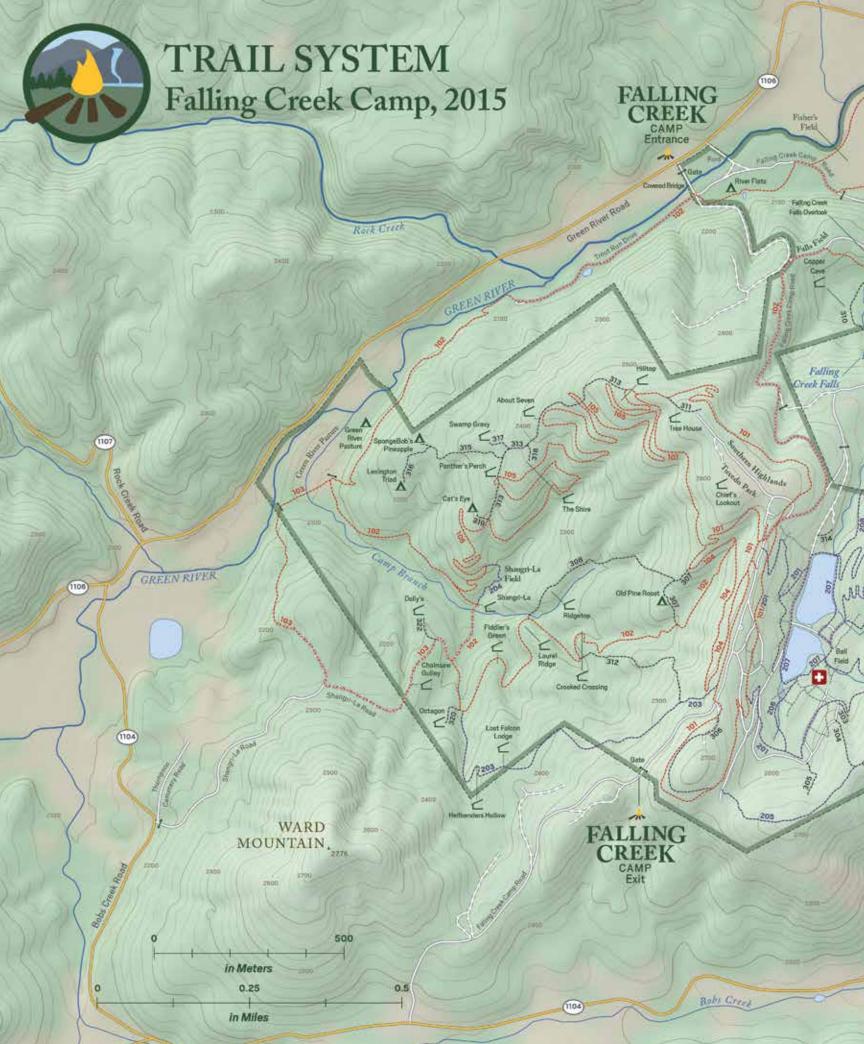
* On the memo line of your check, write Falling Creek Camp campership.

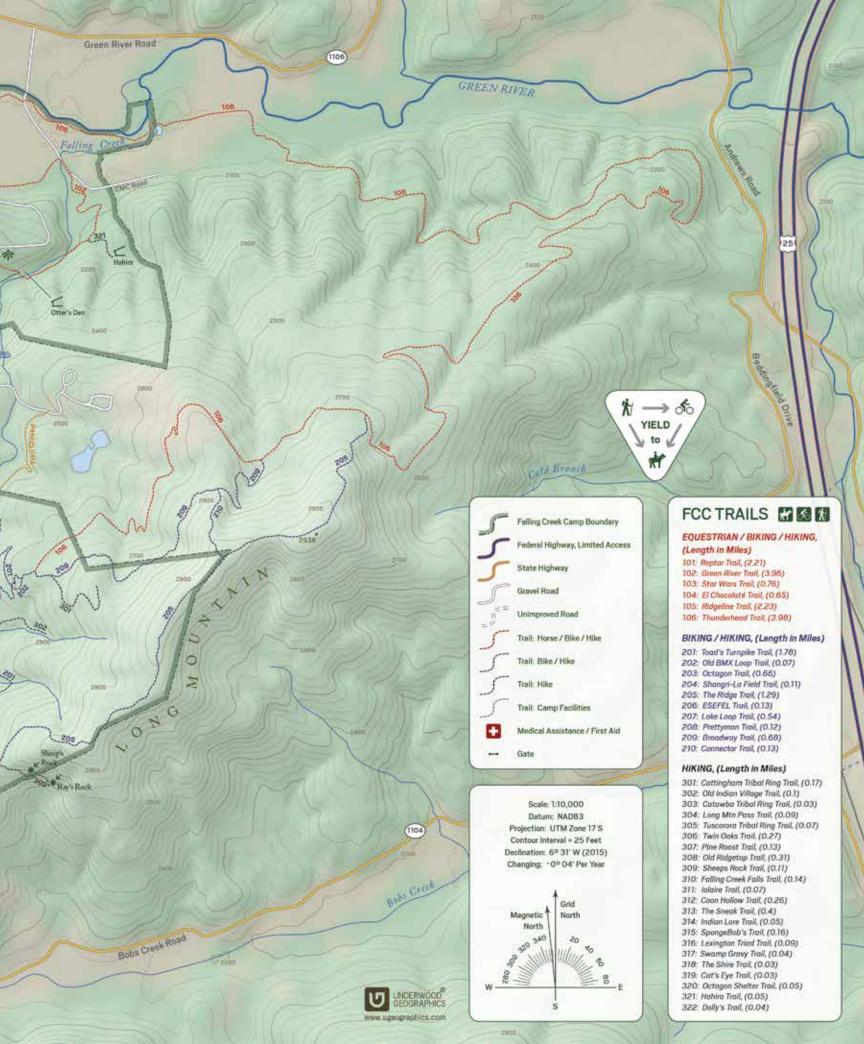














So, what is this remarkable entity that stealthily accomplishes all this without campers even realizing it? Allow us to introduce you to a three-year member of the Falling Creek team...



BIO:

Name: Chuck Norris (so-named after **the** Chuck Norris due to one uncanny similarity = awesome in everything).

Job Title: Custom web application/software program.

Residence: Any computer. Any tablet. Any smart phone.

Availability: 24 hours a day.

Work history: Born 2012. Deployed 2013. Promoted 2015.

Created by: FCC Operations Director Nathan Newquist and the web development team at bitcookie.com.

Achievements: Verizon Wireless Technology Innovation Award.

Responsibilities:

- Track real-time attendance at activities throughout the day so Falling Creek campers maintain tradition of flexibility and choice.
- Show where staff members are to better organize staff coverage.
- · Collect incident reports from staff.
- · Track camper activity progression.
- · Allow nurses to chart in an online medical record and set reminders for follow-up.
- · Keep allergy management and online medication logs.
- · Keep up-to-the-minute trip lists, including food and medication checklists.
- Provide data to spot trends and adjust operations for benefit of campers.
- Generate weekly report for staff showing camper activities and trips, so adjustments can be made to ensure that each camper is getting the most out of his camp experience.

Special Qualifications:

- · Goes virtually undetected by camper.
- Can be viewed on variety of different devices simultaneously.
- Features boys' photos for easy identification and relationship building.
- Helps camp plan for, enhance, and continually improve activities by providing upto-the-minute data on attendance and popularity of activities.
- Detailed real-time data empowers counselors to be proactive about helping campers progress to next level of achievement.



mama etters

na Que S A sampling of recently received letters from parents.



By The Numbers:

61

Campers Achieved
Warrior
(highest level)
in an Activity This
Summer.



Brady had a wonderful time at camp! He was thrilled to make new friends and participate in activities we knew he would be drawn to, like pottery and mountain biking. But he also pushed himself to try new things he never would do at home, like running, sailing, and blacksmithing. He enjoyed all the humor at camp and told me many funny stories. Loved the food, too! I was so thankful for all the pictures and mama notes.

-Katie and Jeff, Parents, Greensboro, NC

I chose Falling Creek because I read about it in Time magazine and wanted a place for my son to be able to do the boy things I could not provide. After the first year, I chose to continue to send him, because having a month being disconnected, doing boy things around positive role models was exactly what my son needed. It gave him a place to truly flourish. It has helped build the type man I want him to become. It provides him with a sense of accomplishment he struggles to find elsewhere.

-Amanda, Parent, Midlothian, VA

Yates, My three boys ... just returned from June camp and I cannot express to you the proper amount of gratitude for the experience they enjoyed. They have been extremely articulate about how much they loved camp and all of the activities ... They came home unplugged, engaged, and preferring to be outdoors. They immediately hung their Enos and now spend a lot of time in our trees. I cannot make this up! They have limited access to technology in the evenings and instead prefer to play cards. This warms my heart. I want to thank you for all that you exposed them to that I am unable to in our everyday life. I am grateful that Falling Creek delivered exactly what it promised yet so much more. . . We will be back next year, plus baby brother . . .

-Megan, Parent, Charleston, SC

FCC always seems to amaze by reintroducing something to Miles that he may not have considered branching out and trying. The plethora of activities and opportunities that you all offer allows our children to grow and face new fears and new challenges with excitement and confidence. Something he never would have considered first year, ended up being the highlight of his fourth year. We look forward to MANY more years with FCC.

-Elise and Max, Parents, Metairie, LA

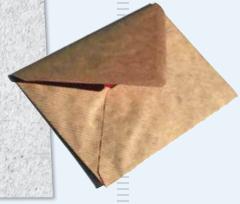


251

Legacy Campers
This Summer,
Whose Fathers,
Uncles, or
Grandfathers
Were Falling Creek
Campers.

85%

of Campers Return Summer After Summer.



FALLING CREEK SCORES PERFECT





"100"

FROM AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION

O omerican O ossociation ACCREDITED

To learn more about the American Camp Association, visit acacamps.org.

Although proud to have been accredited by the prestigious American Camp Association (ACA) for decades, Falling Creek Camp's most recent perfect score of 100 percent from the ACA was perhaps its most satisfying of all.

The purpose of the ACA accreditation program is to educate camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff. The ACA standards establish guidelines for needed policies, procedures, and practices — and the camp is then responsible for the ongoing implementation of those policies.

The standards were first adopted by the ACA in 1948 and have been updated over the years. Influenced by ACA research and a renewed focus on the value of the camp experience, the National Standards Commission has expanded requirements to include up to 290 standards.

One could say that ACA accreditation is the best evidence of a camp's commitment to a standard of care with prudence. For a busy and preoccupied public, accreditation is a way to "screen" camp options, because accreditation from the ACA has over 50 years of parent trust behind it, and identifies programs that offer a solid foundation of health, safety, and program quality.

To receive ACA accreditation, and especially to receive a score of 100, assures the public that your camp:

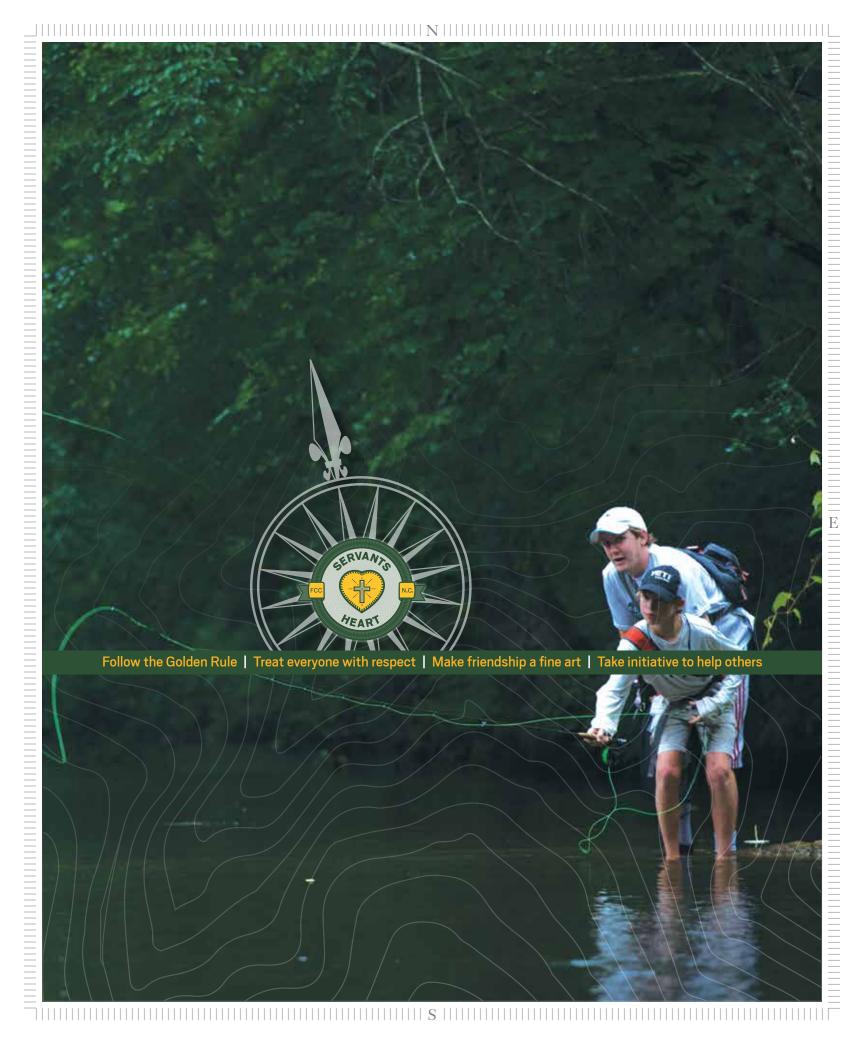
- Complies with up to 290 health, safety, and program quality standards.
- Shows solid proof if its accountability, credibility, and commitment.
- Has gone to great lengths to meet all applicable ACA standards, has been evaluated, and has passed the test.

Experts from many fields — including The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Red Cross, and others — provide counsel and continually work with the ACA to improve camp standards.

The standards adhered to by the ACA help with every aspect of camp management and operation:

- Onsite: fire protection, building maintenance, food service, sleeping quarters.
- Transportation: procedures concerning drivers, vehicles, and traffic on site.
- Health and Wellness: staff qualifications, facilities requirements, record keeping, storage and distribution of medicines, contact information, health forms.
- Operational Management: Safety regulations, emergency communication systems, procedures for intruders, personal property regulations.
- Human Resources: staff qualifications, training, supervision ratios, and procedures.
- Program Activities: aquatics, adventure/challenge, trips, horseback riding, staff qualifications for special programs.

W





announcements for the Cay News from the FCC community. Where they are and what they're doing.

Send us your news and follow us here.

Let us know what you've been up to! We'd love to feature you in Points of Interest. Send your updates to Yates@fallingcreek.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/fallingcreek

Twitter: twitter.com/fallingcreek/

Google+: plus.google.com/116479365063473033975/

Instagram:instagram.com/fallingcreek/ **Pinterest:** www.pinterest.com/fallingcreek/

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/company/falling-creek-camp



W











Ben & Elliot Williams with Albert

Mickey Herman (Camper years: 2001-08, CIT 2009, Staff years: 2010-15)

Mickey, who has shown great leadership and organizational skills this past year as assistant program director, will enter this fall as a first-year law student at Wake Forest.

Ben (Staff years: 1998-present) and Elliot Williams

Ben, Falling Creek's outdoor adventure director, is relocating with his wife, Elliot, this fall to Salt Lake City, Utah. Elliott recently joined a team of doctors at a multilocation veterinarian clinic. Ben will return to camp in the spring and summer to continue leading the mountain biking, rock climbing, paddling, and backpacking programs and expeditions.





Pictured at left: Stevie Frickel (2nd from left) receives the NRA's Distinguished Expert certificate along with Yates (left) and riflery instructors "Scotty" Scott and Mitch Budihas.

Stevie Frickel (Camper years: 2011-15)

Stevie Frickel from Main Camp returned to Falling Creek recently to officially receive his certificate for attaining "Distinguished Expert" in the NRA ranking system. This is the first time in history a camper has reached this extremely challenging level of expertise. To earn the certificate, Stevie had to first reach the level of Warrior in Falling Creek's ranking system before then shooting

several relays in the prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing positions. Stevie had to shoot a nearly perfect score of 18/20 on five targets while prone and sitting, then 16/20 while kneeling and standing. Stevie is a part of his school's JROTC program and is now deciding between following a career in the military after high school or going on to compete on a college riflery team while working to become an officer. Whatever he does, Stevie has a place in Falling Creek history and in our hearts.



Trey Higgins

In Memorium

Trey Higgins (Camper years: 1970's-'80's)

Beloved camper and friend Trey
Higgins was killed in a flying
accident in June while pushing
boundaries doing what he loved to
do most. Trey was a life traveler,
musician and artist, river guide,
combat fighter pilot, Top Gun flight
instructor, Lt. Commander US
Navy, and Falling Creek camper.
He was intentional in his work
and in his relationships. Trey once
said his experiences as a Falling
Creek camper were foundational
in developing the confidence he
needed to pursue his dreams.



Kyle Jeffries (Staff years: '08,'09 '10, '14, & '15) and Jules Mary (Staff years: '14 & '15) have a September wedding planned.

Kyle Jeffries: Program Director

From among Falling Creek's pool of well qualified, vetted staff, Kyle Jeffries has accepted the position of program director. Kyle assumed full responsibility starting in Junior Camp this summer. He will continue to work closely with Peter Bishop each summer. Peter, assistant program director, splits his year between camp and school, as an Outdoor Educator for the YMCA in Australia and also in school this past year earning certifications in Outdoor Leadership and coaching across the disciplines of Paddling, Mountain Biking, Climbing & Mountain Leader.

Kyle Jeffries began working as a cabin counselor at Falling Creek in the summer of 2008. He continued working summers through 2010 as a cabin counselor and activity leader for ultimate Frisbee, where he wrote the original Ultimate activity progression. He was also a lifeguard and worked in a number of different activities, including fishing, blacksmithing, sailing, and disc golf.

Over the course of several summers, Kyle has served as the Cherokee, Catawba, and Tuscarora Tribal Leader. The Tribal Leader manages 16-20 counselors and provides leadership to 64-80 campers within the tribe. They also plan and organize tribal evening programs and other activities.

Kyle attended Georgia Southern University and graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in communication studies. While at Georgia Southern, he began working with at-risk youth. After graduation, Kyle pursued his master's degree in social work at The University of Tennessee. With an emphasis in management and organizational leadership, Kyle's coursework allowed him to continue working with youth through internships at non-profit agencies in Knoxville.

For two years, outside the classroom, Kyle continued his work with at-risk youth as a program supervisor managing 26 employees at a residential treatment facility serving adolescents. In May of 2014, Kyle returned to Falling Creek as a Tribal Leader for the Tuscarora tribe and also received the Green and Gold award in recognition for staff excellence. In January, Kyle moved to Greenville, South Carolina, to work for Communities-In-Schools, the nation's largest dropout prevention program. As site-coordinator, Kyle managed six staff members, — half of whom were state certified teachers — in a local elementary school to develop programming.

This year marked Kyle's fifth summer at Falling Creek, during which, he acted as the leader of the Counselor-In-Training program. After their September wedding, Kyle and Julienne "Jules" Mary will move to our mountain. Jules has brought her talents to Falling Creek the last two summers. She earned her masters degree at the University of Tennessee and is currently a fourth grade teacher. We are pleased Kyle and Jules will continue as part of the Falling Creek family.



W

We are excited to announce the kickoff of the It Only Takes a Spark grant program. The fund has been established to provide Falling Creek staff members with resources and support to positively impact others beyond the summer months.

In our inaugural year, we received a strong number of applications and the selection committee awarded three grants. Each recipient has gone above and beyond the call to demonstrate a "Servant's Heart," one of the four pillars of The Falling Creek Code.

The fund is set up through a partnership with The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. We are proud to announce our 2015 recipients, and a note about each of their projects:



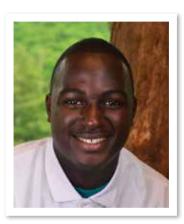
Michael (MA) Dozier

- Brevard College graduate, former FCC counselor, and frequent Father/Son weekend staff leader.
- Started Nimrod Outdoors ministry (http://www.nimrodoutdoors.com) to help fathers and sons develop a strong relationship based on hunting and Christian principles.



Ryan Smith

- May 2015 graduate, pre-med, UNC-Chapel Hill.
- Mission trip to Choluteca, Honduras.
- Empowered and assisted local community to improve basic health care, construct homes, encourage, and strengthen Christian faith.



Harry Titus

- Rising senior, elementary education, Coastal Carolina.
 Interested in being a psychologist or youth counselor.
- Increase impact of the "Back to School Bash" in his hometown of Mayesville, South Carolina.
- Provided much-needed school supplies to hundreds of impoverished children.

Falling Creek alumni, parents, grandparents, staff, and friends can join in making tax-deductible gifts to the It Only Takes a Spark Fund grant program.

Gifts may be made online (fallingcreek.com/about-us/giving) or by mailing a check* to:

Community Foundation of Western North Carolina 4 Vanderbilt Park Drive | Suite 300 | Asheville, NC 28803

* On the memo line of your check, write Falling Creek Camp – It Only Takes a Spark.

Contact the camp office for information regarding stocks or securities gifts, and for any other questions you may have.





SESSION	GRADES	DATES
June Camp	1-9	Sun, Jun 5 to Fri, Jun 24, 2016 (20 Days)
Main Camp	2-10	Sun, Jun 26 to Fri, July 22, 2016 (27 Days)
2-Week Camp	1-5	Sun, July 24 to Fri, Aug 5, 2016 (13 Days)
Junior Camp	1-4	Sun, Aug 7 to Fri, Aug 12, 2016 (6 Days)

Father/Son Weekends

SESSION	GRADES	DATES
May Father/Son Weekend 2016	K+	Fri, May 20 – Sun, May 22, 2016
August Father/Son Weekend 2016	K+	Fri, Aug 19 – Sun, Aug 21, 2016

Expeditions

SESSION	GRADES	DATES
HUCK Ecuador Paddling	7-11	Sat, July 23 – Sun, July 31, 2016
HUCK Ottawa Paddling	7-11	Mon, July 25 – Mon, Aug 1, 2016
BLAZE Yosemite Backpacking	7-11	Sat, July 23 – Sun, July 31, 2016
CRANK Park City Mountain Biking	7-11	Mon, July 25 – Mon, Aug 1, 2016
SUMMIT Utah Rock Climbing	7-11	Mon, July 25 – Mon, Aug 1, 2016

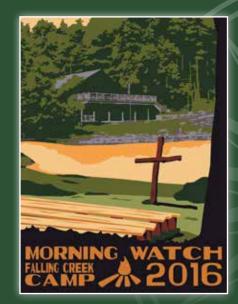
2015 Fall Camp Movies and Reunion Tour

Calling all new and returning Falling Creek families, campers, counselors, and alumni in your area — it's time to come together!

Join Falling Creek Camp Director Yates
Pharr for our annual Falling Creek Movie and
Reunion Show — and invite your interested
friends.

Yates will share the new 2016 camp DVD, which will be available to take home, and each boy will receive a 2016 limited-edition trunk sticker!

Come see old friends, meet new ones, and learn why we believe Falling Creek is such an amazing place for boys.







a call toquarters



Taking the Code Down This Mountain

By Mickey Herman



TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun, From the lake, from the hills, from the sky; All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.



All FCC Campfire programs end with the community standing and singing the first verse of Taps together.

As my tenure at Falling Creek draws to a close, reflection is inevitable. Over the past decade and a half, camp has become home. That feeling, familiar to many alumni, is both literal and figurative in nature. Literal, in the sense that as I have grown older, an increasingly greater proportion of each year has been spent in Tuxedo. But more importantly, figurative, in that Falling Creek is the place with which I identify most strongly. There is little doubt that both my character and interests have been shaped most significantly by my time spent on this mountain as a camper, CIT, counselor, and director. There are countless people to thank for that, many of whom I have the privilege of working alongside on a daily basis.

I still remember my first cabin overnight as a camper in Cabin 4. My counselor, Ben Williams, charismatically led us on what seemed like a never-ending hike up the mountain through driving wind and rain. It was only when we awoke the next morning that we realized we had camped just steps from cabins along the ridge (known now as Tuscarora, then as Upper Catawba, and even earlier as Tent City). Although I'm sure I was less appreciative at the time, I have since internalized that experience as one in which a positive attitude will prevail against all odds. As they often do, things have come full circle. Today, I am proud to call Ben — with whom I currently share an office — a mentor and great friend.

In returning to my studies in pursuit of a law degree, I look forward to a long and fruitful career. I am confident, however, that I will be hard-pressed to find leaders as supportive as Yates and Marisa Pharr. Those who know Yates value his relentless pursuit of excellence. But to him, excellence at the expense of integrity isn't truly excellence at all. For Marisa, a productive day is one during which everyone else's needs are attended to before her own. As I enter a profession regularly teased

for wily behavior (insert lawyer joke here), it is lessons such as these that will serve as the cornerstone for my approach to both life and law. Unfortunately, seeking the Pharrs' advice will no longer be as simple as walking down the hall. If their foregoing dedication to my personal and professional development is any indication, however, Yates and Marisa will remain a vital resource as I chart a course into the future.

Packing for the move to Winston-Salem proved to be an additional cause for reflection. As I broke down my fly rod, I was reminded of both the gratitude and admonishment I owe Goody. Gratitude for sharing with me his love for fly-fishing; scolding for sharing with me his love for fly-fishing. While I will likely never forget Goody's instruction on the roll cast ("It's all in the wrist," he claims), it is the required mastery of patience and perseverance that has been most impactful. I do not doubt that such skills will prove invaluable over the course of my studies and career. If only I could bill Goody for the hours spent along the Green River.

Of course, I will rely heavily on my three years of legal education as I pursue a career as an attorney. With that in mind, I will approach my coursework with the same energy and excitement that I have dedicated to camp. While my desk will more likely be covered in binders and stacks of paper than face paint and dodge balls, I am confident that my experiences at camp will be heavily transferable to both the classroom and the courtroom. After all, once you've been a camp counselor, you can do anything. That extends to legal counsel, right?

Mickey Herman has spent 14 summers at Falling Creek as a camper, counselor, and tribal leader and the past year as interim program director. He entered Wake Forest Law School this fall in the class of 2018.

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