

Fall 2016

# Grow & Behold

A Publication of Falling Creek Camp





FALLING  
CREEK  
CAMP

# Behold

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

—Psalm 133:1

# Grow & Behold

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S



# FALLING CREEK CAMP







We had fun recreating this photo from 48 years ago. Tennis remains one of the most popular activities in camp.



Then & Now





yates'yak



## *feed the fire*

As crazy as it may seem — that Marisa and I own a boys' camp and yet have five daughters — I bet our homes look more similar than you might think. Just as with your family, in which each child is unique, there is never a dull moment.

W As we plunged into the new school year, our Lucy headed off to become a freshman at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, while Annie, now a junior, continues to enjoy the mountains at Appalachian State. Mary finds herself in her junior year of high school, Danielle is in third grade, and Jazzy is a first-grader, where homework has already

lost its novelty. While it is natural to talk in terms of school, especially in the fall, as parents we know there are other avenues to educating oneself. Marisa and I believe camp to be one of the best. Our children continue to reap the benefits of camp — as a camper and as they have gotten older, a counselor.

When I was a boy, I relied on the experiences at camp as lessons for life skills in other areas. For instance, the transfer of what it took to run rapids again and again made an impact when trying to get a project right, even when it took 2-3 attempts. Camp experiences prepared me in college — not only in academics, but socially in extracurricular activities and leadership roles.

When it came time for me to immerse myself in the business world (commercial real estate), my camp roots are what anchored me, gave me confidence, helped me make decisions, and kept reminding me of what's important: family, friends, God. Even now, as camp director, I am guided by my camp days — rich memories of close friendships, courage and exploration, teamwork, faith, and family bonds.

When you read the article, *From Camp to College* on page 34, I think you'll take solace in another example that camp really does help young people prepare to launch out on their own when it's time



The Pharr family out on an adventure hiking at Caesars Head State Park, SC. Bottom: Danielle; Middle: (l to r) Mary, Annie, Lucy, Marisa, Yates; Top: Jazzy.



to go to college — and beyond. Award-winning Hollywood producer Wyck Godfrey states in his interview with G&B on page 24, that Falling Creek was probably the most formative experience in his life, in terms of affecting what he does now. And just look at Martin Eleta's story on page 18. Here's a young man who — in some part thanks to the code he learned at Falling Creek — decided he wanted to do something meaningful and helpful with his spare time. So he and his closest friends are providing water filters to poor villages in Panama. Impressive.

Our heart-cry here at camp is to partner with parents to help provide their boys — campers and staff — with a strong foundation to become upstanding men. We have a unique opportunity to do that here at the top of our mountain. Ours is a community that offers a chance for each individual to be embraced, and to add his own stick or log to our all-consuming fire. I enjoyed how Chaplain Dusty Davis put into words on page 22 a description of the life-long impact we hope to have on boys.

Here at Falling Creek, we continue to help boys gain and enhance their life skills, their relationships, and their connection with God. Our hope is that, after

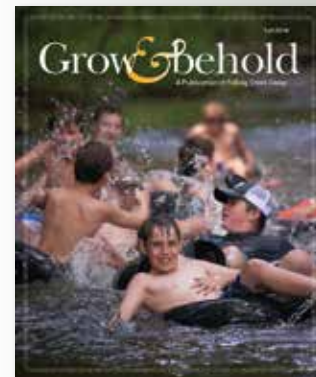
we fan that flame and feed their spirits, that they carry their flames back home to enhance their families, schools, teams, workplaces, and organizations.

Camp is an emotional, shared experience between both campers and staffers. Together, we are changed by it. Our lives are made richer and brighter because of it. Hopefully, we go down Camp Road different, better, more others-focused than when we arrived. As we say in our Ceremony of Light at closing campfire:

*When Jesus spoke of light,  
he was speaking of the talents in each one of us.  
Our talents are like this little candlelight.  
They are fragile and can easily be put out or lost.  
We have to work hard all the time to see that the light  
within each one of us does not become darkness...*

*And there are many types of candles.  
It is always a surprise and a mystery to me to discover,  
again and again, that God made the world  
in such a way that there are candles that only I can light.  
My little candle, if I choose to light it, makes a difference.*

*Yates Pharr*



# Grow & Behold

THE MAGAZINE

**Fall 2016**

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## mailcall

We get a lot of mail around here and like to share some in each issue of *Grow & Behold*. Feel free to send your correspondence to the address on the back, or to [paige@fallingcreek.com](mailto:paige@fallingcreek.com).



### A Trip Down Memory Lane

Thank you for sending a copy of *Grow & Behold* to me. I just finished reading it and wanted to pass along what a great trip down memory lane it was. This summer will be 6 years since I last visited Falling Creek (that was leading a freshman orientation trip with Hampden-Sydney College), and it has been roughly 10 years since I was a camper/counselor. A summer hasn't passed that I haven't thought about my time there.

Since then, I graduated from Hampden-Sydney and have served as a logistics officer in the Marine Corps. It was a challenge at times, but also an incredible experience. I can say that one of my most prized possessions is an award from camp I received my second year there. It was presented to me by the mountain biking staff as the, "I think I can, I think I can, Let me at it!" award for never giving up as I struggled to ride up Camp Road. The award, and that mentality, has been with me ever since.

I returned home this past May to work at our family business in Raleigh, and have had a wanting to return to Falling Creek since coming home . . . if there are any scholarships or additional ways to get involved in helping someone have a similar experience I was able to have, I would be interested.

Looking forward to getting involved,

*Drew Walker*  
Raleigh, NC



### Everyone's Talking

We were able to show copies of *Grow & Behold* to several other camp folks, and wanted to share some of their comments with you:

"Amazing..." followed by lots of questions, such as, "How long did it take?" and comments, like, "It makes so much sense to combine all of those things into one piece."

"I am speechless. Can I have a copy to share with my development director?"

After reading the article *Zero Gravity*, "You all have blacksmithing?"

While looking at the camper photos, "Seeing all of the cabin groups is wonderful! How did you take all of those pictures?"

"Taps has words? I had no idea. I love that for the closing campfire."

*Falling Creek Camp*

*(Responses noted are from the ACA SE Conference)*

### The Spirit of Falling Creek

Just wanted to drop you a note and let you know what a great surprise receiving a copy of *Grow & Behold* was. It looks like wonderful things have happened at camp over the last 10 years. It's great to see it vibrant and growing. Camp has clearly been blessed. I hadn't thought about camp in a long time and it brought back great memories. It was a lot more rustic back in the 80s. The buildings have changed, but I am sure the "Spirit of Falling Creek" hasn't.

As for me, I am finishing my 20th year here at Dartmouth. Work, family and my two Taekwondo schools keep me busy 12 hours a day, 5 days a week. If you're ever in New England, give me a call. Its beautiful right now. Wishing you continued great success and happiness.

*A Son of Falling Creek,*

*Steve Hopkins, Grantham, NH*



# PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS



Get Excited—Take that drive up camp road again for a weekend with your Falling Creek brothers.

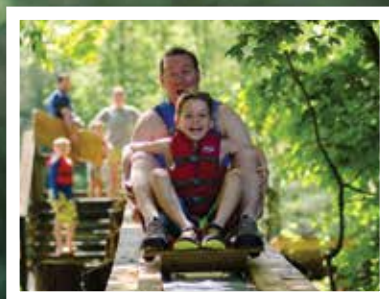
FALL 2018 • 50TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI WEEKEND

FALLING  
CREEK  
CAMP

May 19-21, 2017 • August 18-20, 2017

## Father Son

WEEKEND DATES





# boy!

what  
a **great**  
**idea!**

Boys' laughter rings out across the Green River Valley. Then you see them, a blur of sweaty bodies — sprinting, climbing, riding, splashing, singing, shooting, hiking, paddling — until there's no energy left and they collapse in their cabins. And do it all over the next day. **This is Falling Creek Camp.**

To the camper, to the casual onlooker, it's a seemingly magical utopia where everything runs like clockwork, there's always a fresh coat of paint, cool new stuff is added constantly, and endless hours of sheer fun and positive vibes are doled out from a bottomless reservoir. **But it didn't start out that way.**

In fact, the story of how it did start is almost as good as the stories its founder used to tell by the campfire — stories of sacrifice, heroism, and redemption. **This is the story of the camp . . . that almost wasn't.**



The story  
of the  
camp ...  
**THAT**  
**ALMOST**  
**WASN'T**



E



It would be appropriate to say that Jim Miller (James Miller III) went out on a limb to start Falling Creek camp in 1969. It would probably be more appropriate to say it was the gamble of a lifetime.

Raised by a coal miner in Madisonville, Kentucky, Jim (Jimdaddy, as many affectionately called him) was acquainted with hard labor and didn't even know what a camp was until later in life. His ticket out of the coal mines came when the head football coach at the University of Kentucky, the late Bear Bryant, recruited him and offered him a full scholarship as a lineman. After a year at University, when Jimdaddy didn't keep his grade point average high enough, he became eligible for military service and was drafted for the Korean War.

Fortunately for Jimdaddy, football saved him once again when he was selected to play for the Army team, which he did for two years before returning to the University of Kentucky. He soon met a young lady by the name of Elizabeth (Libby) Hannah, whose great grandfather, Joseph Sevier, had founded Camp Greystone for girls in Tuxedo, North Carolina, in 1920.

Joe founded Greystone as the fulfillment of a longtime dream after his career as a Presbyterian minister. He was the executive pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta, Georgia. A church known to be a center of political power — a big deal in the south. He gave up that prestigious job in order to start Camp Greystone, because he thought camp would be a better, more exciting, more productive platform for spreading the Good News to young people.



Falling Creek Camp  
founder, Jim  
(Jimdaddy) Miller

*Greystone*

## Babies, Corporate Life, and the Prospect of Camp

Libby and Jimdaddy married in the summer of 1959. Jimdaddy excelled in corporate sales with various companies, including Proctor & Gamble, while Libby kept the home; prepared for their first child, Kathryn (Katie) in 1961; and continued to make the trek back to Tuxedo in the summers to work at Greystone.

After several years passed, and several more children were added to the Miller family — including Jimboy in 1963 and Stuart in 1965 — Jimdaddy got an itch to learn more about the camp business, because Libby's parents were wanting to know if she or any of her sisters might be interested in taking over Camp Greystone.

"So there came a big decision in the summer of 1966," says Jimboy Miller, son of Jimdaddy and current director of Camp Greystone. "My dad decided he would give up the whole corporate thing and do the camp thing as his life's work," Jimboy says. "I don't think he really understood what he was signing on to. He didn't know the full extent of what was involved."

"I got involved in this primarily because when my wife inherited Camp Greystone, which had been in her family for some 50 years, I came with her to help. My mother-in-law, Virginia Hannah, had suggested, 'Jim, why don't you do a boys' camp?' My wife loved it. She had a passion for doing camp and I felt it was something I would be suited for, so that's how the first seeds were planted — and I liked the idea."

— Jimdaddy Miller



Left to Right: Jimdaddy, Mrs. Hanna, Libby Miller.



Left to Right: Stuart, Libby, Jimboy, Katie, and Jimdaddy Miller.



In order to learn more about running a camp, Jimdaddy spent a summer working at Camp Sequoyah near Asheville, North Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Sequoyah was founded in 1924 by C. Walton “Chief” Johnson, with whom Jimdaddy had the privilege of working all that summer.

“Sequoyah had a fabulous reputation and Chief Johnson was an icon of the camping world,” Jimboy says. “My dad had an extraordinary experience working there. They gave him a whole lot of inspiration for what really proved to be Falling Creek. My dad thought that for the camp experience to be great, it needs to be more than just doing stuff; you need to have a platform that is impacting all aspects of what it means to be a man; and the reality of our existence has been made in the image of God — the part of the thing that, as boys grow into men, they need to wrestle with and come to grips with.”

When Jimdaddy went back to Greystone to apply what he’d learned at Camp Sequoyah in the summer of 1967, he was like a fish out of water. “They didn’t know what to do with him and he ended up doing mostly manual labor stuff, moving trunks and helping the maintenance man (Grady) around the camp. He didn’t do much with the administration of the camp,” Jimboy says. “He felt like he needed to make a place for himself that was outside of the girls’ camp. He thought that a boys’ camp would be ideal, something modeled after Sequoyah that could be a brother camp for the Greystone girls.

“Jimdaddy had an entrepreneurial spirit and liked the idea and the challenge; he loved the idea of building something from scratch that would last for a long, long time,” Jimboy says. “He had seen the impact Sequoyah had had with boys, and the impact Greystone had had on his wife and all of her friends. So he knew it would be a worthwhile thing to do and it would be a good business.”

“The great thing about a summer camp situation is that it is one of the few controlled environments we have left in America. It’s a place where children can come to be away from television, to be with a care group. It’s a place where a community of people can come to be together, and in a short period of time, you can create a very positive learning environment.”

— Jimdaddy Miller

### Jewels in a Crown

Soon, Jimdaddy and Libby began looking in earnest for camp property as they explored the winding back roads near Camp Greystone. “In hindsight, it was just meant to be,” says Jimboy. “It was a very unlikely property, because it wasn’t for sale.”



## By The Numbers:

# 113

boys signed up for camp that first summer of 1969.



In order to learn more about running a camp, Jimdaddy spent a summer working at Camp Sequoyah near Asheville, North Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

“We had heard of Virginia Prettyman, who at the time was a teacher at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and we had heard that she owned a sizeable piece of property, so we drove up there and drove in around the top of the mountain, and there, nestled just like jewels in a crown, were these two beautiful little lakes, right on top of the mountain — ideally situated for a camp. And so I looked at Libby and she looked at me and said, ‘This is it.’”

— Jimdaddy Miller

Jimdaddy wrote and telephoned Miss Prettyman to inquire about the land, but she initially replied that it was not for sale. He arranged a meeting in Boston to meet Miss Prettyman in person. He explained that he was the director at Camp Greystone and that he could afford to pay \$200 - \$250 an acre for her land to start a boys’ camp. Miss Prettyman replied that her idea for a fair price would be more like \$800 - \$1,000 per acre, but she did not want to sell. Jimdaddy once said: “I can’t tell you what a sinking spell I had, because I just knew that the Lord had led us here and this was the place for the camp.”

Then the unthinkable happened. Convicts broke free from a county chain gang and an FBI manhunt ensued. “These guys had broken out of prison and were killing people,” Jimboy recalls. And that’s when Miss Prettyman had a change of heart about selling her property. “She just saw herself having no defense up there by herself in this remote cabin,” Jimboy says. “And that upset her mind and she decided to sell out of concern and, in a sense, of wanting protection.”

“Miss Prettyman called me and asked me if we could get together. And she said ‘Jim, I’ve been thinking over your offer,’ and she says, ‘It’s woefully inadequate, but on the other hand, I felt that I would like to have a camp up here and also I’d really appreciate, now with this incident raging around us . . . we were just glad to have some people up here.’ And so she says, ‘I’ve decided to accept your offer.’”

— Jimdaddy Miller

### Pray Really Hard

Jimdaddy had secured 125 acres from Miss Prettyman, and had lofty dreams of building cabins, a dining hall, tennis courts, a shower house, a rifle range, a ball field, horse stables, swim docks and a rollercoaster in one of the lakes — and open Falling Creek Camp in the summer of 1969. But many obstacles lay ahead — lots of them.

In February of that year — with four cabins built and some excavation and concrete work done here and there for the other amenities — a deep freeze blasted Tuxedo.

"It snowed for four days. Then the temperature dropped to minus ten. This cold set in and lasted three weeks. The clock was ticking. We needed 11 cabins, but only 4 were built. The dining room, not one piece of wood had been put together. The stable wasn't even cleared for the horses. We had excavation for the athletic field and the tennis courts, but there was nothing there. We were leveraged to the hilt, we had borrowed money on everything. I couldn't find any carpenters . . . For the first time in my life I'm scared to death, I'm thinking we're going to lose it all."

— Jimdaddy Miller

A little tyke at the time, Jimboy recalls riding in his dad's yellow Jeep up to the camp site and actually driving out onto the lake; everything was that frozen. "The project was way behind schedule and my dad was under a whole lot of pressure," Jimboy says. "I remember him being excited about it, yet scared to death about it all at the same time. He was trying to convince people to send their sons to camp, but he couldn't even show them a picture of the dining hall because the dining hall hadn't even been built yet! He had said, after the fact, that it was the hardest time of his life, and I'm certain that is true. There is no way he was sleeping well . . . it was a pressure cooker. I think he felt, it may be hard, it may be stressful, but in the end it will all come together and work out; all you've got to do is just work really hard and pray really hard about it, and it will work out."

### Ray of Hope

March sunshine and melting snow meant all systems were go, but Jimdaddy was having a difficult time finding carpenters, because most of the good ones worked for the bigger construction companies in Greenville and Asheville. Finally, he came across a good, honest man and excellent builder named Ralph Beddingfield. Jimdaddy said, 'Ralph, is there any way you could come?' Ralph replied, 'I maybe could come, and maybe my brothers, too.' Jimdaddy perked up. 'How many brothers do you have?' Ralph said, 'Four. Three skilled carpenters and one rock mason.' Needless to say, Jimdaddy could have cried.

When Jimboy thinks of how his dad undertook the task of building Falling Creek from scratch, he shakes his head. "It boggles the mind to think that someone would jump into that abyss," he says. "I can't imagine. In a big sense, it was like the biggest roll of the dice he ever made in life."

To add to the challenge, Jimdaddy and Libby were buying Camp Greystone from her parents at the same time, so they had to make regular payments for that. "My grandfather said, 'If you miss a payment, then your loan will be considered in default, and we will



## By The Numbers:

# 125

The number of acres originally bought from Miss Prettyman to start Falling Creek Camp.



# 675

The number of acres currently occupied by Falling Creek Camp.

take Camp Greystone back," Jimboy says. "He told my mother and father very clearly that he thought it was a bad idea to start this boys' camp. He said camps are not a very good business, they take a lot of money, starting from scratch is going to cost a lot more than you think, and I don't think you are going to find that you have enough money to pull this off. And if you find this is not working, don't come to us for the money, because I'm telling you, I'm not going to support you in this. This is your deal. You have got to make this work on your own or see it fail on your own. And if it fails you are the one pay the consequences on this."

"So my dad really did put everything on the line and his line of credit was tapped out with Greystone," Jimboy says. "And he had no line of credit with his father-in-law, and he didn't have money of his own, and didn't have friends with money. He came all the way down to the point where the carpenters that were working on the job self-funded the thing for a little bit . . . I think he came right up to the brink of financial calamity at Falling Creek."

"We felt if we were going to make a go of it as a business we were going to have to have a bare minimum of 100 campers. The first of March we had 13 campers enrolled. I had built a camp for 100 campers and we had 13 boys enrolled and camp was three months out. There's two families that represented Greystone — one was the Turner family from Sarasota and the other was the Monroe family from Cincinnati. And I called and I said, 'You know, we really need some campers.' They were strong Greystone supporters and so they said, 'We'll help you.' We prayed every night for the needs of the camp and that the Lord would provide."

— Jimdaddy Miller

### Building Camp . . . on the Fly

Sure enough, 113 boys signed up for camp that first summer of 1969, but Falling Creek was far from ready, and was still lacking a program director. Then a track coach at the University of Missouri named Bob Teel, whose daughter attended Camp Greystone, called Jimdaddy and said he'd heard about the opening for a program director and said he had a great camp man on his staff named Jim McGregor. Jim came over and took a look at Falling Creek, which had an unfinished dining hall and no tennis courts. Miraculously, Jim said, 'You know, I'd like to give it a try.'

When Falling Creek opened there were signs posted that read, "Horseback Riding - to be announced," "Tennis - to be announced." There was no electricity in the cabins and the campers were actually helping build the camp, doing landscaping, gardening, cutting paths, and building the campfire area. "My dad always felt and had a profound sense of life-long gratitude to



those first-year camp families,” Jimboy says. “If they had not given him the benefit of the doubt, he could have lost everything he’d been working on and it would have been a devastating thing.”

“Some of the guys said, looking back, it was the best year, learning about camaraderie and team effort. Growing is not easy. And looking back, there have been some bumps in growing Falling Creek. We have to die a little to grow, and that’s been true of Falling Creek, and true in my life and true of most people. But there’s never, ever, ever been any doubt in my mind that the camp was an enduring, lasting entity. And in my opinion, even now I think that the spiritual and moral values of a good summer camp is more important than the programs. And I think any institution founded on those principles will have a lasting legacy.”

— Jimdaddy Miller

Under the leadership of Jimdaddy Miller, Falling Creek Camp quickly gained a reputation as a safe, secure, fun-filled camp where values and morals were lived out, where enthusiasm and positive attitude were modeled daily, and where stability and excellence could be relied upon by parents, families, and boys across the country.

One of Jimdaddy’s true gifts was storytelling, and he often used lore and song as a vehicle for sharing the message of the Christian faith. “He did not really put a lot into sermons and that type of thing, he did more with inspirational stories,” Jimboy says. “He would tie the Gospel to poignant stories of heroism, of great deeds done of sacrifice, he taught us that all of great stories lead back to the great story of redemption. So he would introduce us to Christian ideals in an entertaining and inspirational way. Everyone loved my dad’s stories. He would paint the pictures just beautifully and the stories would really come to life. It felt very much like great entertainment to sit through one of his campfire talks.”

## Passing the Torch

In order to keep up with their obligations at Camp Greystone, Jimdaddy and Libby sold Falling Creek Camp after having owned it just over three years. “During the three years it was probably always, financially, a very difficult thing to do,” Jimboy says. “I don’t think he was ever seeing any money out of it and I think he was under a tremendous amount of pressure. Plus, once he showed that he could start his own camp, my grandparents started entrusting him with more management responsibilities at Greystone. So he was in over his head.”

Jimdaddy passed on in 2010, but many of the roots he planted almost 50 years ago have become time-honored traditions at Falling Creek, including the verse of scripture that is still recited at the opening of each Sunday night at campfire beneath the starlit sky:

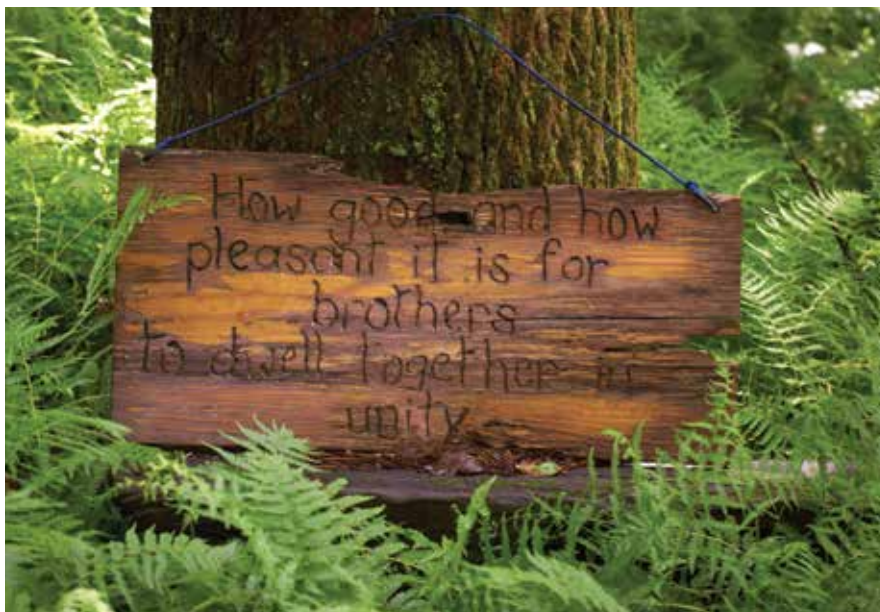
**“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!” — Psalm 133: 1**

Since Jimdaddy and Libby opened Falling Creek in 1969, the camp has changed hands just three times, from the next owners Yorke and Barbara Pharr, to owners Chuck and Jean McGrady, and to the current owners, Yates and Marisa Pharr (no relation to Yorke). Jimdaddy continued to promote the camp and to come visit, read, and sing with campers for a number of years after it sold.

“My dad was thrilled with the success the camp had over the years,” Jimboy says. “My dad very much felt you have to improve camp — both the facilities and the program — all the time. He particularly felt it important to invest strongly in the facilities that make up a camp. Such commitment inspires confidence in the future of a camp and the vision of the directors.

“My dad liked the fact that Yates and Marisa aggressively improved Falling Creek’s property each year. That’s always been the way he liked to run a camp. The camp community really does delight in such projects. The campers love the fact that you care about it and the parents love the fact that you are not just trying to make a buck, you are investing in the place that they love and they appreciate that attitude. Yates and Marisa are running camp the way my dad would have liked to have done it. He would have loved that gymnasium. My dad would have said, ‘Oh yeah, that’s exactly what I would have done.’”

Indeed, with each owner, Falling Creek has enhanced and added new facilities, and increased enrollment. Jimdaddy’s original 125 acres have expanded to 675 acres of remarkable beauty, where boys from the U.S. and beyond come to meet again each summer, and to bond in unity and brotherly love. 🔥



# GENERATIONS

For three generations, boys (and men) from the Niemeyer family have been making the trek up the bumpy Camp Road to what Chuck Niemeyer likes to call the “complete boy’s paradise,” Falling Creek Camp.



## *...the “complete boy’s paradise”*



1976



1985



2012



2016

“Somewhere around 1976 I knew immediately that I wanted to be part of the experience,” Chuck recalls. His parents, Dr. Charlie Niemeyer, and wife, Carolyn, first introduced their son Chuck to Falling Creek when his sister, Erica, attended nearby Camp Greystone. His dad served as a camp doctor there and his mom served as the swimming director one year and as a camp nurse several summers. “Every summer my parents would drop me off first at Falling Creek, and my sister would go on to Camp Greystone. Both of our camp trunks were in the back of the brown-paneled, rear-wheel drive station wagon. As soon as Dad would turn off of Bob’s Creek onto Camp Road, the tires would spit gravel up the narrow road, amongst the many protests of my mother.

“There aren’t  
many places  
where a  
boy can be  
just that,  
a boy.”

—Chuck Niemeyer

W

“Shep Cooper was my first counselor; he could not have been more than 130 pounds, wet,” Chuck recalls. “But he single-handedly carried my heavily fortified trunk to our cabin. I was somewhat timid, but that summer I was welcomed by other boys of varying backgrounds, many of whom I would see again summer after summer. We all had a blast and were sufficiently entertained by the gregarious staff. I would wake early and lie quietly in my bunk when the sun was just starting to crest the mountain and produce a little light. I believe Frost wrote, ‘Nature’s first green is gold,’ and that was how every morning was at camp.”

Chuck believes Falling Creek played an integral role in his development as a young man, and that’s why his boys, John and Will, have attended camp for many summers as well. “There aren’t many places where a boy can be just that, a boy. At Falling Creek, you get the choice of activities which can be camp-based or high adventure,” Chuck says. “The first several years I was often out on the many three-day hikes. When I was older I stayed a camp more for the friendships and camaraderie. Camp teaches you to get along with others. With the counselors as guides, we had chores and duties in the cabin that



would rotate throughout the week. We all had to carry the load. We all gained confidence and helped one another as we made the progression in our activities.”

### The Next Generation

Chuck’s oldest son, John, a rising junior studying biomedical engineering at North Carolina State University, returned as a counselor at Falling Creek this summer after years as a camper. “As a kid, I would spend all year looking forward to going back to Falling Creek to continue the experiences and friendships from the summers before,” John says. “For six years as a camper, Falling Creek to me was a place that really improved upon my growth into the man I am today. It helped me become more confident and to complete every task to the best of my ability, including sports, relationships, and my education. After a couple summers at Falling Creek, the camp code — Warrior Spirit, Servant’s Heart, Positive Attitude, and Moral Compass — really became a part of my everyday life and showed me the proper direction in achieving a happy and enthusiastic lifestyle.”

John’s younger brother, Will, has spent seven summers at Falling Creek, which he says have significantly



impacted his life. “At first I was afraid of leaving home, but after spending several weeks at Falling Creek, it became a part of me,” Will says. “I dream and long for the late night campfires and morning assemblies. My experiences there have been amazing. The physical aspect of it is entertaining and super fun, but the spiritual encounter has by far been the greatest experience. The relationships you build between your counselors and fellow campers are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

“Horseback riding was probably my favorite activity, although I felt complete intimidation at first,” Will says. “I wanted the experience of getting to know such a magnificent and powerful animal. Falling Creek gave me that opportunity by pushing me out of my comfort zone to learn how to ride and take care of horses. It was definitely a confidence booster.”

### 3 Generations . . . and Counting

Chuck is thankful for the opportunity for his sons to experience Falling Creek. “I love the fact that, even though there have been many changes over the years, both of my sons have been able to have many of the same experiences I had. Now I get to be at camp with my father (Dr. Charlie), who has as much passion about the area as I do.”

Dr. Charlie, a retired orthopedic surgeon, has been serving Falling Creek as one of the camp doctors for six summers. “My son Chuck convinced me — it didn’t take much — to be one of the camp doctors at Falling Creek and I have enjoyed doing so very much,” says Dr. Charlie.

Chuck’s wife, Bridget, has been involved with Falling Creek on and off throughout the summers, and his sister Erica has sent her son Tucker to Falling Creek as well.

Chuck says he drew on his leadership experiences at Falling Creek when he served as the swim team captain at North Carolina State University (where he lettered four years), and when he served with the U.S. Marines in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a U.S. Navy Medical officer.

His most pivotal influence at camp came from Steve Longenecker, who taught a Wilderness Emergency Medical Aid class that would ultimately have an impact on his future career as a physician assistant for orthopaedic surgery. “I would enroll in that course every chance I got. It empowered my strong interest in medicine later in life. He really gave us confidence that we could make a difference in any emergency situation. He continues teaching to yet another generation.

“As an adult, I want to relive those experiences I once had at Falling Creek as a boy,” Chuck says. “While I can’t run down the hills as well as I used to, I still have the same passion. Working in the infirmary is tough work. We try as hard as we can to make camp as seamless as possible, and reassure parents that their boys will be well taken care of. Yates, Marisa, Paige, Frank, Goody, Nathan, and the rest of the first-class staff have done an amazing job retaining the simplistic nature of the camp. Despite necessary upgrades, Falling Creek maintains the core values and experiences that have made it the best place in the world.” 🏕️



**Left:** Dr. Charlie Niemeyer and his wife Carolyn.

**Below:** The Niemeyers, from left: William (8), Chuck, and John (13) at Father/Son Weekend in 2009.



**Above:** Three generations of Niemeyers at Falling Creek: Chuck, Will, and Dr. Charlie.

**“As a kid, I would spend all year looking forward to going back to Falling Creek to continue the experiences and friendships from the summers before,”**

**—John Niemeyer**

“I always try to keep my chin high,  
and help others keep theirs up, too.”

—Martin Eleta

# ROCK





# SOLID

Like most 17-year-old boys, Martin Eleta enjoys spending time on his phone and computer. He's on the electronics team at his school in Panama City, Panama, where he sets up the GPS and cameras for various experiments, including the Near Space Program — a senior capstone endeavor.

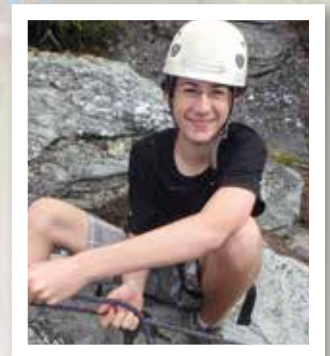
*Unlike* most 17-year-old boys, Martin feels sharing his time is critical, and that there are way too many hours in each day to waste them all on himself. "I decided to use a fraction of those hours for good," he says.

Martin and some international friends, who call their group "Off-Grid Living," decided they wanted to provide clean water filtration systems to poor, rural communities in Panama. For many of those families,

diarrhea is a way of life because of dirty drinking water, but Martin has plans to change that.

## **The Roots of a Caring Spirit**

"Camp has always been a place I could count on to bring a big change for the better in me," Martin says in English, his second language. "Because I have always lived in a big city, going to camp really means I get to see a new me. I have learned a lot about sharing,



Martin climbing on a Falling Creek trip.

especially during campouts when someone always forgets something and we end up having to share the forgotten item.”

Martin began attending Falling Creek at age 9 when he came for a two-week session; by the time he turned 12 he was staying for four weeks, and his brother Tomas was coming too. Interestingly, Martin found Falling Creek on the Internet after attending a “not-so-cool camp” one summer. “I felt there were a lot better ones

out there,” says Martin, who attended Falling Creek for six summers and returned as a Man of STEEL (formerly CIT) this past summer.

Martin says two portions of the Falling Creek Code — Servant’s Heart and Positive Attitude — have become especially important to him. “I have learned through experience how to talk to and make friends with people, and to treat people fairly,” Martin says. “Having a positive attitude has always been a part of



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“Having a positive attitude has always been a part of who I am. Many times, I find myself cheering up people when they feel like they did a bad job, or if they did poorly on a test.”

—Martin Eleta



who I am. Many times, I find myself cheering up people when they feel like they did a bad job, or if they did poorly on a test. I always try to keep my chin high and help other keep theirs up, too.”

### A Powerful Idea

One summer when Martin worked for a solar power company, he got the idea to try to help a poor Panama school by providing them with solar power, but his research proved that the project would be too complicated and expensive.

“Because of the sheer size of a project like that, a simple student like me couldn’t handle it, but the school took the idea and actually hired people to expand the idea I started,” Martin says. “So, I decided to help out with the next best thing, a more attainable goal — the distribution of water filtration devices for communities without clean water, because of their relative simplicity and necessity here in Panama.”

### Band of Brothers

Martin’s group, “Off-Grid Living,” is comprised of five close friends who have a passion for helping others. Besides Martin, one boy is from Italy, one from South Korea, and two from France. “Because I go to an international school, seeing groups like this isn’t too odd,” he says. “Up until now, we have focused mainly on acquiring funds in order to place a large order of water filtration devices at once. We have collected over \$1,000 from teachers and students, so progress is being made. We plan on ordering the filters this year.”

The devices Martin and his group will use are called LifeStraw ([lifestraw.com/follow-the-liters](http://lifestraw.com/follow-the-liters)). They consume no energy when filtering water, which makes them ideal for villages with little or no power. Each filter includes a reservoir and spigots, costs approximately \$300, plus shipping, and can supply clean water to many people.

“The towns we are going to get the filters to are generally towns that have access to water, but often it is from dirty wells or streams,” Martin says. “The filter is actually simple; it uses layers of reusable filters that clean the water by squeezing it through smaller and smaller holes until the soot and bacteria are expelled from the water. What is great is that the filters are reusable, so there is no need to purchase new ones every month or so.

“We want to distribute the filters ourselves so we can get to see the joy of the communities that receive them. We are planning on buying two or three of them.

We intend to have large communal filters at schools and medical clinics so that, even if we buy two or three filters, we can affect a whole community without having to install one in every household.”

### Unafraid of a Challenge

Martin has always had a passion for rock climbing, which is one of the reasons he wanted to attend Falling Creek Camp each summer. “I always tried to go on every rock climbing trip the camp offered, so I have been to a lot of places near camp and even some pretty far, like the Red River Gorge in Kentucky,” Martin says. “I did not do the Warrior progression program at camp, because many years I thought that said year would be my last, so I wish I had not thought starting the progression would have been pointless. But it was always the climbing I was really passionate about.”

### Making the Trek Back to Camp

Martin was born and raised in Panama, where his father recently left a job as a tech manager for a cable company to become a consultant for Deloitte. His mother volunteers setting up the recycling program for an environmental agency called ANCON. His brother Tomas is also a Falling Creek camper.

Martin wanted to come back to Falling Creek as a Man of STEEL to “feel the camp spirit” again, and to be able to help other campers enjoy it as much as he did.

So . . . is Martin Eleta like most 17-year-old boys? Perhaps not. But here’s to hoping that most of the boys coming out of Falling Creek are a lot like him. 🔥



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Above: Martin with his brother Tomas.  
Left: Martin receiving the “Cerebral Sloth” Award while a camper at 2015 Main Session.



morningwatch



# Stone Soup

By Chaplain Dusty Davis

'Camp is a place where no one is judged on his appearance, neighborhood, or social circles. It is an unplugged, safe place where 'moral compass' decisions rule the day and teachable moments spark left and right.'

—Dusty Davis, Chaplain

On a mountaintop in the woods of Western Carolina we come in silently. Over 400 of us pass a meandering rock wall. We build it one stone at a time; each boy, each session, each summer.

Adding your stone to this wall of remembrance is the one time at camp when a boy is allowed to pick up a rock and toss it — a good policy for several hundred rambunctious boys living in close proximity. The untidy wall, which is dubbed “the Ebenezer,” leads us up to the sacred campfire area. Ebenezer is where Israel camped before a big battle, and a stone memorial was set up to commemorate how the Lord showed up right on time. Our troop of boys echo that sentiment every evening when we sing the blessing, “Tireless Guardian of our way, Thou hast kept us well this day...”

Tonight as I pass the Ebenezer, I toss a hunk of granite I picked up last week at the base of Looking Glass Rock. I had taken a group of boys to climb the 500-foot monolith that rises like the dark side of the moon from the trees in Pisgah National Forest.

## To the Fire

Next, we cross a bridge and hike up a steep trail to an amphitheater built by the founding Falling Creek campers 47 years ago. The hearty locust post benches bend with the bodies of boys, now brothers, as they look out over the lower lake that mirrors the deepening sky above. Yates lights the fire and a half-century of traditions are re-sparked in a glow that reflects in the boys' bright eyes.

I glance up at the sea of boys in their Sunday whites, now stained with fried chicken, ice cream, and warrior ball dirt. I agree with Goody as he recites Psalm 133, “How good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.” Acoustic strings echo across the lake as everyone sings, “*Carolina in my Mind*.” Turns out even James Taylor’s longing for these hills was penned about the same time as

this campfire first came to life in 1969.

After the music, a random group of counselors and campers: short and tall, stubby, lanky, dark, and fair act out a skit in which a hungry passerby announces he will be making stone soup. He entices the curiosity of the local villagers who are compelled to add their contribution to his cauldron, including rutabaga, pronounced “root-a-bagerz” by Yates, who plays a cranky old farmer.

Imagination and eclectic ingredients make a memorable meal. New pop culture references and inside staff jokes are laced into the lines that make us erupt in laughter. Even the 7- and 8-year-old Cherokees can process that they have something unique to contribute to the camp soup. Falling Creek is the cauldron. The campfire, the cabins, the climbs, the adventures are the ingredients, the catalyst that sparks each boy to bring his best.

## Come As You Are

Camp is a place where no one is judged on his appearance, neighborhood, or social circles. It is an unplugged, safe place where “moral compass” decisions rule the day and teachable moments spark left and right. Navigating adolescence can be much harder than finding waypoints in the thick rhododendron. Camp creates the atmosphere to find magnetic north — and start walking. Here is where boys learn the lifelong lesson that they are invited to join something much bigger than themselves. Here is where they put together the answers of, “Who am I?” and “What is my contribution?”

## True North

These are the same questions I asked when I was a new counselor here 33 years ago. The answer is that my identity, my rock, my ingredients, are found in a relationship with God, and understanding the adventure He wants me to join in by following Him.

Falling Creek gives boys the maximum opportunity to develop in their relationship with nature, fellow man, and God. My involvement with camp taught me to enjoy and respect God’s creation, value people who aren’t necessarily like me, and live each day with a thankful heart. Countless campers and counselors have caught the synergy of God’s work at Falling Creek. Just like placing our rocks on the Ebenezer wall, the sum of all of us together work as a body to make something so much greater.

As the boys’ eyes begin to glaze over, we close out our good and pleasant time by the fire. All 400 of us rise and sing taps, “*All is well, safely rest, God is nigh*.” Certainly God is near on this night on the mountain in boy heaven. 🔥





Follow the Golden Rule | Treat everyone with respect | Make friendship a fine art | Take initiative to help others



# *story*<sub>the</sub>*yteller*

FORMER FALLING CREEK CAMPER, **WYCK GODFREY**  
SITS DOWN WITH US FOR A CONVERSATION.

Q&A





Falling Creek Camp alumnus Wyck Godfrey is an award-winning Hollywood producer who has amassed a long list of impressive films, from *The Fault in our Stars* and the *Twilight* movies to *I, Robot* and *The Maze Runner*. Wyck grew up in Piney Flats, Tennessee, and made the two-hour trek to Falling Creek for seven summers between the ages of 7 to 14. Those summers taught Wyck about leadership, friendship, creativity, and empathy — all traits he uses today, making stories come to life on the big screen.

**Grow & Behold: Wyck is an interesting name.**

**Where did it come from?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** It's actually short for my middle name, which is Wyckliffe. That was a name that my great great grandmother, when I was born, convinced my parents was an old family name. But it turned out that it was not an old family name; she was later on in her years and had just sort of made it up because she liked the name. So it is now a family name. My first name is Gordon, but my parents called me Wyck from my childhood.

**Grow & Behold: Where are you from?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** Piney Flats, Tennessee. It's right outside Johnson City, which is about a two-hour drive from Tuxedo. It's a beautiful place. I was born in New Orleans. Most of my family is from Louisiana. We moved to Tennessee when I was seven, pretty much when my

mom and dad were born-again in the seventies. They felt like they needed a change of scenery, because the world of New Orleans was more socially-minded than they had become. They wanted to go from Bloody Marys on Sunday mornings to church on Sunday mornings.

**Grow & Behold: What did your dad do to be able to pick up and move?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** He was a pathologist at Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, and there was a new hospital opening up in East Tennessee, and I guess he just kind of felt called to move. So we moved in 1975 and that was pretty much the first year I went to summer camp at Falling Creek. My sister Mimi had gone to Greystone and my brother Jim had gone to Falling Creek, and my parents said, 'If we could just get rid of Wyck for the summer we're moving, it'll make the move go easier.'



Wyck Godfrey

# G&B

QUESTIONS &  
ANSWERS



The Maze Runner movie series (l to r) Wes Ball, Wyck Godfrey, Thomas Brodie Sangster.

## Grow & Behold: What led to your parents conversion to Christianity?

**Wyck Godfrey:** My dad was probably about 30 years old at the time and had been through a bit of a crisis, thinking, 'What's life all about? I've made it through medical school, and I've got a career, and I've got a wife, and I've got three kids, but I still feel kind of empty inside.' He grew up going to church, but had not in any kind of really spiritual way. And I think he ended up meeting somebody who started to tell him about his relationship with Jesus Christ and what it meant to him, and they started going to a new church. He immediately gravitated to that and felt better about what he was here on earth for. He thought, 'You know, I think we need a clean break.'

## Grow & Behold: Was it a positive move? Was it what he wanted?

**Wyck Godfrey:** It was amazing for them. They are still there. He ended up retiring very young, and spending all of his time in fellowship, and was a Young Life leader at the high school in Johnson City, and had separate bible groups with college students and high school students. He and my mom really kind of committed their entire adult lives to Christ and the community in Johnson City.

## Grow & Behold: What was your childhood like and how did you get into producing films and TV?

**Wyck Godfrey:** I had a very strong household. I was a serious student, but my parents kept us very involved in physical activity. So I was a soccer player, I was a swimmer, I went to camp seven weeks every summer. You know what camp is like. You're just immersed in activity all day long and so I don't know, I would say it was a very idyllic seventies and eighties, Americana upbringing. I always loved sports and movies. And so I think when I eventually went to college at Princeton University, that was sort of my escape from the Deep South and my awakening to different ways of life, different walks of life, and different people from different backgrounds. I very quickly gravitated to the English department. I loved reading and writing, so pretty quickly focused in on a creative, storytelling path.

When I got out of college, I moved to New York City with a bunch of my friends — not really with a plan. They all had jobs on Wall Street, so I thought, 'Okay, I guess I can go to New York and try to find my way.' The first internship I got was at a company called New Line Cinema, and immediately it became clear that this was what I wanted to do. They had me reading screenplays and writing reports on those. I'd basically write a synopsis

of what I had read and then write a few paragraphs on what I thought of the screenplay, what worked and what didn't work about it, and what I would change — and that would be sort of the first level of reader that a script would go to before it got to more important people who actually had to make the decisions. It was great, but look, with that, I was also making copies all day and answering phones. But there's so much art in New York — they would send you down to small theaters to watch new plays, meet new playwrights, and try to bring in new voices to work in the movie business, so that was fun.

I realized while working in the movie business in New York that if I was going to do it, I should go to Los Angeles where bigger movies were made, and more commercial movies. And I was always interested in more commercial movies than small art house films. So I eventually moved up the ladder at New Line Cinema and they moved me out to Los Angeles.

## Grow & Behold: Did your role change in Los Angeles? What did you do out there?

**Wyck Godfrey:** Eventually I moved up to being a creative executive where you are charged with finding new projects. At that point you are calling agents and



Above: The Fault In Our Stars — (l to r) Wyck Godfrey, John Green, Shailene Woodley, & Marty Bowen.

Below: Behind Enemy Lines — (l to r) John Moore, Wyck Godfrey.





trying to get them to submit material to you, you're meeting with producers, directors, and writers who want you to make their movies. And you are the executive in charge of the movie when you're on the buyer side of the movie business, the side that finances the movies.

**Grow & Behold: What was your first big milestone?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** It's funny, you actually find yourself as a junior executive, you're really a support staff to other movies. So when I was there, we made movies like *Dumb and Dumber* and *The Mask*, early Jim Carrey movies. We also made a bunch of the *Nightmare on Elm Street* horror films. It was a genre company. You just helped out wherever you could. You weren't really the one finding the movie, you were still learning the ropes.

At some point I decided I wanted to be on the producing side of things, because they were the ones who actually got to go on location to movies. Whereas, on the studio side, you're sitting there in Los Angeles in your office and the movie is delivered to you. So I quit that job and got a job working at a production company at 20th Century Fox. A guy named John Davis, who was successful for the *Dr. Doolittle* movies, the *Predator* movies, bigger movies. So the first movie I produced and oversaw was *Behind Enemy Lines* with Gene Hackman and Owen Wilson. That was the first time I was on my own on a movie set trying to run the

production. That was when I realized, this is exactly where I want to be.

**Grow & Behold: What age were you then and how long had you been with New Line?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** I was at New Line probably from the age of 22 to 26. Then I was at an in between company, a failed step, from 26 to 28. Then I started working for John Davis at about 28, and made *Behind Enemy Lines* when I was 30.

**Grow & Behold: What exactly do you do as the producer?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** A producer is responsible, head-to-toe, for the creative delivery of the movie, from finding the material to developing and working with the writer on the screenplay. So, you're like an editor for the writer, you're giving him notes on the screenplay. Then when the screenplay is good enough to be made, you have to convince the studio to finance it. Then you have to go out and find a director, who in some sense, you are handing the film off to while he makes the movie. He is the creative guide from that point and you are sort of his partner. You are trying to help him achieve his vision, so you are helping him cast the movie, you're helping him hire his crew, the cinematographer, the production designer. You're managing the budget. The studio tells you how much



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The Twilight Saga -  
(l to r) Bill Condon,  
Taylor Lautner,  
Kristen Stewart,  
Robert Pattinson, &  
Wyck Godfrey.

# G&B

QUESTIONS &  
ANSWERS

they want to make the movie for and you have to figure it out. You're basically blocking and tackling for the director during production. So if there are issues with the cast, if they are upset about something, you usually have to go to their trailer and talk to them. If there are visitors from the studio in town, you have to go wine and dine them and make them feel happy. Then you are always watching everything that is being shot and making sure it's as you hoped it would be.

Then once the movie is shot, the director and the editor cut the movie and you are the first one to see it. You give them notes and tell them what you think and where to cut and what to change. Then eventually you get into the marketing and the publicity and managing all of that. Being a producer is kind of like being the general manager of a football team, the director is the coach.



**"I feel like growing up going to camp for as long as I did really prepared me for that lifestyle, being able to emotionally bond with people very quickly and also persevere when those relationships ended."**

**—Wyck Godfrey**

Above: Wyck holds a bass he caught in the Upper Lake. This grainy photo was captured from the mid-1970's 10mm silent promotional movie.

**Grow & Behold: Do you have a favorite part of what you do? What do you consider your greatest skill or gift?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** My favorite part of production is the pre-production of the movie, where I am on the ground planning the shoot. That's everything from continuing to make the script as good as it can be, casting the movie, scouting and picking the locations — you're actually creating the map for how you are going to make the movie. Then once production happens, it really becomes the director every day who is the one responsible for making the movie.

Part of the job is really taking care of people, making sure their needs and desires are heard and understood. You have to figure out how to manage a lot of different personalities. It takes real empathy and listening to other people. Every director is different, every actor is different; they are artistic types, so they need to be heard and you need to figure out a way to make them feel safe and comfortable in the environment they're working, and you can't really do that unless you are a good listener and attuned to other peoples' emotional needs.

**Grow & Behold: Let's talk about camp. What was that time of your life like and what are your memories?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** It was great. Because my mom and dad are now moving to Asheville, my dad sent me this huge box of almost every document from my childhood, and almost all the letters from my counselors for seven years were in there — it gave me a good perspective. I tell people all the time, probably the most formative experience in my life in terms of affecting what I do now was going to camp for those seven years, because I jokingly tell people that movie-making is like summer camp for grown-ups. In that, you descend on a distant location, away from your families, you form this tight-knit group of people for about three or four months, they are your family. And every day you go to work together and you have lunch and dinner and breakfast, and that's all you do. I feel like growing up going to camp for as long as I did really prepared me for that lifestyle, being able to emotionally bond with people very quickly and also persevere when those relationships ended. We would say, 'Okay, I guess maybe I'll see you again sometime, or maybe not, but if not, it's been fun!' So it gives you a strong sense of independence and identity such that you are not really reliant on being comforted and blanketed by other people all the time. I felt Falling Creek really built my leadership skills and my sense of adventure in a way that has very much suited me in my profession.



**Grow & Behold: Have you ever met Yates and Marisa in person?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** Yes, Yates and I went to camp together. We were in the same cabin a couple times. The joke was, I was definitely a big-time camper, but Yates was the premiere camper. Everyone would say, 'He's going to be the camp director someday,' and, of course, he was.

**Grow & Behold: Did you have any problems leaving home at that time?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** No, I loved it. People said, 'You're crazy.' But at that time I was the youngest camper to go to seven-week camp, because I was only 7-years-old. Because of my parents moving and needing to get rid of me, and since my brother was already there, they made some kind of special exception. I was literally in what was the lowest cabin at the time, Lakefront, and I was in Lakefront two years in a row because I was so young. I went to Falling Creek for seven years, from age 7 to 14.

**Grow & Behold: Tell us about your family.**

**Wyck Godfrey:** I'm married and have three boys: Wyatt, 16, Hudson, 15, and Campbell, 13. My wife's name is Mary Kerr, she is a gynecologist with a private practice. We met at Princeton. We dated for a little bit at Princeton, but eventually re-connected five years after college, and started dating then.

**Grow & Behold: Are they fans of your work?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** It's kind of what they've grown up with, so for them it's not that big a deal. I will say a lot of the movies I've made are popular with teenage girls, so for awhile they were rolling their eyes, like, 'Oh, please, those Twilight movies...' But I think now they're cool with it. They like more of the action stuff I've done like Behind Enemy Lines or I, Robot and The Maze Runner movies.

**Grow & Behold: Now you have your own company, Temple Hill Entertainment. What is your mission there?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** We want to make movies that have broad commercial appeal. I'd say if there is one thing we do consistently it is that we love books, partly because we were English majors. We love reading literature, and 90 percent of our work is book-to-movie adaptations, so from female-friendly stuff like Dear John and the Nicholas Sparks' movies or The Fault in our Stars or the Twilight movies. We're also doing more adult

stuff. We're doing a Neal Armstrong biography based on a book. So, my partner and I started the company with a mission to make movies for the middle of the country, not cool, edgy New York, Los Angeles, liberal communities; we wanted to make movies that have heart that connected with people.

The first movie we made as a company was The Nativity Story. We wanted to do a very realistic, authentic portrayal of Mary and Joseph's story, and the birth of Christ, as that could be a perennial Christmas movie. That helped launch the company, then we did Dear John, which also had a real father-son story and love story. Then the Twilight films happened and that became all-consuming for about six years, because we made five films in a very short amount of time, so it took all we could to keep those films on track.

Then we made a relationship with author John Green who is the biggest name in young adult fiction right now. He wrote The Fault in our Stars, Looking for Alaska, and Paper Towns, and we made those movies. The Fault in our Stars was one of the most gratifying films I've done. It was a subject matter that typically studios would run from and would never want to make — two kids who are both dying of cancer and fall in love. People said, 'You're going to make a movie about cancer for kids? That is not going to be commercial.' We really believed in it and pushed and pushed and pushed, and had it made in a very successful way. I loved the message in the movie and the heart of the movie. It's powerful.

**Grow & Behold: Do you keep in touch with anyone from Falling Creek?**

**Wyck Godfrey:** I do, with several friends from New Orleans who went to camp there with me. But what's interesting is, I always run across people who I realize I knew from camp. There's a guy out in Los Angeles who's a manager of actors, he manages Chris Hemsworth and other big names. I was thinking, 'Will Ward, Will Ward . . . it sounds familiar. Did you go to summer camp at Falling Creek?' He said, 'Oh my gosh, yeah.' We remembered each other. I would actually love to go back and see the Camp because my memories are from 21 or 22 years ago. I'm sure it's changed quite a bit, but I'm also sure much is just as I remembered it. 🏕️

**Learn more about  
Wyck and his company at  
[TempleHillEnt.com](http://TempleHillEnt.com).**



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# *Taking* ROOT



This past summer, campers of all ages got their hands dirty and their minds enlightened as they participated in the new F.A.R.M. program at Falling Creek, which stands for “food, animals, repurposing, and manpower.”



Each day, the boys focused on tasks and responsibilities engaging them with hands-on work in and around our new raised garden beds. Planting and harvesting vegetables, growing herbs and flowers, and tending to chickens and egg collections were some of the opportunities the program provided. They constructed habitats and learned the value of repurposing and composting materials, including black soldier flies, farming worms, and in vessel tumblers.

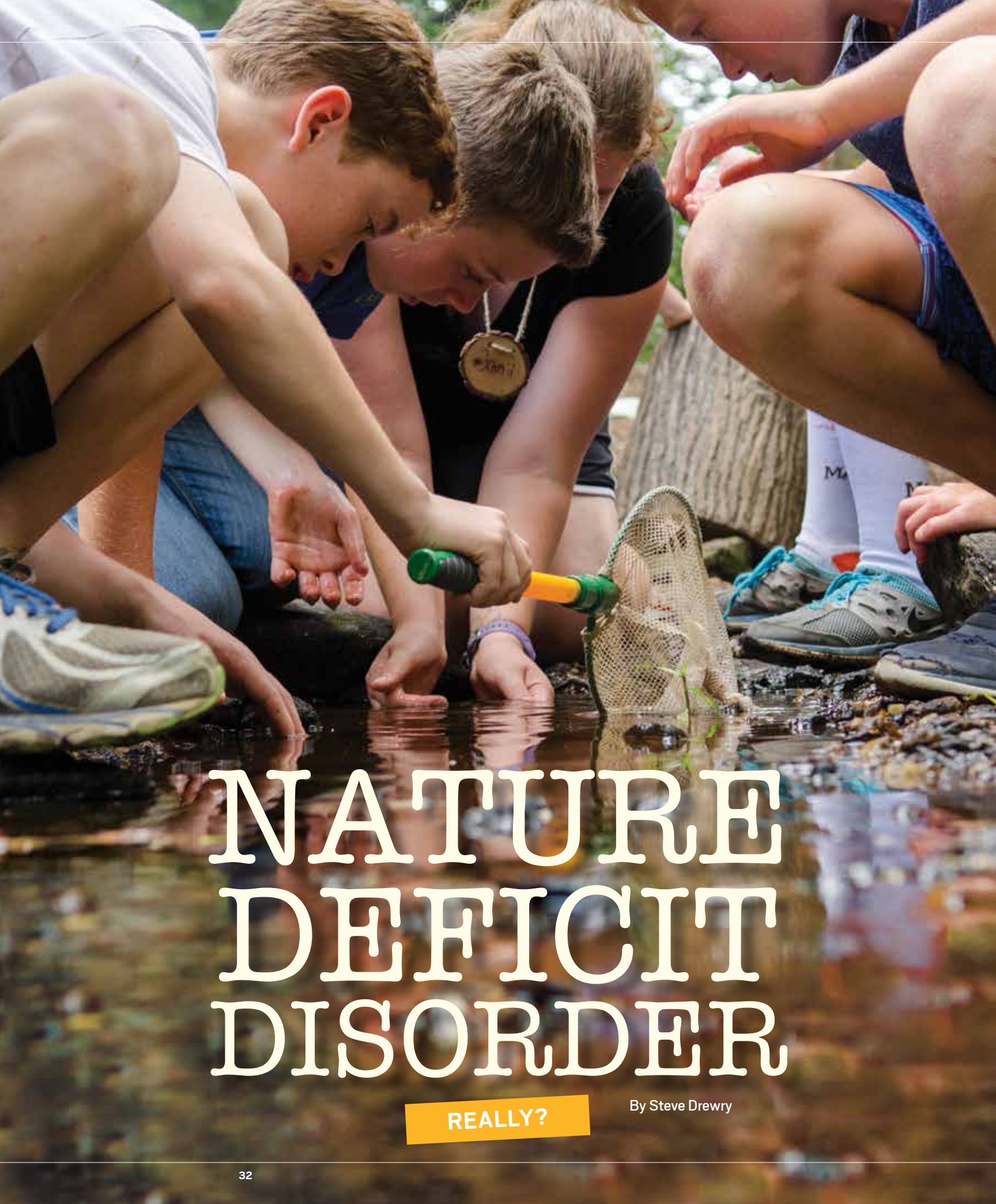
“The boys participated in projects and learned transferable skills that can be used in their everyday lives,” Marisa says. “They gained a better understanding about the importance of their influence on the footprint of the environment. They strengthened the connection they have with food and nature. And we think they left with a new appreciation for sustainable living.”

One camper, appropriately named Ben Farmer, says, “I am so happy there’s a farming program offered at camp this year. I want to be a farmer when I grow up, so I’m excited to learn more for the future. Is there any way I can sign up for three periods?”

In order to make room for raised beds in the sunshine, archery facilities were relocated to a new structure next to riflery, which allowed target sports to be together. 🌱







# NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER

REALLY?

By Steve Drewry



In one of the better known books on the topic, *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv explains the need for reintroducing children (and all of us) to nature, a need that has emerged from a widening disconnect between humans and their natural world.

Originating the phrase ‘Nature Deficit Disorder,’ Louv asks us not to think of it as a medical diagnosis, but rather as a way of understanding the problem — something we had that is now missing. Nonetheless, he lists plenty of medically healthful reasons to spend time outdoors: weight loss, happiness, increased productivity and creativity, increased bone-joint stability, and more. It’s a thorough list, to be sure. Call it a 21st century panoply of worthwhile reasons to go outside. But there’s something more, something un-listable that escapes our measurements.

### Something Happens in the Woods

*“...a work of art opens a void, a moment of silence, a question without answer; provokes a breach without reconciliation where the world is forced to question itself.” – Michel Foucault*

I can recall a hike from when I was a camper. Three days in Pisgah’s Shining Rock Wilderness. The first two days replay in my memory as pieces, short reels with no segue, snapping from one clip to the next: the weight of my pack; tunnels of rhododendron; a storm of rain and hail, and the one pair of gloves we passed around; springs dribbling from rocky seeps; leg-high ferns that looked positively Mesozoic; our boots drying in a warmly lit patch of grass.

The third day I remember vividly. Shining Rock was shrouded in mist and low cloud. Decidedly lacking in sweeping vistas, we set our packs aside and clambered among the caves and interstices between the massive quartz boulders. Satisfied with those small explorations, we returned to the top to find it still occluded in fog. We rested. We ate sandwiches. We reminisced about the day before, proudly chalking up yesterday’s travails as the price of real adventure.

“Hey,” someone said, “look.” Soundlessly, the mist cleared and we found ourselves perched on earth’s round brink, holding peanut butter sandwiches before a rank of giants: mountains laid over like great slumberous beasts, their backs home to all manner of shrub and impenetrable forest, interrupted only by spans of stone and coteries of stunted pines growing right from the

rocks. Not 50 feet away a spruce tree, unseen till that moment, had quietly maintained vigil over our lunch. All of it, every bit — the miles, the rain, the sun, the rutted trail, and now this — appeared before us as one vast syllable. I was hooked.

But even without a backcountry expedition, summer camp is an ideal setting for preventing Nature Deficit Disorder. There are no phones, no screens (cabin windows notwithstanding), no computers, no soundtracks, no advertisements. Summer camp seems to have been devised in the spirit of what Antoine de Saint-Exupery once said on the artistry of sculptures: that perfection is nearest at hand when there is nothing left to remove. In that regard it is an experience in the essential. For if there is any math taught in the woods at camp, it is how to subtract, how to pare. That’s the effect I’ve had impressed upon me above any other. What’s left? The sonorous nights of bullfrogs; blanket-covering thunderstorms; unsolicited high-fives; the thrill of antics and their wisening repercussions; friends and heroes; a night hike; the underside of a birch leaf; hot chocolate.

So what is nature besides a list of healthy side effects? A teacher? A gym? A setting for adventure? And what is it that so hurts us by its absence? How do we reconcile our 21st century needs with the dawdling-away of our precious time against the haunches of a tree? Explanations so often miss their mark, but for those still of little years, why bother explaining it to them when we have the chance to let them be in the woods now? Let them see for themselves what discoveries there are beneath rocks and under ferns. Let them be where they can lay at night and stare at the stars, connecting them with imaginal lines of their own, falling upward into that borderless invitation to adventure. 🕯





FROM  
**CAMP**  
TO COLLEGE



Experts say  
spending a summer  
at camp can be the  
perfect preparation  
for college.

**Your son is not in college — yet.** But in the blink of an eye, your fourth grader will be moving into his freshman dorm. Good luck finding a high school senior who hasn't had an adult tell him, "College will be the best four years of your life!" Admit it, you've probably uttered those same words yourself.

But how often have you heard an adult warn a high school senior about the difficulties of transitioning from high school to college — that it can be one of the most challenging and stressful times in a young person's life?

When your son sets off for college, he will be well prepared academically, having taken just the right combination of honors and AP classes to insure that he has the book smarts to succeed. But there is a lot more to contend with in college than textbooks, professors, classes, and exams. So, how can you help prepare your son for the challenges he will face outside of the classroom?

Nowadays students put a lot of thought into picking just the right school. (Big football program vs. small liberal arts college? Urban vs. rural? Close to home vs. far away?) After visiting a myriad of campuses, and spending countless hours completing applications, your son will settle on a college that feels like a match made in heaven. Everything should be perfect, right?

In all the excitement of acceptance letters and getting ready, it often doesn't dawn on anyone to warn a rising freshman that he might become homesick. Homesickness is supposed to be for little kids, isn't it? Surely a six-foot-tall, 18-year-old guy isn't going to get homesick. While college may indeed turn out to be the "best four years" of your son's life, there's a good chance it might not feel that way from day one.

Most college freshmen have spent very little time

away from home. Sure, they've slept over at their best friend's house a number of times, but that is hardly the same as not seeing mom and dad, or sister or their precious golden retriever, for three months. This is where a summer of camp experience can help.

Sure, every boy who comes to camp misses something about home. Some boys are out of their comfort zones so much that they are really put to the test with bouts of homesickness. If your son has spent a summer at camp, chances are he has been homesick. Whether that meant crying a bit when the

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Ben Szurek as a camper (inset)  
and later as a counselor.  
(below, left)





Ben Szurek and Clay Milling  
pushing their limits in the Green  
River Gorge, 2009.



A dorm room is  
a lot like a cabin  
at camp, except  
that instead  
of having one  
roommate, at  
camp you have  
seven.

lights went off and he was sure nobody was listening, or just walking around with a knot in his gut, your son learned a valuable lesson. He learned he can face down homesickness. And if he can do it at camp, he can do it at college.

Picture the scene on move-in day at college. Your son chokes back the tears when he hugs you goodbye, but eventually his stomach starts to growl. There comes a point when he can't ignore it any longer. It's time to face the dining hall, alone. He walks in, desperately scanning the room for a familiar face — but there are none to be found.

Three months ago, he was a senior in high school, top of the heap. Back then he couldn't walk across the cafeteria without at least five people calling his name. He knew exactly which table his friends would be sitting at, saving him a seat. I can guarantee you, the pictures on a college website don't show lonely freshmen visiting the cafeteria on move-in-day. And the next day another challenge awaits him as he wanders across campus in search of the enormous lecture hall where his Biology 101 class will meet.

This is that moment when the reassuring déjà vu of Opening Day at camp kicks in. Most every boy who has ever spent a summer at Falling Creek has walked into that charming, rustic dining hall, overlooking the lake with butterflies in his stomach. From where he stood, it looked like everybody knew each other except him. Somewhere in his memory bank, he stored that memorable feeling. Luckily, three weeks later, he stored a complimentary memory in the recesses of his mind — of his final breakfast at camp on Closing Day. In this memory, he gets a high-five from his rock climbing counselor when he walks in the door. He cracks up with his cabin mates while he scarfs down his eggs. He has a knot in his stomach in this memory too, but for a completely different reason. He is no longer afraid, quite the contrary, he doesn't want to leave. He wishes he could stay at camp just a little bit longer. He makes a pact with his buddies to come back next summer.

Happy memories can be immensely helpful during stressful times. Years later when that same camper arrives at college to begin his freshman year, he can take comfort in knowing that he has been there and done that. He has gone on adventures at camp and made his own path. He has made life-long friends among strangers from all over the world. If he can do it once, he knows in his gut he can do it again.

Can we all agree that the culture shock of all culture shocks is group living in a college dorm? Think about it, most boys have had their own bedrooms their

entire lives, complete with that all important piece of equipment, a solid door to shut the world out. At home, if your son needs to stay up late to finish writing a paper, no one cares if he leaves the light on. And if he is exhausted after a tennis match, he can simply close the door and take a nap; no one is going to bother him. For the first 18 years of his life, he has been the king of his castle, but at college that's all about to change.

Let's face it, dorm rooms are small and there is absolutely no privacy. And whether your son is an early bird or a night owl, a complete slob or a neat freak, chances are his roommate will be just the opposite — but somehow he has to figure out a way to make it work.

A dorm room is a lot like a cabin at camp, except that instead of having one roommate, at camp you have seven. Some guys in the cabin might talk too much. Some might be shy and need a little extra time before they are ready to open up. Every boy has quirks and idiosyncrasies, just like your son. At camp, the trick is to be respectful of each boy in the cabin. Cut him some slack. Give him the benefit of the doubt. Treat him the way you would like to be treated. The reward for this attitude is often a wonderful new friend. If your son takes this same approach in college, he just might find himself choosing to room with that same guy again sophomore year.

Finally, there are all those decisions that your son will have to make while at college. You know the ones I mean, the ones that keep you up at night. "Should I go to class or should I sleep in? Should I do all that is required of a fraternity pledge? Should I put in the extra hours to study for that exam?"

We hope our Falling Creek Code has reinforced the values that you taught your son at home, so that when he is faced with these tough questions and decisions, he will choose *wisely*.

Who knew a month in the woods could be such a valuable stepping stone in life? 🏕️

*Written by Catherine Kendall, mother of three college age sons, one of whom (Will) was a longtime Falling Creek camper. Among many other interests, Catherine serves as a volunteer reading coach.*



# LESSONS LEARNED



"I have no doubt that my years as a camper at Falling Creek made my transition to living in college much easier than it would have been otherwise. Going to camp for the first time can definitely be intimidating because it's unfamiliar, but ultimately a lot of growth comes out of adapting to an environment that's so different from what you're used to. Thanks to seven summers at Falling Creek, I've had enough practice with adjusting to a new living environment that the basic changes of moving to college didn't really give me any trouble . . . Of course, there are many other challenging aspects of college that take some getting used to, which made me all the more glad to have my camp experience under my belt so that I could spend less time worrying about my living situation and more time tackling schoolwork and taking advantage of the unique opportunities college has to offer."

**Ben Szurek, Camper 2005-2012**  
**Counselor 2016, Asheville, NC**  
**Columbia University**

"The Falling Creek Code always reminds you to make the most of your day and the little decisions life throws at you. You're completely independent in college. It's on you whether you want to go to class, what time you go to bed, and when to reach out for help when you need it."

**Chris Garbo, Camper 2009-2013**  
**CIT 2014, Counselor 2016, Naples, FL**  
**University of Florida**

"Many of my friends in college experienced homesickness, because going to college was the first time many of them had been away from home for an extended period of time. Camp helped me deal with homesickness, because I was used to an extended visit away from home. Also, camp prepares people to go out and be proactive in meeting new friends and involving themselves in activities. The camp experience helps you deal with the challenge of dorm life in college, because while living at camp you live in a small, enclosed space with many other boys. Camp prepares you to be accountable for your own cleanliness, which helps

you stay on good terms with your roommate. While at the Citadel, I had a roommate who was a total slob and I was always cleaning up after him. Our rooms get inspected every day, so it was frustrating for me. Having lived with people at camp, I was able to talk with my roommate about his habits and what I could do to help, or what kind of chores we could designate and share."

**Rob Howe, Camper 2004-2010**  
**Counselor 2016, Charleston, SC**  
**The Citadel**

"While at camp I learned that the best two ways to fight homesickness were to establish strong friendships and to get involved with fun activities. Because of my experiences at camp, I never experienced homesickness my freshman year in college. Falling Creek taught me to try things I usually don't get to try at home. With this mindset, I got involved at college with on-campus life as much as possible. Whether it was recreational sports, clubs, or sporting events, I made sure to always have something in which I could be involved. Warrior Spirit, Servant's Heart, Positive Attitude, and Moral Compass were go-to morals I stayed true to while in college. They helped me remain focused on my duties as a student and gave me a basic mindset on how to be a responsible adult."

**John Niemeyer, Camper 2007-2012**  
**Counselor 2016, Gastonia, NC**  
**North Carolina State University**

"Camp really helped me get out of my comfort zone. I have learned that it is better to try new things and fail, than to never try out of fear of failing. I have opportunities to implement the code every day of my life. Warrior Spirit when I compete in sports; Moral Compass when I refuse to cheat when the opportunity presents itself; Servant's Heart when I make sure to help those who need it, even if it's inconvenient; and Positive Attitude, which helps me keep a smile, even when things are stressful. Camp is probably the best thing you can do before college. The people skills you learn having to live with random people is a vital skill for college. You need to be able to talk and work things out with your roommates, as well as make accommodations for each other — and camp teaches you just how to do that."

**Sam Trenski, Camper 2007-2012**  
**CIT 2013, Counselor 2015, 2016, Altamonte Springs, FL**  
**Seminole State College, Eckel & Associates (Petroleum Engineering) Internship 2016-17 school year**

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## staffdevelopment

# Inspired & Empowered to LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Prior to camp this past summer, the Falling Creek staff spent part of their training week with one of the world's most respected board-certified clinical psychologists, Dr. Chris Thurber — also an author, consultant, and father.

"My goal is to inspire leaders by endowing them with the skills they need to interact with warmth, enthusiasm, and integrity with the children they serve," Chris says. "I do everything I can to emphasize the power and importance of leadership by example."

Chris uses story-telling, videos, activities, discussions, lectures, and scenarios to help Falling Creek staff adopt a mindset of seeing discipline as teaching. "The word 'discipline' comes from the Latin disciplina, which means 'to teach,'" Chris says. "Punishment only teaches a child what not to do in a very narrow circumstance. Skillful discipline teaches the positive alternate behavior."

To help staff members understand that the most skillful discipline emphasizes prevention — strategies that reduce the likelihood of misbehavior occurring in the first place — Chris teaches six powerful strategies:

- Get to know your campers
- Lead close-up
- Establish rules early
- Put on the brakes
- Supervise actively
- Use effective praise

Chris covers everything from helping with homesickness to learning to hear the underlying message in what children say. And he knows about that of which he speaks. In 2007, he co-founded ExpertOnlineTraining.com (EOT), a revolutionary set of web-based educational tools for youth development professionals and health care providers. EOT is now the world leader in online staff training for youth development professionals. Chris also designed the



American Camp Association's homesickness prevention DVD-CD set, which has been shown to lower the intensity of first-year campers homesickness by an average of 50 percent.

Many parents ask, "How do I know when my child is ready for camp?" To that, Chris says:

"Children who do well on overnights without parents, who show spontaneous interest in camp, and who have a developmentally appropriate level of self-reliance are generally ready for camp. Most importantly, parents need to be ready for their child to be at camp. Any doubts that a parent expresses will be internalized and amplified by their child."

More on that topic and much more can be found at Chris's website: [CampSpirit.com](http://CampSpirit.com).

He also offers great camp prep tips for parents: [CampSpirit.com/top-ten-summer-camp-prep-tips](http://CampSpirit.com/top-ten-summer-camp-prep-tips)

Chris is inspired about helping the staff at Falling Creek, because he says: "They set a high bar for staff excellence — and I'm passionate about excellence. My impression is that their practices match their values, and that's wonderful to see. I've also witnessed the directors and senior staff handle difficult challenges with alacrity and equanimity."

A graduate of Harvard University and UCLA, Chris is a favorite keynoter and workshop leader at regional, national, and international conferences on education, youth development, mental health, and summer camp. He currently serves on the faculty of Phillips Exeter Academy, an independent, coeducational boarding high school in seacoast New Hampshire. 🙌

*We're honored to have the opportunity to spend time with Chris before we spend time with our campers.*





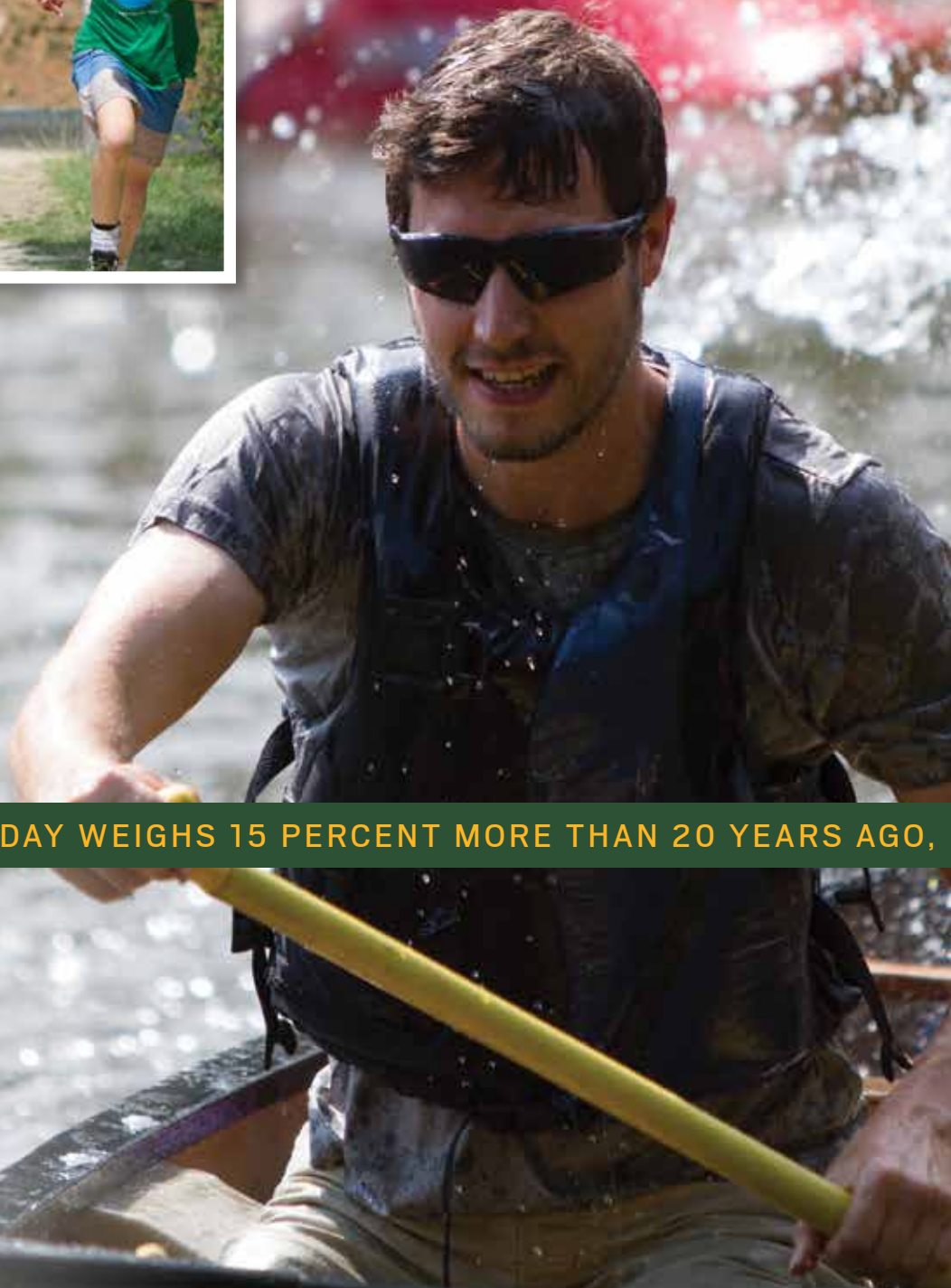






**Above:** Winners of The 4th of July Quad-Venture Challenge included Falling Creek campers (left to right): Holden Dewey, Bennett Broad, Hill Nixon, and Spencer Hurst.

**Right:** Peter Bishop, left, and Frank Tindall, right, paddling in The 4th of July Quad-Venture Challenge.



THE AVERAGE PERSON TODAY WEIGHS 15 PERCENT MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO,





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# WARRIORS FOR LIFE

AND THE OBESITY RATE IN THE U.S. IS AT 34 PERCENT AND CLIMBING.

Those are just a few of the reasons why the directors and staff at Falling Creek are so intentional about helping campers develop a lifelong love for fitness, exercise, the outdoors, and healthy living habits.

“We are proactive and committed to exposing the boys to a variety of great activities at camp that they can enjoy for a lifetime,” says Falling Creek Associate Director Frank Tindall. “They see our staff, including our year-round directors, being out front and intentional about exercising and staying fit, they enjoy the activities, and we hope they choose to pursue a healthy lifestyle for the rest of their lives.”

Frank himself plays competitive tennis, and loves running, yoga, weight-lifting, and coaching youth sports. He grew up attending Camp Deerwoode in Brevard, North Carolina, where physical fitness became an important part of his life, and ultimately helped him succeed in high school and college athletics. Frank and his son, Wilson, recently completed the New York City Marathon.

**Right:** Many of Falling Creek’s directors have a love for the outdoors and fitness. Pictured here are (left to right): Peter Bishop, Frank Tindall, Yates Pharr, Ben Williams, and Dusty Davis.

**Below:** Frank Tindall, right, and his son, Wilson, recently completed the grueling New York City Marathon.



### Fitness Fever

“At Falling Creek, we really encourage it during the summer with campers and staff,” says Frank. “We do a voluntary Warrior Workout each day during free time where we announce a theme, and campers and staff show up and do P90X, Insanity, or some other type of workout. There’s also a fitness trail that curls around both lakes and offers 18 different body weight exercises at stops along the way.”



**“We are proactive and committed to exposing the boys to a variety of great activities at camp that they can enjoy for a lifetime.”**

**—Frank Tindall, Associate Camp Director**

Other camp activities campers can sample at Falling Creek and pursue for a lifetime, include swimming, canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, tennis, cross-country, and the HEAT (High Energy Athletic Training) physical fitness program, where campers rotate every two minutes from exercise to exercise.

Frank isn’t the only staffer at Falling Creek who loves exercise. One current example, Preston Newsome, recent graduate of TCU from Lawrence, Kansas (former FCC camper, counselor 2012-13, & 2015) let FCC know that, “Along with my work in youth ministry for Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth, I have been doing some personal training and instructing spin classes on the side at a place called Zyn22. All of Frank Tindall’s Insanity videos and the HEAT program’s daily workouts are paying off!”

### Competition & Camaraderie

A 12-person team from Falling Creek recently participated in the Smokey Mountain Relay, a 214-mile off-road trail relay from Pink Beds in Pisgah to the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Each person on the team ran three legs of the race, which took 30 hours, around the clock. “Running with a headlamp in the middle of nowhere at 3 a.m. was really fun,” Frank says.

Falling Creek campers challenged a team of camp directors to The 4th of July Quad-Venture Challenge, an adventure race combining paddling, orienteering, mountain biking, and rock climbing. Campers were given a 10-minute head start. The camp directors were able to catch all of the teams, except the winning team of campers, which included: Holden Dewey, Bennett Broad, Hill Nixon, and Spencer Hurst. 🏆



**Right:** Falling Creek Director Yates Pharr pursues his love for adventure racing.





# PUSHING *the* LIMITS

Similar to the Boy Scout rank and merit badge program, each level has a set of criteria a camper must complete in order to advance. The levels are skill-based with leadership and service components. Activity counselors chart campers' progress. Some levels are achieved in a few days, while others may take several summers to complete. Campers who reach the top levels — Ranger and Warrior — are recognized permanently on the Hall of Fame board on the side porch of the Dining Hall.

Falling Creek has a camp-wide progression system that gives campers of all ages the opportunity to build confidence as they advance through five levels in each of our 28 activities:

Level 1 - Scout  
Level 2 - Explorer  
Level 3 - Challenger  
Level 4 - Ranger  
Level 5 - Warrior



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### What did you learn about yourself while pursuing Warrior?

"I learned that when it comes to my work, I am a perfectionist. Even when many people tell me that my work looks great, I am still able to point out many flaws in it."

**Ward Bissell - Blacksmithing  
Charlotte, NC**

### How has the Warrior experience determined your time at Falling Creek?

"I've made some brothers that I could never forget."

**Larry Johnson - Horseback Riding  
Metairie, LA**

### How has the Warrior experience determined your time at Falling Creek?

"Now that I am a Warrior, I use my time to teach and help others while improving myself."

**Calder Schmidt - Archery  
New Orleans, LA**

### What was your motivation to pursue Warrior?

"I wanted to become a better archer, and by doing progressions, I did that."

**James McGregor - Archery  
Rock Hill, SC**

### What was your biggest challenge in achieving Warrior?

"I worked for Warrior for a number of years and the biggest challenge was not giving up, and always trying your best to achieve your goal."

**Harrison Oswald - Rock Climbing  
Asheville, NC**

### What was your motivation to get Warrior?

"Trying to conquer my fear of heights, as well as to learn more techniques and knowledge for climbing. Achieving Warrior has given me lots of knowledge that allows me to help the counselors on trips, and to help campers who are just beginning climbing."

**Julian Meyers - Rock Climbing  
Houston, TX**

### Is there anyone at camp — camper or counselor (even if they don't come to FCC anymore) — who inspired or mentored you in accomplishing your Warrior status?

"Raybot, Dwayne, Colin — just every mountain biking staff member I've ever had. They taught me everything I know. My friends (The Backseat Boys) helped as well. We pushed each other to the end. Yates, Marisa, and Paige helped as well. They opened this camp up to me and let me succeed."

**Chris Fuge - Mountain Biking  
Hendersonville, NC**

### How has the Warrior experience determined your time at Falling Creek?

"It gave me something to work toward, and to look forward to, and to be remembered for at FCC. It has been one of the most enjoyable parts of FCC."

**Xavier Cardoza - Riflery  
Napa, CA**



**Top, Left to Right:** Ward Bissell, Larry Johnson, Calder Schmidt, James McGregor, Xavier Cardoza, Tom Yoxsimer, William Locke, Rett Hill, Harrison Oswald, Julian Meyers, Chris Fuge, Evans Collier, Whit Nuckolls, Stevie Frickel, Mick Masone





**What was your motivation to pursue Warrior?**

"Woodworking has always been one of my favorite activities, because of the ability to create anything. Becoming Warrior in woodworking was the result of me wanting to devote myself to the activity."

**Tom Yoxsimer - Woodworking**  
Charlotte, NC

**What did you learn about yourself while pursuing Warrior?**

"To persevere, even through days I wasn't shooting well at all, I had to keep trying."

**William Locke - Riflery**  
Acton, MA

**What was your motivation to pursue Warrior?**

"I loved the activity and wanted a goal."

**Calder Schmidt - Archery**  
New Orleans, LA

**What was your motivation to get Warrior?**

"I really enjoyed water polo. Since I can't play it at home, I wanted to become good at it."

**Rett Hill - Water Polo**  
Richmond, VA

**What was your biggest challenge in achieving Warrior?**

"Riding 150 miles in one summer."

**Evans Collier - Mountain Biking**  
Atlanta, GA

**Is there anyone at camp — camper or counselor (even if they don't come to FCC anymore) — who inspired or mentored you in accomplishing your Warrior status?**

"Yes, my CIT two years ago was Ben Lu. He got Warrior when he was a camper."

**James McGregor - Archery**  
Rock Hill, SC

**What was your biggest challenge in achieving Warrior?**

"Making a lasting project for camp."

**Whit Nuckolls - Arts and Crafts**  
New Bern, NC

**What did you learn about yourself while pursuing Warrior?**

"I learned that, with a little practice and coaching, I can do better than I imagined."

**Stevie Frickel - Riflery**  
Hendersonville, NC

**What was your biggest challenge in achieving Warrior?**

"Probably trying to track stand my bike for 15 seconds. I tried for three hours and eventually got 23 seconds."

**Mick Masone - Mountain Biking**  
Ivy, VA

# PUSHING the LIMITS







**fanthe**flame



Nestled in a peaceful mountaintop cove, Falling Creek provides a unique opportunity for physical, spiritual, and social growth. We believe boys need a place where they can unplug from technology and just “be boys”.

**Making Friendship A Fine Art**  
- A sense of brotherhood and traditional Christian values permeates the Falling Creek community and each of its programs. Our alumni often speak of the special bond they have with their camp friends.



**Making Choices** - “Falling Creek offers a different kind of education than boys get during the rest of the year. Boys make decisions for themselves, gain self-confidence, learn how to live with a group, and how to see opportunities for growth and seize them.”

- Donnie Bain (Former FCC Director)

**Morning Assembly** - After a hearty breakfast, get ready for the world famous Morning Assembly where anything can happen — and it usually does. The entire camp community assembles on the front porch of the Dining Hall overlooking the upper lake. Whether it’s one of our crazy staff skits or joining in an all-camp sing-along, nothing beats this upbeat way to start a great camp day.







Under experienced leadership, campers are able to choose from a variety of out-of-camp adventure trips ranging in skill levels from introductory to advanced, and from one-day trips to five-day trips.



A dedicated and enthusiastic staff is the heart of the camp experience.



### Community with Purpose

Falling Creek is an experience a boy carries with him for a lifetime. It's an opportunity to make choices, and a chance to make friends. Backpacking trips into the mountains, sleeping under the stars, kayaking on the Green River, sailing, tennis, and basketball; all help build friendships and character that last a lifetime.



"Camp offers a chance for the boys to grow their self-esteem, independence, leadership, skills, peer relationships, sense of adventure, environmental awareness, values, and spirituality." – Yates Pharr, Director





## 2017expeditions



### Blazing New Trails

BLAZE Colorado is an 8-day backpacking adventure that follows a section of the 500+ mile Colorado Trail. Gathering in Gunnison, we'll drive over to the eastern side of the continental divide and then hit the trail into the Collegiate Peak Wilderness — home of 14,000 footers with names like Mount Harvard, Mount Yale, and Mount Princeton. Early in the trip the boys will learn what it is like to acclimatize to the higher elevations they'll experience later on. As they tramp along from one high pass to the next, they'll be following the old school rule of "hiking high and sleeping low" — gradually training their bodies to function with less air.

Late July is a special time in the high Rockies' abbreviated summer. Wildflowers like Columbine, Lupine, and Corn Husk Lilies are at their peak bloom. At times, fields of flowers line both sides of the trail. We'll hike through stands of white barked Quaking Aspen, alongside crashing snowmelt streams, and then out of the trees entirely where green slopes and bare rock are the only thing between earth and the clear blue sky.

The boys from Falling Creek who go on Blaze Expeditions are the cream of the crop from the camp's summer backpacking program. In Colorado they'll put their skills to the test. Averaging over 10 miles per day, they'll carry everything they need on their backs, including eight days of food and warm sleeping bags. At night they'll string lightweight tarps between their trekking poles or they may just lay down and sleep right under the stars. As the days go by, strong bonds are formed. In fact, one of the hardest parts of the trip is saying goodbye at the end.

Both the figurative and literal high point of Blaze Colorado happens on the last day. The entire expedition will summit Mount Elbert. At 14,439 feet, it is the highest peak in Colorado and the second highest peak in the lower 48. What a way to end the trip. Coming down off the mountain and finally off the trail to the waiting van, everyone is elated at "conquering" the mountain and the trail itself.



### Cranking Colorado

CRANK Colorado is based out of Crested Butte, Colorado, the founding home of Mountain Biking. "The Butte" is one of the best places in the world to ride, because of its pristine single-track, featured in bike magazines since the inception of the Pearl Pass ride



in 1976. Boys will ride longtime favorites, including Paradise Divide, Teocalli Ridge, and trails that set the standard in modern trail construction.

The boys will pass views of mountain peaks in every direction and witness one of the best wildflower shows in Colorado. Each campsite is nestled beside a roaring creek in a classic high alpine setting. We ride at elevations up to 12,000 feet, with mileage ranging from 17-22 miles a day. The trip will also lead the boys to Doctor's Park, a "must ride" on the mountain biking venue bucket list, with similar outstanding single-track as in Crested Butte, but with different terrain and trail construction.



## Big Water in Idaho

HUCK Idaho will take place on the Main Salmon River, featuring miles upon miles of protected wilderness where little has changed since first appearing on the U.S. map. Main Salmon River in Idaho offers a rich river experience, including free-flowing Class III-IV Idaho whitewater (Big Water). This Idaho kayaking adventure includes big sandy beaches, perfect for camping and playing, beautiful mountain scenery, abundant wildlife, and a natural hot spring. Dubbed the "River of No Return" by early prospectors, this whitewater bucket list river HUCK trip is sure to be a favorite.



## Climbing The Gunks

The Gunks, short for 'Shawangunks,' is one of the premier climbing areas in the country. Located near New Paltz, New York, the rock is quartz conglomerate, solid rock with horizontal rather than vertical cracks. Climbing at the Gunks is characterized by roofs, jugs, traverses, big air, and sometimes "sporty" pro. The Gunks is famous for great one-to-three-pitch climbs of all levels of difficulty. Some of the best easy to moderate "trad" climbs in the country are here. There are a few bolted climbs, but no sport climbs. This is one of the oldest climbing areas in the country.

Fritz Wiessner first climbed at the Gunks in 1935, and he and Hans Kraus put up many classic routes in the 1940s. High Exposure, established in 1941, remains one of the most exposed and exciting 5.6 routes any climber will ever make, and should be on every visiting climber's tick list. The expedition is based at the American Alpine Club campground, which sits just outside of the Mohonk Preserve, home of the Gunks. The campsite is within walking distance of the several climbing areas. 🏕️

# ROCKS, & RIVERS TRAILS



## guts&glory

### Awards-All Sessions

#### Archery

Performance Award: Andrew Cowan

Performance Award:

William Boynton

Positive Attitude:

Benito Jose Jaramillo

Positive Attitude: Key Foster

Service Award: Ben Simmons

Service Award: Henry Boeschen

#### Arts & Crafts

Ambitious Artist: Rodrigo Esteve

Hardest Working: Henry Bryan

Head in the Clouds: Ian Meredith

Most Colorful: Coley Brown

Most Zen: Bruce Lanier

#### Backpacking

Footsteps Award: Carson Oswald

Footsteps Award: Harrison Oswald

Pathfinder Award: Aidan Borges

Trailblazer Award: Ben Kirbo



#### Basketball

Braveheart: Thomas Fanning

Most Improved: Heath Seawright

Mr. Brightside (Best Attitude):

Taishi Liu

SPF 200 (Best Defense):

Charlie Oliver

Splash Brothers: Collier &

Steven Lilly

#### Blacksmithing

BA (Blacksmithing Apprentice):

Axel Hicks

Swish Master: Alec Leyva

Swish Master: Barron Cohen

Swish Master: Julian Leidy

Wonder Smithy: Craig Buffkin

#### Climbing Wall

Best All Around: James Singhal

Dino Saur: Mau Otero

Warrior Spirit: Duke Nicolson

#### Cross Country

Fastest Mile: Patrick Nagy

Most Improved: Cameron Sumners

Mr. XC: Will Kercher

The Nike Running Award:

David Efird

The Nike Running Award:

Key Foster

#### Disc Golf

Aces on the Brain: Bennett Brosnan

Aces on the Brain: Grant Johnson

Birdie Chaser: Bryce Howard

Birdie Chaser: Jack Roussel

Disc Golf Classic Winner:

Henry Langston

#### F.A.R.M.

Farmer of the Season: James Lauve

Farmer of the Season: John Greeley

Farmer of the Season: Pete Curtis

Farmer of the Season: Rafael

Gonzalez Acosta

Farmer of the Season:

Ryan Fisackerly

#### Fishing & Fly Fishing

Best All Around Fisherman:

Ben King

Best All Around Fisherman:

Charlie Oliver

Most Improved: Henry Knox

Most Improved: Will Koons

T.B.M. (Total Buck Move):

Buck Lahtela

The "Fish Was This Big" Award:

Wilson Engelhardt

#### Flag Football

Ankle Breaker: Gray Mollenkamp

Most Dedicated: C.D. St. Hilaire

Most Dedicated: Jacob Spafford

Most Improved: Sam Goldstein

#### Horseback Riding

Just Keep Smilin': JD Long

Most Improved: Weaver Whitehead

Positive Attitude Award:

Ward Peterson

Razz Award: Addison Wilson

Razz Award: Jacob Wood

The 540 Award: Julian Dufour

The Parli Award: Will Woodruff

#### Indian Lore

Award of Indian Lore: Claude Cobbs

Award of Indian Lore: Davis Mosby

Trees Have Feelings Too:

Tyler Phillips



### Lacrosse

Grim Ripper: Sam Chambers  
Rising Warrior: Campbell Killian  
Rising Warrior: Will Burton  
Servant's Heart: Jackson Behmer  
The "Lax Bro" Award: Jack Sprinkle

### Mountain Biking

Colin Barrett Award: Nico Dowdall  
Colin Barrett Award: Richie Jackson  
Frequent Rider Award: Gray Smith  
Frequent Rider Award:  
Will Broughman  
Most Improved Rider: Ian Smith  
Most Improved Rider:  
William Fenstermacher

### Music

Award of Positive Attitude &  
Perseverance: Everett Norton  
Award of Positive Attitude &  
Perseverance: Sam Chambers  
M.V.M. (Most Valuable Musician):  
Carter Freeland  
Most Improved in Music:  
Hayden Gump  
Most Improved in Music:  
Ian Meredith  
Rhythm of Heart & Soul Award:  
Ari Chen  
Rhythm of Heart & Soul Award:  
Will Skipper

### Nature

Snake Charmer: Nico Dowdall  
The Smashing Pith Helmet of  
Neatness Award: James Singhal  
Young Socrates: Henry Osborne

### Paddling

FCC Paddling 4th Instructor Award:  
Quinn Novick  
M.V.B. (Most Valuable Boofer):  
Bright Crosswell

### Pottery

The Lean on Me Award:  
Will Skipper  
The Made for Clay Award:  
Jake Brooker  
The Mud Scientist Award:  
Julian Dufour  
The Mud Slinger Award:  
Walter Miller  
The Skill Builder Award:  
Grayson Conklin

### Riflery

Billy Dixon Award:  
Bradley Tarbutton  
Billy Dixon Award: Marshall Hanson  
The Rifleman Award:  
Connor Kleiderer  
The Rifleman Award: James McGregor

### Rock Climbing

Astro Sloth: George Smith  
Footsteps Award: Carson Oswald  
Footsteps Award: Harrison Oswald  
King Sloth: Ryan Doster  
The Crusher: Rodrigo Esteve

### Sailing

1st Mate's Award: Pete Curtis  
Captain's Award: Ben Harris  
Midshipman's Award: Sam Frushone  
Sailor's Award: Abbott Wright  
Sailor's Award: Locke McKnight



### Soccer

Best Attitude: Miller King  
Most Goals Scored & Most Knees  
Broken: William Niemeyer  
Most Skilled: Wilder Breckenridge  
Most Technical: Gray Mollenkamp  
The Unstoppable Team: Benito Jose  
Jaramillo, Chuna Pallares,  
Jose Arellano

### Swimming

Blob King: Will Philpott  
Most Improved: Matthew Spears  
Most Improved: Taishi Liu  
Super Fish: Jackson Behmer

### Tennis

M.V.P.: Michael Drendel  
M.V.P.: William Boynton  
Rising Star: Tal Turner  
Smiling Emoji (Best Attitude):  
Aidan Fulton  
The Hound: Evan Fuertes  
Top Dawg: Reid Brown

### The HEAT

Athlete Award: Will Kercher  
Awesome Attitude: C.D. St. Hilaire  
Fit Life Award: Ari Chen  
Most Improved: Chase Givens

### Theater

All the World's a Stage:  
Brandon Crossman  
All the World's a Stage: Logan Jones  
Boys Just Wanna Have Fun Award:  
MacLean Delehanty  
Mrs. Doubtfire Award for Versatility  
in Theater: Henry Bryan  
Spirit of the Stage "Ghost Light"  
Award: Zane Israel  
Spotlight in Theater: Jack Morton

### Ultimate Frisbee

Acolyte of Ultimate: John Czabala  
Best Attitude: Gori Spillis  
It's in the Name Award:  
Whit Flickinger  
Mr. Consistency: Bo Phillips  
Perseverance: Patton Jaynes

### Woodworking

Crafty Camper: Taishi Liu  
Hands-On Award: Owen Mansur  
Mr. Sandman: Harrison Little  
Sword of Chivalry: Charlie Fridge  
Willing Woodchuck: Cole Hooper  
Wood Wood 'Ward: Charles Moser  
Wood Wood 'Ward: John Czabala





## guts&glory

### June Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

#### CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 8

John-Luke Giroux, Rob Howe  
Camden Cox, Gus Faris, Jack  
Laurent, Jack Liles, Philip Cook,  
Richard Nichols, Spicer Edmonds,  
William Darragh

#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Honeymoon

Brooks Mischel, Zach Rubenstein  
Bryce Howard, Bud Gidiere IV,  
Charlie Gatto, G Simmons, Henk  
Warrick IV, Rafael Gonzalez Acosta,  
Weaver Whitehead, Will Doster

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Little Raven

Breaux Tubbs, Josh Cooley  
Charlie Earl, George Smith,  
James Nieset, Kearney  
Nieset, Nicholas Klein,  
Thomas Hunter, Watson Adams,  
Will Skipper

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Abiding Rock

Andrew Worsham, Mike Nuckles  
Harold Wyatt, Jack Valentine, Locke  
Johnson, Marshall Hanson, Quinn  
Novick, Reid Brown, Sebastian  
Hicks, Taylor Dawson

### Main Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

#### CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 8

Drew Milner, John-Luke Giroux  
Berkley Woodard, Charlie Hanson,  
Cort Snyder, Grant Greeley, Heath  
Seawright, Henry Boeschen, Sam  
Oberlin, Tristan Nygaard



#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Honeymoon

Brooks Mischel, Daniel Fewson  
Aidan Fulton, Alfredo Lelo De  
Larrea, Chuna Pallares, Jack Roussel,  
Jacob Disch, Luca Dowdall, Walker  
Borgmann, William Pearce

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Watauga

Alex Paris, Sam Trenschi  
Carlos DeWinter, Cole Atherton,  
Greyson Wisdom, James McIntyre,  
John Nowicki, McMillan Davis,  
Tommy Murray

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Rolling Thunder

Garner Gentry, Sam Clayton  
Andrew Walko, Bennett  
Zimmerman, Charlie Pike, Harlan  
Stone, Jack Nixon, Jack Sprinkle,  
John Czabala, Julian Leidy

### 2-Week Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

#### CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 6

Brian Dugan, Hayden Vick  
Bowman Yanicelli, George Stowe,  
Gunner Jones, Hosford Roberts,  
Jake Rhine, Kearney Sword,  
Robert Prouitt, Thomas Hunter V

#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Ishi

Robert Brooks, Zach Rivera  
Boyd Hodges, Campbell Spence,  
Charles Hickok, Grayson Hawn,  
Hartt Daniel, Leo Drendel,  
Max Carson, Stewart Favero

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Little Raven

Breaux Tubbs, Dougie Burns  
Alex Greene, Griff Cooper, Kemp  
Woodard, Lander Smith, Palmer  
Routh, Parker Allen, Sam Gallivan,  
Will Lisenby

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Abiding Rock

Andrew Worsham, Will Vogan  
Ben Thomas, Benjamin Bourne,  
Carter Burds, Cason Young,  
Emmett Capt, Gavin Banks,  
Gunnar Davidson, Landon Kalish



## Junior Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

### CHEROKEE TRIBE

#### Cabin 6

Brian Dugan, Hayden Vick  
Bo Vaughan Jr., Charles Morris,  
Hayes Morgan, Henry Neff,  
Jack Bright, Land Allison,  
Spencer South, Wick Taylor

### CATAWBA TRIBE

#### Cabin Comanche

James Hendershott, Len Wallace  
Braden Edmondson, Hayes Lusink,  
Jack Wilson, John Marshall, Mason  
Fitzhugh, Miles Fuller, Trigger  
Woodard, Wilson Rutherford

#### Cabin Geronimo

Chris Garbo, Evan Raines  
Carter Savage, Dan Batten,  
Duncan Jones, Gibbon Powell,  
Hampton Jones, Jack Rivera,  
Jackson Shealy, Tyler Leidy

### TUSCARORA TRIBE

#### Cabin Little Raven

Breaux Tubbs, Dougie Burns  
Bruce Harper, Cliff Lanier,  
Eric Coronado, Harrison Short,  
John Hayden Scheland,  
Nick Pritchard, Ridge Jenkinson V,  
Wade Douroux

### IROQUOIS TRIBE

#### Cabin Osceola

Matty McHugh, Vlad Kifaruk  
Beau Brown, Carter Leidy, Charlie  
Friedrich, Cole Rychak, Davis  
Dunham, Devin Muench, Lex  
McDonald, Thomas Mercer



## Progressions- All Sessions

### Archery Ranger

Connor Hubbard  
Greg Cherry  
Jack Adams  
Jack Flowers  
Will Burke

### Archery Warrior

Andrew Cowan  
Carter Freeland

### Arts & Crafts Ranger

Avery Kessler  
Benjamin Longo  
Palmer Lykes

### Arts & Crafts Warrior

Henry Bryan  
Jackson Singhal  
Rodrigo Esteve

### Backpacking Warrior

Robbie Watkins

### Basketball Ranger

Benjamin Longo  
Cade Warner  
David Efird  
Drew McAtee  
Hampton Coleman  
Harold Wyatt  
Josh Clark  
Marshall Sinkler  
Steven Lilly  
Will Pittman  
William Walker  
Zach Jackson

### Basketball Warrior

Andrew Walko  
Collier Lilly  
Ned Hull  
Rex Bowen

### Blacksmithing Ranger

Alec Leyva  
Barron Cohen  
Craig Buffkin  
Julian Leidy

### Blacksmithing Warrior

Axel Hicks

### Climbing Wall Warrior

Jack Gowen  
James Singhal  
Peter Kurschner

### Disc Golf Ranger

Benjamin Longo  
Carlos Penzini  
Guayo Otero

### Disc Golf Warrior

Jordan Bennett

### Fishing Ranger

Blake Rowland  
Duke Nicolson

### Fishing Warrior

Henry Langston

### Flag Football Ranger

Carl Evans  
Diego Gianni  
Drew McAtee  
Henry Oliver  
Jake Tarter  
James Nieset  
Nick Dossin  
Sam Evins  
Sam Tepper  
Watts Bond





## guts&glory

### Flag Football Warrior

C.D. St. Hilaire  
Cameron Fields  
Cole Hooper  
Marshall Hanson

### Fly Fishing Ranger

Charlie Oliver  
Henry Langston

### Horseback Riding Ranger

Caleb McDonough  
Chuna Pallares  
Guy Hagan  
Henry Smith  
Jose Arellano  
Thomas Kallen

### Horseback Riding Warrior

Benito Jose Jaramillo  
Jacob Wood  
Julian Dufour  
Walker Borgmann

### Indian Lore Ranger

TJ Killian

### Indian Lore Warrior

Ben Harris  
Ford Cobbs

### Lacrosse Ranger

Frank Dinkins

### Lacrosse Warrior

Henry Cato  
Jack Sprinkle  
Locke Johnson

### Mountain Biking Warrior

Lewis Jaynes

### Music Ranger

Cooper Bryan

### Nature Ranger

Henry Osborne  
Jay Bland  
Julian Dufour  
Wells White

### Nature Warrior

McRae Wallace

### Paddling Ranger

Cameron Fields  
Carsten Dowdy  
Charlie Pike  
Hayden Edwards  
Henry Langston  
Max Feild  
Max Redic  
Noah Glasgow  
Owen Kelly  
Rex Hallow  
Thomas Buckley  
Tristan Hall  
Will Barganier

### Paddling Warrior

Chip Ratcliff

### Pottery Ranger

Jack Slattery  
Joel Adams  
John Nowicki  
Jordan Bennett  
Rodrigo Esteve  
Sam Stevens

### Pottery Warrior

Baker Wilkins  
Julian Dufour  
Walter Miller

### Riflery Ranger

Connor Kleiderer  
Jack Clark  
Noah Garman  
Shep Jernigan

### Riflery Warrior

Bradley Tarbutton  
James McGregor  
Marshall Hanson

### Rock Climbing Ranger

Baker Dill  
George Smith  
Jack Stivers  
Joel Funderbirk  
John Ervin  
Kearny Nieset  
Sam Dumont  
Thomas Hunter

### Rock Climbing Warrior

James Singhal  
Liam Horn  
Peter Kurschner  
Ryan Doster

### Sailing Ranger

Ben Harris

### Sailing Warrior

Harrison Little  
Pete Curtis  
Sam Frushone

### Soccer Warrior

Andrew Cowan  
Gray Mollenkamp  
Jack Lipscomb  
Jack Valentine  
Meade Seay  
Nicholas Johns  
Park Bruner  
Thomas Killeen  
Tyler Park  
Wesley Bruner  
Wilder Breckenridge  
Will Niemeyer







**Soccer-Goalkeeping Ranger**

Cabot Croll  
Jordan Bennett

**Soccer-Goalkeeping Warrior**

Alexandre Colas des Francs

**Swimming Ranger**

George Goins

**Swimming Warrior**

Jackson Behmer

**Tennis Ranger**

Baker Wilkins  
RJ Poffenberger

**Tennis Warrior**

Sebastian Hicks  
William Boynton

**Ultimate Ranger**

John Czabala

**Ultimate Warrior**

Tom Yoxsimer

**Woodworking Ranger**

Cole Atherton  
Palmer Lykes  
Walker Borgmann  
Wesley King  
Will Young

**Woodworking Warrior**

Harrison Little  
Heath Seawright  
John Czabala  
Locke Johnson





## guts&glory

### Staff Honors

#### Green & Gold Award

Dr. Charlie Niemeyer and Dr. Bob Majors

#### 5th Year

Cooper Flickinger  
Kevin Pelsinski  
Ryland Wheliss  
Will Young  
Zach Rivera

#### 10th Year

Chuck Niemeyer  
Cricket Davis  
Garner Gentry  
Jez  
Sidney Parham  
Will Ehrhardt  
William "Scotty" Scott

#### 15th Year

Steve Drewry

#### Activity Leaders

ARCHERY: John Niemeyer  
ARTS & CRAFTS: Julia Cline  
BACKPACKING: Matthew Kornegay & Will Prince  
BASKETBALL: Hayden Vick  
BLACKSMITHING: Tommy Carroll  
CLIMBING WALL: Sam Clayton & Zac Gay  
CROSS COUNTRY: Patrick McGrady  
DISC GOLF: Reese Hight  
E.A.R.M.: Doug Koziol  
FISHING & FLY FISHING: Cape Lovvorn

#### FLAG FOOTBALL:

John-Luke Giroux

#### HORSEBACK RIDING:

Austin Killebrew

#### INDIAN LORE: Tania Battista

IT: Miriam Calamaro

#### LACROSSE: Johnny Moremen

#### MOUNTAIN BIKING:

Len Wallace & Drew Milner

#### MUSIC: Tania Battista

#### NATURE: Will Vogan

#### PADDLING:

Jez & Andrew Worsham

#### PHOTOGRAPHY: Bryan Mangum

#### POTTERY: Tess Bracher

#### RIFLERY: William "Scotty" Scott

#### ROCK CLIMBING:

Devin Horgan, Jon Cabrera, &

Sam Clayton

#### SAILING: Mike Stephenson

#### SOCCER: Patrick McGrady &

Bennett Vazquez

#### TENNIS: Mike Nuckles &

Breaux Tubbs

#### THE HEAT: Brock Peirce

#### THEATER: Tania Battista

#### SWIMMING: Savannah Paterson

#### ULTIMATE FRISBEE:

Cooper Flickinger

#### WOODWORKING: Cole Bearrow

& David LaBarre

#### WRITER: Steve Drewry





# we bleed Green & Gold



Dr. Bob Majors



Dr. Charlie Niemeyer

In August, two long-time physicians who've loaned their caring hearts and hands to Falling Creek Camp for many summers — Dr. Bob Majors and Dr. Charlie Niemeyer — were awarded the camp's prestigious Green & Gold honor. The award is given annually to the staff member(s) who best exemplify The Falling Creek Code — Positive Attitude, Warrior Spirit, Servant's Heart, Moral Compass — and who are known for carrying the Falling Creek spirit of unselfishness in their hearts.

## Dr. Bob Majors

A Navy man, Dr. Bob, as he's known around camp, has been an otorhinolaryngologist head and neck surgeon for more than 40 years. He makes his home in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife Helen. Dr. Bob attended Camp Sequoyah as a boy, and first became involved with Falling Creek about 12 years ago before his oldest grandson was a camper here. Dr. Bob has served as a physician over the summers on and off, ever since.

Among Dr. Bob's fondest memories of Falling Creek are the many campfire songs and skits; the unusual medical problems he's treated; the old pull-down ladder stairwell in the A frame, and recollections of grace sung at meal times. "I was greatly surprised and honored to have received the Green & Gold Award," says Dr. Bob.

## Dr. Charlie Niemeyer

Dr. Charlie Niemeyer, a retired orthopedic surgeon, has been serving Falling Creek as one of the camp doctors for six summers. He and his wife, Carolyn, sent their son, Chuck, to Falling Creek when he was a boy. Their daughter, Erica, attended nearby Camp Greystone, where Dr. Charlie volunteered as a camp doctor, and Carolyn served as swimming director and camp nurse.

Dr. Charlie's son, Chuck, convinced him to volunteer as one of the camp doctors at Falling Creek, and he has enjoyed every minute of it. It doesn't hurt that Dr. Charlie's grandsons, John and Will, spend their summers here as well.

"I am both excited and humbled at receiving the Green & Gold award, particularly that I am in the company of Dr. Bob," says Dr. Charlie. "I am happy that I have been able to provide service to Falling Creek, and that service has produced its own reward." 🙌



*We at Falling Creek salute these two great physicians and role models.*



## keeper of the flame

This summer, a repetitive sound emanated from a thicket of rhododendron by the Campfire Bridge, carrying out across the lower lake. Stevie Frickel, from Hendersonville, North Carolina, and Andrew Walko, from Glen Allen, Virginia, were splitting wood. They worked in quietness. Only a distant murmur of the regular activity of camp could be heard. They took turns with their tasks, either loading the newly riven wood into a wheelbarrow or swinging the maul overhead and crashing it swiftly through the end-grain of a stump. When they exhausted the supply of pine to be split and carried, they hoisted a log onto a pair of nearby sawhorses and began cutting a

new round of wood, each on either end of the two man crosscut saw, alternately pushing and pulling the blade through the many rings and fibers.

The highest rank attainable at Falling Creek is Keeper of the Flame. A camper achieving Warrior in 3 activities and consistently demonstrating the FCC Code, becomes a candidate to earn Keeper Of The Flame. At that point, he becomes a Journeyman and must successfully complete his Journey to earn the rank of Keeper of the Flame. When a camper is designated as a Journeyman, he is assigned a staff member as his mentor to help him prepare. The Journey consists of building and tending a campfire; venturing out on an overnight solo experience; composing an essay about his time at Falling Creek and how he can share his light with others; cutting and splitting wood to be used at future Sunday night campfires; and completing an orienteering challenge.

Congratulations to Stevie and Andrew for becoming the first two Falling Creek campers in our history to earn the rank of Keeper Of The Flame! 🔥



l to r: Stevie Frickel,  
Andrew Walko.







Live with courage | Always do your best | Strengthen your body, mind, and spirit | Persevere





# TRAIL SYSTEM

## Falling Creek Camp, 2016

**FALLING  
CREEK  
CAMP**

Entrance

Gate

Covered Bridge

Food

Trout Run Drive

102

2200

2300

2400

2500

2600

2700

2800

2900

3000

3100

3200

3300

3400

3500

3600

3700

3800

3900

4000

4100

4200

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20900

21000

21100

21200

21300

21400

21500

21600

21700

21800

21900

22000

22100

22200

22300

22400

22500

22600

22700

22800

22900

23000

23100

23200

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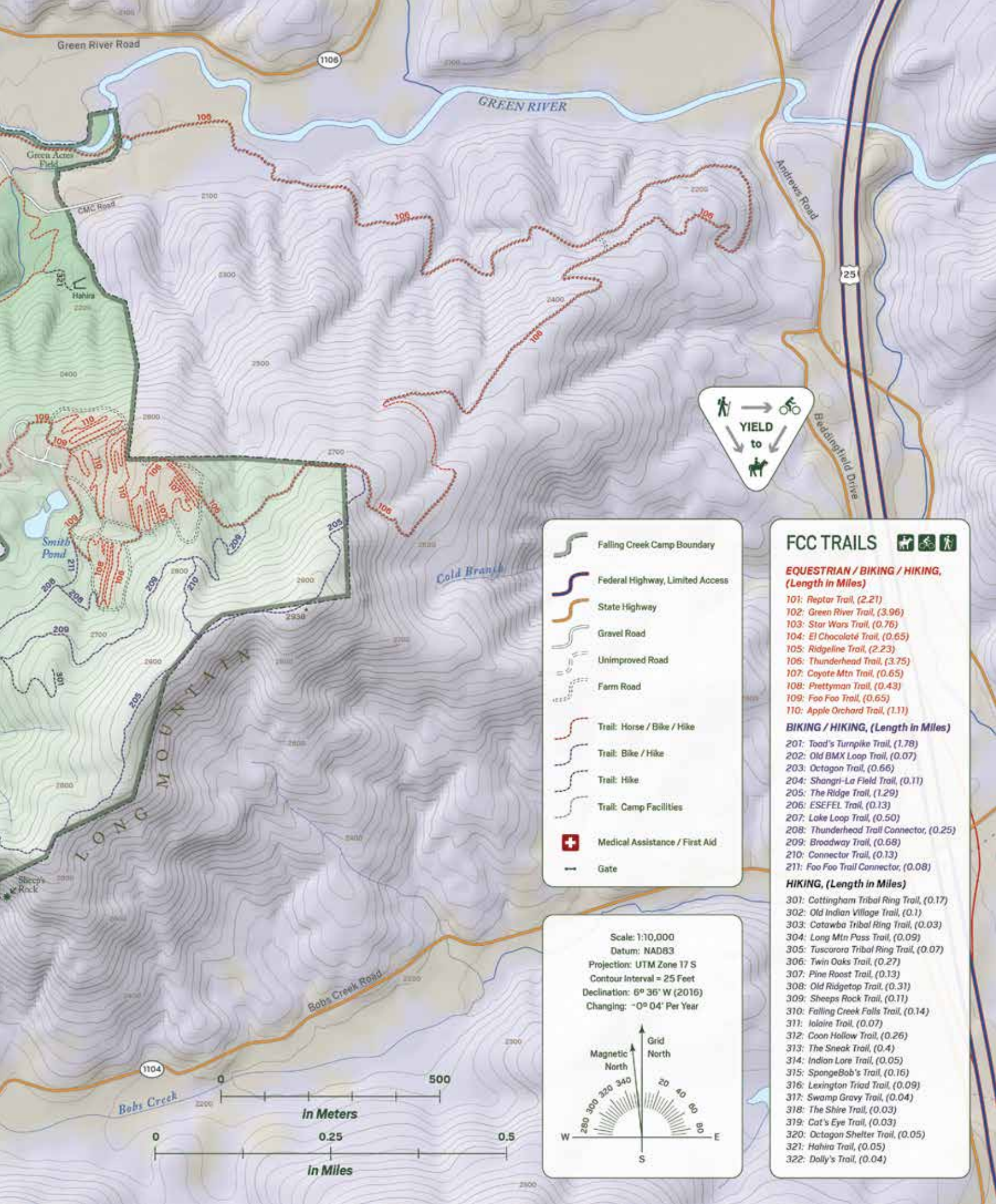
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Falling Creek Camp Boundary

Federal Highway, Limited Access

State Highway

Gravel Road

Unimproved Road

Farm Road

Trail: Horse / Bike / Hike

Trail: Bike / Hike

Trail: Hike

Trail: Camp Facilities

Medical Assistance / First Aid

Gate

Scale: 1:10,000  
Datum: NAD83  
Projection: UTM Zone 17 S  
Contour Interval = 25 Feet  
Declination: 6° 36' W (2016)  
Changing: -0° 04' Per Year

**FCC TRAILS**

**EQUESTRIAN / BIKING / HIKING, (Length in Miles)**

101: Reptar Trail, (2.21)  
102: Green River Trail, (3.96)  
103: Star Wars Trail, (0.76)  
104: El Chocolate Trail, (0.65)  
105: Ridgeline Trail, (2.23)  
106: Thunderhead Trail, (3.75)  
107: Coyote Mtn Trail, (0.65)  
108: Prettyman Trail, (0.43)  
109: Foo Foo Trail, (0.65)  
110: Apple Orchard Trail, (1.11)

**BIKING / HIKING, (Length in Miles)**

201: Toad's Turnpike Trail, (1.78)  
202: Old BMX Loop Trail, (0.07)  
203: Octagon Trail, (0.66)  
204: Shangri-La Field Trail, (0.11)  
205: The Ridge Trail, (1.29)  
206: ESEFEL Trail, (0.13)  
207: Lake Loop Trail, (0.50)  
208: Thunderhead Trail Connector, (0.25)  
209: Broadway Trail, (0.68)  
210: Connector Trail, (0.13)  
211: Foo Foo Trail Connector, (0.08)

**HIKING, (Length in Miles)**

301: Cottingham Tribal Ring Trail, (0.17)  
302: Old Indian Village Trail, (0.1)  
303: Catawba Tribal Ring Trail, (0.03)  
304: Long Mtn Pass Trail, (0.09)  
305: Tuscarora Tribal Ring Trail, (0.07)  
306: Twin Oaks Trail, (0.27)  
307: Pine Roost Trail, (0.13)  
308: Old Ridgetop Trail, (0.31)  
309: Sheeps Rock Trail, (0.11)  
310: Falling Creek Falls Trail, (0.14)  
311: Iolaire Trail, (0.07)  
312: Coon Hollow Trail, (0.26)  
313: The Sneak Trail, (0.4)  
314: Indian Lane Trail, (0.05)  
315: SpongeBob's Trail, (0.16)  
316: Lexington Triad Trail, (0.09)  
317: Swamp Gravy Trail, (0.04)  
318: The Shire Trail, (0.03)  
319: Cat's Eye Trail, (0.03)  
320: Octagon Shelter Trail, (0.05)  
321: Hahira Trail, (0.05)  
322: Dolly's Trail, (0.04)





## announcementsforthe**day** 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](mailto:Yates@fallingcreek.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/fallingcreek](http://www.facebook.com/fallingcreek)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/fallingcreek/](https://twitter.com/fallingcreek/)  
**Google+:** [plus.google.com/116479365063473033975/](https://plus.google.com/116479365063473033975/)  
**Instagram:** [instagram.com/fallingcreek/](https://www.instagram.com/fallingcreek/)  
**Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/fallingcreek/](https://www.pinterest.com/fallingcreek/)  
**Linkedin:** [www.linkedin.com/company/falling-creek-camp](https://www.linkedin.com/company/falling-creek-camp)



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Frank Hargrove graduating with distinction from the Virginia Military Institute.

#### **Frank Hargrove (Camper 2004-07, Staff 2012)**

Frank graduated with distinction and a degree in history from Virginia Military Institute. He was a member of the fishing club; did a capstone paper focusing on Latin America; was selected by peers as Honor Court vice president; was a member of Engineers Without Borders, with whom he made a trip to Bolivia; and was inducted into VMI's Beta Commission Kappa Alpha Order chapter. Today, Frank works with Global Workplace Solutions in Washington, D.C.

#### **Stephanie Mimbs (Staff 2013-16)**

Stephanie has spent the past four summers as a counselor at Falling Creek, and is now pursuing a master's degree in college student personnel at the University of Tennessee. She is also a graduate assistant for the University Housing Department in the field of assessment and learning engagement. At Falling Creek, Stephanie served as pottery activity leader and creek tribal leader, where she says she honed her leadership skills.

#### **Tory Gentry (Staff years, 2012-2013)**

Tory graduated with a bachelor's degree in medicine, health, and society from Vanderbilt University in May 2016; her minor was in financial economics. Today, Tory works as a federal business analyst for Deloitte Consulting in Washington, D.C., supporting federal health clients.

#### **Preston Newsome (Former Camper, Staff 2012-13, 2015)**

Preston recently joined Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as the full-time young adult minister. He will be revamping the small groups, overseeing social media, preaching periodically, and attending classes at Dallas Theological Seminary. Formerly, Preston worked as an account coordinator for Simpli.fi, an advertising technology firm in Fort Worth. Thanks to Frank Tindall's influence, Preston is instructing spin classes, and hopes to start a gospel-centered personal training program with Christ Chapel.





Rob Wells reconnecting with FCC's Jerry Metcalf during a visit this past winter.

**Rob Wells**  
(Staff 1986, 1988-1992)

Rob earned his master's degree from the University of Mississippi, his Ph.D. from Cornell University, and is currently a hydraulic engineer for the USDA-ARS. His wife, Diana, is an elementary school teacher, and they have three children: Georgeanna, 8; Sutton, 4; and Emmy-Rose, 2. They live in the hills above Oxford, Mississippi, where they are active members of St. Peters Episcopal Church and avid Ole Miss fans.

**Mark Shaefer (Staff 2006)**

Mark is an attorney in Augusta, Georgia. Although he was not a camper, he says his year as a counselor was equally as fun, and ultimately led him to create and found a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching children success through art. Mark has fond memories of Steve Drewry, Jim Goodrum, Yates, and the entire staff.

**John Cottingham**  
(Staff mid-1970s)

John worked as a counselor at Falling Creek in the mid-1970s, as did his father, brother, and sister. He resides in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, on the other side of the mountain. John and partners are currently starting a non-profit organization called The Pisgah Conservancy, dedicated to the well-being, maintenance, quality, and betterment of the Pisgah Ranger District.



**Mike Nuckles (Staff 2009-16)**

Nuckles spent four years as a substitute teacher and coach for various high schools before landing an internship with the

athletics department at the Charlotte Country Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina. Today, he serves as the assistant director of athletics there, and is responsible for marketing, promotions, and publications; he is also head coach for the seventh grade boys' basketball team. Nuckles also teaches tennis lessons and several of his trainees are Falling Creek campers.

**Harry Titus (Staff 2013-15)**

Harry graduated from Coastal Carolina University in May 2016, with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and a focus in juvenile justice services. He is employed by the Solicitors Intervention Programs Office in Horry County as a case manager for the Alcohol Education Program; he also assists with juvenile programs. In his free time, Harry co-advises a student organization at Coastal Carolina University, and plays basketball whenever he can.





The Gillespie family visited Falling Creek this summer while passing through on vacation.

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#### **John Gillespie (Staff late 1970s)**

John is the manager of global accounts for HelmsBriscoe, the world leader in meetings procurement. He and his wife recently sent their 18-year-old twins, Emily and David, to the University of Mississippi as entering freshmen. Following in their dad's footsteps, the twins served as counselors for three summers at a local YMCA day camp.

#### **George Ramsay**

**(Staff 1972-74, 1976-81)**

George married his wife Anne in 1983, moved to Raleigh in 1986, and founded an employee benefits company, which he sold in 2010. George now works for Digital Benefit Advisors, and Anne is an executive coach for non-profit organizations. They have two grown children, Susan and George, and are active members of White Memorial Presbyterian, and long-time volunteers with StepUp Ministry.

#### **Nicho Rivera (Staff 2011-13)**

**Jake Parker (Staff 2011-13)**

In January 2016 Jake and Nicho set out to conquer the goal of their lifetimes — to circumnavigate the Florida peninsula by sea kayak. The ambitious journey took 89 days and covered 1,515 miles of combined open ocean and intra-coastal waterways. Air



Jake Parker, left, and Nicho Rivera on their Florida paddling adventure.

temperatures ranged from 17 to 50 degrees, and the pinioning force of the ocean was, at times, overwhelming. They send a shout out to the amazing trail angels they met along the way, and to Falling Creek Camp, where their brotherhood was forged.

#### **Adrian Barnes (Staff 2013-16)**

Adrian teaches 6th and 7th grade social studies, world geography, and world history at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS in

# Ole Miss



Tampa, Florida. He is also in charge of the school-wide History Day, and serves as a judge in the State and National History Day competition. Adrian's classroom philosophy is framed around the Falling Creek Camp Code, and he strives to bring that to life through his lessons and endeavors.

**Andrew Maddox (Staff 2013-15)**  
Andrew lives in Charleston, South Carolina, where he is in his first year of physical therapy school at the Medical University of South Carolina. The 3-year program focuses on the treatment of body movement dysfunctions. Andrew would eventually like to be a pediatric physical therapist, and says working at Falling Creek shaped and influenced his heart to care for children.

**Mickey Herman  
(Camper 2001-08,  
Staff 2009-15)**  
Mickey is in his second year of law school at Wake Forest University. He also serves as an intern for the United States Court of Appeals - Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. Mickey says he has

cultivated his Servant's Heart by working for the government, has tapped into his Warrior Spirit and Positive Attitude when faced with new personal and professional challenges, and has relied in his Moral Compass when working with sensitive information in the courts. 🕯️



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY  

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SCHOOL of LAW



George and Anne Ramsay enjoying a visit to camp this summer.



## cabintime

juncamp



**Cabin 1:** Back: Matthew Torak, Liam Fanning, Kain Logan, Derek Lamar, Tate Borganier, Ryland Wheliss. Front: Thomas Gosslee, Thomas Fanning, Jim Lanier, William Marsh



**Cabin 2:** Back: Sam Phillis, William McCollum, Lachlan McFarland, Bennett Johnston, Julian Culbertson, Will Young. Front: Graeme McNeish, Derrick Daniels, Matthew Spears, Henry Knox



**Cabin 3:** Back: Marcus Schrade, Harrison Finney, Benton Welker, Vincent Gory, Boone Phelps, John Niemeyer. Front: Prescott Miller, Sawyer Sketch, Heuer Erdle, JJ Hawley



**Cabin 4:** Back: Andrew Moldoff, Ocean Gorecki, Bobby Barrett, Gray Hendricks, Wilkes Brown, Smat Sutton. Front: Javi Lopez, Quinn Carroll, Walter Lloyd, Johnny Chamoun



**Cabin 5:** Back: David LaBarre, Thompson White, Colin Moffett, Luke Meinhardt, Christian Sutcliffe, Kyle Adams. Front: Ben Williamson, Daniel Fanning, Wiley Kessler, Henry Williamson



**Cabin 6:** Back: Hayden Vick, Henry O'Hagan, Henry Gatto, John McCoy, Carter Fridge, Erikson Livingston. Front: Bobby Suggs, Charles Moser, Booker Melton, Hayden Gump



**Cabin 7:** Back: Garry Robinson, Patrick Gosslee, Luke Baugher, Jay Keenan, Jack Pilon, Cooper Flickinger. Front: Hudson Thomas, Douglas Johnson, Harrison Keys, Austin Miller



**Cabin 8:** Back: John-Luke Giroux, Jack Liles, Philip Cook, Camden Cox, William Darragh, Rob Howe. Front: Jack Laurent, Richard Nichols, Gus Faris, Spicer Edmonds





**Cabin 9:** Back: Greyson Fuller, Aidan Stefanides, Cole Jackson, Walker Smith, Benjamin Kampine, Liam Mahoney. Front: Gabe Cullens, Jack Stamoulis, Garrett Spears, Clayton Kunz



**Comanche:** Back: Austin Birch, Dennis Farrell, Thomas Earl, Wyllly Molten, Thomas Hatling. Front: Davis Brown, Colin Carroll, William Zelnak, Jack Valentino



**Blackfoot:** Back: Gresh Ganninger, Henry Bryan, Mason Barfield, Diego Gianni, Jonathan Dunham, Matthew Rice. Front: RJ Poffenberger, William Burton, Miller King, MacLean Delehanty



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Dougie Burns, Henry Smith, Walker Lauth, Beckett Holmes, Raines Knight, Ben Szurek. Front: Ford Rachels Jr., Cannon Ridinger, Sloane Letourneau, Charlie May III



**Geronimo:** Back: Chris Garbo, Ryland Marley, Barrow Solomon, Jack McKinnie, Christian Fridge, Cameron Neiger. Front: Carl Evans, Henry Tabb, Charlie Brumback, Tyler Phillips



**Satank:** Back: Daniel Fewson, Patrick Maher, Grant McKinney, Stephen Greenleaf, Spencer Ritchie, Matty McHugh. Front: Braxton Bonner, Owen Mansur, Charlie Briggs, Russell Wyatt



**Ishi:** Back: Robert Brooks, Charlie Gory, Grayson Conklin, Parker Schneidau, Watts Bond, Andrew Harrison. Front: Jackson Behmer, Avery Kessler Jr., Jack Hiller, Bennett Coker



**Keokuk:** Back: Jackson Graham, Rowan Sullivan, Ward Peterson, Steven Lilly, Jim Kay V, Patrick McGrady. Front: Jacob Holyer, Scott Busey, Griffin Eubanks, Sam Culp



**Honeymoon:** Back: Brooks Mischel, Henk Warrick IV, Charlie Gatto, Will Doster, G Simmons, Zach Rubenstein. Front: Weaver Whitehead, Bryce Howard, Bud Gidiere IV, Rafael Gonzalez Acosta



**Gall:** Back: Charlie Caravati, Henry Cato, Riley Standish, Reid Pemberton, Robert Sproule, Zac Gay. Front: Hampton Coleman, Miles Phillips, Luke DuMont, Thomas Anders



**Sequoyah:** Back: Cole Bearrow, Parker McCollum, Spencer Mermans, Will Woodruff, Pete Fruin, Brian Dugan. Front: Everett Norton, Maddox Israel, Gabriel Meyers, Zane Israel



**Little Raven:** Back: Breaux Tubbs, Will Skipper, James Nieset, Watson Adams, George Smith, Josh Cooley. Front: Charlie Earl, Kearney Nieset, Thomas Hunter, Nicholas Klein





**Sitting Bull:** Back: Patrick Greenwood, Harrison Wallace, Philip Billings, Thomas Stamoulis, Tyler Hendley, Sam Trenski. Front: Ryan Fisackerly, Jimmy Dugan, Richie Jackson, Jack Hollingsworth



**Watauga:** Back: Gage Anderson, Brennan Lummus, Callum King, Sam Alexander, Wells White, Alex Paris. Front: Harper Kissell, Michael Drendel, Jack Glassner, Johnny Russell



**Junaluska:** Back: Jackson Walker, Townes Hunt, Whitaker Swann, Christopher Talley, Ramsay Brewer, Will Erhardt. Front: Sammy Slabaugh, Austin Brotemarkle, Connor Kleiderer, Jake Brooker



**Tsali:** Back: Sidney Parham, Frank Dinkins, Patrick Nagy, Miller Kunz, Grant Johnson, Bennett Vazquez. Front: Jack Shelton, Wilder Breckenridge, Mark Tabet, Cole Hooper



**Standing Bear:** Back: Chris Bachman, Bright Crosswell, Grayson Snider, William Fenstermacher, Ben Kirbo, Bryce Womack. Front: North Goodwin, August Brown, Jack Chilson, Ben King



**Black Elk:** Back: John Osborne, William Carrier, Cade Warner, Dair McFarland, Theo Erwin, Johnny Moremen. Front: Thomas Foster, Patton Jaynes, David Gildart, Charles Knox



**Washakie:** Back: Martin Bigatti, Benji Howard, Ramsay Good, Jack Fry, James Pilon, Matt Ambrose. Front: Locke McKnight, James Singhal, Austen Webb, David Hernandez



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Will Clements, Michael Pruett, Ben Hulsey, Harris Pope, Perrin Jones, Sam Clayton. Front: Thomas Killeen, Caleb McDonough, Sam Tepper, Cooper Duzyk



**Canoni:** Back: Matt Kornegay, Paul Andre Emden, Collier Lilly, Thomas Wilson, Jake Tarter, Chris Chin. Front: Gordy Watt, Cash Logan, Ned Hull, Matthew Leonard



**Tecumseh:** Back: Bradley Strickland, Dash Jones, Graham Carroll, John Haskett, Waters Jordan, Sam Long. Front: Brad Rivera, John Penny, James Haskett, Edward Desloge



**Deganawidah:** Back: James Hendershott, Wilson Engelhardt, Patrick O'Keefe, Luke Culbertson, Sam Coleman, Reese Hight. Front: Gibbs Hooper, Will Broughman, Ben Simmons, John Briggs



**Red Cloud:** Back: Cape Lowom, Andrew Cowan, Charlie Fridge, Will McKinnie V, Brice Hayden, Will Prince. Front: Lyons Cook, Luke Charpentier, Gori Spillis, Hayes Holly





**Osceola:** Back: Vlad Kifaruk, Harrison Fuller, Julien Lundgren, Abbott Wright, Lorick Howard, Davis Moers. Front: Benjamin Longo, Josh Clark, Tyler Fennelly, Teddy Moser



**Mohawk:** Back: Erik Francis, Chase Givens, Ryan Doster, Eli Kampine, Brock Peirce. Front: Jon Coleman, Sam Dumont, William Newton, Ford Webb



**Anasazi:** Back: Jack Winram, Sam Bozeman, Axel Hicks, Alec Leyva, Jack Flowers IV, Michael Santry. Front: Landon Bosco, Walker Phillips, George McDonald, Charles Cheves



**Black Hawk:** Back: Drew Milner, Foster Marshall, Key Foster, Connor Jones, Tyler Park, Garner Gentry. Front: Collin Talley, C.D. St.Hilaire, Meade Seay, Jackson Singhal



**Hiawatha:** Back: Evan Raines, Bradford Owen, Chistopher Williams, Jack Slattery, Nicholas Johns, Lee Fenstermacher, Thomas Brumback, Barron Cohen, William Vogan. Front: Evan Mansur, Hunter Sketch, Will Barganier, Coley Brown, Colton Lobianco



**Abiding Rock:** Back: Andrew Worsham, Harold Wyatt, Sebastian Hicks, Reid Brown, Marshall Hanson, Mike Nuckles. Front: Quinn Novick, Taylor Dawson, Jack Valentine, Locke Johnson



**Rolling Thunder:** Back: Adrian Barnes, Connor Talley, Noah Garman, Lewis Jaynes, Trent Jones. Front: Thomas Bradley, Evan Fuertes, Rex Bowen, Connor Hubbard



**Cabin 1:** Back: Matt Torak, Ransom Albertson, Holland Deane, Rett Hill, Ian Smith, Gideon Koehring, Ryland Wheliss. Front: Kaito Kanazawa, Van Turner, Taishi Liu, Tai Turner



**Cabin 2:** Back: Sam Phillis, Miles Jernigan, Philip Mentz, Ryan Murray, Sloan Dossin, William Young. Front: Mac Riser, George Pipes, Walker Edens, Bobby Jackson



**Cabin 3:** Back: Martin Bigatti, Jack Langston, Jonah Disch, Cole Hunger, Charlie Hurst, Henry Donohue, John Niemeyer. Front: Jack Preston, Grey Edens, Blake Rowland, Bo Barcus



**Cabin 4:** Back: Gage Anderson, Harry Spring IV, Laith Weimer, Graham Drennen, West Burge, Hampton Templeton, Smat Sutton. Front: Gray Smith, Jack Stivers, Rodgers McCullough, Roscoe Heuer





**Cabin 5:** Back: David La Barre, Brandon Crossman, Riley Geer, TJ Gletner, Jose Arellano, Will Young, Kyle Adams. Front: Nico Dowdall, Austin Abdallah, Darby McMillan, Wyatt Sandberg



**Cabin 6:** Back: Hayden Vick, Sam Hurst, Ford Anderson, Joel Adams, Jack Hamel, George Hughes, Erickson Livingston. Front: Joseph Jardina, Zell Godbold, Owen Weber, James Frushone



**Cabin 7:** Back: Garry Robinson, Ralph Oberlin IV, Mick Masone, Harry Deane, William Gletner, Robert Flickinger. Front: Carter Adams, Hideki Liu, Rodrigo Esteve, Rhodes Feild



**Cabin 8:** Back: Drew Milner, Cort Snyder, Berkley Woodard, John Peters, Grant Greeley, John Luke Giroux. Front: Henry Boeschen, Tristan Nygaard, Heath Seawright, Sam Oberlin



**Cabin 9:** Back: Andrew Moldoff, Jack Morton, Claude Cobbs, Scott Hilderbran, Houston Wilson, Will Cameron, Thomas Hatling. Front: Sam Frushone, Kelly Horn, John Greeley, Harry Marvin



**Comanche:** Back: Marcus Schrade, Will Koons, Logan Jones, Hill Jenkins, Connor Robertson, Matt Ambrose. Front: Spencer Greeley, Duke Nicolson, Campbell Killian, William Tomlin



**Blackfoot:** Back: Gresh Ganninger, Lance Broad, Davis Ottinger, Chris Fuge, Zach Millett, JD Long, Ben Szurek. Front: Charlie Pipes, Winston Smith, Garrison Rabalais, Robert Riser



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Dougie Burns, Jacob Spitzer, Max Gluck, Adrien Toulemonde, Mason Putnam, Walter Miller, Patrick McGrady. Front: Thomas Preston Jr., Ari Chen, Grey Mollenkamp, Wesley Bruner



**Geronimo:** Back: Jackson Walker, Guayo Otero, William Walker, Martin Elera, Cameron Sumners, Cameron Poss, Chris Garbo. Front: Michael Doucet, Sam Stevens, Alexander Lauve, Julian Dufour



**Satank:** Back: John Osborne, Donald Buckley, Noah Glasgow, Tristan Hall, Charlie Lauve, Matthew Westmoreland, Matthew Rice. Front: Jack Flittner, Will Burke, Owen Kelly, Henry McMillan



**Ishi:** Back: Robert Brooks, Andrew Fisher, Tom Yoxsimer, Drew McAtee, Will Crimmins, Andrew Harrison. Front: Nate Alexander, Carlos Penzini, Jack Cutler, Bennett Blanchard



**Keokuk:** Back: Austin Birch, Benito Jaramillo, Jack Thomas, Henry Nixon, Marshall Sinkler, Whit Tiller, Zach Rubenstein. Front: Mace Hood, Teddy Rogers, Pete Curtis, William Ashcroft





**Honeymoon:** Back: Brooks Mischel, Jacob Disch, Walker Borgmann, Michael Burgdorf, Aidan Fulton, William Pearce, Daniel Fewson. Front: Chuna Pallares, Luca Dowdall, Alfredo Lelo De Larrea, Jack Roussel



**Gall:** Back: Charlie Caravati, Zach Jackson, Jack Lipscomb, David Thomas, Sam Evins, Wesley King, Robert Howe. Front: Owen Lowery, Baker Wilkins, Bruce Lanier, Harry Powers



**Sequoyah:** Back: Brian Dugan, Carter Cummings, Brooks Croone, Stevie Frickel, Spivey Woodward, Hampden Geer, Cole Bearrow. Front: Tut Linen, Graden High, Davis Mosby, Buck Lahtela



**Little Raven:** Back: Jackson Graham, William Bureson, J.P. Jardina, Bo Hagan, John Stanfill, Breaux Tubbs. Front: Charlie Oliver, Jack Currence, John Ervin, Jaden Rosenhain



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**Watauga:** Back: Alex Paris, Zach Kantrow, John Nowicki, James McIntyre, Tommy Murray, Sam Trenske. Front: Carlos DeWinter, Greyson Wisdom, McMillan Davis, Cole Atherton



**Junaluska:** Back: Liam Mahoney, Mau Otero, Gabriel Jones, Matthew Lorenz, Sam Boeschen, Will Ehrhardt. Front: Jackson Davis, Ryan Lietz, Will Kercher, Myers Fulk



**Tsali:** Back: Cameron Neiger, Whitman Flickinger, Ethan Black, Colin Huh, Bo Phillips, Bennett Vazquez. Front: Andrew Basinger, Benton Blair, Robert Gluck, Tommy Wisdom



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**Black Elk:** Back: Davis Moers, Liam Stephens, Thomas Kallen, Addison Wilson, George Voelker, Johnny Moremen. Front: Henry Langston, Alex Kiriakides, Jack Adams, Kane Mullins



**Washakie:** Back: Matty McHugh, Eddie Cassels, Palmer Lykes, Aidan Murphy, Charlie Dalton, Josh Cooley. Front: Charles Brooks, John Robert Wallace, Henry Pipes IV, Thomas Robinson



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Patrick Greenwood, Stephen Sweeney, Hawkins Head, Joel Funderburk, Max Redic, Will Clements. Front: John Westmoreland, Sam Gentle, Jack Clark, Sam Chambers





**Canon:** Back: Jack Winram, Nick Dossin, Rex Hallow, Ben Giersch, Guy Hagan, Chris Chin. Front: William Morton, Cabot Croll, Sam Goldstein, Camilo Anton-Estevez



**Tecumseh:** Back: Sam Long, Harrison Oswald, Carson Oswald, Brad Hull, Cooper Williamson, Greyson Fuller. Front: Gaétan Rouaix, Peter Kurschner, Liam Horn, AJ Gathright



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**Black Hawk:** Back: Alex Nunner, John Allen, Grant Pinkston, Craig Buffkin, Esteban Samayoa, David Echeverria. Front: Carter Freeland, Harrison Little, Henry Osborne, Ford Cobbs



**Abiding Rock:** Back: Andrew Worsham, Jacob Wood, Mark Shoda, Hayden Edwards, Cole Jernigan, William Vogan. Front: Alex Colas des Francs, Chip Ratcliff, Evans Collier



**Rolling Thunder:** Back: Sam Clayton, Harlan Stone, Jack Sprinkle, Charlie Pike, Jack Nixon, Garner Gentry. Front: Bennett Zimmerman, Andrew Walko, Julian Leidy, John Czabala



**Cabin 1:** Back: Matt Torak, Miller Rhine, Jamie Train, Mason Porter, Graham Gallivan, Ryland Wheliss. Front: Griffin Allen, Colter Hackney, Park Holley, Carson Pleiman





**Cabin 2:** Back: Will Young, Baxter Parker, Henry McGahey, Aiken Bond, Beau Hurst, KD Lemons, Front: Malcolm Thompson, Jason Wildey, Lance Weimer, George Smith



**Cabin 3:** Back: John Niemeyer, Teddy Niedringhaus, Jackson Fitzpatrick, Judd Collins, Lawton Broughman, Sam Trenski, Front: Wade Polk, Henry Jackson, Ford Diffley, Sam Evans



**Cabin 4:** Back: Gage Anderson, Max Albright, Nick Hanks, Alex Diffley, Jack Neese, Samuel Phillis, Front: Colin Caughran, Bryce Ward, Benjamin Bradford, Jack Adams



**Cabin 5:** Back: David LaBarre, Brooks Arnold, Hill Porter, Albert Monk, Sutton Hogan, Kyle Adams, Front: Hale Hutchinson, Braxton Hines, Sellers Lynn, Bryan Knox



**Cabin 6:** Back: Hayden Vick, George Stowe, Gunner Jones, Hosford Roberts, Jake Rhine, Brian Dugan, Front: Robert Proutt, Bowman Yanicelli, Kearney Sword, Thomas Hunter V



**Cabin 7:** Back: Drew Milner, Charlie Woodruff, Thomas Vickery, Robert Douglass, Zach Plyler, Cooper Flickinger, Front: John-Dixon Fenwick, Ben Brittain, Davis Cargill, Rob Hanks



**Cabin 8:** Back: Cricket Davis, Wills Hutchinson, Brooks Fox, Charlie Edgeworth, Tommy Sutherland, Andrew Josupait, Front: Watts Humphery IV, Alex Lucas, Coleson Quesinberry, Tucker Piper



**Cabin 9:** Back: Andrew Moldoff, Cannon Blair, Hunter Sabo, Burnam DuBose, Will McNeely, Thomas Hatling, Front: Henry Anders, Charlie Edmonds, Thompson Haddock III, Cabell Townsend



**Comanche:** Back: Marcus Schrade, Robert Adams, Wesley Hair, William McDowell, William Beard, Matt Ambrose, Front: Wright Goldsmith Jr., William Lundstrom, Owen Timperman, John Houston Gettys



**Blackfoot:** Back: Gresh Ganninger, Patrick Dunn, Jacob Domengeaux, Jay Holly, Ben Harker, Ben Szurek, Front: Everett Hair, Aiden Mithwani, Carson Streacker, Mac Mandell



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Jackson Graham, Julian Balestri, Hollis Coleman, Cole Cannon, Stiles Harper, Patrick McGrady, Front: Lucas Herrera, Gus Twenge, William Hasley, Steele Darnall



**Geronimo:** Back: Chris Garbo, Sumter Howard, Jack Warrington, Sam Teich, Slater Nalley, Jackson Walker, Front: Chris Watters, Tommy Corral, Harrison Smith, Charlie Williams





**Satank:** Back: John Osborne, Cooper Burke, Jack McCoy, Logan Hope, Finlay Lavelle, Matt Rice. Front: Harrison Fuller, Dane Thomas, Edward Grimsley, Haywood Wall



**Ishi:** Back: Robert Brooks, Grayson Hawn, Stewart Favero, Campbell Spence, Boyd Hodges, Zach Rivera. Front: Max Carson, Leo Drendel, Charles Hickok, Hartt Daniel



**Keokuk:** Back: Austin Birch, Charlie Durham, Tilford Griggs, Burke Cameron, Charlie Schweppe, Zach Rubenstein. Front: Will Bennett, Baker Wyche V, Drayton Linen, Jack West



**Honeymoon:** Back: Brooks Mischel, Wyatt Cohen, Jack Snipes, Jack Dodd, Lars Dabrowiak, Dan Fewson. Front: Collins Lee, Camden Nalley, Teddy Hanson, Nathan Hohnbaum



**Gall:** Back: Charlie Caravati, Patrick Minnehan, Lars Thomas, Charlie McKay, Jack Norman, Rob Howe. Front: Cooper Sigler, Joe Maybank, Kevin Bronzert, Hudson Haley



**Sequoyah:** Back: Chris Bachman, Joe McGirt, Durham Blair, Will Putman, Will Axon, Matty McHugh. Front: Ryder Bond, Mac Holley, Henry Chiao, Graham Spears



**Little Raven:** Back: Dougie Burns, Will Lisenby, Lander Smith, Griff Cooper, Parker Allen, Breau Tubbs. Front: Sam Gallivan, Alex Greene, Kemp Woodard, Palmer Routh



**Sitting Bull:** Back: Zac Gay, Harper Reed, Will Howell, Jack Miller, Owen Gibson, Will Ehrhardt. Front: Gray Hackney, Stephen Fox, George Glassner, Nate Rubin



**Watauga:** Back: Johnny Moremen, Ben Jones, Henry Evans, Gordon Gruber, Preece Smith, Alex Paris. Front: Sam Neff, JP Hasley, Thomas Hines, Elijah Butcher



**Junaluska:** Back: John-Luke Giroux, Durham Kirk, William Killooy, Freddy Klein, Thomas Lawn, Andrew Harrison. Front: Preston Lusink, Wyatt Alford, Ben Corral, Carter Floyd



**Tsali:** Back: Garry Robinson, Jack Shoemake, Alex Hawkins, Andy Pleiman, McGuire Boyd III, Martin Bigatti. Front: Mason Harrell, Walker Liggitt, Christian Wordell, Grayson Webber



**Standing Bear:** Back: Carter Siegel, Christian Laquis, Bryce Womack, Hunter Plaster, Lukey Sutherland. Front: Luke Piasecki, Campbell Miller, Jackson Skelly, Miller Vargas





**Black Elk:** Back: Greyson Fuller, Billy Piper, Nathan Raney, Will Dodd, Thomas Johnson, Erickson Livingston. Front: Austin Mossbacher, Jackson Allegra, Anders Holly, Ham Mandell



**Washakie:** Back: Smat Sutton, Ben Lucas, Russell Beard, Jake Bell, Callan Middelthun, Josh Cooley. Front: John Circeo, Bowen Bishop V, Jake Good, George Goins



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Patrick Greenwood, Max Zachry, Frederic Smith, Major Phillips, Cooper Bryan, Will Clements. Front: Will Brittan, Joseph Pizzo, Mac Spear, Robert Malanuk



**Canoni:** Back: Charlie Slabaugh, Mac McLean, Jack Winram, J.D. Maske, Alston Murphy. Front: John Izard, Tucker Ausband, James-Owen Fenwick, Hammond Fayssoux



**Tecumseh:** Back: Sam Steiner, Roy Richards, Sam Long, Quentin Balestri, Mason Stanley. Front: JP Lowe, Ryan Keyes, Will DeLoach, Thomas Perry



**Deganawidah:** Back: Reese Hight, Jacob Baker, Jack Solon, Miles Pike, Jackson Powell, Bennett Vasquez. Front: Pedro Hernandez, Jacob Musselman, Philip Cronje, Reese Wisner



**Red Cloud:** Back: Cape Lovvorn, Gage Gettys, Henry Boehme, Grayson Long, Caleb Runyan, Will Prince. Front: Bennett Egge, Jackson Adams, Webb Hodges, Thomas Nuckolls



**Osceola:** Back: Jex Frankel, Ridgely Brewer, Vlad Kifaruk, Alex Rapetski III, Henry Douglass. Front: William Pender, Wesley Forster, Connor Sandoval, George Niedringhaus



**Mohawk:** Back: Braden Alexander, Jackson Garlick, Brock Peirce, Woodford Ragland, Edwin Ossont. Front: Carter Spainhour, Lawton Jordan, Turner Brooks, Harrison Wade



**Anasazi:** Back: Mike Santry, Zan Thompson, Will Thomas, Jay Bland, Jack Beam. Front: Mac Durham, Jackson Best, McRae Wallace, Thomas Bond



**Black Hawk:** Back: Nathaniel Laquis, Chase Newsom, Alex Nunner, Easton Kincaid, Hunter Coleman. Front: Kai Blackwell, Michael Mullen, Will Boys, Rodrigo Amare



**Hiawatha:** Back: David Echeverria, Nicholas Hogan, Ben Farmer, David Axon, JD Foster, Mike Stephenson. Front: Hudson Neese, Luke Dodson, Noah Andrews, Will Riggs





**Abiding Rock:** Back: Will Vogan, Cason Young, Benjamin Bourne, Ben Thomas, Gavin Banks, Andrew Worsham. Front: Emmett Capt, Gunnar Davidson, Landon Kalish, Carter Burds



**Rolling Thunder:** Back: Sam Clayton, Carter Ashmun, Buntaro Yoshida, Matthew Galaridi, McKay Lee, Garner Gentry. Front: Jack Johnson, Woodson Canterbury, Matthew Sullivan, Taylor Brown



**Cabin 1:** Back: Matthew Torak, James Langdon, Baylis Wang, Bates McCluer, Pierce Chermak, Ryland Wheeliss. Front: Ben Lefkovits, Thomas Sproull, Gavin Rychak, Jack Lawton



**Cabin 2:** Back: William Boor, Benjamin Finney, Wyatt Kaylor, Lincoln Davis, Ford Snellings, Alex Nunner. Front: Rush Miller, Benton Dowhower, Oliver Clary, John Harris, IV



**Cabin 3:** Back: Sam Trenski, Wip Mulloy, Patton Vargas, Wilson Hayes, Elijah Hochstrasser, John Niemeyer. Front: David Lawton Barnes, Carson Bishop, Chapman Hughes, Alex Levine



**Cabin 4:** Back: Gage Anderson, Kimble Pender, Ward Welden, Porter Hecimovich, Julian McCoy, Sam Phillis. Front: Mason McCurdy, Towles Melton, Sam McKay, Grant Lemke



**Cabin 5:** Back: David LaBarre, Chase Warrick, Judson Collie, Quinn Burge, Kai Burge, Garry Robinson. Front: Ellis Norwood, Hale Borden, Cooper Davis, Robert Smith



**Cabin 6:** Back: Hayden Vick, Charles Morris, Spencer South, Jack Bright, Land Allison, Brian Dugan. Front: Tyler Wick, Henry Neff, Hayes Morgan, Bo Vaughan, Jr.



**Cabin 7:** Back: Drew Milner, Parker Bowers, William Weidner, Peter Richardson, William Swann, Cooper Flickinger. Front: Braxton Richardson, Ray Ross, Wells Mileham, Patrick Donworth



**Cabin 8:** Back: Cricket Davis, Hunter Hedgecoe, Charlie Stauffer, Parker Tumelty, Harris Hatcher, Andrew Josupait. Front: Connor Brown, Jack Rollins, Lars Bergstrom, Watkins McCullough



**Cochise:** Back: Will Young, Nash Ausband, Lowen Pingnot, Jack Crowell, Wil Mayer, Thomas Hatling. Front: Broughton Weekes, TJ Afonso, Paul McSwain, Brett Goldsmith





**Comanche:** Back: James Hendershott, Braden Edmondson, Mason Fitzhugh, Trigger Woodard, John Marshall, Len Wallace. Front: Hayes Lusink, Wilson Rutherford, Miles Fuller, Jack Wilson



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Patrick McGrady, Carter Starkey, Scout Deters, Sam Schools, Christopher Harper, Matt Ambrose. Front: Angus Ferguson, Bobby Briggs, Winston Twenge, Coley Hucks



**Geronimo:** Back: Evan Raines, Carter Savage, Hampton Jones, Gibbon Powell, Tyler Leidy, Chris Garbo. Front: Jack Rivera, Jackson Shealy, Dan Batten, Duncan Jones



**Satank:** Back: Matt Rice, Bo White, IV, Grey Chamberlain, Fletcher Hassan, Oliver Gooch, Will Vogan. Front: Sam Abney, Gavin Weintritt, Gram Malone, Lawrence Dempsey



**Ishi:** Back: Robert Brooks, Jake Hunter, Bowen Body, Banks Cutter, Declan Quigley, Josh Coeey. Front: Heyward Byce, Rusty Kelley, Will Wagner, Silas Berry



**Keokuk:** Back: Sam Clayton, Thomas Scurry, Van Roberts, Wells Gamble, James Bowie, Matthew Kornegay. Front: Murphy Smothers, Turner Rice, Anc Clarkson, Augustus de Brux



**Honeymoon:** Back: Will Clements, Beecher Aldredge, Reed Orben, Granger Osbourne, Henry Kent, Brooks Mischel. Front: Marks Gustafson, Walker Glenn, Arthur Gonzales, Sean Murphy



**Gall:** Back: Sidney Parham, Mann Smothers, Henry Morris, Robertson Allen, Bo Verner, Zac Gay. Front: Pierce Hutchinson, Archer Huie, Griffin Cheatwood, Nolte Dukes



**Sequoyah:** Back: Jon Cabrera, William Gillespie, Henri Snoots, Hudson Copenhaver, Jack Blanks, Devin Horgan. Front: Will Henry, Edward Holder, IV, Woods Gamble, Drew Chalothorn



**Tsali:** Back: David Echeverria, Isaac Kirby, Andy Madden, Forrest Phipps, Miller Peterson, Martin Bigatti. Front: Jake Turner, Boland Brookes, Nate Woolwine, Boyd Faison



**Standing Bear:** Back: Will Ehrhardt, Stephen Chermak, Cary Riftenberck, Tucker Davis, III, Jacob Kaylor, Bryce Womack. Front: Yancey Stribling, Aidan Bannon, Mac Marshall, Will Baldwin



**Little Raven:** Back: Dougie Burns, Wade Douroux, Cliff Lanier, John Hayden Scheland, Nick Pritchard, Breaux Tubbs. Front: Ridge Jenkinson, V, Eric Coronado, Bruce Harper, Harrison Short





**Watauga:** Back: Alex Paris, Josh Wright, Thomas Armstrong, Lee Balkcom, Mac Copenhaver, Johnny Moremen. Front: Ballamy Falatko, Tejus Ranadive, Noah Rollins, Evan Manos



**Junaluska:** Back: Andrew Harrison, Jos Janssen, Fin Brackett, Liam Kilfoyle, Edison Pellumbi, John-Luke Giroux. Front: Foster Stribling, Jack Ferguson, Chase Bazant, Edwards Tarumianz



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Patrick Greenwood, Robert Kendrick, Walker Meacham, Andrew Hart, John Palumbo, Garner Gentry. Front: Bridgen Hayes, Jack Borden, Connor Evans, Henry Martin



**Canoni:** Back: Jack Winram, Chase Herring, Henry Hiers, Cooper Wright, Nils Bergstrom, Erickson Livingston. Front: Max Gross, Andrew Scheland, Hunter Eckman, Campbell Hall, V



**Tecumseh:** Back: Grey Fuller, Dan Bradley, Walker Ritchey, Peter Quigley, William Davis, Sam Long. Front: Charlier Greiner, Reid Von Wyl, Nicholas Harper, Ian Adkins



**Deganawidah:** Back: Reese Hight, Quinn Knight, Howdy Capt, Cooper Brake, Hudson Weintritt, Bennett Vazquez. Front: Nolan Bishop, Holden Pharr, Powell Brickman, Michael Ryan Bourne



**Red Cloud:** Back: Cape Lowvorn, Kenton Gupton, Charlie Hardwick, Thompson May, Will Prince. Front: Walker Mullins, Alex Hodges, Colin Breiter, Henry Hodges



**Osceola:** Back: Vlad Kifaruk, Charlie Friedrich, Cole Rychak, Carter Leidy, Davis Dunham, Matty McHugh. Front: Lex McDonald, Beau Brown, Devin Muench, Thomas Mercer



**Mohawk:** Back: Kevin Pelsinski, Emerson Rice, Oliver Poole, Erik Francis. Front: Max Armstrong, Drew Hedgecoe, Will Brown, Doster Crowell



**Anasazi:** Back: Brock Peirce, Matthew Spengler, Landon Wilson, Park Steinhour, Calvin Byce, Mike Santry. Front: Jackson Roelke, Landon Lashley, Howell Wright, James Marshall



**Blackfoot:** Back: Gresh Ganninger, Griffin Hall, Tucker Brock, Bly Borders, James Doyle, V, Ben Szurek. Front: Archie Tyrrell, Roman Davis, Price DeMeyers, Trip Nellen



## expeditiongroups



**BLAZE Yosemite:** Alexander Grande, Jack Ransom, Sidney Parham, Jim Parham, Jacob Burkett, Matthew Kornegay, Jack Sprinkle, Charlie Dalton.



**SUMMIT Utah:** Back: Trey Fussell, Will McLoughlin. Middle: Julian Meyers, Brad Fay, Tommy Murphy, Thomas Morton, Tyler Doornweerd. Front: Jon Kannapell, Liam Horn, Jack Gowen. Leaders (not pictured) Devin Horgan, Jon Cabera, Evan Raines and Will Gordon.



**HUCK Ottawa:** Back: Charlie Tarbutton, Claire O'Hara, Charlie Pike, Mark Shoda, Jack White, Haden Edwards, Cole Janney, Bryce Black, Burns Bissell, Ben Warner, Jez, Nadia Razavi. Front: Graham Carroll, Erik Francis, Holden Dewey, Ben Giersch, Ben Burgess, Charles Brooks, Eddie Cassels.



**CRANK Utah:** Left to Right: Peter Funk, Cooper Williamson, James Hendershott, Dave Kelly, Ford Cobbs, Connor Hubbard, Jack Brownlee, Hays Edmunds, Ben Wachholz, Hugh Seton, Jack Gullivan, Jake Lee, Bennett Zimmerman, Sam Bowers, Ben Schweppe, Carr Noonan, Scott Hilderbran, Len Wallace.



**HUCK Ecuador:** Back: Andrew Smith, Davis Edwards, Santiago Madrazo, Evan Dyer, Spencer Hurst, Bennett Broad, Austin de le Torre, Chip Ratcliff, Henry Nixon, Ben Barton, Mauricio Madrazo, Bright Crosswell, Alejandro Madrazo, Curtis Ahlers. Front: Tarquino Yanguéz, Craig Papas, Taylor Barker.





**Tribal Leaders for June & Main camp:** KD Lemons, Zach Rivera, William Walters, Mike Stephenson, Stephanie Mimbs.



**Tribal Leaders for 2-Week & Junior camp:** KD Lemons, Zach Rivera, Ashlea Rodman, Matt Sutton, Mike Stephenson.



**Assistant Tribal Leaders:** Bryan Mangum, Brooks Mischel, Breau Tubbs, John Neimeyer, Sam Long.



**Creek Tribe:** Back: Miriam Calamaro, Cassidy Starling, Austin Killebrew, Meredith Seymour, Julia Cline, Scotty. Front: Jamii-Lea Beavan, Ashlea Rodman, Stephanie Mimbs, Tess Bracher, Ally Croll, Savannah Paterson.



**Men of Steel:** Back: Adrian Barnes, Rett Hill, TJ Gletner, David Thomas, Tom Yoxsimer, Chris Fuge, Phillip Mentz, Graham Drennan, Henry Nixon, Scott Hilderbran, Joel Adams, Michael Nuckles. Front: Martin Eleta, Michael Burgdorf, Mick Masone, John Peters, Stevie Frickel, Adrien Toulemonde, Tristan Hall, Cole Hunger.





**Honor Council:** Front Row: Zach Jackson, Henry Koch, Tommy Wisdom, Ari Chen, Kaito Kanazawa. Second Row: Sam Evins, Jack Gowen, Whitman Flickinger, Benton Blair, Bo Phillips. Third Row: Estaban Samayoa, Burns Bissell, Carson Oswald, Addison Wilson, Harrison Oswald, John Allen, Jack Ransom. Fourth Row: Tom Yoxsimer, Hayden Edwards, Henry Nixon, TJ Gletner, Charlie Pike, Bennett Broad, Hill Nixon, Philip Mentz. Back Row: Graham Drennan, Charlie Caravati, Will Ehrhardt, Sam Long, Chris Garbo, Patrick McGrady, Gresh Ganninger.



**Iron Man Competitors:** Seated: Jacob Spitzer, Winston Smith, Will Burke, Gray Smith, Garrison Rabalais. First standing row: Lance Broad, Will Kercher, Robert Riser, Ryan Hack, Jacob Spafford, Charlie Oliver, Jack Adams. Second row: Mike Nuckles, John Allen, Estaban Samayoa, Cameron Sumners, John Paul Jardina, William Walker, Austin de la Torre, Liam Stephens, Park Bruner, McMillan Davis. Third row: Patrick McGrady, Bennett Broad, Hill Nixon, Andrew Walko, James McIntyre, Thomas Kallen. Back row: Hayden Edwards, Harlan Stone (Ironman Champion), Charlie Pike, David Efird, Cooper Williamson, Harrison Oswald, Breaux Tubbs. Not pictured: Davis Ottinger, Walter Miller, and William Boynton.



## directorsandstaff

**Directors:** Front Row: Shelley Groh, Peter Bishop, Nathan Newquist, Yates Pharr, Frank Tindall. Middle Row: Jim Goodrum, Dusty Davis, Marisa Pharr, Kyle Jeffries. Back Row: Paige Hafner, Ben Williams.







**Facility Managers:** Simon Wilson, Drew Boggan, Jerry Metcalf, Doug Koziol.



**Bird, Snake, WEMA & Lump Guy:** Steve "SFL" Longenecker.



**Kitchen Staff:** Emmy Sumpter, Shevene James, Miryan Mantilla, Sayuri Alderete, Natalia Serrano, Toshna Bent, Alejandra Santos, Wendy Ramos. Front: Lina Torres, Mech Sibaja, Lupita Ramirez, Annie Ruiz.



flint&steel

Historically, there were two principle instruments used for setting a flame to the tinder: flint and steel. Falling Creek has given two of its newest programs these respective names — *and here's why . . .*

By Steve Drewry

### FLINT

The oldest boys in camp, in 10th grade, often have attended Falling Creek for several summers, and they comprise the group known as FLINT, which stands for “Forging Leaders INTentionally.”

The program is intentionally designed to foster leadership, service, responsibility, and teamwork. It is heavily based on the Servant’s Heart aspect of the Code, inasmuch as the boys help contribute to the experience of other campers, assisting with group events, such as serving milk and cookies to the camp community after evening programs or helping with the distribution of flags and face paint for all-camp games.

FLINT campers enjoy their own induction ceremony, a special day trip, leadership roles in planning special events, and building and tending ceremonial campfires on Sunday nights. The program is designed to build leadership skills, teamwork, and the Servant’s Heart.

### STEEL

FLINT campers are eligible to apply for the STEEL program for the following summer. STEEL (Summer Training Encouraging Emerging Leaders) was previously

referred to as the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program. STEEL is all about developing leaders for life by giving these young men unique opportunities and responsibilities; many end up becoming Falling Creek counselors.

STEEL participants enjoy an induction ceremony and live together in a cabin with their peers and an experienced counselor. They take part in leadership training, help counselors with activities, work with younger campers in cabin settings (with a counselor overseeing), serve the camp community in various ways, and enjoy a weekly day off together for bonding.

STEEL mentors evaluate the leadership development of STEEL participants on a daily basis. STEEL participants shadow their host counselors to see how they lead the boys and help their campers transition to camp life. As the summer progresses, they continue to observe, and to learn how to handle anything from addressing disputes to facilitating growth and group cohesion. By the second week, they can begin to practice the leadership role for themselves.

Depending on the age group, the undertaking of those roles can manifest quite differently from one cabin to the next; in that regard, every STEEL experience is different, but the challenge remains the same. Outside of the cabin, they are involved in one to two activity areas, again becoming gradually more involved in order to gain a sense of what it feels like to teach and instruct a skill.

Becoming a Man of Steel is a competitive process. These young men are interviewed in a manner similar to that of our staff member interviews. Admission is weighed against the strength of their application as well as staff evaluations from past summers as campers, and extracurricular activities they participated in throughout the rest of the year.

FLINT and STEEL are an attempt to accomplish deliberately the reciprocal nature of the camper-counselor cycle; the latter tends to inspire the former to a degree that when campers become old enough, they tend to think about becoming a counselor and inspiring the next generation.

So, by using a little FLINT and STEEL, we hope to make the flame of Falling Creek a little easier to restart each summer — and to give a spark to some incredible individuals who are in what may be the most formative years of their lives. 🔥







Do the right thing | Act with integrity | Take responsibility for your actions | Tell the truth





# SAVE THE DATE



## Traditional Sessions

SESSION	GRADES	DATES
June Camp	1-9	Sun. June 4 – Fri. June 23, 2017 (20 days)
Main Camp	2-10	Sun. June 25 – Fri. July 21, 2017 (27 days)
STEEL (CIT)	11	Sun. June 25 – Fri. July 21, 2017 (27 days)
2-Week Camp	1-5	Sun. July 23 – Fri. Aug. 4, 2017 (13 days)
Junior Camp	1-4	Sun. Aug. 6 – Fri. Aug. 11, 2017 (6 days)

## Father/Son Weekends

SESSION	GRADES	DATES
May Father/Son Weekend	K+	Fri. May 19 – Sun. May 21, 2017
August Father/Son Weekend	K+	Fri. Aug. 18 – Sun. Aug. 20, 2017

## Expeditions

SESSION	TYPE	GRADES	DATES
HUCK Idaho	Paddling	8-11	Sat. July 22 – Sat. July 29, 2017
BLAZE Colorado	Backpacking	8-11	Mon. July 24 – Mon. July 31, 2017
CRANK Colorado	Mountain Biking	8-11	Mon. July 24 – Mon. July 31, 2017
SUMMIT Gunks	Rock Climbing	8-11	Mon. July 24 – Mon. July 31, 2017



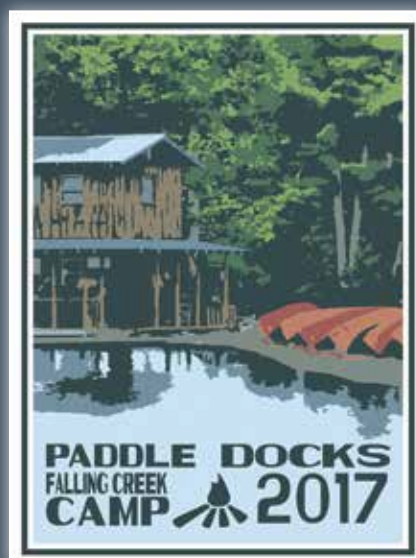
# 2016 Fall Camp Movies and Reunion Tour

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 updated 2017 camp movie, and each boy will receive a 2017 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.



Don't live close to one of these Camp Movie/Reunion events?

Tune in to the Charlotte show or watch the recording on your own time.

"Like" the event and receive an exclusive trunk sticker.



DATE	LOCATION	TIME	HOST FAMILY
Sunday, October 2	Atlanta, GA	6:30pm	Daniel Family
Monday, October 3	Birmingham, AL	6:30pm	Mandell Family
Tuesday, October 4	New Orleans, LA	6:30pm	Pipes Family
Monday, October 10	Nashville, TN	6:30pm	Gatto Family
Tuesday, October 11	Lexington, KY	6:30pm	Goodwin Family
Wednesday, October 12	Winston-Salem, NC	6:30pm	Wall Family
Monday, October 17	Columbia, SC	6:30pm	Grimsley Family
Tuesday, October 18	Jacksonville, FL	6:30pm	Rachels Family
Wednesday, October 19	Orlando, FL	6:30pm	Lawton Family
Thursday, October 20	Charleston, SC	6:30pm	Molten/McCullough Families
Monday, October 24	Charlotte, NC	6:30pm	Bissell Family
Tuesday, October 25	Alexandria, VA	6:30pm	Spence Family
Wednesday, October 26	Richmond, VA	6:30pm	Hurst Family
Thursday, November 3	Greenville, SC	6:30pm	Gettys Family
Sunday, November 6	Coral Gables, FL	5:00pm	Holly Family
Monday, November 7	Houston, TX	6:30pm	Riser Family
Tuesday, November 8	Austin, TX	6:30pm	Haley Family
Wednesday, November 9	Dallas, TX	6:30pm	Rhine Family
Thursday, November 10	Darien, CT	6:30pm	Heuer Family





## a call to quarters



Adrian, one of a handful of bugle players that sends us to bed each night after Evening Embers, playing Taps from the upper dam.

### TAPS

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

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

## Dreams & Risks

By Chuck McGrady

On a Sunday in August of 1989, I came up from Atlanta to see my mother in Hendersonville, stopping to visit former Falling Creek friends, Donnie and Kim Bain. What I learned from them changed the rest of my life: Falling Creek Camp was for sale. Six weeks later I owned it.

The early years as Falling Creek's owner were financially challenging, in part due to the first Iraqi War. When people aren't sure exactly where the economy is headed, an easy thing to delay is summer camp for the boys. In the spring of 1991, I wasn't sure whether the phone company had cut our phone line, since no one was calling to inquire about sending their sons to camp.

My guess was that there were even some who wondered whether we would survive running a summer camp, but Donnie and I did something counter-intuitive. Rather than pulling back from making investments in new programs, new buildings and staff, we did just the opposite.

Every year, we added a new program or building. The climbing wall was built, and the Indian Lore program added. The lodge was built, and crafts moved up under the lodge from the dining hall. A new stable was built, and Falling Creek added a water skiing program on Lake Keowee. We matched the highest staff salaries of camps in our area, because we wanted the best and the brightest.

Fast forward 16 wonderful years. In talking to another camp director who had been director a bit longer than I had, he surprised me when he told me he and his wife were thinking about selling their camp. He explained that he felt as if they were not willing to take the same sort of risks they had been willing to take when they started as camp directors. That's when I began thinking about selling the camp.

You see, I wanted Falling Creek and its values and honor code to continue, and for the camp to grow and improve, but my family was not ready to continue on with that.

We had put in 16 strong years, but just as I knew when to invest and continue to improve, I also knew when it was time to pass the torch.

I started looking. I actually had a contract to sell Falling Creek for a lot of money to the Girl Scouts in Charlotte, but the rub was that we had guided and dramatically improved Falling Creek, and my hope was that camp could, if possible, continue as a boys camp with the owners who shared our values and wanted to take the camp to the next level.

Yates and Marisa Pharr were in their mid- to late-thirties at the time, and I knew it had always been their dream to run a summer camp for kids. Years before, Yates had approached me about buying the camp, but I had only been a camp director a year or two at that point; neither of us was ready at that time. But when I realized it was time to transition Falling Creek, Yates was there. He and Marisa were interested, and the timing was perfect.

Every now and then you get a sense that something is right — it just feels right, deep down. You have a dream — and nothing in the world is going to stop you from beginning to live it. Most times, living such a dream involves taking risks. Today's children are protected from a lot of things. Parents want to protect them, and rightfully so, but sometimes too much protection can prevent kids from knowing how to act independently and take risks appropriately.

At Falling Creek, one learns about taking risks — appropriate risks. One also learns values and morals. One can learn the benefits of having a positive attitude, a warrior spirit, a servant's heart, and a moral compass.

Where else can one learn life lessons such as these today? Probably, not very many places. Falling Creek is a very special place, and I'm honored to have taken the risk to play a small part in its meaningful history. 🔥

*Chuck McGrady was an attorney in Atlanta, before pursuing his dream and purchasing Falling Creek Camp in 1989. He was the director here until 2005, when Yates and Marisa Pharr purchased the camp. Today, Chuck serves on the North Carolina House of Representatives. He visits Falling Creek as often as he can.*







**FALLING  
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CAMP

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