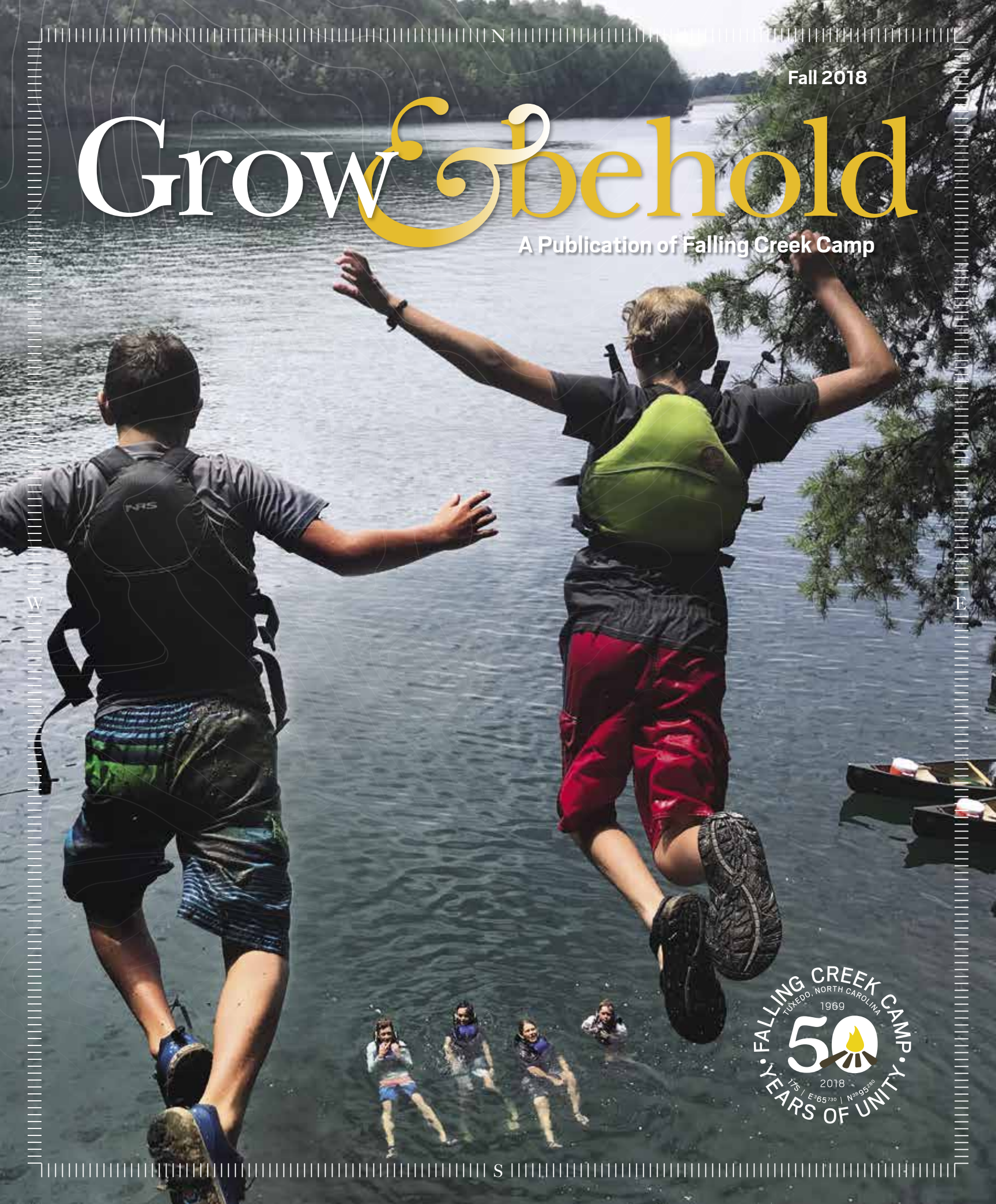


Fall 2018

# Grow & Behold

A Publication of Falling Creek Camp





FALLING  
CREEK  
CAMP

A large group of young men are gathered in a forest. In the background, a band of young men is playing various instruments, including acoustic guitars, a bass, and a tuba. One man in the band is wearing a white t-shirt with the name "NATHAN" on it. In the foreground, a large group of young men are huddled together in a circle, with their arms around each other's shoulders. A small fire is burning on the ground near the band. The scene is set in a lush, green forest with tall trees and a body of water visible in the background.

# Behold

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

—Psalm 133:1



# Grow & Behold

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helicopter parents. So, what’s a parent — and a child — to do in this age of technology and entitlement? Read here for answers.

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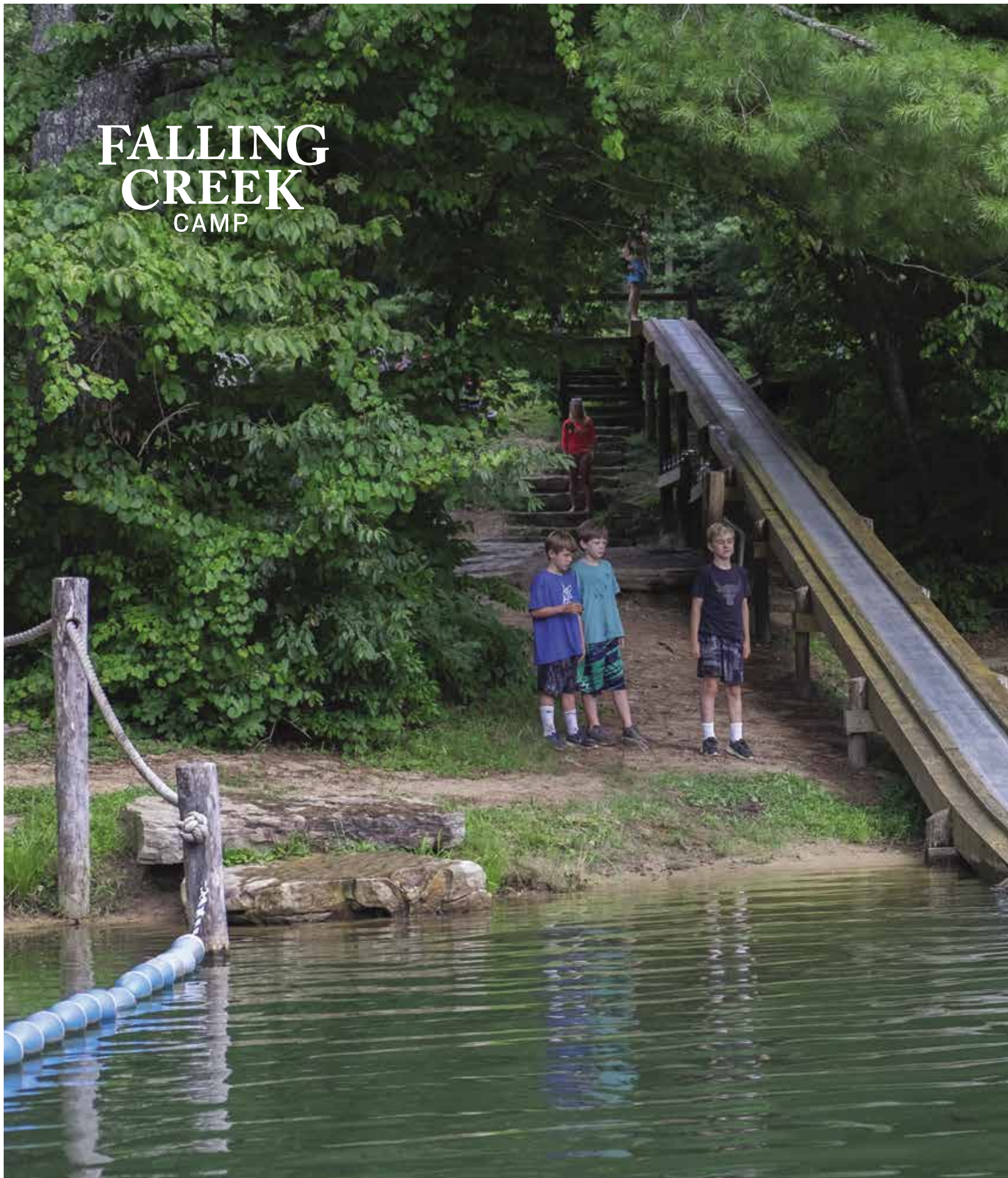
**On the Cover:** Boys enjoying the thrill of jumping off cliffs while on a three-day paddling trip at Lake Jocassee.

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# FALLING CREEK CAMP







The famous FCC Roller Coaster remains one of the most popular activities during free choice each day.



# Then & Now





yates'yak



## *it's always been the people.*

We were thrilled that 200 alumni traveled from around the country and world to return to Falling Creek for the 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend September 7-9, 2018. Reflecting on the event and the many conversations over the last few years as we put together the coffee table book, “behold50: Celebrating 50 Summers,” and the 1-hour movie that spans five decades of the camp’s existence, something dawned on me. That is — not that much has changed in 50 years! The reasons families sent their boys to Falling Creek back in 1969 are the same reasons they send their boys here today.



**Left to Right:** Annie, Mary, Marisa, Jazzy, Yates, Danielle, and Lucy

Jim Miller, III built Falling Creek 50 years ago on a foundation of Christian principles. But more than that, he surrounded himself with people who lived out those values in daily life. And it’s been that way ever since. It’s always been the people who’ve made Falling Creek the beloved place it is.

When I talk to former campers and counselors, whether they’re 25 or 75, I see the same glimmer of excitement in their eyes. Usually, they want to know two things: how are their friends from camp, and is the spirit of Falling Creek still alive and well?

This past summer, I made a concerted effort to get out on more adventure trips with the boys like I did when I was a camper and counselor at FCC and, let me assure you, the spirit of camp is indeed alive and well. Those trips further reminded me that, no matter our age, we all need to get outside in nature and live out those values originally envisioned by Jim Miller.

We’ve seen it in every generation of campers and counselors who’ve come through Falling Creek Camp — devoted people, teaching various skills, modeling



Christian values, and living out the Honor Creed: “Believing that leadership, unselfishness, courage, honor, hope, loyalty, honesty, and fair play manifest themselves in the spirit of Falling Creek. We pledge our spirits, minds, and bodies to achieving these ideals. And also in the Falling Creek Code: Positive Attitude, Warrior Spirit, Servant’s Heart, Moral Compass.”

I think founding camper Phil Walker summed up the Falling Creek community well:

*“This was the first place that I ever saw the older reach down to help the younger. This was the first place where I ever saw people put down their burdens to help others carry theirs up the hill. This is the first place where I ever saw the courage of Frank Evans walking miles on blistered feet and saying nothing about it, so that he wouldn’t slow down his companions. This is the place where I saw people sacrificing their own social standing, so others would succeed. This is the place where I saw gentleness flower, where I learned that masculine values were wonderful. But, in a place like this, men have the opportunity to let feminine qualities flower as well — the qualities of caring, love, compassion, and ease of heart. And when these qualities flow, and combine with masculine qualities, they create the strongest men of all.”*

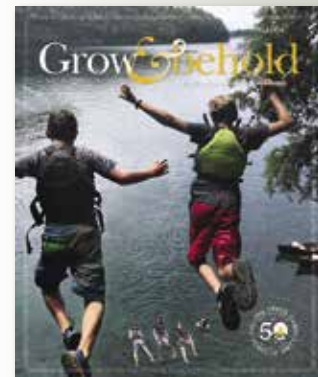
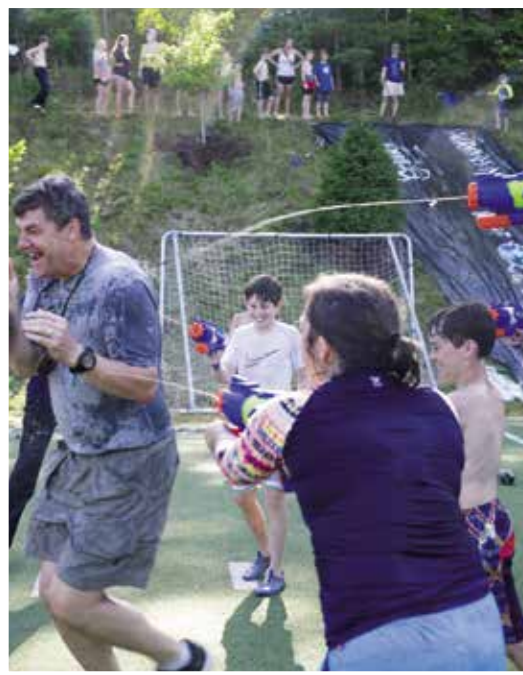
**Right:** Marisa and the boys soaking Yates with their water guns at the camp’s 50th birthday party during June Camp.

**Below:** Yates on a Lower Green River trip during Main Camp.

In this issue, be sure to check out the story and photos from the 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend. Also, don’t miss the feature story on former Falling Creek camper Art Pue, who’s served as a Green Beret and has committed his life to helping war vets, ex-NFL players, and others struggling with traumatic injuries and related illnesses.

With warm regards from your camp home. 🏕️

Yates



Grow & Behold  
THE MAGAZINE

E

Fall 2018

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**Cover Photo:** Tanya Devereaux





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 [mail@fallingcreek.com](mailto:mail@fallingcreek.com).



W

Our boys both clearly had an amazing two weeks! Last night they wanted to do thorn, bud, rose. They both said getting picked up was both their thorn and their rose. Perfect!

*Veneria and Jeff  
Rogers, AZ*

To: Parker Moon, Fletch Himan, Dave Thomas, Brock Peirce, Josiah Phelps, David Echeverria (staff members), My husband Bill and I wanted to write to thank you each for the care you took of our son Pete during this past Main session . . . When we collected Pete from the airport, he couldn't stop talking the whole ride home. His newfound love of fly fishing is the biggest news, which is thrilling on many levels, since we have long ties to Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico; and fly fishing will be something he can enjoy the rest of his life. It's wonderful to know that he has become a fisherman, like his grandparents, and aunts and uncles before him. It took all of your collective efforts to turn him on to something that has been in front of him for a long time.

It was also really exciting to hear about his earning a nomination to become a Journeyman, and his attempts, and failure, to pass the orienteering portion of the process to become a Keeper of the Flame. It's good that he failed, he's committed to trying again, to planning more effectively, to preparing for that portion. But we were so proud that he was selected to try. The FCC Code is something we have discussed a lot and to know that he has been living that code in the company of others is very meaningful to us.

Our children will have many parents in their lives, and they can and will grow best through the loving influence of strangers, of teachers, mentors, counselors, and other

"fathers" whom we may never meet. So I send our many thanks to all of you for caring for our son, teaching him, inspiring him, loving him, helping him grow.

*Jane  
Houston, TX*

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for creating and maintaining this boy haven in the mountains. I loved everything about your news update last night! Robert is the youngest, with two older sisters. Our neighborhood is very girl-heavy. He craves boy time and was so looking forward to camp where he could do all things boy all the time! From the looks of the pictures of him on the website, he is loving every nanosecond. And from the sound of this letter we got, he may not willingly come home with us on Friday!





In a world that expects boys to “man up, grow up, be strong,” and not show emotions, thank you for creating a space where my boy can be a boy. Where he can have fun, get dirty, be a kid, mess up, try again, and grow in his faith.

Through the pictures, I have seen my boy grow in confidence. It is obvious he is comfortable in his own skin (not something he always feels, surrounded by so many girls) and thrilled with his surroundings. Again, thank you for all that you do to foster these young boys in such a special place!

I cannot wait to hug my baby on Friday!

*Blair  
Lafayette, LA*

Y'all did it again! Another amazing summer at FCC for Cannon. I just love how much he grows as a person while away. His attitude, interest, and outlook on things shift so much while he's there. It's such a great break from this fast pace world we all live in. We are forever grateful for how Falling Creek has and continues to shape Cannon.

*Kelly  
Charlotte, NC*

I wanted to let you know John was accepted to Dartmouth early decision. I think he might have been in a cabin his first year at FCC with Connor Page, also from New Orleans, and Connor also got in. We are thrilled for both boys.

Falling Creek played an important role in John's development. By getting out on his own and engaging deeply in camp activities and camp life, we got a good glimpse of the type of young man he was becoming. We will see where John's path leads next. But we know it started at Falling Creek, and for that we are so thankful.

*Andy  
New Orleans, LA*

I had to share this story, as it is what Falling Creek is all about and what it has come to mean to our boys and our family. Ham has a weeklong Boy Scouts camping trip that started this past Friday. They are staying at the Turkey Creek Campground, about five miles from the Nantahala Outdoor Center, and have a three-day kayaking stint as part of the trip.

The first day of kayaking...we had three instructors, a couple dads, and about 14 boys that are all around Ham's age. He is friends with some of the boys, but doesn't know all of them well...The morning started with teaching the basics like equipment, the strokes, and key moves like the wet exit. Later, we hit the water and small rapids. From the outset, Ham showed great knowledge and familiarity with kayaking and as the day went on the instructors really took to him.

It was common for them to start a conversation with the boys with something like, “Ham, show us how we should approach these rapids,” or, “Ham, what do you do in this situation?” He was able to thrive and when they asked him where he learned kayaking, he told them he trained at Falling Creek. Their reaction was instantly positive and approving. FCC had real currency there.

He enjoyed it so much and it was such a positive, confidence-building day for him in front of all those boys. And it tied directly to his experience at Falling Creek. What our boys get out of attending Falling Creek is huge. But, the benefits ripple long after they leave. We appreciate all you and your team does to foster this for them.

*Josh  
Birmingham, AL*



Ham Mandell with the NOC Instructor





## mailcall

### Father/Son Weekend Reflections:

This was my first experience with Falling Creek and it was a path-changing experience. It is rare for me to have designated time to solely focus on being a good father. This weekend allowed me to see life through the eyes of a 6-year-old boy who only wants to have fun, learn about life, and spend time with his dad. It re-centered me. I will strive to always be a good father and remember that I have a boy looking at me for instructions on how to grow into a good man.

*Edward  
Houston, TX*

The Father/Son Weekend was my first experience at a summer camp and it was also my son's first. He is a rising first-grader. We loved Falling Creek. Each nook and cranny of the physical campus, each adventure, big or small, each minute of the day, we enjoyed them all with eyes wide open and full of wonder.

While there and especially at the outdoor chapels, I was continually reminded of a poem that was shared with me two years ago called "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver, but I didn't take it into my head and heart until recently. The last sentence of that poem is a not so subtle question: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" and I was constantly reminded, in the fullest way possible, of that question during my time at Falling Creek Camp.

Thanks to you and your staff for a beautiful weekend.

*Steve  
Raleigh, NC*

### FCC Camp Movie Representative Reflections:

We had so much fun hosting last night! Thank you for allowing us to be part of such a fun event. It was especially heartwarming to see the boys all sitting together, enjoying the slideshow and movie — you can tell they are replaying all the camp memories in their minds as they see themselves up there.

After everyone left last night, Jay and I talked about how special it is that Jack has such a fine role model like Austin Birch. I watched Jack as he sat on the kitchen barstool literally looking up to Austin standing beside him, as we discussed how important it is to take time to be "still" and reflect. We all shared stories back and forth about how we enjoy being outside, on the water, watching the sunrise, and how that is becoming a lost activity among our youth. We reflected together on that beautiful Proverb that says, "The first step to wisdom is silence...the second is listening." It was incredibly special to have Austin here last night. Jack was still talking about it this morning and thanking me for helping him get here. He's a keeper, for sure!

It was such a pleasure to have you and your staff here. They are sweet folks. And thank you for providing such a wonderful place for Jack to go every summer where he can be himself, let loose, and make those special lifetime friends.

*Emily  
Asheville, NC*

I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know how much my son Bennett and I enjoyed the Father/Son camp this past weekend. The facilities were the perfect balance, allowing the kids to enjoy a first-class experience without feeling like we were at an amenity-filled hotel. In addition, the food was exceptional, the selection in activities was fantastic, and perhaps the best part — the counselors were phenomenal: great attitude, knowledge, commitment, smiles on their faces.

I feel I have an excellent relationship with my son, but this weekend was so good because it was all about him. I took your advice to let him pick all activities, and surprisingly (to me at least) it turned out he wanted to try almost everything. Some went better than others, but it was so enjoyable and rewarding to watch him make decisions and "own" the day. Frankly, half the benefit was just spending time one-on-one doing anything, without a bunch of his friends around to pull him in one direction or another.



We will definitely be coming back next year and Bennett liked it so much, I just signed him up for Junior camp as well. I just wanted to thank you for having us and let you know what an impact this weekend had on Bennett and me.

*Chris*  
*Charlotte, NC*

I wanted to let you know how much Falling Creek has meant to our boys, Walker and Marshall, and to our family. They were both blessed to have such an outstanding experience last year and the amount of time we talk about Falling Creek in our family is constant. In particular I prayed for Walker before he went to camp that he would “find himself in a blessed spot with people who are speaking blessings on him and giving him joy, strength, and confidence.” Thank God for answered prayers. You know this because we talked about it this summer, but it’s worth mentioning again ahead of tonight — Hayden Vick had such a tremendous impact on Walker. Not just while he was at camp, but Walker came back to New York full of confidence, joy, and inspiration. We truly believe it was a perfect setup for his start of middle school. We love how God works in mysterious ways.

The joy, smiles and inspiration that come when our boys talk about Falling Creek led us to think more about the Falling Creek Code. Emily and I have been thinking for a while that we wanted to be simple but clear on the things we most value in our family. The Falling Creek Code is the perfect example. Admittedly, we copied it. At least the four cornerstones of Warrior Spirit, Positive Attitude, Moral Compass, and Servants Heart. We changed the values of each one to be slightly more specific to our family, but not a day goes by that Emily and I don’t talk about one of the values with our children.

We love when Marshall comes home from school and tells us he had Warrior Spirit because he had grit and didn’t stop trying, even when he got frustrated. We love Eloise showing Compassion and a Servants Heart giving a friend something that she was supposed to get, because she didn’t want a friend to be sad. We love encouraging all of our kids to have a Positive Attitude and to speak the blessing. Most of all, we love the way it keeps us grounded and centered as a family.

As you make your way through the country visiting with alumni, campers, and parents, I know many people have stories about how much they love Falling Creek. It is not surprising to hear. That said, I just wanted you and your team to be encouraged by the impact that Falling Creek is having in faraway places like Bronxville, New York.

*Mark*  
*Bronxville, NY*

Thought you might like this — my first year at camp (1986), I was given the “Rookie of the Year” award in climbing. This summer, Whit was given the “Rook Sloth” award. I have attached a picture of the two awards.



*Jim*  
*Nashville, TN*

Family Visit and Tour of FCC Reflections:  
Your introduction of FCC and the history and culture within it had us talking all the way down the mountain... Jackie and I confirmed our sense that FCC is an excellent extension of the environment we seek for all our boys - Christian, fraternal, natural, traditional, and full of worthy challenges. So we’ve got a big red circle around August 20, and hope to have his application with you that morning.

*Chris*  
*New York, NY*

E



A photograph of a two-story wooden cabin with a gabled roof, illuminated from within, situated on a grassy bank. The cabin is surrounded by a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The scene is reflected in the calm water of a lake in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. In the top left corner, there is a decorative element consisting of a horizontal line with a series of short vertical lines extending downwards from it.

# behold50

## Celebrating 50 Summers

They came back from across the country and as far away as England and Australia . . . to reconnect with boyhood brothers . . . to remember adventure-filled, adrenaline-laced summer days . . . to sing and bond and reminisce; to laugh and cry and break bread; to hike and paddle and climb; to rekindle faith, honor, goodness, strength, and love.





They came back to Falling Creek Camp 200 strong, to the beloved home-away-from-home of their youth, to celebrate camp's 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend September 7-9, 2018. Fathers and sons came together, and old counselors were reunited with former campers.

"This just makes me so happy," said Render Braswell, walking to the cabin area with his bag, ready to settle in for the weekend. "I haven't smiled this much in forever."

Talbot Carter, who attended with all three of his sons, led a toast: "They say the road to heaven is paved in gold, but for me it's a dirt road. And I know I'm there right now."

A perfect segue to then watch the new historical video, made especially for the reunion and highlighting the past 50 years in detail. As the video ended, it was announced that the sacred bridge everyone crosses on their way to church and campfire had been reconstructed and renamed, "Bain Bridge." The structure was dedicated in honor of Donnie and Kim Bain, who each offered more than 30 years of service to Falling Creek. There was a standing ovation overflowing with love, happiness, and gratitude for the Bains.



There was lemonade and Longenecker Lumps, ice cream sundaes and "gorp" classic camp treats, barbecue, tomato pie, Texas caviar, pancakes and, of course, fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and warm rolls.



Dusty Davis and others crossing Bain Bridge as they leave church on Sunday morning.



**Left:** Yates, Marisa, and Stephen Pharr. **Right:** Render Braswell, Clay Willett, and Henry Foah heading to their cabin for the weekend.





Phil Walker sharing the highlights of camp from the founding year through the 70s.



Ben Williams performing his "bug on a windshield" skit.



Stuart (left) and Jimboy Miller, enjoying the time to celebrate what their father (Jimdaddy) founded.

They rolled with laughter, hearing stories from the beginning, when campers arose at 5 a.m. to build their own cabins, and when all the campers got diarrhea at 1 a.m. Some recalled crowding into the Dining Hall with 113 boys, watching the first moon landing from a tiny black and white TV screen.

They remembered the legend of camp in the 1980s, Virgil Starks, one of the first African Americans to work at camp, breaking down racial barriers and bringing his kindness, enthusiasm, and humor to all.

There were memories of when the old Volkswagen was put in the Dining Hall, of when all the Dining Hall chairs were carabiner-ed to the high wire, and of when the whole camp gathered on the tennis courts to watch reel-to-reel films like *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars*. And what about when someone inflated the entire blob inside Cabin 8?

They reminisced about Frito Pie and cookouts on the field, and the Coca-Cola you got at your five-year dinner. And about the time Ben Williams smashed through the plexiglass onto the front porch while trying to act out the "bug on a windshield" skit.

There was talk of stromboli, mini corn dogs, and s'mores pockets. And there were stories about counselors moving a smart car to locations all over camp, and paddlers performing the enthusiastic

W

**Soon after the reunion ended and everyone went their getting texts, emails, and letters. Those you see here are**

"Thank you for putting on such a tremendous weekend at Falling Creek. It is still resonating within me. The most amazing thing was that people who had not seen each other in 40 to 45 years picked up with each other as if they had been together yesterday. I loved it, because no one was trying to impress anyone with what they have accomplished in life. Rather, they wanted to share memories, celebrate a remarkable place, and treasure what Falling Creek and the people there had given to their lives."

— Phil Walker, Camper 1969-70, San Francisco, CA

"Stuart and I are convinced that Daddy would have been honored with the way you have treated his "baby." The camp is running on all cylinders and is stunning in every way...Lives are being impacted, boys inspired, men made...this was his dream...it is a good life's work. Thank you for including me in the weekend."

— James "Jimboy" F Miller, IV, Camper 1970s, Staff 1980s, Tuxedo, NC, Director of Camp Greystone



“Harlem Shake.”

They gathered in silence for Candlelight Campfire ceremony, listening to the bullfrogs and cicadas, reflecting on camp and life. They sang old favorites like “Country Roads” and “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.”

Terry Tyree shared reflections on why he was grateful for Falling Creek, and opened the floor for other alumni to do the same. Terry’s thoughts centered on the ever-present “Spirit of Falling Creek,” and how those values never leave when one departs camp, allowing each man to make a difference and touch lives daily because of the treasures learned at camp.

“Falling Creek didn’t change my life, Falling Creek made my life,” Phil Walker shared. “It was the first place that I was able to say ‘I can,’ and at the end of the summer I could say, ‘I did.’”

“Boys get what they need in camp,” said Leland Morris. “It meets you where you are and teaches you what masculinity is about, through vulnerability, caring, and unselfishness.”

Phil Walker challenged everyone to take on a new identity, not simply as alumni of Falling Creek, but as “Guardians of the Flame,” allowing the Spirit of Falling Creek to live inside each man connected to camp. 🏕️

E

### way down the mountain, Yates and Marisa began portions of just a few:

“Falling Creek has been a tremendously impactful place for me. It was where I learned independence and confidence as a kid apart from my parents in an unfamiliar place. It taught me the value of true friendship as a teenager, away from the social pressures of school. Later, while I was a staff member, I mentored my own campers and developed my leadership skills as a servant to the community. The reunion was my first visit to camp since 2011, and it was a powerful affirmation that the spirit of Falling Creek is as alive in 2018 as it was during the founding summer of 1969. We spent quality time this weekend with old friends and role models, away from the distractions of social media and the news...We talked about “being a man” by showing compassion, empathy, and kindness instead of machismo...We learned how the community today is instilling its values in the next generation of boys — and we reflected on how we can live them in our lives away from camp.”

— Robert Eshleman, Camper 2000-2005, Staff 2008-2011, New York, NY



Left to right, Dave Dickerson, Walt Cottingham, Donnie Bain, and Steve Rogers playing their famous rendition of “Hey Baby.”



Dave, Walt, Donnie, and Steve in the same order, playing the same song, 42 years earlier (1976), in the exact same location.



Chuck McGrady (left), Lindsay Young, and Ed Ulmer, enjoying Morning Assembly on the front porch of the Dining Hall.





Dusty Davis sharing a Morning Watch message.



A huge "Shocktaw"! cheer from many adventurous FCC alumni as Ben Williams and Dusty Davis lead them on a fun mountain bike ride on the camp trails.



Founding campers and staff (L to R) Joe Baden, John Ramsay, Kurt Altvater, Rick Turner, Phil Walker, and Jim Kurtts.



"Just got back a couple of hours ago, so many thoughts and feelings from this weekend rolling around in my mind and heart...I am blown away by the combination of the incredible weekend, the thoughtfully written and beautiful Behold 50 coffee table book, and the amazing video from last night — any one of which would have been a monumental undertaking in itself. You all certainly "hit the ball out of the park" to celebrate 50 years of Falling Creek...I will never forget this weekend. Your staff carries on the tradition of excellence that has defined the staff of Falling Creek from its earliest days. I echo your thanks to all of the former campers, counselors, and staff who traveled to Falling Creek this weekend to share an unforgettable experience as "guardians of the flame." I was overcome with many emotions this weekend as I reflected upon my 38 powerfully formative weeks spent at Falling Creek some 38-43 years ago. One of the first things I told my son Matthew upon arriving home is that I would give so much for just one more day as a Falling Creek camper back in those halcyon days of the late 70's and early 80's. However, as Terry and Dusty spoke about, I will always carry inside of me the spirit of Falling Creek and the passion to share that spirit, that love, with others, so that we pass on the flame. As I reflect upon this weekend, I am reminded of a quote by T.S. Eliot: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

— Paul Leonard, Camper 1976-1981, Davidson, NC







"Couldn't hang the plaque in 1972 because we had no walls! We lived in 'THE TENT' for seven weeks! Thanks to our fearless leader Jim Kurtts for dragging the plaque around with him for 46 years. Thrilled to work together to attach it to the cabin this memorable weekend."

— Kurt Altvater, Camper 1969-1973, Mill Valley, CA; and Rick Turner, Camper 1969-1970, 1972-1973, CIT 1975, Staff 1981, Holmes Beach, FL

**In Memoriam:** "Dear Yates, I am not able to attend the anniversary celebration as I'd hoped...As you know, a dear friend of mine, Bob Johns, was a counselor during the early years of the camp. I met Bob when I first arrived at camp, as he was heading the music program in addition to his tennis responsibilities; he recruited me to be a part of the Falling Creek chorale. Bob was also instrumental in establishing the Counselor in Training (CIT) program and served as one of the main leaders of the camp (albeit without a formal title)." Bob also started two camp traditions that carry on today at campfire programs, including reciting Psalm 133:1 and coordinating the Candlelight Ceremony that was brought to FCC from his days at Camp Sequoyah.

"In my view, Bob helped establish and maintain a moral compass for the camp. With the camp's founder Jim Miller stressing key themes of unselfishness, respect, compassion, and humanness — the camp was on sound footing. Through the years, the camp continued to grow and flourish, building upon the foresight and wisdom of those early leaders. I also maintained a long and deep friendship with Bob over the years. Sadly, Bob died several months ago. Although he had been in failing health, he'd hoped to attend the 50th anniversary celebration."

— David S. Anderson, Ph.D., Staff 1969-1971, Celebration, FL



Garrett Randolph, Skeet Keyes, Hagar Rand, and Terry Tyree recreating the same photo from 1981.



Garrett, Skeet, Hagar, and Terry in 1981.



Green & Gold Award recipients reunite. We were thrilled that over half returned for the 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend. Not pictured are Chris Stec and Jim "Goody" Goodrum, who were present Friday.





Alumni and staff in attendance for the weekend reunion.

50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend | September 7-9, 2018

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1d50



**Helping War Vets,  
ex-NFL players, and  
others struggling  
with traumatic  
injuries and related  
illnesses**

# INTERNAL

When he was 7-years-old, romping through the woods at Falling Creek Camp, did young Art Pue pretend to be a soldier on a mission, dodging sniper fire and moving in to save his comrades?

The 40-year-old Charlotte native can't quite remember those specifics about his five consecutive summers at Falling Creek, but he does know one thing very well — camp gave him the confidence, camaraderie, and Christian anchor he needed to bring home the Combat Infantryman's Badge and Bronze Star for heroics while serving in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following 9/11, Art's Green Beret unit — a US Army Special Forces team known as an Operation Detachment Alpha (A-Team) — was inserted into

southern Afghanistan to work with host nation forces to conduct nation stabilization missions. Art and his team worked with the Afghan Army, Police and Guerrilla units in targeting high value assets, recapturing territory from the Taliban, and rescue missions.

While executing a reconnaissance mission on an enemy position, Art's unit came under heavy gunfire. Art engaged the enemy, ensuring that his fellow team members were able to move to higher ground and gain access to cover and concealment, which earned him the Bronze Star.





# FIRE

*to serve*



“Not a day goes by that I don’t think about Falling Creek in some capacity,” Art says. “I usually don’t get sentimental, but it was one of the most memorable, fond experiences of my life. That was where the foundation was built for my adulthood.” —Art Pue

### Original Building Block

The confidence Art gained at camp, he took with him to Boy Scouts, then Hampden-Sydney College (history major), then the US Army, Jump School, and Fort Bragg for Special Forces assessment and selection. “Their selection course is a grueling 24-day process in which you are tested mentally and physically in every way, shape, and form,” Art says. “It’s known for its nasty attrition rate. About 70 percent of my class did not make it.” This was followed by another two years of specialty training, including small unit tactics, weapons, language, and survival-evasion-resistance and escape training.

But Art did make it. And his 12-man Green Beret squad had the capacity to drop into any combat zone with as much firepower as several hundred-man units — with the cumulative ability to face any adversity and conquer any mission. Every person on the team had a unique, specific skill set, from communications to intel to engineering. Being the weapons specialist, Art was trained on weapons from around the world, enabling him to pick up any weapon in virtually any country, and use it efficiently and effectively.

### Friendly Fire

When Art left the Special Forces in 2010, his ‘welcome home’ party turned out to be the same day as an old friend’s ‘going away’ party; her name was Lyndsay. “We bumped into each other, hit it off, and realized she didn’t need to leave quite yet,” Art recalls. Lyndsay also had a camp background from her days growing up in Texas. After reuniting, the duo decided to take a spur-of-the-moment, 24-day trip trekking through New Zealand. They dated a year and a-half, were married, and now have a 2-year-old daughter, Hattie.

Living in Charlotte, Art got into the family business — Engineering Sales Associates — where he worked his way up the ladder and now serves as president. The company provides compressed air and liquid filtration solutions for manufacturing facilities.

### Servant’s Heart — Unleashed

In 2011, Art was approached to help start a non-profit called Veterans Bridge Home to help military veterans successfully transition to civilian life. Art agreed and the program, one of the first of its kind, has received national attention for its success in helping thousands of veterans struggling with concussion issues, stress, depression, and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). The program identifies their education, employment, and





healthcare needs, and connects them to community, state, and federal resources.

Next, Art was asked to serve on the board of directors for The Independence Fund, whose mission is to empower severely wounded veterans and their caregivers by providing tools and resources that help the vets work through their wounds and regain independence. Art is now chairman of the board. "Through The Independence Fund, we have facilitated the distribution of over 2,000 track chairs to critically injured veterans, assisted over 3,000 veterans and their caregivers, and are actively engaged in improving the services and care our veterans receive through the VA," Art says.

In 2016, The Independence Fund provided seed

money to start a unique new program called After the Impact Fund, which customizes treatment plans for not only veterans with traumatic injuries, but former pro athletes as well. "Many ex-athletes are dealing with health issues, such as TBIs, depression, concussion issues, stress — and we are seeing that these two populations, when brought together, are able to heal faster and better. There is a lot of mutual respect between soldiers and athletes who have performed at the highest level," Art says. "After the Impact has assisted over 250 veterans, athletes, and their families by facilitating comprehensive treatment and support networks," Art says.

Art serves on the board of directors for After the Impact along with former NFL coaches Mike Ditka



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“Thank you  
for your  
service to  
our country,  
Art!”

—Marisa Pharr

and Dan Reeves, and former NFL star Matt Birk. To help raise awareness about the program and the challenges faced by ex-soldiers and athletes, Art and Matt starred in a pilot TV show, *Heroes in the Wild*, which premiered on OutsideTV.com; it showed the two men building a bond while facing challenges outdoors. There is also an After the Impact residential center in Jacksonville, Florida, which offers education, care, substance abuse and addiction programs, financial planning, and much more.

### Falling Creek Reflections

“The Falling Creek experience set the foundation for the successes I’ve seen,” Art says. “Being in that environment was so positive, and the work I’m doing now, I can look back and say some of it is because of the experiences I had at Falling Creek. The leadership of the counselors and staff and my peers. I’ve got that Servant’s Heart and it was instilled in me at Falling Creek.

“As a Green Beret, Falling Creek absolutely built my confidence up . . . it just really built a framework in my mind and body that says, ‘I can embrace being outdoors.’ Some of my fondest memories are when we went backpacking or trudged through the woods,

finding a hidden creek, building a dam, just things little boys need to do. We would just embrace that. Free days on Sunday we would take full advantage of being outdoors in the mountains in that beautiful setting.

“The camaraderie, having the other boys around you, was invaluable,” Art says. “It was such a solid, grounded, Christian-based atmosphere. In everything you did you could see the culture of the camp resonated — it was special. They bring in such amazing counselors who are mentors that positively affect campers’ lives for many years to come.

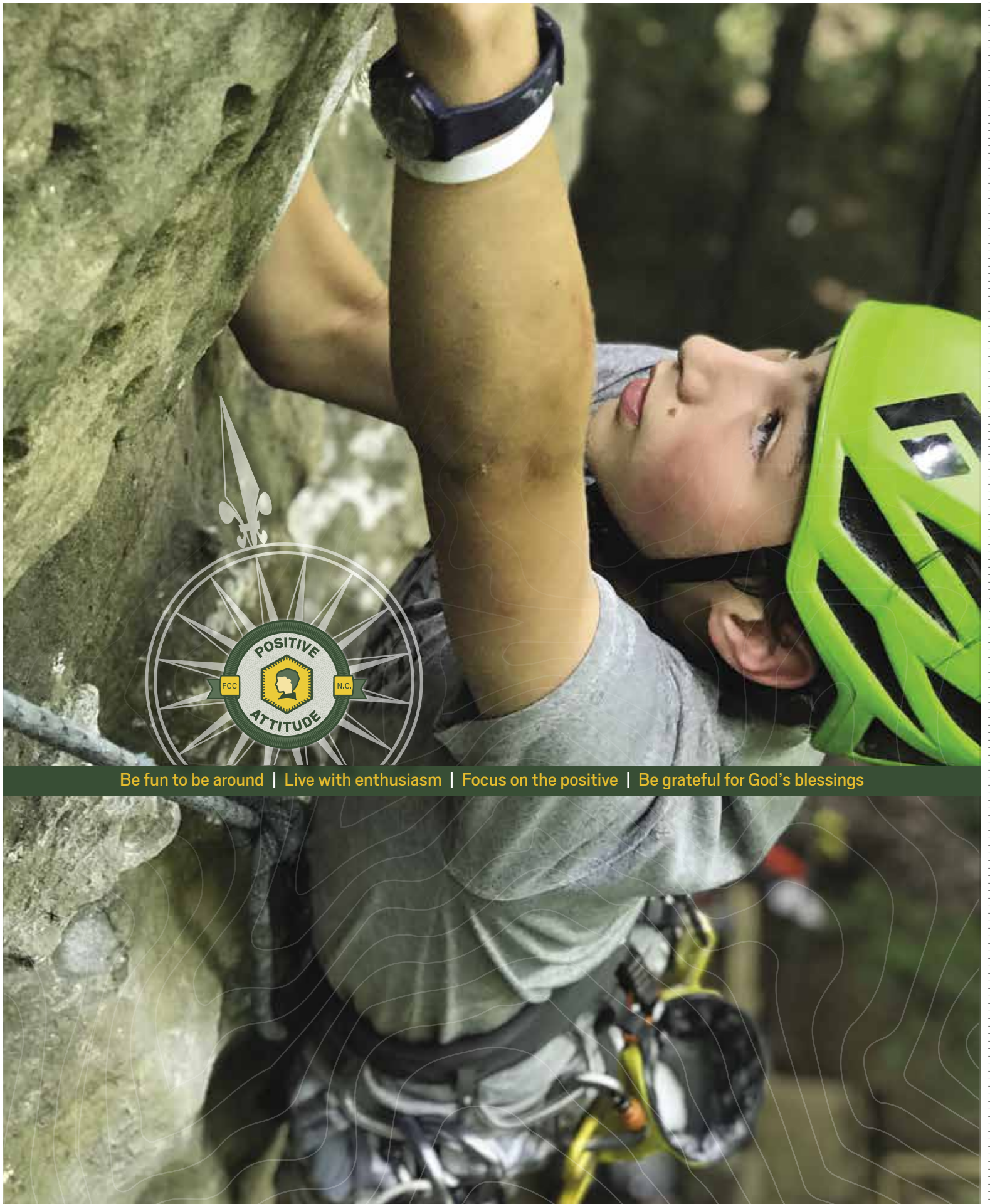
“Of course, as a camper, it was all about the Blob, the rollercoaster down into the lake, Morning Watch, hearing the bell ring. I can literally take myself back there as if it was just yesterday. That holistic, all encompassing opportunity for a little boy to truly be a boy and to do it in the outdoors, away from a screen, to live in a cabin . . . things like that take you out of your comfort zone and I think that is extremely healthy for any child to go through. In fact, I hope to have a little boy to send up to Falling Creek some day.” 🙏

We do, too.



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# COURAG

It would be an understatement to say today's children don't grow up like they used to in the old days. Constant access to phones, computers, video games, and social media have changed all that — dramatically.

Children appear to be indoors more than ever and less socially inclined than at any time in history. Some of the side affects of those changes are fear, depression, and anxiety disorders. Parents are anxious to help by somehow infusing their kids with joy, confidence, and courage — but not all responses prove beneficial.





## Just the Facts.

Just 25% of teens spend time with friends in person (outside of school) on a daily basis.\* | Average teen checks phone 100+ times a day.\* | Teens are less likely to date or work when not in school.\* | Teens are less likely to go out without their parents than previous generations.\* | 57% of teens ages 13-17 have made a new friend online...most of these friendships stay in the digital space.\* | Emotional maturity has declined. 18-year-olds act like 15-year-olds, 13-year-olds act like 10-year-olds.\* | Anxiety disorders are remarkably common among children in the U.S.; nearly one-third of them will have an anxiety disorder by age 18.\*\* | The most common disorders in youngsters are separation anxiety, social anxiety, and generalized anxiety disorder.\*\*\*

# FOUND!

### Are Parents Too Involved?

Most of us have heard the term, “helicopter parents.” It is used to describe parents who hover closely and watch over their children’s every move. But studies have found, instead of helping, helicopter parents can be hurting the development, independence, and maturity of their children.

According to studies reported in a Dec. 8, 2017, article in The Wall Street Journal (The Right Way for Parents to Help Anxious Children), hovering parents can make things worse rather than better for their children by:

- Allowing their children to escape challenging situations
- Constantly reassuring kids about everything
- Being overprotective
- Being inconsistent
- Worrying about being hated by their children





### What's a Child — and a Parent — to Do?

Studies show that parents — and their children — are much better off when parents acknowledge the challenges facing their kids, and express confidence to their kids that they can face those fear-inducing situations head on, and overcome them.

Indeed, with the right support, kids can rise above their fears and develop the positive attitude and confidence to get them through life's most trying circumstances. And isn't that what every parent wants for their children?

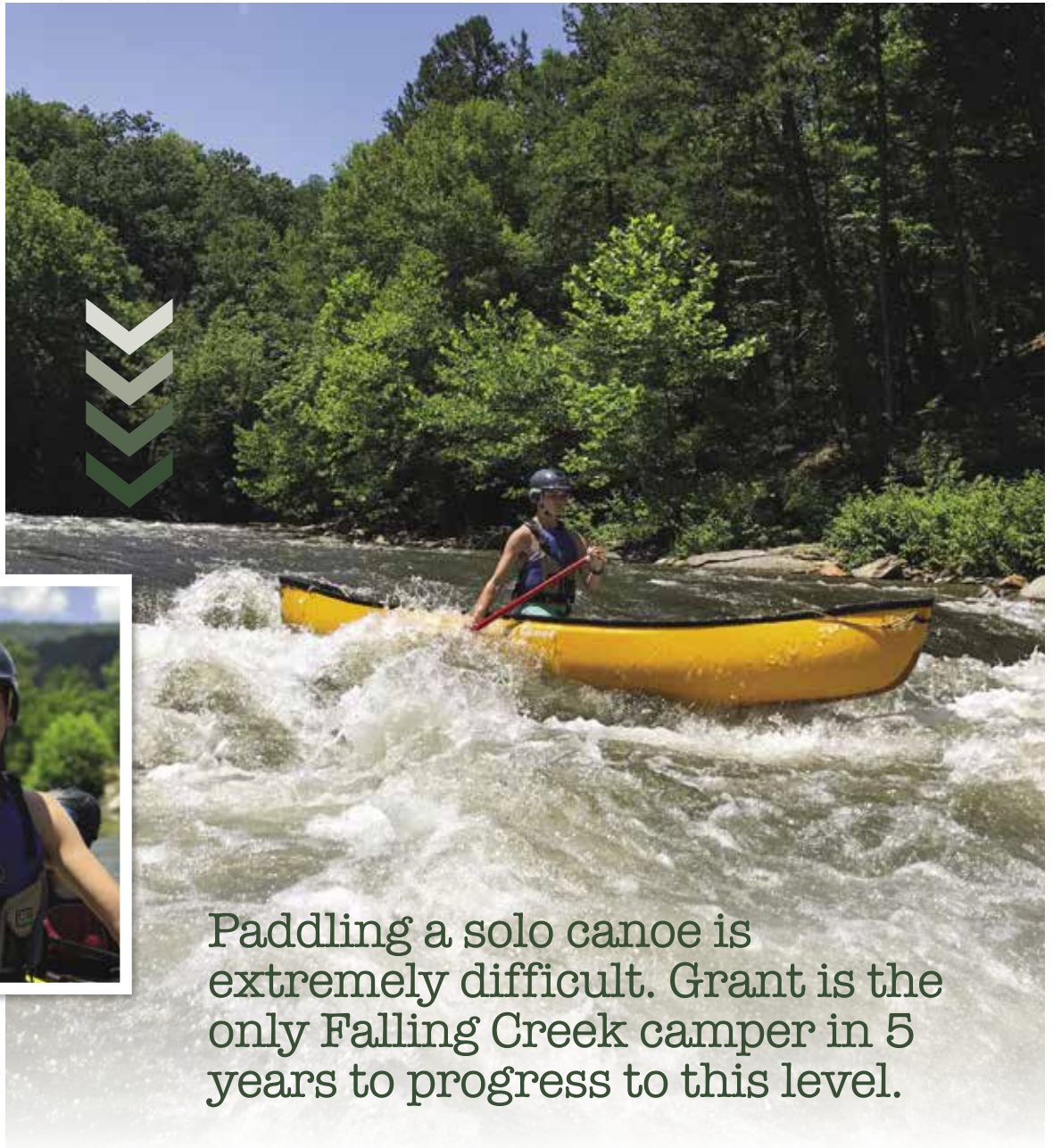
In a presentation by Tom Rosenberg, President/CEO of the American Camp Association, there are some key positive offerings and attributes of camp life that can help children increase individual awareness, improve

social awareness, and develop a strong inner self. We at Falling Creek agree wholeheartedly with Tom's list of camp benefits:

- Safe human-powered adventures
- Immersive social environment
- Mentored by non-parent young adults
- Authentic caring relationships
- Positive risk opportunities
- Encouragement to push comfort zones
- Confidence building
- Spiritually nurturing
- Relaxing - helps campers become more mindful

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Grant Pinkston, a 10-year camper and Man of STEEL, paddling solo open boat on the Tuckasegee River.



Paddling a solo canoe is extremely difficult. Grant is the only Falling Creek camper in 5 years to progress to this level.



## Bring It On

During the past 50 years, hundreds of Falling Creek campers have developed courage and overcome fears by facing challenges in our supportive camp environment. For example, camper Grant Pinkston wanted to excel at paddling ever since he first arrived at Falling Creek 10 years earlier. Grant was not a natural athlete and when he tried the tandem canoe and kayak, he wasn't successful.

Persistent on pursuing his dream, Grant decided to try the solo canoe, even though he knew paddling in an open canoe is considered more challenging than kayaking, for many technical reasons. For two straight summers, Grant spent hours, days, and weeks practicing his turns. Finally, he was cutting around buoys that he never could have negotiated before.

"Last summer I was kneeling in my solo canoe for most of main camp and went on many trips, including an Upper Green," Grant says. "I am so glad my paddling experience worked out the way it did at Falling Creek." Indeed, Grant is the only Falling Creek camper to have paddled advanced white water in a solo canoe in the last five years.

Former 4-year camper and Falling Creek staffer High Garst appreciates the fact that boys are encouraged to get out of their comfort zones at camp. As a boy, High had no idea he would enjoy backpacking and camping, but Falling Creek gave him those opportunities, and now he gets paid for doing something he loves.

"If you had told me as an elementary school boy that the most fun I'd have at camp was when I slept on the ground in the woods, I wouldn't have believed you," High says. "But here I am 10 years later, back on the mountain, getting paid to do exactly that as a backpacking counselor. I'm indebted to Falling Creek for helping me discover a passion I didn't even know I had."

Six-year camper and Man of Steel, John Allen, was

intrigued by Falling Creek's Iron Man competition as a second-year camper. John decided to enter the competition and began waking up early each morning to run a few miles to get himself in race shape. After several weeks of training, race day was upon him.

"I had little to no expectations," John says. "After the first leg of the race, the swim, I was in tenth place and thought to myself, 'I'm doing pretty well!' From there on out I really pushed myself and wanted to do the best I possibly could. When I crossed the finish line, I was in third place! I was so surprised I'd finished in the top three. I learned from that experience that if I push myself and work hard, I can overcome any challenging situation." 🏆

\* American Camp Association.

\*\* 2010 study in the Journal of the American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry, as reported in The Wall Street Journal, Dec. 8, 2017.

\*\*\* The Right Way for Parents to Help Anxious Children, The Wall Street Journal, Dec. 8, 2017.



High Garst, FCC camper and counselor



John Allen in final push to the finish of the Ironman

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That's  
camp life —  
where  
courage is  
found.







## morningwatch



# Ridgetop Reminders

By Chaplain Dusty Davis

"We trust that each of you is ready to light your own candle. It may be a surprise to you, but you have been our teachers this summer. You have taught us once again to respect the abilities and character of young men. You have reminded us of what it means to have great fun and have renewed our faith in the future—ours and yours—and all across the earth whom you and I affect all our days."

Ridgetop is one of my favorite spots on the Falling Creek property. It's one of the original overnight shelters, perfectly perched on the western slope of Long Mountain — the perfect spot for a group of adventure-seeking campers.

Yates and I slipped out of dinner early, grabbed a backpack full of supplies, quickly hiked the trail to Ridgetop and got a fire started. Soon, leader Will Walters and a dozen Men of STEEL (Summer Training Encouraging Emerging Leaders) came huffing up the steep trail and violently un-shouldered their packs. "Whoa! What are Yates and Dusty doing here?" one of them asked. Will had told his crew of rising 12th graders to pack up that afternoon for a cabin overnight, but they didn't know we had a Warrior Spirit-sized surprise for them.

We broke out the standard issue bag of s'mores and the guys scattered to find the perfect marshmallow roasting sticks. Shoulder to shoulder, crouched on logs around the fire, they spontaneously asked Yates questions about what the STEEL program was like in "the old days." Laying his Camp Director hat aside, Yates obliged with several "don't do what we did" stories. He ended by doling out encouragement to the Men of STEEL, who proved assets to camp that summer, as they helped out their "buddy" cabins and served as leaders in daily activities.

The mesmerizing fire seemed to mellow the conversation and took us deeper into how each boy had grown socially, spiritually, and emotionally at camp that summer. We told the guys that with one week of camp left it was time to make their shots count. They needed to prepare to make moral-compass, God-honoring decisions when they returned home to social and school pressures. We wanted them to have an opportunity to reflect on who they were becoming and what kind of men they wanted to be.

As the fire and sunlight faded, we asked the guys to grab their packs and follow us. We gave them a unique opportunity to spend personal reflection time — alone. We handed each of them a gallon-sized zip lock bag with fire starter, journal, pen, emergency whistle, etc. and took up their watches. Single file down the trail, we dropped them off to nearby outposts, hopefully to enjoy, and not just endure, an overnight SOLO experience. (The boys were all within earshot and closely monitored by staff).

Creepy night sounds became muted by a light evening rain as I walked back to Ridgetop alone. We told the boys we would pick them up mid-morning and not to wander far from their immediate area.

Early the next morning I heard footsteps. With crusty eyes, I looked out of my sleeping bag as one of the Men of STEEL ambled hesitantly up the hill.

"What's up buddy? You okay?"

He hung his head. "I wish I was more like the guys who took this challenge without fear," he said. "They probably wrote down some nice, reflective thoughts and are sleeping soundly in their hammocks. But I was scared all night. Hardly slept."

"You know, I'm in my mid-fifties and still get scared of things," I said. "It's perfectly okay. In fact, it's pretty normal to be afraid to sleep in the woods alone."

He dropped his pack and some of the angst. I continued, "You know, man, living with courage doesn't mean I'm fearless, it just means I keep moving and don't let the fear paralyze me. I'm learning to get my identity from what God says about me instead of worrying about what other people might think about me."

We talked about how we discover our identity and purpose according to God's plan for our lives. "When we get off the comparison trail, we're free to help other people around us fit in as well. The crux of camp is: knowing who you are and encouraging others in the process."

A few packed days later it was closing campfire. Four hundred of us gathered to ceremoniously pass the light of our candles from staff to campers. Yates recited the words passed down from our founding summer 50 years ago (see sidebar).

Candle wax and tears dripped onto dirty chacos and well-worn sneakers. Yates' lines resonated deep in me and I knew I needed to find my SOLO friend to say goodbye. He was also looking for me. I looked him in the eye and said, "Our talk at Ridgetop that morning reminded me of where I get my identity and purpose. Thank you." He gave me a solid man hug, squared his shoulders, and walked away with his head high, resolved to encourage a dozen other guys. 🔥







# INTO THE WILD

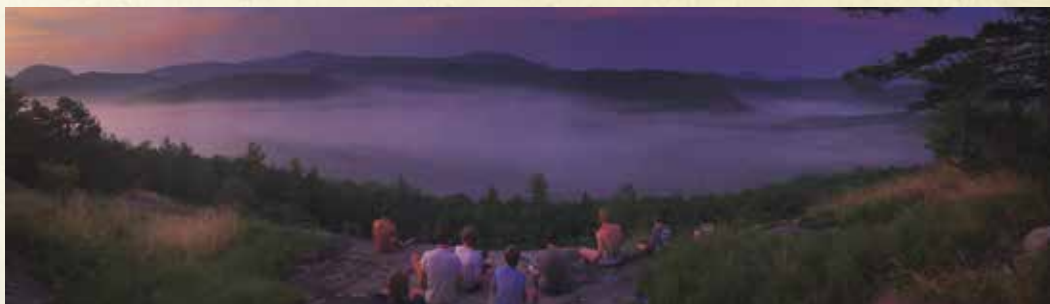


*The Risks & Payoffs of Pure Adventure*

by Ben Williams - Outdoor Adventure Director



The word ‘adventure’ is on the tip of everyone’s tongues these days, from car and truck ads to commercials inviting young people to join the military. However, to me and those here at Falling Creek Camp, adventure is more than the latest marketing buzzword. In fact, adventure has been in our DNA since the first summer we opened our gates in 1969 — and for good reason.



### Risks & Rewards

I believe things have been so sanitized for boys in our society that they have been pushed away and ‘protected’ from taking risks. At Falling Creek, we allow boys to take risks, in fact, we encourage it. We take things slowly, help them develop their skills, answer questions, practice, encourage, and build their confidence as they test the waters.

We also help them be wise about risks. It’s not just, ‘Let’s jump off this rock into the water,’ with no educational component. We approach things much differently. As a group, we explore the landing area. Is it deep all over or just in one spot? Is the bottom soft sand or hard rock? What is upstream? What is downstream? How tall does it look from the bottom? We take something risky and help them break it down to see if it’s actually risky, or if it just looks risky. The benefit is the boys learn to take this discernment into all aspects of life.

### Go Ahead, Try Something New

A certain amount of adventure exists in all of the activities we offer at Falling Creek. Heck, coming to camp is an adventure in itself, because it’s an unusual, scary, exciting, and sometimes risky endeavor — which is the literal definition of adventure! To us, adventure can best be defined as hard work, passion, fear, risk, participation, excitement, failure, and success — all wrapped together to create amazing personal growth within a supportive, like-minded community.

Each of our campers bring skills, values, and experiences they’ve gleaned from their unique families and backgrounds. One of our goals is to help boys grow those skills, learn from their peers and counselors, and try new things. Not only are our campers given the opportunity and freedom to sample new activities like blacksmithing and Frisbee golf, they are taught how to make decisions and stand behind them. With the exception of swimming to the rank of



“gold,” there are no required activities at Falling Creek. The boys pick what they want to do. This has become a cornerstone of our program. And, because the boys get to choose, their excitement is contagious. This independence and confidence, practiced in a structured and supportive environment, sets them up for growth and success!

### **Skill, Growth, Failure, Breakthrough**

At first glance, people might view the activity progressions at Falling Creek as simply getting better at an activity. While that’s one piece of the puzzle, the real beauty of the progressions is each phase teaches a different portion of the Falling Creek code: Warrior Spirit, Servant’s Heart, Positive Attitude, Moral Compass.

Boys are constantly challenged to lead, teach, and give of themselves to help others grow. I often tell our adventure staff, ‘You are not a guide. You are an

learn about themselves and about perseverance. Failure is how boys learn resilience to tough it out and overcome challenges they once thought were insurmountable. And when failure turns into success, the mountain-top emotions of pride and elation are almost palpable. Suddenly boys realize that having conquered one enormous challenge, they can conquer whatever comes their way.

### **Pressing Through the Problems**

Adventure is usually uncomfortable. I’m not talking about going without food or water, or sleeping without a sleeping pad on the cold ground. I’m talking about boys learning to endure and even embrace those challenging times when they are uncomfortable, homesick, uncertain, or shaking at the knees when they are about to try something for the first time.

Perhaps it rains when the boys had hoped to go climbing,



instructor. A guide is focused on getting campers to the top or bottom of the rock or through the rapid. An instructor is focused on imparting the skills that will enable the boys to truly develop a knowledge and passion for the activity.’ As such, boys grow their level of skill while learning about themselves and about life.

It is the greatest feeling in the world for both the camper and instructor when a camper commits to a goal, puts in the work, and achieves what he set out to accomplish. The camper is pumped, his friends are pumped, the whole staff is pumped! Want to see it firsthand? Come on a Tuck/Nanty trip when the boys are running Nantahala Falls. All of the practice comes down to one eddy and the corresponding rapid below — and the reward is as real as it gets. When that camper and his partner succeed, it is powerful for all involved.

And if they fail, it is time to empty the boat, trudge back upstream, and try again, because learning to manage failure is just as powerful as celebrating success. Through failure character grows strong. It’s how boys

or the bugs are bad, or their headlight batteries run out in the middle of a cabin overnight, or they are forced to share their personal space. It is in these learning moments that we help campers experience what it means to work together, problem solve, be supportive, and have a positive attitude. In today’s world of instant gratification, adventures such as these teach invaluable lessons of patience, hard work, thanksgiving, and endurance.

### **The Secret: Shared Experience**

Yes, going on an adventure is about the activity, but it is sweetened by the people with whom we are surrounded. The activity is the event that brings us together. A shared adventure meets a need deep inside each of us. It comes from the sharing of meals and memories, random inside jokes, laughter around the campfire, and the lifelong connections born from this extended time together.

And just look at the Falling Creek classroom — granite domes hundreds of feet tall, rugged trails that weave



through massive mountains, rivers that flow fast and cold. Camp allows boys to experience the world and God's wonders, to participate and to test themselves against other people — rather than just be spectators. And, yes, outdoor adventure allows us all to learn to love, appreciate, and take care of the natural world.

### Passion Primes the Pump

I am often asked by peers from other camps how Falling Creek manages to pull off multipitch climbs, long hikes, class IV whitewater, and mountain biking on the area's most difficult trails. The answer is, we pour into our campers when they are young boys, giving them a solid foundation on which to build.

Our staff, many of whom are former campers, have a high level of skill in the activities they lead, but more importantly, they possess excellent interpersonal skills and a true spirit of servant leadership. We inspire a passion in campers for spending time outside, accepting challenges, and developing a love for activities they can

stewards of the land and lifelong lovers of adventure.

However, those numbers tell only one side of the story, because those 6,000 camper days also represent hard work, fun, failure, achievement, growth, thrills, exploration, breakthrough, shared experiences, passion, risk, reward — and a lifetime of amazing memories for campers and staff.

The chances are good that your son was one of those boys just this past summer. He likely came home with stories of adventure, a sense of accomplishment, and a strengthened confidence. My request of you, his parent, is to embrace his enthusiasm. Share in the excitement with him. Allow him to be your instructor and go on a



perfect for a lifetime. When we see campers come back to camp who have taken their activity home, continued to refine their skills, or even gotten their families involved — we have achieved our goal.

### Reflections on Two Decades

Falling Creek has played a huge role in the person I am today. As I enter my 21st year as a staff member, I am elated to see the continued growth of our adventure program. Each year we are adding new objectives into the curriculum, tweaking our teaching methodologies to make them more effective, learning more about our craft to stay relevant, and looking for ways to promote an active lifestyle for campers and staff. During the summer of 2017, we had about 6,000 “camper days” in the adventure program; that means 6,000 experiences out on trails, rocks, and rivers, learning to be good



family adventure together! He wants to show you that he has learned to make wise choices, to be independent, to work hard, to overcome, and to be a young man. But the number one thing he wants is to share the experience with you, the ones he looks up to most. 🏕️

*Ben Williams grew up in Ohio and attended Mount Vernon Nazarene University where he majored in secondary education and history. He joined the Falling Creek summer staff in 1998, and in 2006, joined the full-time staff as assistant program director. Today, Ben serves as the outdoor adventure director, coordinating all of Falling Creek's outdoor adventure activities.*

*Ben is a certified Wilderness First Responder and a Swift Water Rescuer. He serves on the board of the American Camp Association's Southeast Section and Legislative Committee for the North Carolina Youth Camp Association. In the off-season, Ben and his wife, Elliot, a veterinarian, reside in Salt Lake City, Utah. They are avid kayakers, rock climbers, backpackers, and bikers. Ben is also a ski instructor at Alta Ski Area.*





**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.



"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

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.





# FCC TRAILS



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

- 101: Raptor Trail, (2.21)
- 102: Green River Trail, (3.96)
- 103: Star Wars Trail, (0.76)
- 104: El Chocolate Trail, (0.65)
- 105: Redgline Trail, (2.23)
- 106: Thunderhead Trail, (3.75)
- 107: Coyote Mtn Trail, (0.65)
- 108: Prettyman Trail, (0.71)
- 109: Foo Foo Trail, (0.65)
- 110: Apple Orchard Trail, (1.11)
- 111: The Ridge Trail, (1.29)
- 112: Mtn Pastures Trail, (0.81)
- 113: Blokey Trail, (0.90)
- 114: Cottingham Trail, (0.36)
- 115: Jones Trail, (0.25)
- 116: Bobs Creek Trail, (0.04)

## 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: Ray's Rock Trail, (0.67)
- 206: ESEFEL Trail, (0.13)
- 207: Lake Loop Trail, (0.50)
- 208: Thunderhead Trail Connector, (0.25)
- 209: Broadway Trail, (0.68)
- 210: Long Mountain View Trail, (0.18)
- 211: Foo Foo Trail Connector, (0.08)
- 212: Allen Trail, (0.10)
- 213: Walt's Walk Trail, (0.11)

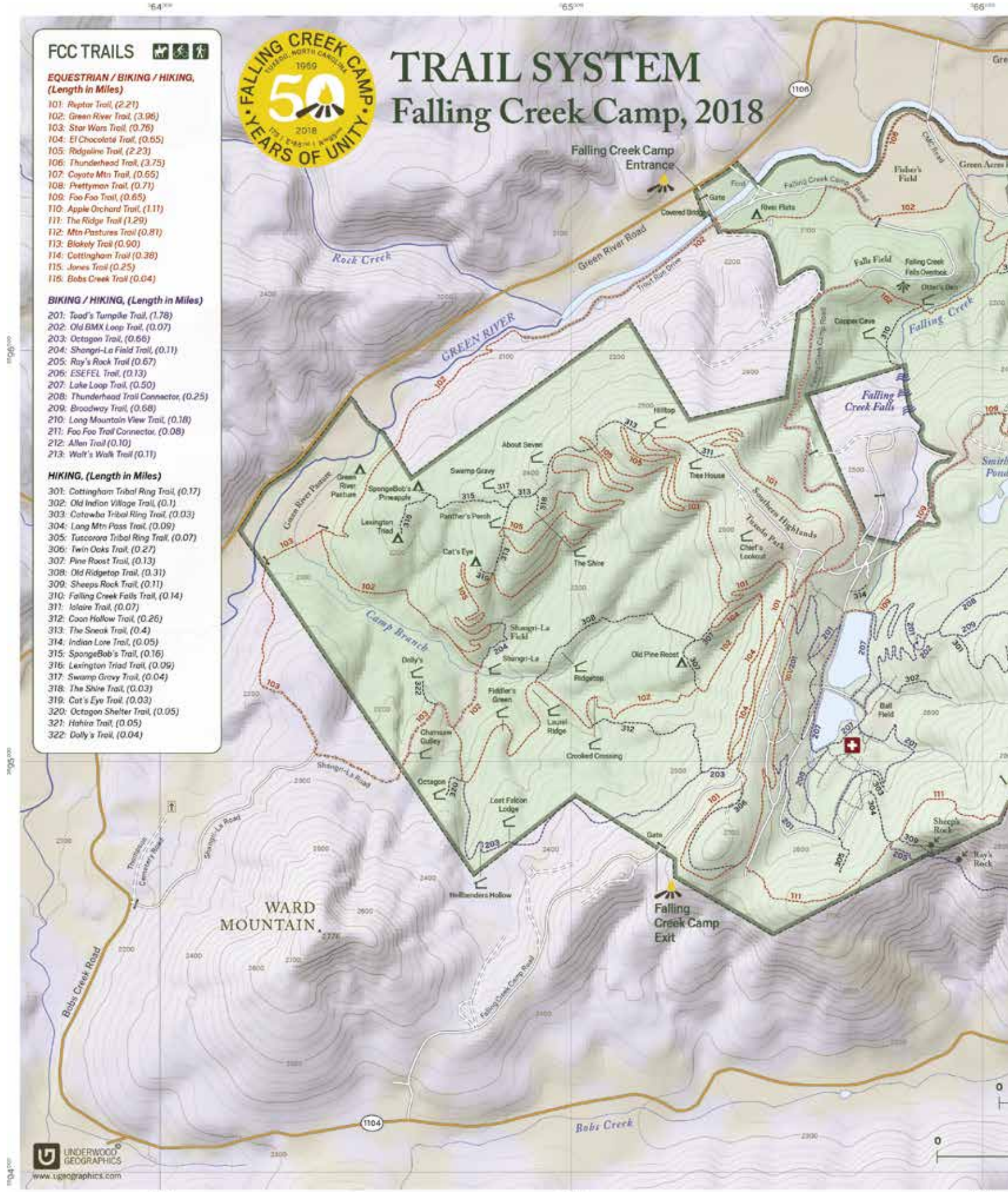
## HIKING, (Length in Miles)

- 301: Cottingham Tribal Ring Trail, (0.17)
- 302: Old Indian Village Trail, (0.1)
- 303: Cotwaba Tribal Ring Trail, (0.03)
- 304: Long Mtn Pass Trail, (0.09)
- 305: Tuscorora Tribal Ring Trail, (0.07)
- 306: Twin Oaks Trail, (0.27)
- 307: Pine Roast Trail, (0.13)
- 308: Old Ridgetop Trail, (0.31)
- 309: Sheeps Rock Trail, (0.11)
- 310: Falling Creek Falls Trail, (0.14)
- 311: Isaire Trail, (0.07)
- 312: Coon Hollow Trail, (0.26)
- 313: The Sreak Trail, (0.4)
- 314: Indian Love Trail, (0.05)
- 315: SpongeBob's Trail, (0.16)
- 316: Lexington Triad Trail, (0.09)
- 317: Swamp Gravy Trail, (0.04)
- 318: The Shine 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)

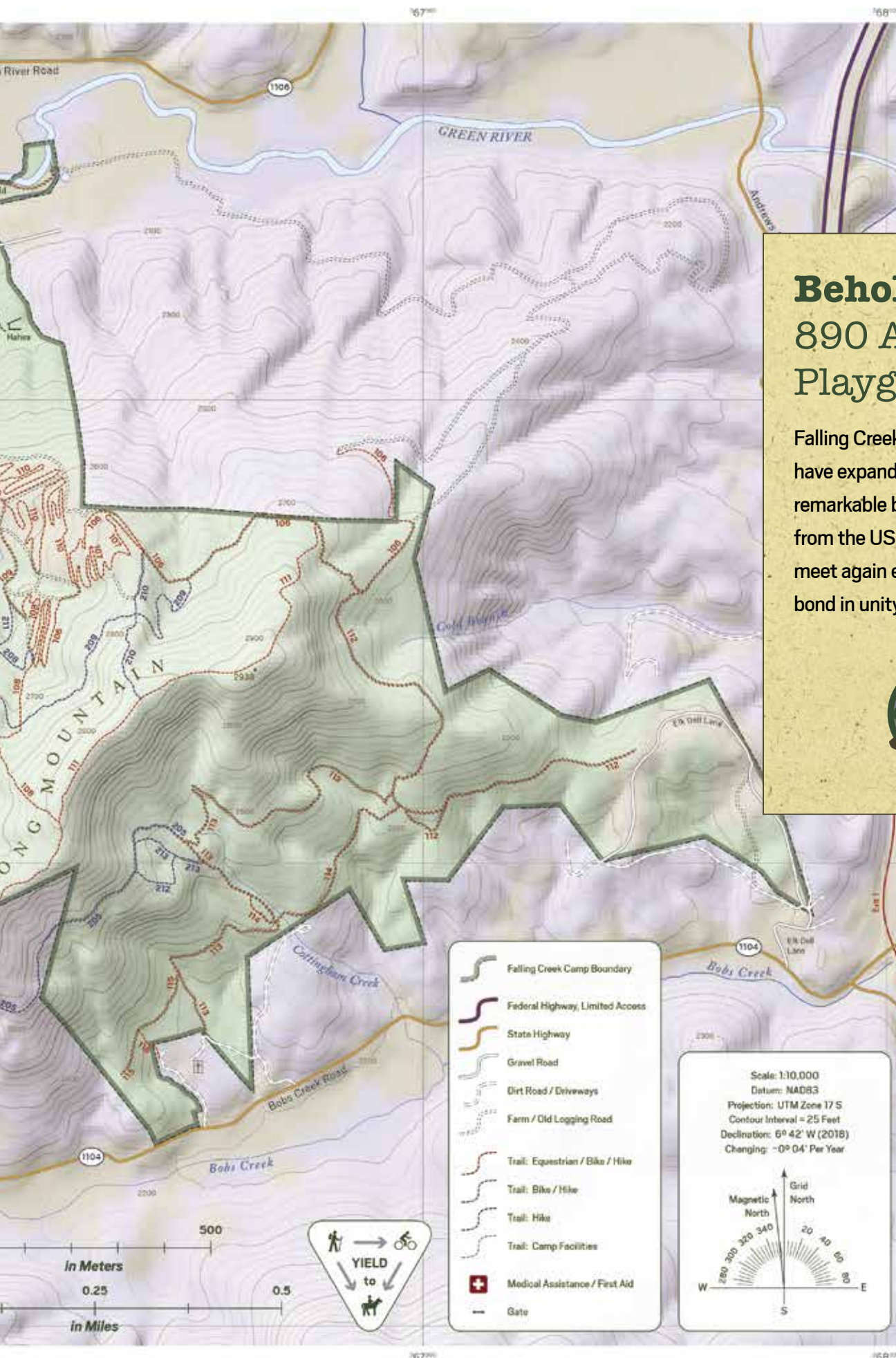


# TRAIL SYSTEM

## Falling Creek Camp, 2018







## Behold: 890 Acres of Playground

Falling Creek's original 125 acres have expanded to 890 acres of remarkable beauty. Here, boys from the US and beyond come to meet again each summer, and to bond in unity and brotherly love.







**guts&glory**



## Awards-All Sessions

### Archery

CIT In Training Award:  
Charlie Dalton  
Eternal Archer Award: Gray Smith  
Sharpshooter Award: Hayden Breal

### Arts & Crafts

Art Master Award: Avery Kessler  
Art Master Award:  
Christopher Talley  
Art Master Award: Jon Coleman  
Striving Artist Award: Sam Coleman  
Van Gogh Award: Sloan Dossin

### Backpacking

Big Boots to Fill Award:  
Beckett Beatty  
Big Boots to Fill Award: Eshaan Kothari  
Trailblazer Award: Beckett Spears  
Trailblazer Award: Ben Kirbo  
Yama (Spirit of the Mountain)  
Award: Thomas Bond  
Yama (Spirit of the Mountain)  
Award: Walker Liggitt

### Basketball

Braveheart Award (Warrior Spirit):  
Daniel Fanning  
Braveheart Award (Warrior Spirit):  
Heath Seawright  
Jackie Moon Award: David Axon  
Jackie Moon Award: Zach Jackson  
Mr. Brightside Award: Taishi Liu  
Servant Leader Award  
(Servant's Heart): Jack Norman

### Blacksmithing

Best in Show Award: Ham Mandell  
Isildur's Heir Award: Grant Johnson  
Isildur's Heir Award: Harrison Wallace  
Isildur's Heir Award: Matt Chaffin  
Isildur's Heir Award: Tommy Murray  
Ranger of the North Award:  
George Hughes  
Ranger of the North Award:  
Harper Kissell  
Ranger of the North Award:  
Henry O'Hagan  
Swish Warrior Award: Benjamin  
Kampine  
Swish Warrior Award:  
Caleb McDonough  
Swish Warrior Award: Charlie May  
Swish Warrior Award: Gabriel Jones  
Swish Warrior Award: Scott Busey  
Swish Warrior Award: Will Young

### Climbing Wall

Blue Wave Award: Riley Standish  
Dorito & Mountain Dew Award:  
Gabriel Meyers  
Dorito & Mountain Dew Award:  
Sam Frushone  
Speed Demon Award:  
Spencer Ritchie  
Spiderman Award: James Singhal  
Spiderman Award: Kemp Woodard

### Cross Country

Fast Pass Award: Harrison Wallace  
Most Improved Award:  
MacLean Delehanty  
Out of Nowhere Award:  
Carter Fridge  
Out of Nowhere Award:  
Esteban Rosales  
Ranger Danger Award:  
Austin Brotemarkle  
Runner Spirit Award: Baker Wilkins

### Disc Golf

Blackberry Award: Will Skipper  
Disc Excellence Award: Billy Piper  
Flash Award: Kenny Moffet  
General Excellence Award:  
Kemp Woodard  
General Excellence Award:  
Richard Magruder  
General Excellence Award:  
Thomas Gosslee

### F.A.R.M.

Buquawk Award: Jonah Disch  
Greatest Gardener Award:  
Cooper Burke  
Hay You Award: Edwin Salisbury  
Wing Man Award: Grant Greeley





## Fishing

Keep on Swimmin' Award:

James McIntyre

Positive Attitude Award:

Hayden Breal

Servant's Heart Award: Jaden Levine

Servant's Heart Award: Jonas Carvalho

## Flag Football

Juice Man Landry Award: Hyatt Hicks

LBB (Little Baller Brand) Award:

Carleton Riser

LBB (Little Baller Brand) Award:

William Rachels

Money Manziel Golden Arm Award:

Philip Cronje

Money Manziel Golden Arm Award:

Roscoe Heuer

Most Improved Award:

Thomas Killeen

## Fly Fishing

Brooke Trout Award: Philip Cronje

Brooke Trout Award: Thomas Anders

Brown Trout Award: Jack West

Brown Trout Award: Pete Curtis

Rainbow Trout Award: August Brown

Rainbow Trout Award:

Reid Pemberton

## Horseback Riding

Light of the Barn Award:

Jonathan Dunham

Light of the Barn Award:

Walker Liggitt

Positive Attitude Award:

Tommy Sutherland

Razz Award: Ford Berry

Up and Coming Horseman Award:

Jacob Bailey

Up and Coming Horseman Award:

Urijah Miller

## Indian Lore

Warrior Spirit of Indian Lore Award:

Charlie Woodruff

Warrior Spirit of Indian Lore Award:

Cooper Burke

Warrior Spirit of Indian Lore Award:

Jack Pilon

Warrior Spirit of Indian Lore Award:

Landon Lashley

Warrior Spirit of Indian Lore Award:

Quentin Balestri

Warrior Spirit of Indian Lore Award:

Wesley Forster

## Lacrosse

Lax Bro Award: Blake Rowland

Lax Bro Award: Raines Knight

Most Improved Award: Jaden Levine

Most Improved Award:

Oliver Losinski

## Mountain Biking

Colin Barrett Award: AJ Gathright

Colin Barrett Award:

Thompson Haddock

Frequent Rider Card Award:

Lewis Rand

Frequent Rider Card Award:

Will Thomas

King of Dupont Award:

Alexander Ostrom

Meat Piston Award: Hampden Geer

## Music

Most Improved Award: Sloan Dossin

MVM (Most Valuable Musician)

Award: Ian Meredith

MVM (Most Valuable Musician)

Award: Quentin Balestri

Positive Attitude & Perseverance

Award: Ben Farmer

Positive Attitude & Perseverance

Award: Lex McDonald

Warrior Spirit of Sound in Music

Award: Jonathan Dunham

## Nature

Beastie Bug Boys R Back in Town

Award: Tommy McLeod &

Wood Watson

Menagerie Men Award: Daviss Coble

Menagerie Men Award: Jonah Disch

Nature Noodle Award: Pach Esteve

Neature Award: Oliver Losinski

Wise Ol' Owl Award: James Singhal

## Paddling

Biggest Boofer Award: Whit Tiller

Biggest Little Shredder Award:

Bobby Briggs

Double Yaklet Award: Booker Melton

Jamie Page Memorial Award:

Rhodes Feild

Most Improved Award: Owen Silver





## guts&glory

### Photography

Best Trip Photo Award: Paddling  
 Most Photogenic Award:  
     Beckett Beatty  
 Most Photogenic Award: Jim Lanier  
 Most Photographed Award:  
     Harrison Oswald  
 Most Photographed Award:  
     Stevens Moore

### Pottery

Clay Master Award: Henk Warrick  
 Kind "Mimbs" Pig Award:  
     Sam Stevens  
 King Pig Award: Soham Bafana  
 Madd Potter Award: Freddy Somers  
 Pottery Wizard Award: David Axon  
 Spartan Pig Award: Pete Curtis

### Riflery

Golden Hand Award: Boss Oberlin  
 Golden Hand Award: Gunnar Davidson  
 Small but Mighty Award:  
     Baker Smith  
 Small but Mighty Award: Taishi Liu  
 Top Gun Award: Mace Hood  
 Top Gun Award: Russell Wyatt

### Rock Climbing

Dope Award: Jack Gowen  
 Junior Guide Award: Jackson Skelly  
 Mexico City Madmen Award:  
     Pach & Rodrigo Esteve  
 Rookie Sloth Crusher Madman  
     Award: Whit Uden  
 Stoked, Pumped, Lit Hypeman  
     Award: Teddy Duncker

### Sailing

Admiral Award: Jack Stamoulis  
 Captain in Irons Award: Carl Evans  
 Midshipman Award: AJ Gathright  
 Poseidon's Chosen Award:  
     Matthew Leonard  
 Scott T. Hilderbran Memorial Fund  
     Award: Felipe Esteve



### Soccer

Golden Boot Award: Will Bennett  
 Golden Boot Award:  
     Thomas Fanning  
 Most Improved Award: Steve Rosales  
 Most Improved Award: Zane Israel  
 Positive Attitude Award:  
     Graeme McNeish  
 World Cup Warrior Award:  
     Maxwell Liles

### Swimming

Beavershark Award: Edwin Salisbury  
 Just Keep Swimmin' Award:  
     Bagley Sgro  
 Just Keep Swimmin' Award:  
     Louis Ward  
 King of the Dock Award:  
     Christopher Hovet

### Tennis

Big Dog Award: Carleton Riser  
 Boom, Slam, Jam Award: Max Gluck  
 Camper/Counselor Champion:  
     Max Gallivan  
 Heart of the Court Award:  
     Austin Brotemarkle  
 Heart of the Court Award:  
     Edward Grinder  
 Striving for Greatness Award:  
     Worth Denison

### The HEAT

Best Pushup Award:  
     Thomas Fanning  
 Consistency Award: David Axon  
 Most Likely to Look Like Frank  
     Tindall Award: Charlie Friedrich  
 Mr. Fundamental Award: Jack Anders  
 Muscle Award: Sam Chambers  
 Resiliency Award: Campbell Miller

### Theater

Center Stage Award: Sam Pruett  
 Ghost Light Award: Duncan Wallace  
 Ghost Light Award:  
     Lachlan McFarland  
 Spirit of the Stage Award:  
     Rusty Kelley  
 Triple Threat Award: Ryan Murray  
 Triple Threat Award: Slater Nalley

### Ultimate Frisbee

Gunslinger Award:  
     Powell Cummings  
 Grit Award: Tom Combs  
 Most Improved Award:  
     Hudson Weintritt  
 One Armed Wonder Award:  
     Billy Piper  
 Pepper Award: Tripp Schoellkopf  
 Salt Award: Finn Graber

### Woodworking

Basically a Counselor Award:  
     Judd Collins  
 Breaker Award: Will Young  
 Skilled Craftsman Award:  
     Carson Streacker  
 Skilled Craftsman Award:  
     Owen Weber

### June Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

CHEROKEE TRIBE  
 Cabin 7  
 Montey Turner, Tom Feingold,  
 Aiden Moore, Browning Trainer,  
 Davis Jones, Henry Montgomery,  
 Hunt Houseman, Miles Fuller,  
 Patrick Donworth, Philip Coleman



#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Geronimo  
Cooper Flickinger, Eric Smith  
Connor Sullivan, Graham Dickerson,  
Jake Rhine, Jay Holly, Liam Green,  
Mac Mandell, Maxwell Liles, Rob Kay

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Black Elk  
Matt Zahm, Tristan Hall,  
Adrian Gonzalez, Aidan Stefanides,  
Charlie Briggs, Cole Pennington,  
Colin Carroll, Mason Stanley,  
Max Manna, Roy Richards

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Black Hawk  
Josiah Phelps, Sean Willis,  
Cole Thomas, Jack Morrow,  
Jacob Musselman, Everett Norton,  
Jim Kay, Maddox Israel, Patrick  
Scarborough, Philip Billings

#### CREEK TRIBE

Cabin Hideaway  
James Hendershott,  
Nathan “Stick” Stichter

#### Main Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

##### CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 6  
David Cruz-Cisneros,  
Thomas Williams

George Blessey, Heuer Erdle, Kian  
Casey, Manuel Junco Madrazo, Tal  
Turner, Van Turner, Walker Moore,  
Wills Ackermann

#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Comanche  
Duncan Jones, Josiah Phelps  
Austin Miller, Hudson Thomas,  
Javi Lopez, Samay Bafana,  
Soham Bafana, Walker Edens,  
Will Bennett, Will Hasley

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Black Elk  
Matt Zahm, Tristan Hall,  
Cameron Degen, Charlie Earl,  
David Jones, Frank Reuther,  
G Simmons, John Greeley,  
Lawton Jordan, Will Skipper

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Rolling Thunder  
William Walters  
Ben Harris, Burt Young, Cole Janney,  
Grant Pinkston, Harrison Little,  
Henry Osborne, Jack Gallivan,  
James McGregor, John Allen,  
Jon Kannapell, Sam Moss

#### CREEK TRIBE

Cabin Hideaway  
Brad Fay, James Hendershott,  
Nathan “Stick” Stichter, Sam Cole

#### 2-Week Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

##### CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 9  
Mac Smith, Austin Davis,  
Baker Humphrey, Benton Alexander,  
Cameron Noah, Cook Ferguson,  
Jimmy Hunt, Quinn Wooster,  
Wills Yelverton

#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Comanche  
Josiah Phelps, Ryan Stanitski,  
Ames Dabrowiak, Henry Sumner,  
Mac Lasiter, Phillips Blair,  
Rhett Whitworth, Thomas Cook,  
Thomas Simmons, Weston Cejudo

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

Cabin Tsali  
Eric Smith, Jose Rodriguez  
Banks Cutter, Beecher Aldredge,  
Bowman Yanicelli, Brooks Arnold,  
Corbett Parrino, Hill Porter, Sam  
Abney, Tison Shippey

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Mohawk  
Bralynn Jasper-Felder, Rob Hayes  
Andy Madden, Campbell Spence,  
Charles Hickok, Haywood Wall,  
Leo Drendel, Max Carson,  
Will Wright, Yancey Stribling

#### CREEK TRIBE

Cabin Ocoee  
Ally Croll, Samantha Hill,  
Savannah Paterson

#### Junior Camp Cleanest Cabin Awards

##### CHEROKEE TRIBE

Cabin 7  
Nick Valego, Kevin “Sketch” Turner,  
Braeden Dooley, Gray Peden,  
Hal Sharp, Hawkins Raybon,  
Mack Hughes, Reid Brotman,  
Whitt Goldsmith, Winn Smith

#### CATAWBA TRIBE

Cabin Cochise  
James Hendershott,  
Nathan “Stick” Stichter,  
George Bridger, Jack Robison,  
JJ Nastopoulos, Jude Moore,  
Mason Lazzara, Sam Morgan,  
Sam Wagner, William Bradley

#### Cabin Comanche

Josiah Phelps, Ryan Stanitski,  
Charlie Klein, Clay Petrey,  
Davis Perry, Jack Clancy,  
Liam Brabham, Quincy Wood,  
Taylor Wendell, William Maloney

#### TUSCARORA TRIBE

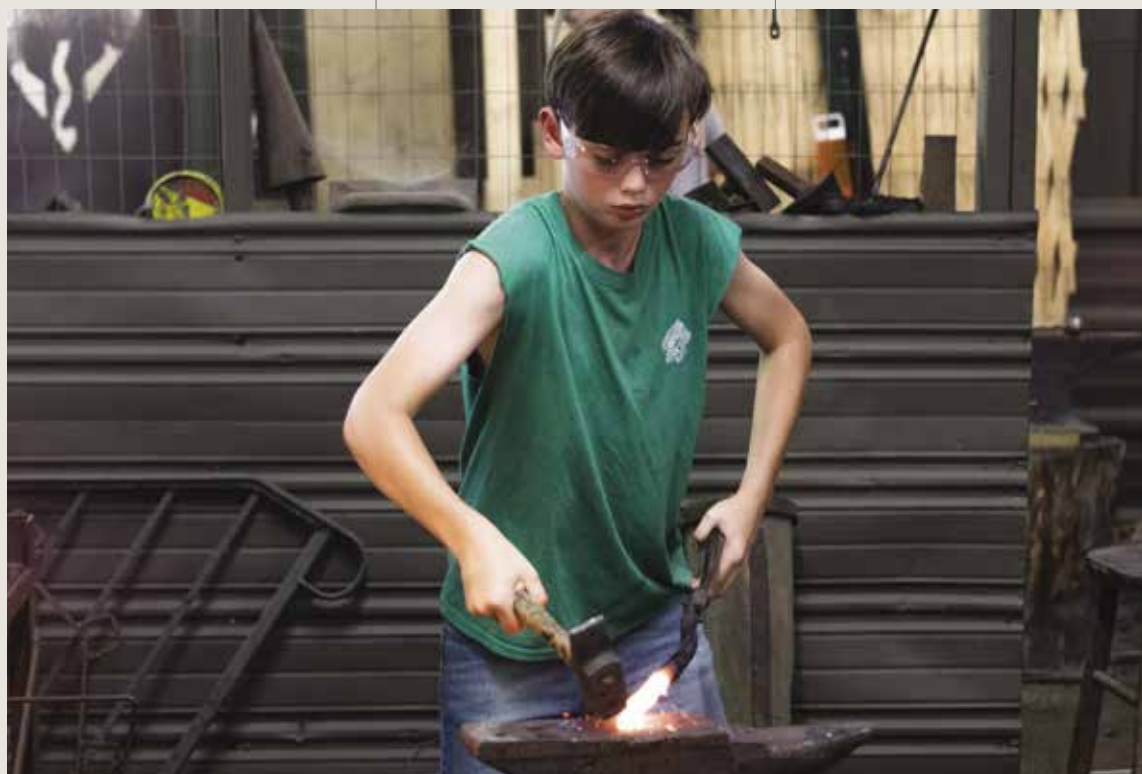
Cabin Watauga  
Kenny Letts, Owen Ladner,  
Alonso de Idiaquez, Charlie  
Liddiard, Jackson Kerr,  
Lucas Thomason, Pepper Bright,  
Robert Gilmer, Seamus Costello,  
Walt Faires

#### IROQUOIS TRIBE

Cabin Mohawk  
Bralynn Jasper-Felder, Rob Hayes,  
Charlie Copeland, Charlie Rini,  
Davis Eliasek, Gregory Hefner,  
Lincoln Davis, Lowen Pingnot,  
Ridley Williams, Roman Phillips

#### CREEK TRIBE

Cabin Ocoee  
Ally Croll, Samantha Hill,  
Savannah Paterson







## guts&glory

### Progressions- All Sessions

#### Archery Ranger

Berkley Woodard  
Eshaan Kothari  
Henry Peacock  
Jack Anders  
Soham Bafana

#### Archery Warrior

Greg Cherry

#### Arts & Crafts Ranger

Avery Kessler  
Christopher Talley  
Henry Bryan

#### Arts & Crafts Warrior

Avery Kessler  
Christopher Talley  
Henry Bryan  
Jon Coleman

#### Backpacking Warrior

Ben Kirbo

#### Basketball Ranger

Camden Cox  
Daniel Fanning  
Hampden Geer  
Jack Norman  
Joe Maybank  
Quinn Kelliher  
Riley Standish  
Robert Riser  
Rodgers McCullough  
Roscoe Heuer  
Will Axon  
William Tomlin

#### Basketball Warrior

Heath Seawright  
Robert Riser  
Sam Tepper  
William Walker  
William Zelnak

#### Blacksmithing Ranger

Benjamin Kampine  
George Hughes  
Grant Johnson  
Harper Kissell  
Harrison Wallace  
Henry O'Hagan  
Matt Chaffin  
Scott Busey  
Tommy Murray

#### Blacksmithing Warrior

Benjamin Kampine  
Caleb McDonough  
Charlie May  
Gabriel Jones  
Scott Busey  
Will Young

#### Climbing Wall Ranger

Gabriel Meyers  
Sam Frushone

#### Climbing Wall Warrior

Gabriel Meyers  
Sam Frushone

#### Cross Country Ranger

Austin Brotemarkle  
Harrison Wallace

#### Disc Golf Ranger

John Stanfill  
Quinn Carroll  
Sam Frushone  
Thomas Gosslee  
Wilder Breckenridge



#### Disc Golf Warrior

John Stanfill  
Will Skipper

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

James Frushone

#### Fishing Warrior

Wells White

#### Flag Football Ranger

Bennett Coker  
Carl Evans  
Charlie Edmonds  
Charlie Gory  
Connor Robertson  
Joseph Smith  
Kenton Gupton  
Patrick Maher  
Philip Cronje  
Robert Riser  
Roscoe Heuer  
Thomas Killeen  
Tucker Winham  
William Walker

#### Flag Football Warrior

Thomas Killeen

#### Fly Fishing Ranger

Jack West  
Wilder Breckenridge

#### Fly Fishing Warrior

Jack West

#### Horseback Riding Ranger

Charlie Earl  
Ford Berry  
Sam Neff

#### Horseback Riding Warrior

Jack Preston  
Sam Neff  
Scott Busey  
Wiley Kessler

#### Indian Lore Ranger

Davis Mosby









## guts&glory

### Lacrosse Ranger

Blake Rowland  
Jake Good  
Quinn Kelliher  
Raines Knight

### Lacrosse Warrior

Jack Hiller  
Jake Good  
Raines Knight

### Music Ranger

David Jones  
Ian Meredith  
Slater Nalley  
Thomas Earl

### Music Warrior

David Jones  
Ian Meredith  
Quentin Balestri  
Slater Nalley  
Thomas Earl  
Will Skipper

### Nature Ranger

Charlie Earl  
Lukey Sutherland  
Major Philips  
Miller Kunz  
William Ashcroft

### Nature Warrior

Will Skipper

### Paddling Ranger

Brooks Croone  
Cole Atherton  
Freddy Klein  
John Robert Wallace  
Lance Broad  
Marshall Sinkler  
Rhodes Feild

### Spivey Woodward

Tut Linen  
Ward Lilly  
West Burge  
William Newton

### Paddling Warrior

Bright Crosswell  
Tut Linen  
Ward Lilly

### Riflery Ranger

Russell Wyatt

### Riflery Warrior

Mace Hood

### Rock Climbing Ranger

Griffin Eubanks  
Jackson Skelly  
Jon Kannapell  
Mateo Massoni  
Rodrigo Esteve

### Rock Climbing Warrior

Jack Gowen  
Jon Kannapell

### Sailing Warrior

Mace Hood  
Parker Schneidau

### Soccer Ranger

Bennett Egge  
Joseph Smith  
Sam Alexander  
Thomas Fanning  
Will Bennett

### Soccer Warrior

Alfredo Lelo De Larrea  
Bennett Egge  
Jack Norman  
Johnny Russell  
Joseph Smith

### Tennis Ranger

Patrick Nagy

### Ultimate Ranger

Powell Cummings

### Ultimate Warrior

Patton Jaynes

### Woodworking Ranger

Charlie Brumback  
Miles Jernigan  
Thomas Robertson

### Woodworking Warrior

Owen Weber





## Staff Honors

### Green & Gold Award

William Walters

### 5th Year Staff

Carson Skidmore  
Chris Reed  
Dave Morgan  
Devin Horgan  
Eric Osterhus  
Frankie Fernandez  
Harry Titus  
Jack Barganier  
Jules Jeffries  
KD Lemons  
Nadia Razavi  
Shelley Groh  
Tania Battista  
William Walters

### 10th Year Staff

Brad Fay  
Gage Anderson  
Mike Burgdorf  
Owen Ladner

### 20th Year Staff

John Bates

### 25th Year Staff

Robert Kirby

### Activity Leaders

ARCHERY: Frankie Fernandez,  
Will Ehrhardt  
ARTS & CRAFTS: Josiah Phelps  
BACKPACKING: Matt Ambrose  
BASKETBALL: Rob Hayes  
BLACKSMITHING:  
Tommy Carroll, Cooper Flickinger  
CLIMBING WALL:  
Daniel Sinclair  
CROSS COUNTRY: Harry Orr  
DISC GOLF: Andy Killebrew,  
Logan Garrison  
F.A.R.M.: Carson Skidmore  
FISHING: Ian Parana  
FLAG FOOTBALL:  
Crocker Barker  
FLY FISHING: Fletch Himan  
HORSEBACK RIDING:  
Bailey Jones

INDIAN LORE: Tania Battista  
LACROSSE: Frankie Fernandez  
MOUNTAIN BIKING:  
James Hendershott  
MUSIC: Tania Battista  
NATURE: Carson Skidmore  
PADDLING: Jez, Phil Michel  
PHOTOGRAPHY: Sam Pham,  
Eric Smith  
POTTERY: Josiah Phelps,  
David Echeverria  
RIFLERY: Ryan Sheard, Sam Cole  
ROCK CLIMBING:  
Nathan "Stick" Stichter  
SAILING: Gresh Ganning  
SCRIBE: Annie Pharr  
SOCCER: Matt Thomas  
SWIMMING: Savannah Paterson  
TENNIS: Jackson Negus  
THE HEAT: Brock Peirce  
THEATER: Tania Battista

### ULTIMATE FRISBEE:

Tom Yoxsimer

WOODWORKING: Tom Yoxsimer,  
Niko Kannapell

### Adventure Trip Leaders

BACKPACKING: Matt Ambrose,  
Matthew Kornegay  
MOUNTAIN BIKING:  
James Hendershott,  
Merritt "Snapper" Thompson  
PADDLING: Jez, Phil Michel,  
Tanya Devereaux, Trent Jones,  
Will Clements  
ROCK CLIMBING:  
Martin Bigatti,  
Nathan "Stick" Stichter



greenandgoldaward

## William Walters

In August, William Walters was awarded the camp's prestigious Green & Gold honor. This award is given annually to the staff member who best exemplifies The Falling Creek Code — Positive Attitude, Warrior Spirit, Servant's Heart, Moral Compass — and who is known for carrying the Falling Creek spirit of unselfishness in his heart. William, who hails from Shelby, North Carolina, is currently teaching at Williams Academy in Crossnore, North Carolina, teaching 4th and 5th grade math and science. 2018 was his fifth summer on staff and he has served as a cross country instructor, fishing activity leader, Assistant Tribal Leader and Tribal Leader of the Cherokee and Tuscarora tribes, and the leader of the STEEL program. We at Falling Creek salute William as an exceptional role model and leader at Falling Creek. 🌟

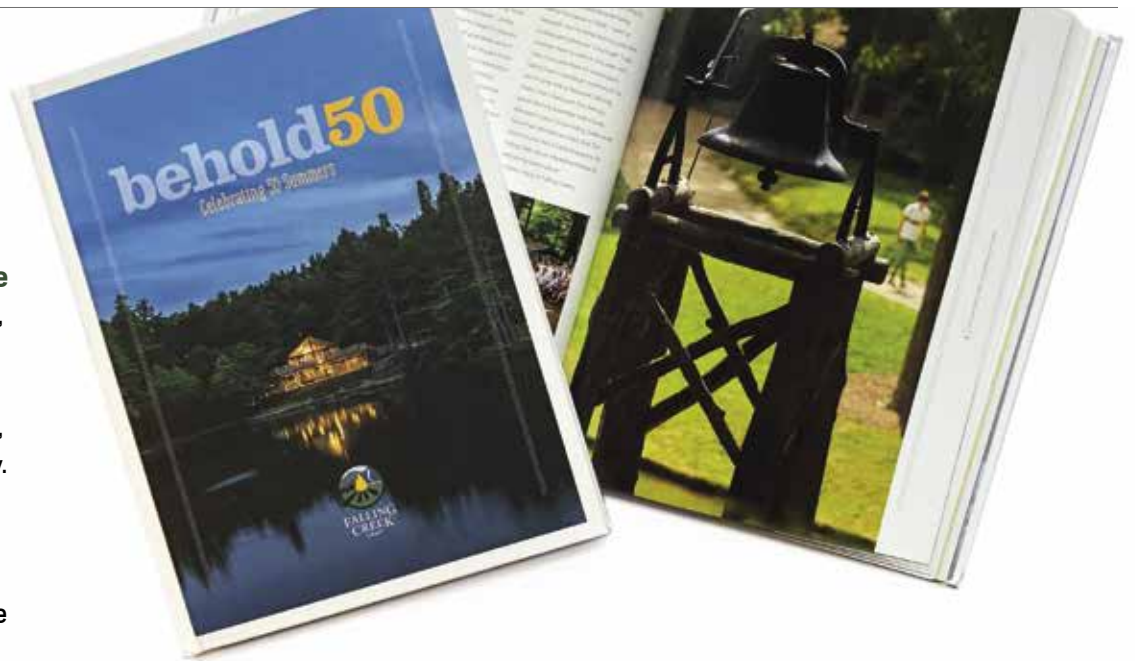




Thank you for your interest in this commemorative coffee table book! If you would like to purchase one, send your preferred shipping address along with a \$50 check to Falling Creek Camp, P.O. Box 98, Tuxedo, NC, 28784, and we will be sure to send one your way.

Also, please check out the 1 hour movie celebrating all five decades of camp. The link can found through the alumni section of the Falling Creek Camp website - [www.fallingcreek.com](http://www.fallingcreek.com). We suggest you plan to sit down and watch it on your TV for the full enjoyment.

Behold!



# Fifty Years of Unity

## IT'S IN THE BOOKS!



### DATES

May 17 – May 19, 2019  
May 24 – May 26, 2019  
Aug. 16 – Aug 18, 2019

# Father Son Weekend





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







## cabintime

juncamp



**Cabin 1:** Back: Payton McNeil, Grant Doller, Beckett Beatty, Leuven Foutch, Rocs Spafford. Front: Baker Smith, Beckett Spears, Alex Ostrom, Jack Bond, Robert May



**Cabin 2:** Back: Sam Cole, Richard Magruder, Urijah Miller, Gates Dixon, Thomas Bergeron. Front: Graham Stilwell, Tradd Fain, Ben Bronzert, Stephens Rabb, John White



**Cabin 3:** Back: Nick Valego, William Hood, John Harris, Finn Henderson, Dave Thomas. Front: Robert Ryan, Davis Minnehan, Beckham Botic, Boden Ostrom, Wells Dixon



**Cabin 4:** Back: Matt Thomas, John Cannon Wessel, Graham Gallivan, Miller Rhine, Reed Mattison. Front: Braxton Richardson, Patrick Combs, Bobby Briggs, Buddy Geary, Dempsey Seigler



**Cabin 5:** Back: Jack Barganier, Jack Lawton, Thomas Gosslee, Benjamin Finney, Kevin "Sketch" Turner. Front: Bo Vaughan, William Jones, Henry Neff, William Rachels, David Lilly



**Cabin 6:** Back: Thomas Williams, Sam McKay, Wyatt Melvin, Julian McCoy, David Cruz-Cisneros. Front: Jack Nelson, Noah Orme, Ledger Israel, Walker Beatty, Drew Bennett



**Cabin 7:** Back: Browning Trainer, Montey Turner, Philip Coleman, Hunt Houseman, Tom Feingold. Front: Henry Montgomery, Aiden Moore, Patrick Donworth, Davis Jones, Miles Fuller



**Cabin 8:** Back: Justin Phelps, Miles Stilwell, James Doyle, Will Wagner, Carson Skidmore. Front: Thomas Fanning, Ben Phillips, Matthew Spears, Edward Stinehour, Jack Gansman





**Cabin 9:** Back: Mac Smith, Rusty Kelley, Tate Barganier, Lachlan McFarland, Ian Parana. Front: Blaize Schuhmacher, Ellis Norwood, Edwin Wallis, Tripp Schoellkopf, Finn Graber



**Comanche:** Back: Vincent Waddell, Matthew Wier, David Dabney, Grayton Kennington, Duncan Jones. Front: Easton Selbee, Max Albright, Mason Dyer, Jason Wildey, Jack Drulard



**Blackfoot:** Back: Jon Le, Vincent Gory, Coleson Quesinberry, Albert Monk, Kevin Steiner. Front: Aiken Bond, Luke Sedgwick, Wyatt Davis, Charlie Edmonds, Will Haller



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Tommy Sutherland, Charlie Edgeworth, Jackson Negus, Phillip McElhaney, Hewes Lance. Front: Bryce Ward, Tom Combs, Bryan Knox, Henry Knox



**Geronimo:** Back: Eric Smith, Jay Holly, Graham Dickerson, Connor Sullivan, Cooper Flickinger. Front: Rob Kay, Maxwell Liles, Liam Green, Mac Mandell, Jake Rhine



**Satank:** Back: Charles "Clarke" Clarke, Josh Wright, Quinn Carroll, Harrison Finney, Mike Burgdorf. Front: Noah Joiner, Thompson Haddock, Camden Nalley, William McCollum, Scotty Poole



**Ishi:** Back: Nathan Cabral, Fletch Himan, Wills Hutchinson, Watts Humphrey. Front: Jim Rubin, Oliver Losinski, Boone Phelps, Harrison Keys, Patrick Dunn



**Keokuk:** Back: Logan Hope, Turner Ezelle, Ryan Sheard, Edwin Salisbury. Front: Graham Spears, JJ Hawley, Jack West, Marshall Smith, Freddy Somers



**Honeymoon:** Back: Tom Yoxsimer, Teddy Duncker, Bobby Suggs, Lorenzo Ribadeneira, Jay Clanton. Front: Win Ward, Teddy Chong, Carson Streacker, Hartt Daniel, Connor O'Day



**Gall:** Back: Tyler Cockrell, Banks Eaves, Julian Balestri, Jman Watson, Austin Lowery. Front: London Moshiri, Patrick Gosslee, Sawyer Kribbs, William Harrison, Lukas Marmorek



**Sequoyah:** Back: Matt Ambrose, Brandon Favrot, Mack Mahlendorf, Thompson White, Baylis Mitchell. Front: Douglas Johnson, Whit Uden, Daniel Fanning, Kemp Woodard, Steele Darnall



**Little Raven:** Back: Frankie Fernandez, Worth Denison, Graham Webb, Charlie McKay, Martin Bigatti. Front: James Maloy, Riley Sampson, Charlie Durham, Carter Fridge, Frank Reese Jr.





**Sitting Bull:** Back: Scott Hilderbran, Daviss Coble, Will Axon, Colin Moffett, Nathan Jobe. Front: Gray Hendricks, Wiley Kessler, Jonah Disch, Durham Blair, Patrick Minnehan



**Watauga:** Back: Kenny Letts, Owen Gibson, Jack Norman, Harper Reed, Owen Ladner. Front: Burke Cameron, Russell Beard, Joe Maybank, Raines Knight, Matias de Cardenas



**Junaluska:** Back: Oz Miller, Slater Nalley, Michael Doller, Richard Nichols, Crocker Barker. Front: Gus Faris, Davis Brown, Spicer Edmonds, Alex Greene, Sam Gallivan



**Tsali:** Back: Jose Rodriguez, Lukey Sutherland, Cole Rychak, Jonathan Dunham, Ryan Stanitski. Front: Garrett Spears, Hammond Fayssoux, Jack Valentino, Michael Sullivan, Nathaniel Rubin



**Standing Bear:** Back: Andy Killebrew, Henry Bryan, Hayden Breal, William MacLeod, Andrew Krusen. Front: Kevin Bronzert, Beau Brown, Stephen Fox, Louis Ward, Owen Silver



**Black Elk:** Back: Tristan Hall, Mason Stanley, Charlie Briggs, Colin Carroll, Matt Zahm. Front: Cole Pennington, Aidan Stefanides, Max Manna, Roy Richards, Adrian Gonzalez



**Washakie:** Back: Henry Nixon, Lex McDonald, Walker Smith, Elijah Butcher, Harry Orr. Front: Tyler Beam, Matthew Spengler, Reece Weber, Thomas Lawn, Freddy Klein



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Phil Michel, Andrew Horvick, Jack Stamoulis, Jack Bruce. Front: JP Lowe, Cam Harris, Michael McCarthy, Sam Neff, Pope Shuford



**Canoni:** Back: Matthew Jones, Stevens Moore, Noah Prior, Anders Holly, Bralynn Jasper-Felder. Front: Gabe Cullens, Cannon Ridinger, Jack Stivers, Ham Mandell, Will DeLoach



**Tecumseh:** Back: Parker Moon, Camden Cox, Dennis Farrell, Ryland Marley, Josh Gilpin. Front: Landon Lashley, Major Phillips, Howell Wright, Erik Soelberg, Russell Wyatt



**Deganawidah:** Back: Gus Crawley, Barrow Solomon, Quentin Balestri, Ward Peterson, Edd Brown. Front: Lewis Rand, William Darragh, Jack Sullivan, Charlie Brumback, Spencer Ritchie



**Red Cloud:** Back: Nic Fields, Parker McCollum, Mac Durham, Gavin Banks, Bradley Ragano. Front: Zane Israel, Jack Hiller, Avery Kessler, Parker Schneidau, Will Boys





**Osceola:** Back: Zac Buys, Henry Boehme, Riley Standish, Watson Adams, Niko Kannapell. Front: Turner Brooks, Nick Klein, Carl Evans, Sam Drody, Max Wolfe



**Mohawk:** Back: Rob Hayes, Jonas Carvalho, Patrick Maher, Sam Bromley. Front: Finn Cocke, Bennett Coker, Bud Gidiere, Charlie Gory, Christian Fridge



**Anasazi:** Back: Will Ehrhardt, JD Foster, David Axon, Harrison Wallace, Jake Lambrecht. Front: Wesley Forster, Henk Warrick, Thomas Bond, Griffin Eubanks, Sam Culp



**Black Hawk:** Back: Josiah Phelps, Patrick Scarborough, Everett Norton, Philip Billings, Sean Willis. Front: Jim Kay, Cole Thomas, Jacob Musselman, Jack Morrow, Maddox Israel



**Hiawatha:** Back: Merritt "Snapper" Thompson, Michael Mullen, Thomas Stamoulis, August Brown, David Allen. Front: Gunnar Davidson, Philip Cronje, Austin Brotemarkle, Wilder Breckenridge, Bennett Egge



**Abiding Rock:** Back: Logan Garrison, Brennan Lummus, Dair McFarland, Finn Young, Tommy Dixon. Front: Caden Shelley, Grant Johnson, Patton Jaynes, Charles Knox, Max Gallivan



**Rolling Thunder:** Back: William Fenstermacher, Wells White, Matt Chaffin, Gresh Ganninger. Front: Christopher Talley, Joseph Smith, Miller Chance, Thomas Killeen, Tommy Murray



**Cabin 1:** Back: Payton McNeil, Marshall Liggitt, George Thomas, Rocs Spafford. Front: Quinn Davenport, Nicholas Ashcroft, Bagley Sgro, Santi Junco Madrazo, Pach Esteve



**Cabin 2:** Back: Ryland Wheliss, Quinn Burge, William Miller, Kai Burge, Thomas Bergeron. Front: Tommy McLeod, Wood Watson, Manu Madrazo Muller, Peter Kissel, Duncan Wallace



**Cabin 3:** Back: Nick Valego, Lance Weimer, Sam Dewey, Beau Hurst, Jon Le. Front: Henry Edelmann, Gabriel Ruffer, Patton Vargas, Jim Lanier, Carleton Riser



**Cabin 4:** Back: Matt Thomas, Tyler Leidy, Tucker Piper, Zach Plyler, Reed Mattison. Front: Jake Deter, Grayson Andrews, Wallace Blum, Ransom Albertson, Gideon Koehring





**Cabin 5:** Back: Kevin "Sketch" Turner, Sam Evans, Huck Trottmann, William Marsh, Jack Barganier. Front: Charles Lichty, Gavin Weintritt, Judd Collins, Wade Polk, Graeme McNeish



**Cabin 6:** Back: Thomas Williams, Kian Casey, Walker Moore, Heuer Erdle, David Cruz-Cisneros. Front: George Blessey, Tal Turner, Van Turner, Manuel Junco Madrazo, Wills Ackermann



**Cabin 7:** Back: Montey Turner, Bobby Barrett, Cooper Burke, Henry Jones, Tom Feingold. Front: Sloan Dossin, Charlie Woodruff, Robert Proutt, Bellamy Falatko, Yates Bass



**Cabin 8:** Back: Carson Skidmore, Ocean Gorecki, Luke Baugher, Luke Meinhardt, Justin Phelps. Front: George Pipes, Mac Riser, Booker Melton, John H McCoy, Bobby Jackson



**Cabin 9:** Back: Ian Parana, Charlie Guy, Charlie Hurst, Henry Donohue, Mac Smith. Front: Chris Watters, Christopher Hovet, Ryan Murray, Jaden Levine, Harrison Fuller



**Comanche:** Back: Josiah Phelps, Austin Miller, Javi Lopez, Hudson Thomas, Duncan Jones. Front: Soham Bafana, Samay Bafana, Will Bennett, Walker Edens, Will Hasley



**Blackfoot:** Back: Edd Brown, Miles Jernigan, Henry Gatto, Grey Edens, Kevin Steiner. Front: Blake Rowland, Kaito Kanazawa, Taishi Liu, Ian Smith, Collier Lilly



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Sean Willis, Jack Preston, Xander Bearmon, Grayson Galli, Jackson Negus. Front: Jack Pilon, Henry O'Hagan, Jacob Bailey, Ryder Bond, Griff Cooper



**Geronimo:** Back: Zac Buys, Oliver Adams, David Marshall, Kenton Gupton, Cooper Flickinger. Front: Ford Berry, Will Latta, Ryan McNamara, Jack Clinton, Colin Breiter



**Satank:** Back: Mike Burgdorf, Benjamin Kampine, McGuire Boyd, Hyatt Hicks, Dave Thomas. Front: Charlie Friedrich, Eshaan Kothari, Walker Liggitt, Campbell Miller, Mason Harrell



**Ishi:** Back: Fletch Himan, Carter Siegel, James Frushone, Laith Weimer, Vincent Waddell. Front: Rodgers McCullough, Powell Cummings, Darby McMillan, Owen Weber, West Burge



**Keokuk:** Back: Nathan Jobe, Will Young, Benjamin Jones, JP Hasley, Ryan Sheard. Front: Jake Good, Wyatt Sandberg, Gray Hackney, Walker Mullins, Riley Geer





**Honeymoon:** Back: Tom Yoxsimer, Zell Godbold, Conor Casey, Hudson Weintritt, Jay Clanton. Front: Sam Hurst, Joseph Jardina, Thompson May, George Hughes, Ryan Keyes



**Yonaguska:** Back: Ryan Stanitski, Carter Leidy, Henry Ervin, Henry Peacock, Kenny Letts. Front: Quinn Kelliher, William Zelnak, Pablo Perez, Sam Pruett, Thomas Hines



**Gall:** Back: Austin Lowery, Thomas Earl, Billy Piper, Park Steinhour, Oz Miller. Front: Walker Lauth, Miller Vargas, Jack Anders, Will Brittain, MacLean Delehanty



**Sequoyah:** Back: Matt Ambrose, Prescott Schoderbek, James Lilly, Esteban Rosales, Baylis Mitchell. Front: Tyler Phillips, Jackson Skelly, Charlie May, Clayton Kunz, Henry Evans



**Little Raven:** Back: Frankie Fernandez, William Tomlin, Harry Spring, Hampton Templeton, Martin Bigatti. Front: Sam Oberlin, Roscoe Heuer, Heath Seawright, Tucker Winham, Gray Smith



**Sitting Bull:** Back: Scott Hilderbran, Berkley Woodard, Henry Smith, Jack Halverson, Charles "Clarke" Clarke. Front: Dasher Evans, David Conkle, Mac Barnette, Bernardo Vela, Avery Cameron



**Tsali:** Back: Jose Rodriguez, Reid Pemberton, Robert Sproule, Will Cameron, Eric Smith. Front: Rhodes Feild, Boss Oberlin, Rodrigo Esteve, Hideki Liu, Carter Adams



**Standing Bear:** Back: Andy Killebrew, Hunter Soukup, Will Riggs, Hill Jenkins, Andrew Krusen. Front: Spencer Greeley, Thomas Anders, Agustin Pareja, Edwin Ossont, Gabriel Meyers



**Black Elk:** Back: Tristan Hall, Cameron Degen, Will Skipper, Frank Reuther, Matt Zahm. Front: John Greeley, G Simmons, Lawton Jordan, Charlie Earl, David Jones



**Washakie:** Back: Henry Nixon, Will Thomas, Jackson Garlick, Sam Stevens, Harry Orr. Front: Sam Frushone, Grant Greeley, Charlie Gatto, Scott Busey, Connor Sandoval



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Phil Michel, Walter Miller, Ben Kirbo, Miller Kunz, Jack Bruce. Front: Max Gluck, Julian Dufour, Mace Hood, Jack Shelton, North Goodwin



**Canoni:** Back: Crocker Barker, Harper Kissell, Patrick Nagy, Jack Fry, Matt Jones. Front: Baker Wilkins, Michael Drendel, Coop Cowden, Will Watson, Kenny Moffet





**Tecumseh:** Back: Josh Gilpin, Sam Tepper, Christopher Perry, Noah Glasgow, Parker Moon. Front: Ward Lilly, Declan Doyle, James Singhal, Pete Curtis, William Ashcroft



**Deganawidah:** Back: Logan Garrison, Edward Grinder, Sam Evins, Marshall Sinkler, Gus Crawley. Front: Sam Alexander, Whit Tiller, Owen Kelly, Graden High, Paul Smith



**Red Cloud:** Back: Nic Fields, Zach Jackson, Jack Lipscomb, Ramsay Good, Bradley Ragano. Front: Bruce Lanier, Johnny Russell, Bennett Blanchard, Mateo Massoni, Alfredo Lelo de Larrea



**Osceola:** Back: Owen Ladner, John Ervin, John Stanfill, Bright Crosswell, Niko Kannapell. Front: Finn Blum, Ian Meredith, William Pearce, John Briggs, Caleb McDonough



**Mohawk:** Back: Rob Hayes, John Robert Wallace, James McIntyre, Whit Nuckolls, Sam Bromley. Front: Gabriel Jones, William Newton, Matthew Lorenz, Charlie Dalton, Jon Coleman



**Anasazi:** Back: Will Ehrhardt, Bo Phillips, Matthew Leonard, Whitman Flickinger, Jake Lambrecht. Front: Felipe Esteve, Sam Coleman, Thomas Robinson, Jack Gowen, Cole Atherton



**Black Hawk:** Back: Spivey Woodward, Brooks Croone, Tut Linen, Gresh Ganninger. Front: Hampden Geer, Carter Burds, Thomas Preston, Will Burke, Davis Mosby



**Abiding Rock "FLINT:"** Back: KD Lemons, Carson Oswald, Gaetan Rouaix, Jordan Bennett, AJ Gathright, Greg Cherry, Cooper Williamson, Tyler Cockrell. Front: Cami Anton-Estevez, Sam Chambers, Harrison Oswald, Coley Brown



**Rolling Thunder "Men of STEEL:"** Back: William Walters, Cole Janney, James McGregor, Jack Gallivan, Sam Moss, Grant Pinkston, Burt Young, Harrison Little. Front: John Allen, Jon Kannapell, Henry Osborne, Ben Harris



**Hiawatha:** Back: David Allen, William Walker, Ben Farmer, Bralynn Jasper-Felder, Cameron Summers, Lance Broad, Tommy Dixon. Middle: Robert Riser, Connor Robertson, Will Woodruff, Conor Clinton, Evan Wray. Front: Winston Smith, Zach Sunderland, JD Long, Miles Phillips, Luke Dodson



**Cabin 1:** Back: Payton McNeil, Murray Mathews, Charles Jackson, Gage Weber, Rocs Spafford. Front: Nolan Caughran, Graham Welden, Charlie Branch, Levi McGahey, Teddy Batten





**Cabin 2:** Back: Ryland Wheeliss, Guy Tate, Crawford Screws, Bowman Ritchey, Thomas Bergeron. Front: Cooper Gooch, Grady Gross, Trey Davis, Whaley Nichols, Whit Echols



**Cabin 3:** Back: Jon Le, Houston Hewett, Warren Hall, Hamilton Norman, Ian Parana. Front: Gus Fochtman, Charlie Good, Patrick Dugan, William Flournoy, Cole Pritchett



**Cabin 4:** Back: Matt Thomas, James Edge, Jack Peak, Lee Wetzler, Reed Mattison. Front: Stephen Parrott, Joe Kennett, Walker Graham, Charlie Tabb, Will Morrell



**Cabin 5:** Back: Sketch Turner, James Albright, Jackson Weber, Bear Flack, Jack Barganier. Front: Bo O'Connor, Ian Meacham, Rand Jones, Bennett Borders, Miles Stengle



**Cabin 6:** Back: Thomas Williams, Benjamin Podurgiel, Mercer Amling, Smith Ragsdale, David Cruz-Cisneros. Front: Walker Aiken, Candler Dunlap, James Crawford, James Axon, Ridgeway Britt



**Cabin 7:** Back: Tom Feingold, Ladd Bailey, Tate Parrish, Xander MacPhail, Nick Valego. Front: Cameron Morrison, Andrew Barquin, Reid Davis, MacEwen Morrison, Elliott Thompson



**Cabin 8:** Back: Carson Skidmore, Garland Lynn, Charles Morris, Parker Spence, Justin Phelps. Front: Jay Weaver, Thomas Sproull, Will Versaggi, Tripp Biosca, Stuart Coleman



**Cabin 9:** Back: Mac Smith, Baker Humphrey, Quinn Wooster, Austin Davis. Front: Benton Alexander, Cook Ferguson, Jimmy Hunt, Cameron Noah, Wills Yelverton



**Comanche:** Back: Josiah Phelps, Thomas Simmons, Phillips Blair, Ames Dabrowiak, Ryan Stanitski. Front: Weston Cejudo, Henry Sumner, Rhett Whitworth, Mac Lasiter, Thomas Cook



**Blackfoot:** Back: Montey Turner, Connor Brown, Edward Bates, Harrison Phillips, Vincent Waddell. Front: Adrien Domart, Edward Scurry, Drew Wetenhall, Bates McCluer, Patrick Funderburk



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Jackson Negus, Broughton Weekes, Paul McSwain, Eli Hudzik, Duncan Jones. Front: Wesley Putman, Ford Pruellage, Oliver Clary, Cooper Ransom, Cole Landers



**Geronimo:** Back: Cooper Flickinger. Middle: Stratton Werner, Taj Majors, Jack Anderton. Front: Benton Dowhower, Henderson Rentz, Kimble Pender, James Brown, David Lawton Barnes





**Satank:** Back: Dave Thomas, Henry Hurley, Grant Loeffler, Parker Bowers, Edd Brown. Front: Chap Montgomery, Hudson Temple, Jack Rollins, Ned Warren, Palmer Proctor



**Ishi:** Back: Fletch Himan, Bates Castellaw, Thomas Hansen, Zack Muench, Zac Buys. Front: Teagan O'Leary, Wade Monroe, Coleman Hooper, Wyatt Kaylor, Watkins McCullough



**Keokuk:** Back: Nathan Jobe, Wham Walker, Spence Perry, Hale Borden, Ryan Sheard. Front: Tucker Shumack, Carson Pleiman, Ward Welden, Henry Whited, Ryan Von Wyl



**Honeymoon:** Back: Tom Yoxsimer, William Weidner, Champman Johnson, Coleman Highsmith, Jay Clanton. Front: Ford Crawford, Griffin Allen, Park Holley, Hopkins David, Copeland Stukes



**Gall:** Back: Austin Lowery, Wilson Rutherford, Rylan Chaput, Chapman Hughes, Kevin Steiner. Front: Robert Smith, Caleb Crowder, Fenley Flack, Hudson Pratt, Parker Tumulty



**Sequoyah:** Back: Matt Ambrose, Baxter Parker, Spencer South, Hamilton Waters, Baylis Mitchell. Front: Colin Morrell, Julian Pollard, Coley Hucks, Colin Caughran, Harris Hatcher



**Little Raven:** Back: Frankie Fernandez, William Tabb, Judson Collie, Mac Burch, Martin Bigatti. Front: William Helmly, Rush Kirk, Boyd Farrell, Henry McGahey, Cooper Davis



**Sitting Bull:** Back: Scott Hilderbran, Will Gallagher, James Travers, Thomas Fuller, Sean Willis. Front: Lawton Broughman, Bennett Ward, Beau Beam, Nate Aaron, Trip Nellen



**Watauga:** Back: Owen Ladner, Carter Savage, Tyler Smilack, Locke Schoettelkotte, Kenny Letts. Front: Stockton Leffel, Robert Hunter, Jackson Shealy, Sam Wyland, Nolte Dukes



**Junaluska:** Back: Crocker Barker, Jackson Schmidt, George Stowe, Jack Lambertson, Tristan Hall. Front: Chappy Klick, John Hayden Scheland, Ridge Jenkinson, Riles Hucks, Alex Diffley



**Tsali:** Back: Jose Rodriguez, Corbett Parrino, Banks Cutter, Beecher Aldredge, Eric Smith. Front: Bowman Yanicelli, Sam Abney, Brooks Arnold, Tison Shippey, Hill Porter



**Standing Bear:** Back: Andy Killebrew, Duncan Jones, Henry Jackson, Dan Batten, Andrew Krusen. Front: Gunner Jones, Woods Gamble, Jack Rivera, Hosford Roberts, Jackson Fitzpatrick





**Black Elk:** Back: Josh Gilpin, Wells Gamble, Burnam DuBose, Grey Chamberlain, Charles "Clarke" Clarke. Front: Will Henry, John-Dixon Fenwick, Hunter Sabo, Martin Zachry, Cabell Townsend



**Washakie:** Back: Henry Nixon, Liam Wood, Braxton Hines, Ford Diffley, Harryo Orr. Front: Nick Pritchard, Jack Adams, Thomas Hunter, Kearney Sword, Sellers Lynn



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Jack Bruce, Phil Michel (not shown)  
Middle: Owen Timperman, Mac Copenhaver, John Houston Gettys. Front: Wesley Hair, Liam Kuntz, Lance Reid, Henry Echols, Wright Goldsmith



**Canoni:** Back: Matt Zahm. Middle: Ben Harker, Fin Brackett, Robert Douglass. Front: William Gillespie, Bruce Harper, Prescott Miller, Thomas Vickery, Everett Hair



**Tecumseh:** Back: Oliver Gooch, Hudson Copenhaver, Bowen Body, Parker Moon. Front: McDonagh Kuntz, Jake Hunter, Simon Ikenberg, Deacon Meier, Will Voellinger



**Deganawidah:** Back: Austin Birch, John Hardesty, Alex Faires, Henri Snoots, Sam Bromley. Front: Jack Blanks, Anc Clarkson, Edward Holder, Harrison Short, Ben Brittan



**Red Cloud:** Back: Nic Fields, Edison Pellumbi, Lee Balkcom, Miller Peterson, Bradley Ragano. Front: Noah Rollins, Davis Dominik, Jack Ferguson, Nate Woolwine, Henry Gardner



**Osceola:** Back: Niko Kannapell, Foster Stribling, Nolan Bishop, Morrison Burroughs, Gus Crawley. Front: Owen Landers, Winston Bates, Forrest Phipps, Jacob Kaylor, Isaac Kirby



**Mohawk:** Back: Rob Hayes, Will Wright, Haywood Wall, Max Carson, Bralynn Jasper-Felder. Front: Charles Hickok, Campbell Spence, Leo Drendel, Yancey Stribling, Andy Madden



**Anasazi:** Back: Will Ehrhardt, Grant Utsey, Tristan Von Uklanski, Aiden O'Neil, Jake Lambrecht. Front: Wade Singleton, Connor Pollak, Beauford Mathews, Charlie Hardwick, Paxton Coulbourn



**Black Hawk:** Back: Tommy Dixon. Middle: JB Clark, Lane Gallagher, Zane Johnson. Front: Mac Cobb, Sam Thompson, Devin Muench, Connor Evans, Henry Chiao



**Hiawatha:** Back: Tyler Cockrell, Will Putman, Ridge Tholen, Jack McCoy, David Allen. Front: Mac Holley, Hudson Tinch, Andrew Scheland, Collins Lee, Stewart Favero





**Abiding Rock:** Back: Wyatt Gorton, Phillip McClary, Carter Highsmith, Logan Garrison. Front: Lee Adamson, Will Kernan, Max Gross, Bryce Bell, Patteson Branch



**Rolling Thunder:** Back: Johnny Barquin, Andy Pleiman, Walker Ritchey, Gresh Ganninger. Front: Charlie Greiner, Walker Meacham, Edward Grimsley, Brigden Hayes, Holden Pharr



**Cabin 1:** Back: Payton McNeil, Frazier Woods, Duncan Mulloy, Cillian Crews, Rocs Spafford. Front: Erskine Bowles, Max Collie, Joseph Hancock, Gardner Kelly, Gray Wheeler



**Cabin 2:** Back: Matt Thomas, Wade Cooper, Benjamin Brady, Oliver Toms, Thomas Bergeron. Front: Lucas Busby, Andrew Liddiard, Collier Wright, Quinn Wilson, Tab Cannon



**Cabin 3:** Back: Jon Le, Ryan Lee, Hamilton Applegate, Harrison Lane, Ian Parana. Front: Jackson Williams, Bruce Biggs, Julien Parker, Hudson Cooper, Hank Young



**Cabin 4:** Back: Duncan Jones, Yorke Beaver, Fisher Leffel, James Worthen, Reed Mattison. Front: Brooks Castellaw, James Quesinberry, Jack Prince, George Barret, John Harmeling



**Cabin 5:** Back: Carson Skidmore, West Nalley, Ben Gleason, Whitlow Wyatt, Tom Feingold. Front: Matthew George, Henry Hickey, Ford Fuchs, Shain McCaig, Colton Clarke



**Cabin 6:** Back: Zach Rivera, Finnegan Glenn, Willy Aaron, Jack Hall, Josh Gilpin. Front: Charlie Flouhouse, Hank Meier, George Sumner, Luke Barber, Banks Johnston



**Cabin 7:** Back: Kevin "Sketch" Turner, Reid Brotman, Hawkins Raybon, Gray Peden, Nick Valego. Front: Winn Smith, Mack Hughes, Hal Sharp, Braeden Dooley, Whitt Goldsmith



**Cabin 8:** Back: Sam Cole, Miller Fender, Parker Brosseau, Landon Schaaf, Scott Hilderbran. Front: Henry Daniel, Philip Hess, Evan Ambrose, Jack Cardinale, Jack Klitsch



**Cochise:** Back: James Hendershott, Jack Robison, Mason Lazzara, Jude Moore, Nathan "Stick" Stichter. Front: George Bridger, William Bradley, JJ Nastopoulos, Sam Wagner, Sam Morgan





**Comanche:** Back: Josiah Phelps, William Maloney, Liam Brabham, Taylor Wendell, Ryan Stanitski. Front: Davis Perry, Quincy Wood, Jack Clancy, Clay Petrey, Charlie Klein



**Blackfoot:** Back: Montey Turner, Callum Bruner, McClain Knight, William Gerth, Vincent Waddell. Front: Neil Remmert, Smith Heilman, Cole Childers, Law Taylor, Dillon Seneker



**Crazy Horse:** Back: Andy Killebrew, Yates Harris, Spencer Holland, Hugh Hoskins, Jackson Negus. Front: Holden Kleinhelter, Burns Hamilton, William Whitty, Hudson Doyle, Reed Lesemann



**Geronimo:** Back: Cooper Flickinger, William Nikodem, Michael Roane, George Edwards, Eric Smith. Front: Owen West, Alex LaFrance, Ryder Kent, Locke Boor, Cash Ferguson



**Satank:** Back: Dave Thomas, Connor McElroy, Riggs Savage, Jack Nesmith, Zac Buys. Front: Maxime Auvray, Peter Mullen, Jack Sites, Phillip Savage, Raines Young



**Ishi:** Back: Fletch Himan, George Crutcher, Anders Northup, Paul Pannell, Edd Brown. Front: Henry Hancock, Wes Andrews, Jack Conrad, Graham Conrad, Parker Moss



**Keokuk:** Back: Ryan Sheard, Mitchell Blanks, Cooper Wade, Kline Cummings, Nathan Jobe. Front: Matthew Brandner, Austin Henderson, Henry Stevenson, Nolan Fore, Lowden Scarlett



**Honeymoon:** Back: Tom Yoxsimer, Cholly Williams, Carter Gannett, Sander Olinick, Jay Clanton. Front: Gibbes Allen, Emmet Lipfert, Grant Lawton, Thomas Hanna, Council Burroughs



**Gall:** Back: Austin Lowery, Charlie Gugliotta, Ike Thomason, Connor Lacy, Kevin Steiner. Front: Rhys Kreidler, Rhys Fraser, Rory Green, Luke Kirk, Colston Braddy



**Sequoyah:** Back: Henry Nixon, George Ware, Will Sanderson, Charlie Daniel, Baylis Mitchell. Front: Winn Chamberlain, Samuel Smyth, Oliver Humphrey-Lambeth, Wills Goldner, Charlie Fogarty



**Little Raven:** Back: Frankie Fernandez, Robert Comly, Gibbes Montgomery, Coleman Todd, Martin Bigatti. Front: Carter Cox, Connor Leddy, Jameson Saylor, Heath Boyd, Carter Freno



**Watauga:** Back: Kenny Letts, Lucas Thomason, Alonso de Idiaquez, Jackson Kerr, Owen Ladner. Front: Robert Gilmer, Walt Faires, Charlie Liddiard, Pepper Bright, Seamus Costello





**Junaluska:** Back: Crocker Barker, Nicholas Demetrops, Bryce Walger, Ford Dixon, Tristan Hall. Front: John Walker, Keller Pittinos, William Jones, Luke Wazorko, Reid Owen



**Rising Warrior:** Back: Phil Michel, Jack Pittman, Hutch Ritchie, Lewie Harris, Jack Bruce. Front: Thomas Barret, Taylor Glidewell, Richard Brekka, Hunter Durst, Wip Mulloy



**Canoni:** Back: Matt Zahm, Dixon Barre, Mason Porter, Joseph Busby, Andrew Krusen. Front: Jack Sweeney, Sam Yun, Gavin Rychak, Nalan Murthy, William Warnock



**Tecumseh:** Back: Parker Moon, Blue Vertin, Walton Plaster, Ford Daniels, Harry Orr. Front: William Martin, Andy Butler, Baylis Wang, McLean Robinson, Jamie Nikodem



**Deganawidah:** Back: Austin Birch, Chase Warrick, Ford Snellings, Jack Busby, Sam Bromley. Front: Mac Dyer, Carson Nicholas, Henry Alt, Evan Powderly, Charlie Graff



**Red Cloud:** Back: Nic Fields, Jack Thomas, James Thompson, Jude Remmert, Bradley Ragano. Front: Dalton Stursberg, Wyatt Childers, Britton Lewis, Nicholas Arado, Logan Leddy



**Osceola:** Back: Niko Kannapell, Charlie Zaks, Benton Klein, Teddy Vlak, Gus Crawley. Front: Noah Liptak, William Payne, Charlie Georgerian, Win Lucas, Will Hardart



**Mohawk:** Back: Rob Hayes, Lincoln Davis, Lowen Pingenot, Davis Eliasek, Bralynn Jasper-Felder. Front: Charlie Copeland, Roman Phillips, Gregory Hefner, Ridley Williams, Charlie Rini



**Anasazi:** Back: Jake Lambrecht, George Clements, Connor Gannett, Braden Miller, Will Ehrhardt. Front: Ray Ross, Jack Ambrose, William Claus, Oliver Auvray, Cortland French



**Black Hawk:** Back: Sean Willis, Peyton Bush, Liam Taylor, Porter Yount, Tommy Dixon. Front: James Murray, Merritt Wrighton, Mac Flinn, Harry Mitchell, Macon Core



**Hiawatha:** Back: David Allen, Dougie Hughes, Everett Tate, Thomas Cauthen, Tyler Cockrell. Front: Michael Rohm, Hunter Dawson, Liam Green, Gordon Sarratt, Trent Fuller



**Abiding Rock:** Back: Charles "Clarke" Clarke, Aidan Honeycutt, Gus Glenn, Tripp Winton, Hayes Etheridge, Logan Garrison. Front: John Henry Mims, Bo Nalley, Logan Bickley, James Pannell, William Sparks





**Rolling Thunder:** Back: Jose Rodriguez, Hill McCluney, Bennett Grau, Jack Jagger, Wyatt Hamner, Gresh Ganninger. Front: Charlie Claus, Charles Emel, Charlie Wethington, Payne Slacum, Donovan Brotman



**Honor Council:** Back: John Allen, Bo Phillips, Lance Broad, Ward Lilly, John Bates, Spencer Greeley, Sam Evins, Robert Riser, Grant Pinkston, JD Long, Johnny Russell, Cooper Williamson, Zach Jackson, Bruce Lanier, Whit Nuckolls, Whit Flickinger, Tom Yoxsimer, Will Ehrhardt, Kevin Steiner. Front: Carson Oswald, Grant Greeley, Julian Dufour, Henry Gatto, West Burge, George Pipes, John Greeley, Kaito Kanazawa, Harrison Little, and Harrison Oswald. Not pictured: Gresh Ganninger, Rocs Spafford, and Henry Nixon.



**Iron Man Competitors:** Back: Sam Alexander, Charlie Gatto, Harrison Oswald, Tucker Winham, Jackson Garlick, Robert Riser, Will Thomas, Winston Smith, Carson Oswald, Will Burke, Jordan Bennett, Lance Broad, Cooper Williamson, Will Watson, Ward Lilly, Graden High, Alfredo Lelo de Larrea, Patrick Nagy, Will Newton, William Walker, Johnny Russell, JR Wallace, Walter Miller, and Charlie Earl. Front: Xander Beamon, Will Hasley, Henry Gatto, Jake Goode, JP Hasley, Carleton Riser, Roscoe Heuer, Mac Riser, Gray Smith, Julian Dufour, Riley Geer, and Cameron Sumner. Not pictured: James Lilly, Collier Lilly, Pete Curtis, and Hampton Templeton.



## directorsandstaff



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



**Directors:** Back: Sam Clayton, Yates Pharr, John Bates, Ben Williams. Middle: Shelley Groh, Paige Hafner, Marisa Pharr, Nadia Razavi, Stephanie Mimbs. Front: Nathan Newquist, Frank Tindall, Peter Bishop, Dusty Davis, Kyle Jeffries



**Kitchen Staff:** Back: Roberto Rosero, Sarah Winter, Anjedri Brita, Crislane Lexine, Nicole Ravotti, Dani Picazo. Front: Joey Panzeca, Denisse Berrones, Steisy Mercedes, Miryan Mantilla, Manassaphorn Wongsawat, Raweerat Leenavongthiti



**Full Time Facility Managers:** Jerry Metcalf, Simon Wilson, Drew Boggan.



**Summer Part Time Facility Managers:** Top, left to right: Evans Collier, Brad Fay, Danny Gletner. Bottom, left to right: Julian Leidy, Charlie Pike, Jack Sprinkle





**Tribal Leaders:** William Walters, Brock Peirce, Sam Cole, Ashlea Rodman, Daniel Sinclair, David Echeverria

#### **Tribal Leaders:**

##### **All Sessions**

Catawba – Daniel Sinclair  
Tuscarora – David Echeverria  
Iroquois – Brock Peirce  
Creek – Ashlea Rodman

##### **June**

Cherokee – William Walters

##### **Main, 2-Week, and Junior**

Cherokee – Sam Cole



**Assistant Tribal Leaders:** Gresh Ganning, Nick Valego, Ally Croll, Jackson Negus, Scott Hilderbran

#### **Assistant Tribal Leaders**

##### **All Sessions**

Catawba – Jackson Negus  
Tuscarora – Scott Hilderbran  
Iroquois – Gresh Ganning  
Creek – Ally Croll

##### **June**

Cherokee – Sam Cole

##### **Main, 2-Week, and Junior**

Cherokee – Nick Valego



**Creek Tribe:** Back Row: Jules Jeffries, Tommy Carroll, Chris Jones, Bailey Jones. Front Row: Annie Pharr, Wally Wallace, Tania Battista. Not pictured: Mary Pharr, Claire O'Hara



**Cherokee Tribe:** Back Row: Ashlea Rodman, MaryGrace Larsen, Samantha Hill, Nathan "Stick" Stichter, Jez, James Hendershott. Middle Row: Timber Rabb, Ally Hibbitts, Tanya Devereaux, Jojo Notarius, Sam Pham. Front Row: Savannah Paterson, Sarah Doss, Dani Sanchez-Martinez, Gilly McKendree, Ally Croll



## Doctors 2018:

Tom Haddock, June Camp – Week 1  
 Steven Feingold, June Camp – Week 2 and 2-Week Camp – Week 1  
 Paul Nowicki, June Camp – Week 3  
 Peter Lichty, Main Camp – Week 1  
 Mark Earl, Main Camp – Week 2  
 Floyd Livingston, Main Camp – Week 3  
 Nicci & Chris Greeley, Main Camp – Week 4  
 Tom & Liz Holley, 2-Week Camp – Week 2  
 Bob Majors, Junior Camp

**medicalstaff**  
**doctors**



Tom Haddock



Steven Feingold and family



Paul Nowicki



Peter Lichty



Mark Earl



Floyd Livingston



Nicci & Chris Greeley



Tom & Liz Holley



Bob Majors

**medicalstaff**  
**nurses**



Margaret Anderson



Beth Barber



Liz Barfield





Susan Bowers



Heather Campbell



Natalie Clements



Leslie Donovan



Kristin Durnin



Katie Eckel



Mimi Harris



Erin Hiller



Sarah Holden



Mary Lobianco



Lisa Losinski



Gina Mallay



David Morgan



Brittany Nelson



Chuck Niemeyer



Marty Post



Rosie Post



Chris Reed



Andrew Smith



Ashley Staley





**campscholarships**

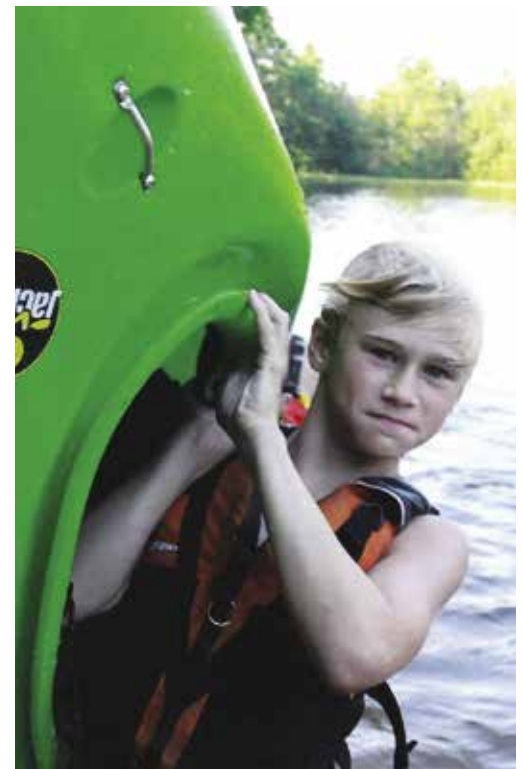
# GIVE BACK *by* PAYING *it* FORWARD

Last summer, two boys attended June Camp at Falling Creek thanks to generous donations of friends who gave to one of our two scholarship programs. If it weren't for those gifts, those boys wouldn't have gotten to experience camp.

The question Yates and Marisa are asked often is, 'How can I help in any way with camp?' The little-known answer is, 'Give to our two scholarship programs or to our service fund!' Your tax-deductible gift can lead to a life-changing experience for a boy.



Sam Bromley, Savannah, GA, counselor, 2018



Sam Bromley, camper in 2010



The scholarship mentioned previously is our **Western North Carolina Counties Campership**, which enables boys from several western North Carolina counties to attend Falling Creek who otherwise would be unable to do so. With a current fund balance of \$169,414, it was established in 1992 by Director Emeritus Chuck McGrady's family, through the Community Foundation of Henderson County.

To give, write "Falling Creek Campership" on the memo line of your check and make it payable to: Community Foundation of Henderson County, PO Box 1108, Hendersonville, NC 28793.

Thanks to the following for their heartfelt contributions: Haynes Chidsey,\* Clara Wood,\* Meade Whitaker, James Miller, Carol Lewis.

\* Contributed annually for more than 20 years.

Our second scholarship is the **American Camp Association Campership**, designed to enable boys from across the country to attend Falling Creek who otherwise can't afford it. This fund, which has a much lower balance of \$13,403, was established in 2015. Because it's new, this scholarship is still unknown and could use the attention of some generous donors.

To give, write "Falling Creek Camp" on the memo line of your check and make it payable to: American Camp Association, 5000 State Road 67 North, Martinsville, Indiana 46151.

Thanks to the following for their generous donations: Donald Adrian and Sara Vance Oliver, Carol Lewis, Paul Leonard, Suzanne Murphy, David Brown, Wanda Hopkins, Kitty Neff, Jill Jimmyer, Ben Szurek, Ray and Heather Balestri, Chris Daniel. 🕯



To give to these scholarships online, please use this link: [www.fallingcreek.com/about-us/giving](http://www.fallingcreek.com/about-us/giving)

During Falling Creek's 50th Anniversary Reunion Weekend (Sept. 7-9, 2018), the following people contributed \$12,188 to our American Camp Association campership. Thanks to these fine folks, many of whom pledged to give annually: Kurt Altvater, Charlie Anderson, Talbot Carter, Scott Cathcart, Peter Field, Harrison Finney, Paul Leonard, Brooks Lumpkin, Charles Hill Morris, Jr., Andrew Stoll, Jay Whatley.



# It Only TAKES A SPARK!

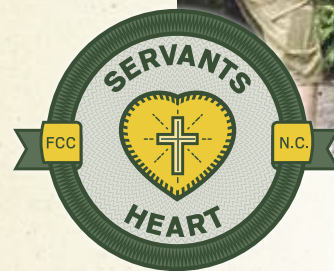
Our service fund, **It Only Takes A Spark**, is a grant program that provides Falling Creek staff members who demonstrate a "Servant's Heart," with the resources they need to positively impact someone in their respective community. In the past, the funds—raised from donors—have gone to help former Falling Creek staff members:

- start a ministry to help fathers and daughters develop strong relationships based on hunting and Christian principles
- provide much-needed school supplies to hundreds of impoverished children in rural South Carolina
- help underprivileged families in Honduras to receive basic health care, construct homes, and strengthen their Christian faith.

The 'It Only Takes A Spark' selection committee awards funding from \$250 – \$1,000 per project for work around the world. The fund has a current balance of \$39,952.

To give, write "Falling Creek Camp – It Only Takes a Spark" on the memo line of your check and make it payable to: Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, 4 Vanderbilt Park Drive, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28803.

Thanks to the following for their kind gifts: Yates and Marisa Pharr, Frank and Elizabeth Tindall, Prescott Miller, Janie Mary, and Wayne Vinzant. 🙌



To give to 'It Only Takes A Spark' online, please use this link:  
[www.fallingcreek.com/about-us/giving](http://www.fallingcreek.com/about-us/giving)







# SAVE THE DATE



## Traditional Sessions

SESSION	GRADES	DATES
June Camp	1-9	Sun, Jun 2 to Fri, Jun 21, 2019 (20 Days)
Main Camp	2-10	Sun, Jun 23 to Fri, July 19, 2019 (27 Days)
STEEL (CIT)	11	Sun, Jun 23 to Fri, July 19, 2019 (27 Days)
2-Week Camp	1-5	Sun, July 21 to Fri, Aug 2, 2019 (13 Days)
Junior Camp	1-4	Sun, Aug 4 to Fri, Aug 9, 2019 (6 Days)

## Father/Son Weekends

SESSION	GRADES	DATES
May Father/Son Weekend	K+	Fri, May 17 – Sun, May 19, 2019
May Father/Son Weekend II	K+	Fri, May 24 – Sun, May 26, 2019
August Father/Son Weekend	K+	Fri, Aug. 16 – Sun, Aug 18, 2019



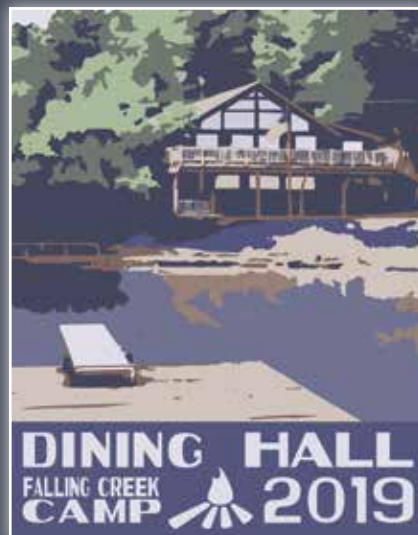
# 2018 Fall Camp Movies and Reunion Tour

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 Reunion and Movie Tour — and invite your interested friends.

Yates will share the camp movie, and each boy will receive a 2019 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 Asheville show or watch the recording on your own time.

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



DATE	LOCATION	TIME	HOST FAMILY
Sunday, September 30	Atlanta, GA	6:30pm	Daniel Family
Monday, October 1	Birmingham, AL	6:30pm	Mandell Family
Tuesday, October 2	New Orleans, LA	6:30pm	Pipes Family
Wednesday, October 3	Greenville, SC	6:30pm	Weekes Family
Monday, October 15	Raleigh, NC	6:30pm	Funderburk Family
Tuesday, October 16	Alexandria, VA	6:30pm	Woodruff Family
Wednesday, October 17	Richmond, VA	6:30pm	Hurst Family
Monday, October 22	Charlotte, NC	6:30pm	Ridinger Family
Tuesday, October 23	Jacksonville, FL	6:30pm	Rachels Family
Wednesday, October 24	Orlando, FL	6:30pm	Lawton Family
Thursday, October 25	Charleston, SC	6:30pm	Molten/McCullough Family
Monday, October 29	Nashville, TN	6:30pm	Coble/Uden Family
Tuesday, October 30	Lexington, KY	6:30pm	Donworth Family
Monday, November 5	Houston, TX	6:30pm	Riser Family
Tuesday, November 6	Dallas, TX	6:30pm	Minnehan Family
Wednesday, November 7	Bronxville, NY	6:30pm	Liggitt Family
Wednesday, November 14	Asheville, NC	6:30pm	West Family







a call to quarters



## Learning to Trust

By Allen Kannapell



### TAPS

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

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

I had come to Falling Creek Camp for the first time at age 14, a lonely transplant to Texas, missing life back north.

Our family's move south had made me feel as if life itself had broken trust with me. The small school we were used to was replaced by an industrial-sized kid clone factory. Our close-knit church community was sorely missed. My friends had been replaced with strangers.

My roots needed to be re-planted somewhere and Falling Creek came into my life at a critical time. Climbing and canoeing were perfect ways to begin the replanting process. In these disciplines, my life was in another person's hands and theirs in mine. Lean the wrong way above a rapid and there were consequences — out of the boat, out of safety, banging over rocks, saturated with embarrassment. Trust what your counselors told you, lean downstream, and let the swift water bring your boat around for the beautiful

ride through the waves. The consequences were minor at first, but grew with each river and level of leadership.

Becoming a counselor in training (CIT) — the iron age equivalent to a Man of Steel — required me to trust others in new and life-changing ways: grabbing another's hand to clamber over wet rocks under pounding water behind Looking Glass Falls; doing a SOLO for two nights on a ridge knowing that if the lightning struck too close, Garrett would rescue me.

It was the relational trust that meant even more than the physical. At a CIT campfire we were asked to share two of our strengths and one weakness with our brothers. I remember my heart pounding harder than it would above Frank Bell's rapid. Would I lean into telling the truth about myself and trust that these young men had my back, just like a safety boater would? I bared my wounded heart and was rewarded by wisdom, encouragement, understanding, and friendship.

Trust, after love, is the most important currency in the world. With it, relationships flourish, wealth increases, and so does our power to do important things. Broken trust has consequences; trust kept does also.

I am so happy to be part of the legacy of trust at Falling Creek. I am proud of the way it has become a community of trust across decades and generations.

This summer, I am trusting my two sons to camp, not simply as campers, but as leaders — Niko as a first-timer and counselor; Jon as a fourth year returnee and now a Man of Steel. I trust Falling Creek will call them into authentic manhood, which in large measure means calling them to become men who can be trusted with the formation and futures of other young men. 🔥









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