



# ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

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## STRUCTURE

God has created humans to function the best with a certain amount of structure. God himself is a God of order. I Corinthians 14:33a says, "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace." A little later in the same chapter, verse 40 says, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

God also exemplifies extreme order in the way He created the earth and the universe. The planets orbit the sun in very stable and predictable patterns. Eclipses can be predicted very accurately years in advance. Even in the middle of a long cold winter we all have a firm belief that spring will come again. Unfortunately, humans living in a sin-cursed world tend to live lives that are very busy and not nearly as organized as our Creator or even His creation around us.

In a group at camp, we work very hard to establish a structured routine in which everyone knows what is coming next and what is expected of each member of the group. Many of the boys at camp have had a hard time being organized with their belongings or in the way that they try to accomplish a given task. Often that lack of organization ultimately leads to failure which directly affects a boy's sense of self-worth. When a boy comes to camp much of his effort during the first two months is often spent on establishing the ABC's of camp, which simply are: A. A clean camper, B. A clean campsite, and C. A clean tent.

For example, mornings at camp are very structured. The whole group gets up at the same time. Next they make their beds and sweep their tent floor. Then, it's time for a short group devotional. Here they talk about what they have planned for the rest of the day. The whole day goes in a similar fashion and the group always knows what's coming up next. This structure lends itself to a sense of security. A group that feels secure can solve problems very well as opposed to an insecure group. As we help boys learn to be neat and organized with the physical things in life we are also, by the grace of God, establishing a sense of peace and rest in the emotional and spiritual parts of a boy also.

The structure at camp provides a great opportunity to teach the concept of right and wrong. As each boy learns to live life in an organized way he also learns that there is a right and wrong way to do any given task. Ultimately the result we seek through the structured lifestyle at camp is to bring each boy into a personal relationship with the Author of order.

Chief Leighton Martin, Supervisor





# Nature Corner - Birds

Here at Camp we've made preparations for some incoming flights that we anticipate each spring. Over the past few years, Chief Andrew Barnhart has helped us establish a housing plan for the smaller arrivals and Chief Kendon Garman constructed two grand homes for larger ones. We have a gadget slightly larger than your cell phone to familiarize ourselves with the voices of the individuals and a pair of binoculars handy. We have books to identify them and a chart on the Chuckwagon wall to record our sightings. We're ready for birds.

With Chief Andrew's housing project which he calls a Bluebird trail, we've hosted a number of Bluebird families as well as the Chickadee, Tree Swallow, and Great Crested Flycatcher. In our bird book, we read that the Great Crested Flycatcher uses shed snakeskin as part of the lining in its nest. And snakeskin there was, woven into a beautiful nest that held 4 spotted eggs.

Each spring we've seen wood ducks on our ponds. We'd love if a pair of them would settle to raise a family in one of Chief Kendon's duck houses that he built especially for them.

That little gadget. It's called an Identiflyer. You insert one of many cards which holds 10 species of birds and push a button beside each bird for a brief recording of his song. It's very helpful for learning to recognize the voices of birds and frogs.

Our optics? Nikon Prostaff 8x42's. They're a pleasure to look through.

This spring we've committed to looking up each kind of bird that we see and sharing an interesting trait about them before we record them on our chart. So far we have a fast growing list of about 30 birds including a clay pigeon that our Pioneer group found "stone dead" in a nearby field. (It's one we didn't find in our field guide.)

Recently I was fortunate to watch a Cooper's Hawk with what appeared to be a Flicker that he had pinned to the ground and was methodically pecking to death. For more than 5 minutes the smaller bird frantically screeched and struggled to free itself. With each new burst, the hawk braced his wings on the ground and secured his grip on the prey's throat. Satisfied that he had things under control the hawk gazed about with cold indifference before resuming his meal preparation. "Brutal," I thought to myself.

As I write, our Woodsmen group is out on a canoe trip. Canoe trips offer many sightings of birds not usually found on our camp property. We expect them to return with a list including ospreys, herons, ducks, and shorebirds. Before these are written on our chart we expect to learn something about each of them.

Happy birding.

Chief Albert Stoltzfus, Program Director







## Did you know?

- Robins often winter in northern states. They simply gather in evergreens where they are not usually noticed.
- Cardinals' plumage can vary from orange to deep red depending on the color of their diet.
- Pileated Woodpeckers generally nest in a different cavity each year, leaving a home behind for some other forest creature.
- The Cooper's Hawk feeds on smaller birds which it chases relentlessly through the woods.

## Camp Kindling

... small pieces of camp news and needs

-  We say farewell to Nate Shrock at the end of this month. We are grateful for the two years he spent investing in the lives of the boys in the Woodsmen group.
-  Welcome to Peter Strickler from Mountville, PA. He arrived at the beginning of April and will be serving as a chief in the Woodsmen group.
-  A big thank you to the work groups who came and planted trees. Students from Lebanon Valley and Pleasant Valley Schools took time off of their studies and planted 4,500 trees. Lock Haven Mennonite and Blue Ball Mennonite Youth spent a day planting trees also and planted another 4,500. Thanks to all of you for giving of your time.
-  The board has approved plans to build a house for chiefs. We plan to begin construction in May. Please contact camp if you would like to help in anyway. Look for details and updates in future newsletters.