



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

inspiring change through relationship

October 2017

Practice Makes Perfect... OR AT LEAST PROGRESS



Cross gender relationships in a family are extremely important. In God's design for a family, children experience relationships with a dad and mom, man and woman. Obviously, when families are broken in some way, some gender and cross gender relationships are affected.

There is something special and important the relationship between a boy and his mom. Most times a boy learns character qualities from his mom like empathy, appreciation of beauty, patience with younger children, social manners, how to express emotion, and the list could go on. Even though men can teach boys these same kinds of skills, the way a woman teaches them adds a dimension that, in God's design, is complete.

A boy's mom is usually the first woman with whom he can experiment and practice the art of how to treat a lady (and potentially someday his wife) with respect. It is a rare boy who gets this right and so it really does take practice to learn how to respect a lady. Having been a boy myself, I know how hard it is to think about things that are important to moms and ladies in general. It is moms who teach us to consume food like a human instead of a pig. Moms

teach us to wipe our feet instead of "tracking up the house." Moms teach us to dress for the occasion instead of always dressing comfortably. Moms teach us to manage body functions like a civilized person instead of a caveman. Moms teach us to talk in a way that is understandable instead of bellowing like a bull. And moms teach us how to express the tender emotions instead of just the powerful ones.

For a young man to be prepared for a lifetime of healthy relationships, I believe he needs a mom or a surrogate for the role. Healthy family relationships encompass physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions.

Here at Allegany Boys Camp, our recent Mother - Son banquet created an opportunity for our boys to "practice" relating to mom. It was exciting to see boys initiating conversation that focused on moms needs instead of himself. Looking mom in the eyes when talking to her and many other relational interactions demonstrated that we are making progress. And believe me, the boys' moms loved it!

Thank you for your interest in camp and in the lives of boys and staff as we "practice" how to be men that please God.

Camping with Jesus,
Brian Martin, Director



ADVENTURE LEARNING - KNOT TYING

Let's suppose a carpenter showed up at your house with his tool belt and one tool, say a hammer. He uses the claws to loosen screws. He uses the length of it to take measurements. Making cuts is a disaster, but he sure can drive nails. This guy needs a broader selection of tools, doesn't he?

Too often we are limited like this in the world of knots. We learn one basic knot, the overhand knot, and use it in every situation regardless of its effectiveness.

There are a couple challenges we must face to overcome that problem. First, we have to pay close enough attention to see exactly how that knot is tied. Subtle changes make all the difference.

I remember my co-chief stretching a rope between two trees and with a few simple looking maneuvers he had it taunt enough to twang.

"How did you do that?" I asked, knowing that there are a hundred other ways you could try the same thing without the impressive results.

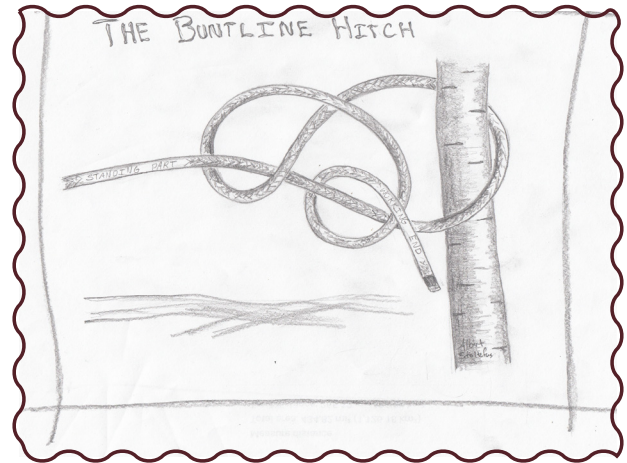
"Oh, that's just an old farmers trick" he replied nonchalantly.

I made a mistake that evening. I accepted his answer and lived with my question. Every now and then over the next few years I needed that trick and all I had was my question, "How did he do that?"

Then one day I had my chance, I saw another man do the same thing, and this time I persisted until I had it.

When learning to tie you should know which part of your rope you're looking at. It is helpful to recognize that the part of your rope coming from the far end is called the standing part and the end your working with—that's it, it's the working end. Sounds basic, but otherwise it's just crisscrossing rope.

Another challenge is remembering how to tie that knot under varying circumstances. You can easily be thrown off if you're accustomed to working from left to right and the task requires you to switch. Or if you usually start with an overhand loop and this time you need to



start with an underhand loop... Now what? Practice. It's memory work.





Many of the boys at Allegany Boys Camp have become students of knot tying this summer. It's quite handy to know some simple hitches when it's time to secure your gear in the canoe or hang a clothesline. Fishing begs you to know a few knots and bends. When it's time to stretch a rain tarp, a slide-and-grip knot which can be shifted to suit you but seizes when loaded, is just the ticket.

Do yourself a favor sometime. Find a knot tying guide and learn two quick reliable hitches. Learn two bends, one for ropes of the same thickness and one to join a thin rope to a thick one. Learn the difference between a square knot and a granny knot, between a bight and a loop. If you want more fun, find a slip-and-grip knot like the midshipman's hitch. Get a 4' piece of rope and practice. You'll thank yourself sometime. If at no other time, perhaps when it's time to untie them.

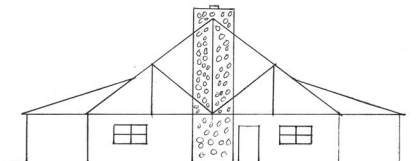
Albert Stoltzfus, Program Director

Camp Kindling ... small pieces of camp news and needs



-  Hannah Stoltzfus was here for 2 months to help out in the kitchen. We appreciate her cheerful service and the many meals she cooked.
-  Welcome to Jeff Mowen. He has returned to camp and will be serving as groupwork supervisor.
-  We said goodbye to Leighton, Amber, and Harper Martin this month. Leighton came to camp to help start the Mountaineer group and then stayed on as a groupwork supervisor. We wish them God's blessing as they move from here.
-  Matt Stoltzfus is returning home after serving as chief in the Pioneer group for the last two years.

CHUCKWAGON EXPANSION PROJECT



Allegany Boys Camp has the opportunity to receive a matching fund from two generous donors. Each dollar that Allegany Boys Camp receives towards the matching fund will be matched by these donors. They will contribute up to \$60,000, making a total of \$120,000.

Please consider donating between now and the end of 2017 towards this project. Our plan is to use these funds to expand our chuckwagon facility. Please mark your check "Chuckwagon Expansion Project".

Thank you and God bless you for considering this project.