



# ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

*inspiring change through relationship*

April, 2019

## Camp Testimonies

*In the next few newsletters, we will feature testimonies and experiences from former campers and their parents. This month Tristan and his dad share how camp impacted their lives.*

## My Camp Experience

On May 6, 2015, my parents dropped me off at Allegany Boys Camp. When I first got there, I was expecting a lot of fun and games, but I didn't know how much camp would change my life for the good. The people of camp are very friendly. Through the months, I began to realize how hard camp can be. Camp has a lot of ups and downs, but if we'd pull together as a group, we can accomplish tons. Camp is a lot of fun most times, but nothing is better than being able to help your friends through tough times and come out stronger than ever. I was at camp for 18 months and those months changed me a lot. I graduated from camp on November 20, 2016. Looking back on camp there is a lot camp has taught me. Camp helped make home life much better. Camp also makes you appreciate your family tons more than before. Camp also taught



"It also helps you push yourself towards new goals in life and to stand strong even when life gets tough."

me a lot about being a hard worker and to persevere. It also helps you push yourself towards new goals in life and to stand strong even when life gets tough. I'm thankful for the time and energy the camp staff put in to help me be the man I should be.

Tristan  
Former Woodsmen camper



## Looking Back, Moving Forward!

Reflecting back on our son's time at camp stirs a lot of good memories! Camp gives parents who are in a confrontational relationship with their son time to catch their breath. Then on home visits you can be intentional about improving the relationship with your son instead of simply reacting to each other. Since our son graduated from camp, we have had countless opportunities to draw on the structure that camp instills in both parents and sons. Camp is like anything else in life, the more you put into it the more you get out of it. After your son graduates, the challenge as a parent is holding on to the structure of camp, without the accountability that camp provided. The biggest benefit I see today is that we can sit down and talk with our son. Our son is a normal teen with the same challenges other teens have. But camp gave him the ability to cope with life better. As parents, we still catch glimpses of the positive influence of camp in something he says or in his actions. He has had several opportunities to visit camp since graduation, and he still enjoys those visits! To anyone considering camp for their son, the reward is well worth the sacrifice.

"Camp gave him the ability to cope with life better."

Tristan's dad, Kenton



# ADVENTURE LEARNING - *New Beginnings*



Around since the beginning of time, the process of building, depending on one's perspective, is not only a hope for a better future, but also a bane for the present. God, in creating the universe, seems to be the only builder who could do his work without an inconvenience and a royal mess! Yet, construction as a whole is a signal of a new beginning.

The ways of building throughout the ages has varied greatly among civilizations. Some nomadic peoples utilized huts and tents while settled groups, such as the Egyptians, built pyramids, an accomplishment 21st century engineers find hard to comprehend. The timber frame mortise and tenon style has been in use since the Middle Ages, with some buildings from that era still standing in Europe. Since America was settled by Europeans, that was the predominant way of building here in the United States until about the middle of the 19th century when the current style of stud wall framing was first used and then popularized.

For a few years Camp had looked forward to the restructuring of the most popular building around these parts, namely Chuckwagon, otherwise known for tasty food and great comradeship! Since Campsites are built with a rough version of timber framing, it seemed only natural for Chuckwagon to be constructed in that ancient way, especially since there was a ready supply of oak trees on the property and a seemingly unending amount of eager volunteers available.

As one familiar with the modern techniques of construction, using manufactured and farmed, fast-growing material from across North America, it was humbling to work with timbers that represented a local tree's growth from a seedling close to a 100 years ago, knowing there's only one chance at cutting and fitting numerous notches, mortises and tenons - that one wrong move could ruin hours of labor while necessitating the cutting and milling of another huge tree.

This project of old-time building that involved some modern tools along with a few 150 year-old ones brought to mind other comparisons: of easier and faster ways of doing things that modern times have brought us in the name of convenience. But the question is, do they really benefit mankind? It seems that the more leisure one has - the farther they get from the duty God gave Adam in the Garden of Eden, which was to work it and take care of it; in other words, manual labor while relating personally with his Creator. One only needs to observe society to realize that the lack of a work ethic and the unwillingness to be a blessing to others are detrimental to a viable society.

God warned the children of Israel through Jeremiah: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." As camp continues to bless boys who are at that crossroad by taking them back to the ancient basics of life - essentially giving them a fresh perspective for a new beginning in life - ask yourself how that concept applies to you and those around you. For the promise of God to those who follow Him wholeheartedly is eternal life: the best and last beginning ever!

Lester Fisher  
Chuckwagon Building Coordinator



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



- 🏠 Hayloft Ice Cream Shop in Leola PA, is in search of VS workers. This position is year-round and includes working with the public, making and serving soft pretzels and ice cream treats, and being a part of the daily operations of a retail environment. This mission supports Allegany Boys Camp and has an exciting opportunity for 2 IMMEDIATE full-time VS workers. Please call or email for more information. Merv Lapp, Manager, 610-441-2717, lancasterhayloft@gmail.com
- 🏠 Camp is in need of a 3/4 ton pickup truck. Contact camp if you would like to help with this.
- 🏠 We are looking for a dump trailer with at least a 10,000 pound capacity. If you would like to help with this, contact camp for details.