



OUT OF THE Woods

FALL 2018

VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 2

OUR MISSION:

to inspire & equip this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

OUR VISION:

to provide an UNFORGETTABLE experience where the presence of God drowns out culture and its influences.

RECRUITING INFO

Prospective staff for Summer 2019 can apply online starting October 1 at woodlandscamp.org/apply. A full listing of our college recruiting schedule can be found on our Facebook page.

REGISTRATION INFO

Online registration for Woodlands' 2019 summer camps will kick off on Saturday, February 23. More details will follow this fall. In the meantime, you can find our full 2019 schedule under *What's Happening* or at woodlandscamp.org.

SUMMER 2018

BY THE NUMBERS

- Summer staff – 61
- Scholarship campers – 311
- Total campers – 4,062
- Offering – \$28,586
- Salvations – 359!

Blessed and grateful!

2018-19 FINANCIAL NEEDS SNAPSHOT

Building Fund – \$1,171,285
Scholarship Fund – \$109,514

ONLINE TRADING POST

Our 2018 line of Woodlands gear and apparel is available online at woodlandscamp.org/shop. **Check it out!**

THE THIRD PLACE

by Big Jon

About a decade ago, I attended a national conference for camp ministry professionals. I don't remember who the main session speaker was, but it was the first time I had heard someone unpack Ray Oldenburg's idea of the importance of the "third place."

Per Oldenburg, everyone has "places" in their life. The first place in one's life is home—their place of security. The second place in one's life is either work or school – their place of productivity. Most everyone has those two places, but they are not enough. We need a third place—a place of community. The illustration he used was the bar in the 80s sitcom *Cheers*. A place where you belong. A place where you are important. A place where everybody knows your name.

I remember sitting in that session thinking, "That's what I want Woodlands to be— the third place for kids. A place where they belong. A place where they feel important. A place where everybody knows their name!"

Feeling like you belong is powerful. So is feeling significant. So is feeling known. Those feelings are important to us because those feelings build relational bridges and tear down the walls that tend to build up around kids' hearts.

That is why I sit on stage on Mondays during check-in, have a conversation, and take a picture with every camper. It's not because I am channeling my inner Santa Claus (although I'm sure that's what it looks like to parents of first-time campers ☺). It's because I want campers to feel known. I want them to know that they are a big deal here.

That is why each camper gets a hand-written postcard from their counselor the week after they leave. Because we want them to feel that they are important enough that their counselor took the time to sit down and write them a note.

We want Woodlands to be the third place for our campers and staff. We want Woodlands to be a place where bridges are built and walls come down. We want those things to be true because in doing so, we are more effective in inspiring and equipping this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.



PROJECT UPDATE

Two new buildings are currently under construction, but to make room for these new buildings, we had to say goodbye to some old friends. In mid-August, the Lodge, Motel, and Chalet were razed. To be honest, it was a little bittersweet. Bitter because of the unforgettable memories made in those buildings over the years. From meals to mail call to staff meetings to MICAH 6:8, those buildings have been staples at Woodlands since day 1.

On the other hand, it is oh so sweet to see those buildings go because it paves the way for two new buildings!

The Lodge will feature 30 hotel rooms and a conference facility. It will house our summer sponsors and speakers, as well as provide a premium level of lodging through the fall, winter, and spring.

The Commons will feature a large commercial kitchen, a 450-seat cafeteria, a 60-seat private dining room, a clinic and our central offices.

In the interim, the old chapel has been converted into a makeshift cafeteria, and a food trailer was manufactured for us with a full commercial kitchen inside.

Both projects are set to be completed in time for Summer 2019 and will be incredible tools in our quest to inspire and equip this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.



PROGRAM UPDATE

These are busy days at Woodlands. Not only are we improving our facilities with multiple construction projects, we are diligently expanding our programs, as well.

XTREME camp has been a staple at Woodlands for over 15 years. Xtreme is an adventure camp in which campers stay in hammock shelters in the woods then leave site each day to go on some kind of Xtreme adventure (such as horseback riding, climbing, caving and rafting). Lord willing, by next summer, we will have a second Xtreme site up and operational. When done, it will enable 400 more Xtreme campers to attend in 2019, all but eliminating the Xtreme waiting list which had 350 campers in 2018!

FREESTYLE is a mobile day camp program that will hit the road in 2019. In short, we will work in partnership with local churches, schools, and communities to run a week of Woodlands day camps on their site for 5-10-year-old campers. The program will be centered around many of the impactful and unforgettable elements of our traditional camp program and will be facilitated by 24 Woodlands staffers. We are currently booking sites with the hopes of impacting 1,000 campers in 2019.

Finally, **WKND@WDLNDS** is growing, as well. W@W started in 2017 as a way of enabling more campers to attend camp each year. We basically took a week of summer camp and compressed it down into about 40 hours on a March weekend. We will run three WKNDs@WDLNDS in 2019—one each for elementary, middle and high school age campers!

These growth steps are the next in a list of several that will take place in the coming 5-7 years in our quest to enable as many kids as possible to attend Woodlands, experience an unforgettable week and hear about Jesus!



A LOOK BACK AT THE UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER THAT WAS...2018

Summer 2018 was yet another great one at Woodlands. It was full, safe, impactful and unforgettable—all the things we pray for. It was our 21st summer of camp and our 21st consecutive summer of record attendance. 4,062 elementary, middle and high school students from 18 different states attended our programs. They spent \$223,194 in the Trading Post which will show up next year in the form of some new unforgettable attraction. In doing so, they collectively consumed 354 gallons of frozen coffee, 1,193 gallons of ice cream and 1,209 gallons of soft drinks. They didn't just spend, however; they gave. Generously! Their generosity (\$28,586!) will put a Bible in the hands of an at-risk child somewhere in the world representing each of 4,062 campers that attended Woodlands AND enable 26 at-risk kids to attend Woodlands next summer!

Campers were inspired and equipped to follow Jesus and fall in love with God's Word. Many walked away changed. They read God's Word, were taught God's Word and memorized God's Word...98,357 memory verses to be precise (the equivalent of memorizing the entire Bible THREE TIMES!)? A record 311 at-risk kids were able to attend camp on scholarship, experience an unforgettable week and hear about Jesus. And most importantly, 359 campers made the decision for themselves to accept God's free gift of salvation!

We are very careful about numbers because numbers can become about us, but numbers are also important because each number represents a story and an eternity. And because they are a great way to brag on the unfailing love and faithfulness of God. And because many of you play a part in those stories.

So, to you, our friends...whether you have prayed diligently for Woodlands, given generously to Woodlands or sent your kids or church group to Woodlands, you are a part of Woodlands...and a part of those stories. We pray for you, are grateful for you and couldn't do it without you.

YOU CAN HELP!

If you feel led to give, you can do so either by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope or online at woodlandscamp.org. Whether you prefer funding buildings and growth or paying for an at-risk child to attend camp, there are big opportunities to invest in God's Kingdom at Woodlands:

- **Building Fund snapshot:**

We currently have two buildings under construction that we hope to have ready for Summer 2019—the Lodge and the Commons. Both will be significant ministry tools that will help us do what we do BETTER!

- **Scholarship Fund snapshot:**

Lord willing, we will enable 400+ at-risk kids to attend camp on scholarship next summer, experience an unforgettable week and hear about Jesus. These campers can't afford to come without the generous help of friends like you.



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woodlands

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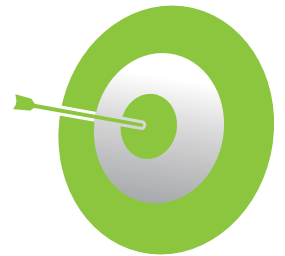
CONNECT:



The Woodlands' Bulls-Eye

This is our hope and prayer for every camper that attends Woodlands...

1. To follow Jesus
2. To love God's Word
3. To live responsibly
4. To give generously
5. To have the most **unforgettable** week of their life!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2019

January 2 - W@W Registration opens
February 23 - Online Registration opens
March 8-10 - WKND@WDLNDS (High School)
March 15-17 - WKND@WDLNDS (Middle School)
March 22-24 - WKND@WDLNDS (Elementary)
April 8 - Golf Tournament
May 12-22 - Training Camp
May 23-25 - Pee Wee Camp
May 27-31 - Junior 1 / XJr 1 / Freestyle 1

June 3-7 - Junior 2 / XJr 2 / Freestyle 2
June 10-14 - Junior 3 / XJr 3 / Freestyle 3
June 17-21 - Junior 4 / XJr 4 / Freestyle 4
June 24-29 - JH 1 / XJH 1 / Freestyle 5
July 1-6 - JH 2 / XJH 2 / Freestyle 6
July 8-13 - JH 3 / XJH 3 / Freestyle 7
July 15-20 - Teen 1 / XT 1 / Freestyle 8
July 22-27 - Teen 2 / XT 2 / Freestyle 9
July 29-Aug 3 - Teen 3 / XT 3 / Freestyle 10

