



SPARKS

The Newsletter for Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga
In the Beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina



Real Kids ♦ Real Adventure ♦ Real Growth ♦ Real Value ♦ Real Fun

Spring Video Newsletter

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HOME FRONT

The stars continue to amaze me! Last night I took some time to stare and I think I saw more stars than I've ever seen. It was a bit bewildering as my eyes are supposed to be getting worse rather than better as I grow in wisdom.



Things around here are simply crazy... exciting

crazy. There are many campers signing up. We are so excited to have so many of you wonderful people returning to the community, more like family, of so many good people.

The staff is fantastic. We have so many signed up and placed. If you are of thinking about joining our family for the summer... there are, I think, a couple of holes still to fill.

The Trufant family is doing well.

All of the children continue their endeavors. Changes? Adam is at LSU as a campus minister at Christ the King but will be back for the summer again as Assistant Director! Jeffrey is traveling for camp with Christie Peaslee. John is just about home from a month helping in the slums of Nairobi in East Africa. What a place of hope and heart! He has made so many deeply blessed connections there. Anne just came back from a week of checking on and enhancing the mission she directs through Change Lives Now (501c3) started with the help of Jen Pomm's parents. There is so much good work going on there. So the kids are awesome!

We are thinking about the camps' future. One day I would like to be a counselor. What a great job. We are beginning to seriously plan ahead and we are hoping that grace will carry on this very worthy, productive and holy mission forever and provide great leaders.

Anne & David



Welcome PROGRAM DIRECTORS!

Jen Pommerenke, Austin Ashcraft & Adam Trufant are returning again to head our summer management team!

What great blessings for the campers, parents and staff!

These three have been here perhaps a million years! Actually, Austin has been here since he was a pre-camp small child and has been a camper, JC, counselor, teacher, assistant program director and now he



will again be the Chosatonga PD.

Jen has a similar history here. She's done everything, including editing the video scrapbook you are about to watch. She's passionate in whatever she pursues, incredibly creative and a tremendous gift to our program. Adam is Adam! You know him. He has been here since the Trufants have and he has traveled and inspired. Great leader. These three know the campers, the programs and the camp family. We are *thrilled* and *DELIGHTED* to have this great and experienced leadership! Another inspiring summer, no doubt.

So Much Going On!

We have a bunch of new kayaks that Jeffrey recently picked up!



The Kahdalea Infirmary has disappeared!



The Farm House at Chosatonga has a new roof!



We had schools climbing ROCK Chicka-monga at Kahdalea. Challenging!

It's coming back! We'll have a new Health Center soon!



Alex Boucher welded a new bike trailer!



Hey Parents! ...for you.

Raising Children Unplugged and Outside!

Raising children... Wouldn't it be nice if it was easy. There are so many choices and so many opportunities to do the right things, and also to make mistakes. There is a study called the Marshmallow Test that I find fascinating. It presents a philosophy that fits well with ours.



We love hard things and challenge. We love goodness, discipline and fun. We love God's natural beauty, majestic mountains. We love strength, kindness and humility. These are just a few of the things we work to live out and to pass on here at camp. Oh yes, did I leave out patience? That is so important with people, the ones we love and with life. That is a key ingredient in the Marshmallow Test.

This test, by Walter Mischel, began in the late 60s. He would offer a child a treat, but told him that if he waited a short while, he would get a bigger treat... delayed gratification. Some camps are high entertainment in style. We, on the other hand, embrace a philosophy of chal-

lenge leading to earning reward. We don't clip a child in to play on the climbing walls. We *teach* climbing. They learn the commands, the knots and the safety rules and *then* they begin to climb. It might take a period or two just to get on the wall, but the experience is so much more. Rather than climbing once or twice, many campers continue to grow in strength and skill and to really *learn* climbing.



In backpacking, children carry their gear and may perhaps struggle to reach a summit, but the reward on top is more than beauty and majesty but also satisfaction sweeter than cool spring water. And so it is with so many of our camp adventures.

In the Marshmallow Test, the treat was left on the table for about 15 minutes and the tester left the room. Less than a third of the children managed to wait. Following up, researchers found that children who were able to wait longer for the preferred rewards tended to have better life outcomes, ➡



Staff Notes!

You are GREAT! But first a little camp business.

- The clinics are almost all in place. Still working on the paddling clinic.
- Keep an eye on your email for the password to the "on-staff" page.
- **SCHOOL GROUPS!** Join us! **Sign up** now for LAKE HIGHLAND PREP, MAY 14-16. Very fun group. Get out into the early spring high mountains.
- After camp we have Family Camp. IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Please keep spreading the word!



1) Keep your EMAIL address up to date for fun scoop & info!
2) Check Facebook for CAMP FUN!



MORE - Lots Going On!

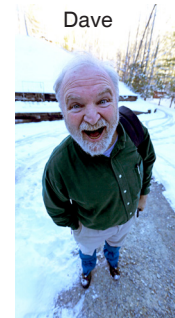


Camp Blankets are BACK! Crimson, Forest & Navy



Kahdalea Cabins 9 & 10 are finished.

I got a new Wide Angle Lens!



Raising Children... continued

as measured by SAT scores, educational attainment, body mass index and other life measures. What a fascinating lesson.



There are some institutions that adopt this same goal, but many offer fun and entertainment while overlooking the real treasure. Missing this treasure is a tragedy for our children.

We hear many good stories about the fruitful lives of so many past campers. We are very happy to be a positive part of their experience. Just in the last week I received multiple correspondences and two actually said "camp was the *most* formative thing in my life." What a blessing. There *is* something different about camp people.

