



CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

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Greetings from Holston Camp,

Kids love Holston Summer Camp. They meet new friends, they renew old friendships, they relate to each other like kids do. They enjoy the activities—swimming, hiking, singing around the campfire, and just goofing-off. But what matters most, is the relationships.

Living in an outdoor community, away from family and familiar surroundings, causes kids to naturally come together. They generally acclimate quickly to life without phones, video games and other creature comforts and decidedly open their hearts and minds to new opportunities and possibilities. This is when the camp counselors come in.

Camp counselors are special people who have followed a call to minister. These young men and women have dedicated their summer to mentor and lead your child. They have an incredible amount of responsibility in caring for your camper and that is why they are carefully vetted and trained. The counselor/camper relationship is very important as the counselor is asked to lead in the same way that Jesus leads—with compassion, grace, and love.

I am excited about Summer Camp 2020. Our theme will be “Who is my Neighbor?” You are probably familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). It is a timeless parable that resonates in today’s complicated world. As in the past, we will have ordained ministers and elders from our Presbyterian Churches on location to help us hear and understand the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.

Our youth deserve the chance to wander through the woods and fall in love with God’s creation. In doing so, they become stewards, aware of the outdoors and their community. They recognize the need to live in harmony with the environment, their peers, and themselves. My hope is our camper families realize the importance and necessity of living together in community, that they feel accepted and loved and in turn extend acceptance and love to others.

We have introduced new camps for 2020, but will continue with some tried and true themes:

- Celebrate Summer Camp is a 3-night camp at a lower cost.
- Appalachian Summer Camp explores the history and culture of our region with songs, stories and special field trip.
- Water Chihuahua Camp offers canoeing and tubing—especially for water dogs!
- Night Owl Camp—back by popular demand.
- Holston Rocks! Camp is rock climbing and rock collecting.
- Wheels and Heels for the older kids to bike the Creeper Trail and hike the AT.
- If music, art, and drama are your thing then join us for MAD Camp.
- Rising high school juniors and seniors may apply for the Counselor-in-Training program.
- Day Camp is now offering breakfast for the same low weekly price.
- APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) CAMP FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS.

I believe Summer Camp changes lives because I’ve seen it happen year after year. As we prepare for Summer Camp 2020, my emphasis will always be on the safety and comfort of every child. I want camp to be a happy memory that campers take with them forever.

All we need is love,
Jim Austin, Director