

Suwannee Ripples

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Camp Reflections

By Chuck Jenkins, Owner and CEO of CWU Inc.

The highlight of my childhood summers was the awesome opportunity to attend summer camp, at Camp Suwannee. I look back warmly on those nine years, from 1970 to 1979, that I was blessed to attend camp on the historic Suwannee River.

The anticipation of camp was unbearable, as I cropped tobacco in the heat and humidity of the Florida summer. Cropping tobacco was my primary means of earning enough money to attend camp. The hard work and sweat would soon be rewarded with a fun-filled week at Camp Suwannee loaded with activities, new friends, old friends, and fellowship. The admin and counselor staff did an incredible job ensuring the week was fully filled with cabin versus cabin team events like softball, flag football, volleyball, and nightly skits. Likewise, there was always an abundance of individual activities from archery and orienteering, to ping pong tournaments. The competition was fierce, teamwork was essential, and good sportsmanship was mandatory.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of camp was seeing familiar friends from previous summers; the Musgroves of Live Oak, the Carters of Dowling Park, the Mims of Gainesville, the Crawfords of Quitman, Georgia, just to name a few. It was fascinating how much we all had in common, yet we never seemed to have enough time to catch up. But we had a blast reconnecting every summer. And, oh how much fun we had sneaking out of our cabin, every night, to steal and hide the infamous Camp Suwannee Bell. The bell must have weighed a least 200 lbs., in our minds. The bell was the

catalyst, early each morning, to rouse us from our deep slumber to begin the next adventure; as much as we all wanted to sleep in. No matter how well we thought we hid the bell, it miraculously reappeared just in time for first call.

The last couple of summers before I graduated from high school and entered the U.S. Army, I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the Camp Suwannee River Canoe trips beginning in the Okefenokee Swamp in Southeastern Georgia and ending 168 miles later at Camp Suwannee. The experience of spending over a week canoeing the Suwannee, camping on its banks, fishing, swimming, preparing meals each morning and night was and still is one of my fondest memories.



A few years later, after finishing a grueling 17 km individual cross-country land navigation event, as part of the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course, to earn my Green Beret, I sat by a fire and reflected on my time at Camp Suwannee. My Camp Suwannee experiences, lessons, and relationships during those formative years served to build humility, character, ethics, leadership, teamwork, social skills, and Christian service. I have and will ever cherish those memories. Those experiences were significant in my success and I am forever grateful.

Share Camp Suwannee with others so that we can reach more youth for Christ.

My Experience at Camp Suwannee

During my week at Camp Suwannee, I enjoyed a bittersweet time, as this was one of my last weeks as a camper. It was a blessing to spend a week with friends I love, and further our walk with Christ together. As time continues, while we must move on to a new chapter of life, it was a beautiful experience to take a counselor role and help the younger people within camp on their walk with Christ. Camp Suwannee has surely changed my life and it will forever be remembered as I grow and take the next steps in life.

- Byron Chancey, age 18

Church camp was a very enlightening experience, it helped me become closer to God and strengthen my friendships with friends. The counselors were all very kind people and were always willing to help you in times of need. Playing



the entertaining games and the performances made the time there joyful. I felt at home there as if me, my friends, and my counselors were all one family. I have made a lot of good and fun memories with all the people I now consider family and I am looking forward to spending a week per summer with them for as long as possible.

- Chris Caldwell, age 16

Camp Suwannee – A Refuge in a Changing World

By Craig Carter, Advent Christian Village
President/CEO

The world is ever changing. The issues of today are much different from what many of us encountered growing up. Yesterday's norms are forgotten and regretfully, the foundation of Biblical truth is absent from many homes. Please pray for our youth as they try and navigate this challenging "new world".



As the world has changed, in some ways, so has Camp Suwannee. The games and activities are different, the worship choruses have changed and many of the issues faced by today's youth are much more complex and challenging. It amazes me to learn of the matters the staff has to address now.

As the world has changed, the relevance of Camp Suwannee remains strong. It continues to be a refuge—a safe place for youth as they learn of the love of Christ, grow in their faith and develop lasting friendships with like believers.

The Suwannee Bowl remains the spiritual center of the camp, worship services continue to be focused upon sharing Jesus with young people and the activities and events are designed to bring joy, fun and camaraderie among the attendees.

We may not be able to stop the world from changing or the challenges from appearing. We can however be diligent in our efforts to make sure Camp Suwannee remains relevant and a refuge for our young people. Just look around and you can see that it is a much-needed ministry.



Director's Notes



By Doug Mabey

Since my last note to you, we have experienced some changes at Camp Suwannee and the Conference & Retreat Center (C&R).

Within ACV C&R, we have had a big shift in responsibilities. The Lodge Manager, Judy McCall retired on 12/5 and her daughter Jamie McCall also moved on. I am now overseeing the entire operation. We have a great staff that has stepped up and things are going smoothly. We thank Judy for her 24 years and Jamie for her 20 years of service.

We just held our Annual Youth Retreat with 45 Campers in attendance. The theme was “Eye of the Storm.” Our speaker, Shane Mumford spoke from the 23rd Psalm, Psalm 13: 1-6 and Matt. 14: 22-31.

We have several volunteers helping us with tasks around the village—a couple from Michigan, a return couple from Ohio and RVICS comes in February. We are grateful for these people who give so generously of their time and talents.

Business is increasing! Several groups are returning that have not been here since COVID. Suwannee High School NJROTC has returned by booking their annual Military Ball in May.

We have also filled eight of the nine available rental weeks for the upcoming summer. Children’s International Summer Village (CISV) will be returning for 23 days in June & July. We have a new group out of St. Augustine, Fl. by the name of the DSL Deaf Camp. They will be here for a week at the end of July.

Our Florida Conference (FLCACC) camps will be held in July. Sr. Camp is July 9-15 and Jr. Camp is July 16-22. Applications will be available on our website in early March. (www.acvconference.net/youth-activities) Begin thinking of the 7-18 year-old youth you know and invite them to join us.

Our new Village-wide greeting is ALOHA. It is a renewed customer service and hospitality focus. We here at ACV, Conference & Retreat and Camp Suwannee, invite you to come check us out. We would love to help you with planning retreats, reunions, church gatherings, school functions, business training, wedding receptions, etc.

Until then, we thank you for your prayers and financial support. May God richly bless you in 2023!

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” Matthew 14:22-31, NIV

Where Christ is Exalted Through Camping

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ACV Conference & Retreat Center
is part of ACV Community Services LLC,
a wholly owned Limited Liability Company of
Advent Christian Village, Inc.

Most Wanted List

- Mattress Covers - \$15 each, or \$360
- White Dry Erase Boards for the Youth Lodge (2) - \$360 each
- Golf Cart (Gas Operated/Used) - \$6,500
- Replace Dowling Cafeteria Ceiling = \$12,000
- Replace Rumph Pavilion Roof = \$60,000

We have some large ticket items. We understand that not many can cover the entire cost of these projects. However, many hands make light work. If you would like to give toward these.

THANK YOU to those who have given!

Upcoming Groups

Dates

Mar. 23-25

Mar. 31-Apr. 2

Apr. 12-16

Apr. 26-30

May 6

June 12-16

June 17

June 17-July 8

July 9-15

July 16-22

July 23-July 28

Aug. 11-13

Aug. 19

Sept. 8-10

Sept. 15-17

Oct. 4-8

Oct. 18-22

Nov. 3-5

Nov. 10-12

Nov. 17-19

Group Name

Florida Conference of
Advent Christian Churches

Leadership Camp Phase IV

Tres Dias Men

Tres Dias Women

SHS NJROTC Military Ball

Creation Arts Camp

Bell-Ransom Reunion

CISV

FLCACC Sr. Camp

FLCACC Jr. Camp

DSL Deaf Camp

Tallahassee Youth Orchestra

Leadership Camp Phase I

Clark Reunion

WH&FMS

Tres Dias Men

Tres Dias Women

Williamson Reunion

Dynamos #33

Leadership Camp Phase II

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me? How
long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day
after day have sorrow in my heart? How long
will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me
and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my
eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will
say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will
rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing
love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will
sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to
me.

Psalms 13:1-6 NIV