



# Suwannee Ripples

Published for Camp Suwannee by Advent Christian Village, The Office for Resource Development

## Rebounding

Drive onto the grounds of Camp Suwannee and you will be met with more wide-open spaces and a sea of blue tarps. Listen closely and you can hear the pounding of hammers emanating from re-roofing projects occurring in other parts of the ACV campus. The process of restoration is in full swing but there's still a long way to go.

The good news is that the grounds are clear of debris and all camp facilities are open for use. In the midst of the restoration efforts, groups continue to come and ministry continues to happen. It is an exciting time as planning begins for a busy spring and summer season.

As we prepare for our Advent Christian camps, one of the primary concerns relates to the continued escalation of costs. Food costs have risen exponentially, as have other costs affecting families. These increases have made it necessary to increase our rates, while also ensuring that finances do not keep any child from the Christian camping experience.

Through the financial support we receive from friends like you, Campership scholarships are provided to any child recommended by an Advent Christian Church. Moreover, families in need are eligible for additional assistance based on their personal circumstances. The benefits of a week of Christian camping are just too important for finances to prevent anyone from attending.

I am deeply grateful for all of those who are committed to this important ministry and have given both to restore the campus and to provide opportunities for young people to attend. Both are equally important and both are dependent upon a generous response.

We will continue to work to return Camp Suwannee to its natural beauty, all the while ensuring that the ministry is open for business and sharing the love of Christ with young people. The work is too important to do anything else.





# Director's Notes

I feel compelled to start this year's notes by recognizing our many volunteers, because especially this year, we have had a lot of them; and they have helped us out in a big way. Many have helped with cleanup from the hurricane over the past few months and there are currently five volunteers working here. They have been such a blessing. The Harrises, from Michigan, have been here since September picking up brush from the hurricane for two hours every morning. Bryan is a teacher of English as second language in China. He has been volunteering since December. Bruce, from Chiefland, FL, has been doing fix-it projects since December and Steve has been volunteering since early January. Finally, RVICS is coming back this year, in February.

As is the case throughout our history, volunteers have been a huge part of the ministry here and have contributed countless hours towards upkeep of our facilities.

## Youth Retreat 2024

We just held our annual Youth Retreat with 33 Campers in attendance. The theme was "Overcoming Adversity in a Backwards, Crazy Upside-Down World." Titus Gonzalez was the main speaker, we also had testimonies from first time Counselor Corbin Gill, evangelist Rev. Bob Copeland, and I shared a challenging lesson about the theme and about doing the right thing for the right reasons.



## Junior & Senior Summer Camps

Our Florida Conference AC camps will be here again in July, but Senior & Junior are switching weeks. Junior Camp is July 7-13 (ages 7-12) and Sr. Camp (ages 13-18) is July 14-20. Please encourage all the young people you know to come. Registrations and payment will all be online. Applications will be available on our website in early February. For registration and payment go to <https://www.campsuwanneecamps.org/>. If for any reason you cannot apply online, please call 386-658-5100.

## Plan Your Next Event With Us!

We are so pleased to see business increasing. There are only two weeks open this coming summer at the Camp. All of the new groups from last summer are returning.

We invite you to come check us out. We would love to help you plan 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 2024.

*Doug Mabey, Director*



*We are so grateful to our volunteers for helping us with storm clean-up! Top right: Ed & Elaine Harris; Left: Steven Walker and Bruce King.*



Camp Schedule

2024

*Join us this summer at*  
**CAMP  
SUWANNEE**

**Sunday**

2pm - Drop Off  
3:30 - Change for swim Test  
4-5 - Swim Test (Pool or White Sands)  
5:30-6:15 - Dinner  
6:45 - 7:20 - Kick off  
7:30-7:55 - Snack Shack  
8 - Evening Service  
10 - Fire by Night  
11 - Gorilla Hunt  
Midnight - Heads in Beds

**Monday - Friday**

7:15 - 8:55 - Rise and Shine  
7:40 - 7:55 - Tree Time  
8 - 8:10 - Wadersize  
8:15 - 8:45 - Breakfast & Clean up  
9 - 9:20 - A Time of Jubilee  
9:30 - 10:15 - Classes (Staff Meeting)  
10:20 - 10:30 - Team Time  
10:30 - 11:20 - Team Classes  
11:30 - 12:15 - Electives  
12:30 - 1:10 - Lunch  
1:15 - 1:55 - Team Time  
2-2:45 - Games (Clean up)  
3 - 3:25 - Snack Shack/Change  
3:30 - 5 - Water Activities/Shower  
6 - 6:40 - Dinner  
6:45 - 7:25 - Activity  
7:30 - 7:55 - Snack Shack  
8 - Worship  
10 - Fire by Night  
11 - Heads in Beds (Tues, Thurs. Fri, evening adventures)

## My Camp Experience

*I am 12 years old so this was the first year I could go to camp [Winter Youth Retreat].*

*We played some fun games, and whack-a-mole in the pavilion was my favorite.*

*When we sat around "The Bowl" (a fire pit), I got to meet others, make new friends, and better understand their lives.*

*The instructors taught us ways to strengthen our faith and have a closer relationship with God. Titus Gonzalez and Corbin Gill shared stories of how their lives changed after they accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They taught us the importance of avoiding sin and how to live Godly lives.*

*The Winter Retreat was a great experience for me, and I look forward to going again next year!*

Tee Yoon

*Camp Suwannee was an awesome and impactful experience for me. It was my first time being a counselor and sharing my testimony to a large audience. It encouraged me to keep stepping out in faith to reach the younger generation for Christ. The Lord worked on my heart and a lot of the camper's hearts.*

*I'm grateful to Doug Mabey for inviting me and all the speakers who spoke. I believe every parent should sign their child up for Camp Suwannee. With a world full of distractions, it's a great experience to come out in nature to reset and get closer to the Lord.*

Corbin Gill

## Where Christ is Exalted through Camping

### Camp Suwannee

PO Box 4313, Dowling Park, FL 32064

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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.

## Upcoming Groups

Dates	Group Name
March 3	Tres Dias Men
April 12	Leadership Camp Phase IV
April 17	Tres Dias Women
April 26	Four Oaks Comm. Church
June 3	1st Baptist Church of Brevard Co.
June 9	Creation Arts Camp
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Available for Your Group!</b>
<b>June 24</b>	<b>Available for Your Group!</b>
July 7	Junior Camp
July 14	Senior Camp
July 21	DSL Family Camp
July 28	First Assembly of God of Live Oak
September 13	Clark Family
September 20	WH&FMS
October 2	Tres Dias Men
October 16	Tres Dias Women

To schedule your group for a reunion, conference or retreat, call  
(386) 658-5100 or 1-800-371-8381.

## Most Wanted List

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.

- Mattress Covers - \$15 each, or \$360
- Dry Erase Boards for the Youth Lodge (2) - \$360 each
- Golf Cart (Gas Operated/Used) - \$7,000
- New Roof for Pavilion - \$75,000
- Telescoping Flag Pole with Solar Light - \$400
- Metal roofing on flagpole pavilion - \$500
- AC Fences at the Pavilion - \$1,600
- Hurricane Repairs - all gifts appreciated

Thank you to those who support projects from the Most Wanted List! We appreciate your help with making Camp Suwannee the best it can be.