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# Experience the Wonder of God

Psalm 77:14



## Annual Archery Shoot

Over 160 archers participated in last year's tournament. This year's event is set for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. It features 30 targets spread throughout the woods at a variety of distances and angles making it a fun and challenging time for archers of all ages. There is a registration fee of \$25 for adults and \$18 for youth 15 years old and younger with proceeds benefiting the summer camp ministry. The course is open from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. except from 10:00-11:00 when we have a hot brunch, speaker and prize giveaways. Archers may shoot the course a second time at a reduced rate. You can register online or by calling the camp office. Information on being an event sponsor can also be found on the archery website.

**WOODCREST**  
*Retreat*  
**3D ARCHERY SHOOT**

### Current Needs

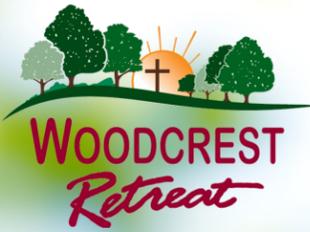
- Two Flat Screen TVs (43" - 63")
- 12 passenger van to use for our expanding Outbound program and weekend excursions
- Summer Weekend Hosts to serve during the summer (call the camp if interested)
- Kitchen Volunteers for summer camp

### Join the Journey

There are many ways for you to be a part of what God is doing at Woodcrest and to join us on this exciting journey.

- Kitchen Volunteers (Monday-Friday during camp weeks)
- Landscaping Volunteers (mowing, pulling weeds, etc...)
- Prayer Support — Download our prayer guide from our website or social media pages and pray daily for camp
- Financial Support — Help us cover the increased costs in food and other expenses by giving a financial gift.
- Camp @ Woodcrest — Join us for weekends in the campground and experience the wonder of God firsthand
- Post on Social Media — share pictures with #Woodcrest22

# WOODCREST Whisperings



Spring/Summer 2022

## Navigating Challenges

By Bill Klees, Executive Director

Our theme for this year is **Following His Course**. At our April Banquet, we shared our desire to offer God a blank itinerary and allow Him to fill out our destinations. That involves taking faith-filled risks and a willingness to be led by the Spirit. One thing for certain is that when we do that faithfully, we are in for an amazing adventure.

It looks like God is bringing over 1,900 campers to Woodcrest this summer. Youth camp is still a leading factor in the spiritual growth of young people.

Additionally, camp offers one of the remaining safe places where a child can be a child and explore their imagination in a healthy, Christ-centered environment.

Since our decision to run camp in 2020, we have navigated many challenges. We have seen our God work wonders and reveal His strength (Psalm 77:14). This summer we once again face what might appear as insurmountable challenges. However, with God as our Leader and our faith to follow Him, those challenges truly become opportunities. They become opportunities for God

to shine His glory by revealing His faithfulness, power, and grace once more.

One of those challenges that we are anticipating will be the significant increase in food costs. We set our

camper fees back in the early fall before we saw an average increase of 5.5% in general food costs. With many factors creating the current scenario, we see staples of our camp menu increasing even more. For example, hotdogs are now

20% higher than last year!

The Lord navigated us through the challenge of locating enough lifeguards. Last year we struggled to hire enough guards to run normal hours at the pool. This year He supplied more than we could imagine. We are still trusting our heavenly Father to supply the remaining staff we need for the summer. Those needs include a head cook and two or three more male counselors (at least 18 years of age).

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God, Your way is holy. What god is great like You?

You are the God who works wonders; You revealed Your strength among the peoples.

With power You redeemed Your people... (Psalm 77:13-14)



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Another challenge we are navigating is the reality of the incredible growth we have experienced in a short period. We saw an increase in camper enrollment of 25% in just one summer (that's over 400 campers)! That growth will definitely stretch some of our aging facilities. We are currently working on plans to improve those areas to allow for future growth, but that will be a few years away and require significant funds. But through it all, we know that God is leading and navigating us through each challenge and opportunity. It is our desire to make sure that we don't get ahead or lag behind Him. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey as we follow our great Shepherd.

### Prayers and Praises

- Praise God for the amazing response to this year's summer camps. Pray that God will prepare their hearts for the Gospel and we will see many lives changed.
- Praise God for the staff that we have coming this summer. Pray that God would fill the remaining positions with godly people.
- Pray for physical and spiritual safety for the summer.

### Exciting Updates

**Spring Banquet** — There was a good gathering of friends and supporters at our Celebration Banquet in April. Among the many updates and testimonials given, we announced the replacement of Sandstone trailer with a new log cabin coming this winter.



**Benefit Golf Tournament** — Our annual tournament was full again this year. We are thankful for the number of sponsors who help cover the expenses of this event, including one business who offered a \$20,000 matching gift!

**Prayer Walk** — We want to make sure that we are not leaning on our strength as we serve the Lord. To make that happen we held a prayer walk/drive that led groups to key areas of camp with specific prayer requests. Look for our summer prayer guide on our website and social media pages so that you can be praying for Woodcrest all summer long.

**Father & Daughter Canoe Trip** — Once again this event filled up quickly. Thank you to former Program Director, Ben Martin for keeping this program going.



## Fall Family Fun Fest September 17, 2022

You are invited to join us this fall for our annual Fall Festival. This is an event that is full of fun for everyone.

The day starts at 7:30 with a free, **all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast**. At 8:30 registration starts for the **live auction** that begins at 9:00. Woodcrest has been blessed with support from local businesses who donate beautiful items. Additionally, we have our delicious sausage sandwich, homemade breads, **baked goods**, gift certificates and more. There will once again be a **silent auction** that features a variety of themed baskets and specialty items. The auction runs until about 12:00.

Our Kids Camp Bonanza will feature **WJTL's Cookie Break** along with a plethora of games, activities, and crafts. The kids programming starts at 10:00 and runs through 1:00. At that time, there is our popular **GAGA Tournament**.



There will be plenty of food provided by local ministries and **favorite food trucks**. Look for exhibits, vendors and other great activities around the ball field. If the weather is nice, our **225' waterslide** will open at 1:30.

Look for more details all summer long on our social media pages and for a postcard in your mailbox. If you would like to volunteer or donate items, please contact the camp office. Enjoy a wonderful fall weekend by reserving campsites with your family and friends.

### School of Wonder Reaches Local Students

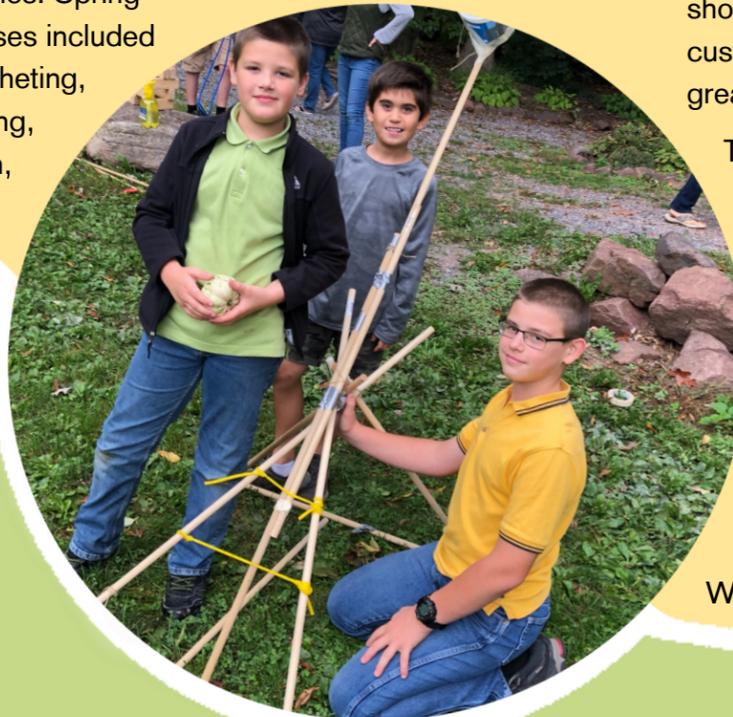
This spring the Woodcrest School of Wonder launched a new field trip program. Since beginning in the fall of 2020, The School of Wonder continues to grow and share the message about the wonder of our Creator. This spring we served 75 homeschool families. Spring classes included crocheting, baking, math,

outdoor cooking, science classes, and field games.

We had a number of homeschool groups schedule events at Woodcrest, including one group that used our programs to tie into their Mediaeval history lessons. We offered them archery, hatchet throwing, sling shots, and catapult construction. We are able to customize fun-filled events for groups that use our great resources that reinforce their lessons.

This spring we also sent brochures to private schools introducing our new field trip program. Teachers have a wide range of classes and activities to create a memorable and educational event.

You can look for other unique ways that we are helping families and students experience the wonder of God. A new nature trail will be ready this summer as well as other nature activities for guests to do while enjoying their time at Woodcrest.



To learn more about the many outdoor educational programs and activities at Woodcrest, visit our newly expanded educational page at [www.woodcrestretreat.org/education](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/education)

**"[My child] has such a beautiful understanding of Jesus just after two short weeks. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity." ~ Camp Parent**



**"Fireside time was really impactful; camp really changed how I think about things and I learned to have a positive outlook" ~ Overnight Camper**



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