

My Favorite Place

Dear Friends,

I am excited about Summer Camp at Holston! When I arrived here in June to be the Interim Camp Director, I could immediately recognize why this is such a special place. After all, people have been coming here seeking spiritual refreshment in the cool mountain climate since 1955. I hear smiling parents reminisce about summers spent here as they drop off their children for a week of camp. I brought my own children here to camp causing my son to declare that camp is his “favorite place”. I would like everyone who visits here to have an experience that makes this their favorite place too, therefore, I will do everything I can to make this a safe and satisfying experience for all who attend.

There are many reasons that this could become your favorite place. Holston is situated on 150 acres of beautiful wooded, mountain terrain where rhododendron and mountain laurel thrive beneath the shade of beech and birch trees. Fresh water springs flow into crystal clear creeks feeding two lakes. Towering rock formations reach above the tree line offering inspirational views of the surrounding landscape. Access to lakes and natural rock faces provide campers with unique opportunities for swimming, canoeing, kayaking and rock climbing. We also offer archery, zip-lines, music, arts and crafts, mountain biking, good food, and lots of fun around the campfire.

We are returning to a “small group” model in which kids live and interact with their peers. Counselors can facilitate trust and cooperation within these groups for activities and discussion. Our desire is to offer campers a succession of camps that build on subsequent skills and knowledge. Our summer camp schedule offers a variety of choices based on age-appropriate activities. Older campers will operate out of the Rustic Camp where as our younger camper will be housed in the Main Camp. We are happy to announce “special” camps that we hope will engage campers of all interest levels.

This year we are giving special attention to our “Rustic” area. To previous campers, Rustic Camp will be familiar as the traditional camping experience with its primitive cabins, cook shelters and bath house which relies on wood-fired hot water. This year, we are supplying the cabins with Eno hammocks instead of bunk beds. Enos are the latest trend in camp furniture and kids love sleeping in them. We are also renovating our bath house to make it more comfortable, bright and sanitary.

Also notice the new pricing structure for summer and day camps. To maintain our facilities, enlist quality staff, and provide for the future, we have developed tiered levels of support to pay for camp. You may choose which level you can best afford based on your personal financial situation. Your camper will enjoy the same experience no matter what level is chosen.

Maybe the biggest reason to make Holston your favorite place is the Christian community we promote. We will be inviting ministers of the church to our Chaplain-in-Residence program which will provide spiritual leadership to our camp. Our mission statement invites all people to walk together on a spiritual journey seeking understanding of God’s creation through the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Holston Presbytery of east Tennessee. We are a non-profit incorporation operating as 501(c) (3). We are blessed to be supported by gracious congregations and individuals throughout the Presbytery and, indeed, throughout the country.

Thank you for your interest in our camp and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Jim Austin, Interim Camp Director