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Winter 2019

Greetings from Holston Camp,

We are excited that 2019 celebrates 60 years of Summer Camp at Holston. Many young lives have been influenced by their stay here. Whether it was singing with friends around the campfire, the smell of woodsmoke, or the exhilaration of a swim in Wildcat Lake, campers take with them the memories and experiences that shape their future lives.

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.

When we examine the teachings of the Gospels, we notice that the stories are about the love of God toward us and how we are expected to shine that light of acceptance and love on others. Our focus at Holston has remained the same for 60 years—do for others as you would have others do for you.

Some things have stayed the same in 60 years, but some things have changed dramatically. Our children operate in a high-tech world of indoor screens and hand-held devices resulting in a rise in health problems, heightened social pressures, and new addictions around technology.

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.

We have introduced new camps for 2019, but will continue with some tried and true themes:

- Biking the Virginia Creeper Trail plus hiking the AT or soaring on a high-ropes course!
- Ascending Mitchell, Rogers, and Roan mountains—3 Peaks in 3 States Challenge!
- Canoeing and white-water rafting—Water Chihuahua Camp—especially for water dogs!
- Dedicating a camp just for girls, because it's girls' time to own the outdoors!
- Offering MAD and Night Owl camps—back by popular demand.
- Inviting rising high school seniors to apply for the Counselor-in-Training program.
- Growing Day, Discovery, and Venture Camps for younger campers to participate in our traditional camp program.

As we prepare for Summer Camp 2019, 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 of Holston Camp

