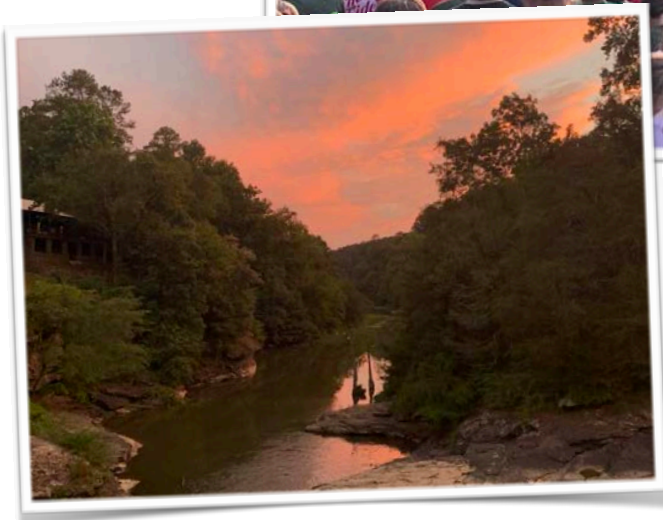


Camp Winnataska Annual Report

Aubrey Huynh, Camp Director | Blake Huynh, Program Director



Introduction

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..” - Hebrews 10:24-25

We both learned early in life that serving at Winnataska is all-at-once humbling, rewarding, demanding, and never boring. While Summer 2022 was no exception, and certainly not without its challenges, we believe it was one of the smoothest summers we have ever witnessed at camp. We saw God move in big ways, and it was, as always, evident that His hand is on Winnataska. It was a remarkable challenge and a tremendous honor to serve as the Directors; we left feeling exhausted and fulfilled, and we can honestly say that we gave it everything we had, every single day.

This report contains further information about Summer 2022, including both notable achievements and recommendations for improvement. We spend countless hours praying, thinking, and dreaming about what is best for camp, and that is always at the forefront of our hearts and minds when we reflect on the past and look to the future. We hope this report will be received with the same sentiment. Our intent is to be forthright about the ways we can all work together to make Winnataska better. We have a unique perspective as the people who are entrusted to lead and to serve, and we appreciate the opportunity to share that point of view. So many who have come before us gave their best efforts to carry out the mission of “Christian Camping at its Best,” and we owe it to all who hold camp in their hearts to do what we earnestly believe is our best work and God’s will for camp.

Thank you for dedicating your time and talents to The Camp that We Love the Best of All. Winnataska is served so well by its extensive network of alumni and volunteers, and we are humbled to join you in this endeavor.

Gratefully,
Blake & Aubrey Huynh

Registration

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” -Proverbs 22:6

Camp Winnataska welcomed 1,720 campers in 1,744 registered spots in Summer 2022:

- 636 New Campers (37%);
1,084 Returning Campers (63%)
- Return Rate: 63 Campers from 2021 returned as Leaders; 1,021 returned as Campers (67% Total Return Rate)
- 55 Complimentary Sessions (100% Discount)
- 14 Camperships (\$12,390 in Scholarships provided by FOW)



Achievements:

- Registered campers reached 100% capacity overall! This is the first time we have reached 100% capacity since adding 7th Week.
- 636 new faces got to experience camp for the first time!

Recommendations for Improvement:

- Continue to implement initiatives to retain older campers (particularly boys).
- We saw a 0% increase in the number of Camperships from Summer 2021. Work with FOW to promote inclusion by dedicating a certain percentage of registrations per week to camperships (ACA Standard CR.2.1) and actively pursue donations to fund this project, as well as campers to fill these spots.
- Enforce policy to prevent “spider-webbing” of buddies (list 2 buddies max, and both must be reciprocally listed).

Staff & Program Specialists

“We remember before God your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord.” -1 Thessalonians 1:3



There were 35 college Staff members in 2022:

- 14 Blackfeet / 21 Comanches
- 19 First-Years / 10 Second-Years / 6 Third-Years

Our acceptance rates for Staff applicants were:

- Blackfeet - 93%, Comanches - 77%,
Overall - 83%

There were nine Program Specialists and two Administrative Specialists (1/2 summer split) in 2022. Six PS's were returning to the position from Summer 2021.

Though it is still too early to determine with certainty, we currently predict that approximately twenty Staff members and five Program Specialists will reapply for Summer 2023.

Achievements:

- At least once throughout the summer, every Staff member (and several Program Specialists) was mentioned on camper surveys as someone who made the camper feel special.
- This Staff made camp run very smoothly, and bought into the mission of a Christ-centered culture. They worked incredibly hard, received feedback well, and warranted very minimal correction.
- We are seeing a very high return rate among Staff members and Program Specialists.
- Program Specialists did an excellent job of serving as professional mentors to the Staff members in their program areas.



Recommendations for Improvement:

- Hire one more Program Specialist for floating/extra programming.

Leaders

“Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly - not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.” -1 Peter 5:2

Winnataska was served by 161 students who volunteered as Leaders in Summer 2022:

- 108 Female Leaders / 53 Male Leaders
- 84 Returning Leaders / 77 First-Time Leaders

Of those 161 Leaders, 25 served as Special Leaders at least once during the summer.



Achievements:

- Splender procedures that were implemented in 2021 paid off, as first-year Staff members were more prepared. These procedures continued in 2022.
- Staff members were very intentional about mentoring and teaching Leaders this year. Hut Staff was able to address most issues in the hut before they became a significant problem.
- We revamped our Leadership training weekend to be more intentional and focused, which led to more positive camper-Leader relationships and fewer disciplinary issues. Licensed counselors, David Thomas and Sissy Goff, were brought in to teach how to handle various challenges our Leaders face.
- Overall, we were highly impressed with our Leaders this year.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- Enlist help from the camp family to implement recruitment initiatives for male Leaders. Not having enough male Leaders continues to be a significant issue in terms of adequate camper supervision.

Program & Night Activity

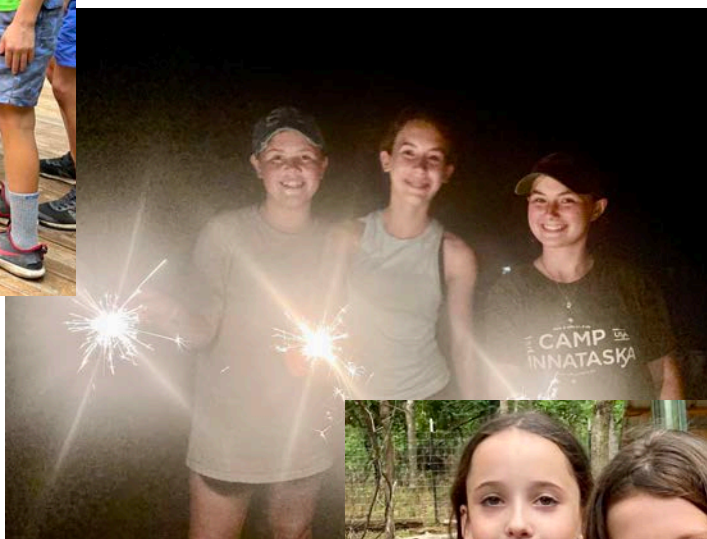
“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” -John 10:10

Program areas and night activities continue to receive high marks on camper surveys. Campers were able to experience several new additions to program areas, and Program Specialists and Staff worked closely with the Camp Director and Program Director to improve the overall quality of program.



Achievements:

- Sustainability was able to become an independent program area, and was rated highly by campers.
- The small Shooting Sports range was expanded to accommodate more campers, and archery netting was added at both ranges.
- Program additions included, but were not limited to, mats at Pool, two new horse trails, and improvements to the zip line system.
- We were able to successfully pivot and adjust to Boats after losing Waterfront.
- “Free Choice Friday” was added and rated highly by campers.
- “Worship Wednesday” was added during Bible time on Wednesday and was well-received by campers, Leaders, Staff, and Weekly Directors.



Recommendations for Improvement:

- Power and water need to be run to the inflatables site if they will continue to be used in the future. This activity had mixed reviews from campers and required an extraordinary amount of man hours from Staff.
- Consider bringing in a team of individuals with actual and varied expertise to determine whether or not Waterfront can be reinstated in 2023.
- Provide the Program Director and Program Specialists more liberty in choosing what to purchase for program.



Summer Ops & Rental Group Facilities

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.” -Psalm 127:1



Achievements:

- Upgrades to the kitchen and dining hall made meal service much less difficult and more enjoyable for all.
- The Comanches enjoyed the updates to the Reimel bathrooms.
- New pavilions at Horses and High Ropes added increased shade and shelter for campers.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- We are in need of expanded seating at Hillside (most likely adding to the stone benches on the lefthand side). We have outgrown the current number of seats available, and many campers have to sit in the back where they cannot see or hear.
- Renovating the right wing of Strickland would benefit lodging arrangements during the summer and provide additional income for off season rentals.
- Building two “half huts” (one wing with sinks and Leaders quarters) for LIT's would allow us to increase our enrollment, retain more older campers, and provide more focused training for future Leaders.
- Building a second dining hall / multipurpose building would provide increased storage and usable space, potential for increased enrollment in the future, and differentiated meal service.



Health & Safety

“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” -Proverbs 17:22



Achievements:

- Camp Administration and Summer Staff worked diligently to prevent illness and injury.
 - There were 0 instances of injuries that were severe enough for the Nurses to be called from the Health Hut.
 - Emergency Medical Services did not have to be called in at all this summer.
 - Only two campers had to be transported off site for medical care (1 broken arm who returned the same day, 1 needed stitches in her knee and her parents were in TX).
 - No Staff members had to receive off site medical care for an injury.
- We know of only 3 positive COVID-19 cases at camp this summer, despite a surge of positive cases in our area.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- Communication and consistency continues to be a challenge in the Health Hut. There were numerous occasions this summer on which the Nurses did not know what to do because they were told to do something that went against the standing orders that were re-approved at the beginning of the summer season.
- On average, we sent home approximately 20-30 campers per week during the last four sessions of camp. This was typically due to fever, and many parents were upset by this. We need to either consistently follow the standing orders for treating fever at camp (<102 = rest and hydration, >102 = Tylenol) or communicate to parents that their children will be sent home if their fever is over a certain degree.
- The flu was our biggest health challenge at camp this year. We learned that flu was widespread among children in Birmingham this summer, so it is not surprising that it made its way through camp. While we highly value Drew's knowledge and willingness, especially after unexpectedly being asked to serve in this role after Rut's passing, we believe it would be helpful for our camp physician to be local (Birmingham) and actively working in the pediatric field. This could help us make proactive decisions that would enable us to better protect our campers and Staff.

Camp Store

“...as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” -Colossians 3:12

Achievements:

- We cleared out almost all our inventory!
- Opening the Camp Store online and during events continues to be profitable for camp.

Sales (September 2021 - Present): \$33,016

Expenses:

Staffing - \$960 (run through payroll)

Cost of Goods - \$0

Graphic Designer - \$3,205

Revenue: \$29,811 (58% increase in past year)

Recommendations for Improvement:

- The Camp Store could benefit from being housed in a different area in camp. Strickland is not conducive to the function of the store, and does not allow the merchandise to be secured.



Closing Thoughts

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven...” -Ecclesiastes 3:1



Though we've said this before, we still believe it would be beneficial for camp to restructure its leadership, governing bodies, and administrative hierarchy to allow for an Executive Director position. We can trace back almost every issue to this underlying problem. We get that it's hard to change the structure of an organization while the organization is active and functioning, but we have to be willing and able to adapt to meet the ever-evolving needs of camp. When our current organizational structure was established, camp looked and operated extremely differently than it does today, and while that was exactly what camp needed at the time, we have now outgrown these methods of operation. The world, children, and camp itself look very different in 2022 than they once did; if we don't adjust, camp will not survive. We urge this board to consider how change can best benefit Winnataska, and act urgently to do so. So many who have come before us gave their best efforts to carry out the mission of "Christian Camping at its Best," and we owe it to all who hold camp in their hearts to do what we earnestly believe is our best work and God's will for camp.

-Aubrey & Blake Huynh