



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

HAND HEWN

How is it that, in the Victorian era, the trim work in houses boasted elaborate moldings and ornate carvings, but these days, when we could so easily produce the same work with a CNC router, there is little interest in such fancy work? Instead, today many of the interior design styles lean toward rustic wood, galvanized metal, and barn door tracks.

The answer seems to lie in that we attribute value to hard things. That which has been fought for. Now granted, personal taste, and current styles play a part. But what influences our taste? Oftentimes, perseverance through difficulty is a signature of authenticity. And so, we treasure even that which is a symbol of difficulty. In the days when men had to work hard to make things smooth and shiny, they did. But now, we take smoothly planed or sanded wood and beat it up. We say it's "distressed". We like it. And we raise the price tag.

On a different but related note, it's ironic that some of the same ones of us who will pay the extra price for various comforts or conveniences might at the next turn be paying to enter some brutal challenge course or participating in cold plunges or the like. What's going on with us anyway?

Camp is a place where many boys and staff grow and thrive. Camp life offers an engaging form of difficulty and challenge. It starts with every boy's stated mission *"to help myself and help others."*

Recently, while walking a trail by lantern light, one of the Campers asked me his latest question, "So Chief, what is the biggest project you've ever worked on?" "Hmm," I replied, "That's a good question. I'll have to think about that. Remind me again tomorrow." While I was replying, one of the boys on the other side of me mused aloud, "The biggest project I've ever worked on is myself." How profound.

These are the same boys, who stepped out of their tents that morning to single-digit temperatures. Who, that same day, teamed up to carry heavy logs with ropes. Laid down fine woodchips in the snow with the strokes of crosscut saws. And engaged man to man, heart to heart, in conversations about hard things... Valuable things.

-ALBERT STOLTZFUS, CAMP DIRECTOR

EVANS MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

Descriptions of Camp Life

MAKING HISTORY

This session, we did several things that, Lord willing, will be the first of many similar events at this camp. Let me tell you about a few of them. Way back at the very beginning of this session we did the very first sauna/polar plunge as part of the very first New Years Bash. It was one of the most enchanting scenes I've ever participated in. It was a cold night. The moon was nearly full and covered everything in a silvery light. The cries of torture and delight from those experiencing a sauna for the first time. The wild thrashing in the frigid pond water. It was epic! Winter arrived in full force, dumping 12 inches of snow on us. The first snowball flew through the air. The first sled ride was had. We played games of Fox and Geese until we were breathless. After days of waiting for the ice to thicken up on the pond, we skated on the pond for the first time with generously gifted skates on our feet. Near the end of this session we celebrated winter, with a picnic right on the pond. Campfire and hot dog roasting on ice. Can't beat that! Most significantly, two young men gave their hearts to the Lord for the first time this session! It has been a good session at Ozark Wilderness Boys Camp and the best is yet to come.

- CHIEF BRANDON, SUPERVISOR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CAMP OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Plan for a BBQ lunch
and fun activities for
the whole family.



"IN-TENTS" ARCTIC CAMPING

"Do you guys live in cabins at Camp?" any random stranger may ask. The answer is, "No, we live in tents." The tents are built from trees we cut down and attach together to build a frame, then we cover the frame in canvas tarps except for the section from about waist height to head height on a chief. This section of the tent is open most of the year til cold weather comes, at which time we cover this section of the tent with clear plastic so we can see out and also keep heat inside the tents. From about the middle of January to the end of session, February 5th, a blast of cold air and snow came bringing a crisp, frozen, and white landscape across our campsite. This made us tuck our blankets in tight and set a fire in our stoves every night. It's important to tuck yourself into bed properly, a process which I will explain in detail. First you take a blanket off the foot of your bed and fold it in half over your sheet and the blanket that you used to make your bed. Then you take the 2nd blanket and lay it over top the folded blanket, now you lay your blankets back a little and crawl into bed; then you get chief to tuck all the edges of the blankets in under the mattress. This makes us look and feel like warm eggs and bacon inside a burrito, the food we all hope awaits us inside a warm and happy place called Chuckwagon.

-CHIEF DAVE, RANGER CHIEF





OZARK WILDERNESS BOYS CAMP
1158 MADISON 9533
FREDERICKTOWN, MO 63645



PLEASE PRAY WITH US

- That God's love would fill us
- For spiritual and physical protection and safety
- That we could care well for our boys' hearts
- That God would meet our needs financially
- That God would provide staff in the future

STAFF UPDATE

- In January, Dave King, from Castile, New York, joined our team to serve as a group Chief. Welcome, Chief Dave, it's good to have you here.
- We said farewell to Denley Schrock, Ranger Chief, in February. Thank you for your good work, Chief Denley. God Bless you for your service.

CAMP CONTACT INFO

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SEND DONATIONS TO

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SCAN TO DONATE

