

BEING YOURSELF, INSPIRING OTHERS:

Addison's Camp Journey

In his four summers as a camper, **Addison Garner** always felt like camp was a place that he belonged and could be himself. "The camp environment really allows you to let loose and not have to worry about 'I need to be this or I need to do that.' You can just exist without having to worry about other people's opinions."

Yet many people had high opinions of Addison as a camper and he remembers his counselors telling him that he should be on summer staff. It wasn't until he got a follow up email that he realized that



maybe it would be something to try out. "I thought it was something that counselors told everybody, but then I was like 'I guess they really mean it. Why not?'"

Now in his third year on summer staff, Addison wants to pay it forward. "I want to do as much as I can to allow anyone and everyone to have that special experience at camp. I like asking questions and being open, which hopefully lets campers feel like they can be themselves, talk about the things they are passionate about, and not be afraid to show what's a part of them."

As a camper and a counselor, the dance has been a particular highlight. "I love dancing. It's one of my favorite things in the world. And the fact that we have a space that I can share that passion with people, it's the best. It's one more way that camp has let me be myself and by me being myself, hopefully it encourages others to be themselves."

"There weren't always a lot of people that looked like me at camp, which was similar to my educational background and a lot of



spaces that I was in. But now that I'm here on staff, I hope that other campers will see that they can do this too and getting to be an example is really nice."

"My mom always said 'nothing beats a failure but a try' and I hope they would at least give it a shot and see how it could make a difference in their lives and the impact they would have on other campers."

SUMMER 2026: Character Counts at Camp

One of the key aspects of camp is that it is both a destination and a waypoint. Of course, each summer campers and families **GO** to camp and have amazing moments of fun, connection with nature, and building community through time on high ropes, camping out on the overnight, enjoying the camp dance, and everything incredible that can happen in a week away from the routines of daily life.



The impact of camp does not merely stay here at the end of the red dirt road. The investment of our community in this grand experiment of Bear

Creek Camp results in positive changes that happen far beyond our 3,000 acres in campers' families, congregations, and communities.

Parents of campers cite many moments of character growth that they see play out throughout the year. The overnight helps campers learn to work through challenges together and step outside of their comfort zone for a disconnected experience. The small-group cabin model encourages building deep peer connections and cultivates empathy by bring together many life experiences and viewpoints. Observing college-aged summer staff live out their intentional community is modeling responsibility, accountability and faith integration in action. Experiences at BCC are consistently shown to equip campers to **GO** out into the world caring for God's creation and loving people.

CAMP HISTORY:

A Legacy Worth Celebrating

In the earliest days of BCC, our founding director, **Pastor Roy “PG” Gulliford**, was a key figure in laying the foundation for all that we still enjoy to this day. Roy served as Executive Director until 1996 and, in that time, made an incalculable impact on our community.

As we celebrate 30 years since Roy’s retirement, on behalf of our entire BCC community, the Bear Creek Camp Board of Directors is taking the step to dedicate and name the Retreat Center in honor of PG. While BCC has always been a ministry community that values the collective nature of our combined contributions to serve and make an impact in the world, the board felt an honor such as this was fitting for the unique person who Roy was and the lasting legacy of his work.

There isn’t a person who met Roy who doesn’t have a story. Here are a few reflections from some of the summer staff with whom he worked and made a life-long impact.

Roy was someone who believed with his whole heart that what was happening at BCC was unique, valuable, and as true to the

Gospel as a group of imperfect humans could possibly get. No one was more accepting of failure or more loving in encouragement. He was a visionary, had high expectations, was stubborn, and was collaborative as a leader.

– Blake Marles



Roy said wild, unconventional things like “this camp will not be Sunday School outside – we will live and breathe what Christ taught us to do.” But he didn’t just preach to us; he listened to our ideas, visions, and dreams of what camp could be. We learned how and formed our own close community, which then became the model for what we hoped would happen with each small group of campers. This tradition continues today, which I believe is the essence of what makes our camp the best.

– Bonnie Lombardi

Roy challenged us to live as a Christian Community, a community of love, inclusion, and accountability. The skills we practiced would help us grow as individuals, as a community of friends, and as examples to others. I recall Roy saying, almost as a warning, “Camp is not a place to hide!” He was empowering us all, campers and staff, with the gift to nurture and serve with love.

– Rebecca Cuff



Roy treated me, his staff, and above all, the campers, with love and acceptance. It allowed all who came to experience the excitement and welcoming environment that became a place where one could grow, be comfortable to express one’s feelings and ideas, and to love one another and nature. It became a life-changing experience for all who partook of his accomplishments, which continues to this day. – Doug Strachan

Roy’s legacy isn’t the red rock road, the lake, or the buildings that make up our camp home. His true legacies are the Christian Community and the resulting deep connections across generations of campers and counselors that began on the Delaware River and have thrived at Bear Creek for over 50 years.

He inspired, challenged, taught, and then bravely empowered college kids to be outward-facing members of this inclusive community, giving everyone it touched the chance to learn about themselves, their faith, and others.

– John Hattery



The entire BCC community is invited to join in celebration at Bear Creek Camp on Friday, July 24th.

Dinner at 6 pm
Service of dedication at 7 pm

Gifts in honor of Roy to the Gulliford Site Fund will be accepted.

To RSVP, please visit:

bearcreekcamp.org/dedication



Thank You Trailblazers!

The Trailblazers Club is an expression of our community joining forces with other supporters to grow and sustain the ministry of Bear Creek Camp in a way that will have a lasting and profound impact. Your gift, combined with the gifts of others, is the power of the Trailblazers Club. The Trailblazers Club includes, individuals, families, and congregations that provided generous and consistent financial support (\$250+ annually) to Bear Creek Camp.

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Mark your calendars!

May Play Day • May 2, 2026

Labor Day Family Camp • Sept. 4 - 7, 2026

Fall Women's Retreat • Oct. 2 - 4, 2026

Winter Connect • Jan. 8-10, 2027

Register now for **SUMMER 2026:**

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SESSION 1: June 21 - 26 | SESSION 5: July 19 - 24 # |
| SESSION 2: June 28 - July 3 * | SESSION 6: July 26 - 31 # |
| SESSION 3: July 5 - 10 + | SESSION 7: August 2 - 7 # |
| SESSION 4: July 12 - 17 ** | SESSION 8: August 9 - 14 * |

* Try Camp is available + Family Camp, Artist's Retreat
Rafting trip option available

Learn more and register online at bearcreekcamp.org