

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Summer camp is something we remember for our entire life. Cadets and GEMS had summer trips with a few stories to tell.

2019 Cadet Midwest Camporee

By Shane Tukker, Carson Tukker, Ethan Tukker, and Ryley Hoekstra

Shane -

On Tuesday, July 30, before the sun had risen, three cadets (Ethan Tukker, Ryley Hoekstra, Carson Tukker) and myself were on our way to Sully CRC. Once there we filled their trailer with our gear and filled our van with their cadets. In the end, I found myself with 11 boys in the Church van and in a carpool with three pickups, all on our way to southeast South Dakota. The 2019

Midwest 5-day Camporee had begun.

It was held at Newton Hills Scout Camp; directly east

across the river from Rock Valley, Iowa. The camp was hosted by the Sioux Valley and Three Rivers councils. Along with our Hawkeye council, there were many independent clubs that also joined the camporee. The campout consisted of approximately 150 cadets and 35 counselors plus numerous staff members.

Activities at camp including service projects, archery/marksmanship, canoeing, orienteering, crafts, and games. Each morning and evening there was a mass

assembly that everyone attended. In their “free” time, the boys often roamed through the forest hills or in the creek bed. They also spent time helping around camp by preparing/cooking meals or building structures (i.e.: a shower).

I was in charge of a cadre of five cadets all ages 10 or 11 and one 18-year-old junior counselor. We had a great time experiencing God’s glory during the week. I was kept very busy the whole time. I had promised the boys that while my cooking may not be great, it would be edible. Everyone survived. We even constructed a shower that all the boys in my cadre had to use at least once. My advice for future counselors: bring more tarps, 5 was not enough.



Camp broke on Saturday, August 3, after our morning assembly and a staff provided lunch. It

was a quiet trip home as almost everyone else slept at some point during the trip. During our stay, we were blessed with perfect weather with only a light rain on the day we arrived and the day we left. I’m sure each cadet had a unique experience:

Ethan - The campout was very fun. After the four-hour ride there, we unloaded our stuff, put them in their color piles to be taken to the campground, and ate lunch. I found my campsite in the White color group

pretty quickly after lunch, and saw one other from the same group as me sitting on his chair.

The food was amazing. We cooked it ourselves over an open fire and got to make our own meals. We got stuffed pretty quickly because they gave us food for nine people and we only had seven plus an occasional visitor.

I enjoyed all the activities and especially canoeing. We got to go around on a lake without any counselors on board! In our free time we took hikes in the woods. Luckily, we never got lost!

I never made a shower at the campground, but I saw that the campground next to us put theirs in a small cove of trees.

We got to sleep in a tent! It was a fun to be with my cadre and make friends with a bunch of new people.

If I had to give some advice to someone else, I would tell them that they should pack like any campout. Be sure to bring a comfy sleeping bag as the ground can be hard. I would also encourage everyone who can, to go.

Ryley – It was a decently long trip, but not extremely long.

When we got there, we got our stuff, then started to set up our tents and campsites. Everyone was split up into White (5th and 6th

graders), Red (7th graders), and Blue (8th graders) groups. Each group had a bunch of smaller groups, so I was in Red 7.

Generally, there were 5-6 kids per group with one Counselor. Some groups also had Jr. Counselors.

Food is Always Important! Depending on the day, we had pancakes, bacon, eggs, and cinnamon rolls for breakfast. For lunches, we

had sandwiches, lettuce and chips. And yeah, we even ate the lettuce because we were hungry! And suppers included hobo pies, tacos, spaghetti and meatballs, or pizza. We had to help make the meals, and we had devotions during every meal.

For activities, there was canoeing, swimming, archery, and marksmanship. I hit the target more than once with a BB gun!

We also went orienteering, which is hiking using a compass.

During free time, there was a hill that I ran up and down three times. We also hung out at a creek.

In our cabin, we took bucket showers. Our counselor filled a bucket and dumped it over each of us. Then we

used soap. Then he did it again to rinse us off.

Our tent still smelled stinky. Sleeping was kind of uncomfortable, and there were outside sounds (and bugs) that kept me awake.

My advice to Cadets thinking about going next time? First, bring and USE bug spray. Second, go. It'll be fun; give it a try! And



finally, bring a laundry bag or two. Keep the tent picked up!

I have to tell you about our war story. Some kids in White group were acting like they were better than Red group. So, we decided to take their flag. When White found out who did it, they took our flag, AND their flag. That night, Red went off to White to take back both flags. The next morning, the counselors tried to make a truce, and it probably would have worked, but then Blue joined the war.

Carson - Blue campground had a completely different experience than the other two.

After getting almost all of my stuff from the giant pile of all the blue camp gear (the rest having been dropped off in a load of all my counselor's stuff straight to my campsite), I got to work setting up camp. Since I was the only one there, I just put down a chair and called it good. After my counselor arrived, I got to real work setting up our tents for the coming night.

That evening we had the first of many assemblies. We had one every morning and every night during the week. These assemblies would usually include songs, some kind of lecture, some songs, a flag raising/lowering ceremony, and more songs.



The first full day I got to do a service project, building steps out of logs and making a trail flatter and wider, and orienteering. In my opinion, these were the two worst activities, but they were still fun.

Throughout the rest of the week we also got to do canoeing/swimming, archery/marksmanship, games (a fun way to put a bit of competition in the campground), and craft (making a bracelet and a keychain out of pieces of paracord).

We had plenty of things to do during the many stretches of free time. We could do something as simple as tending to the fire or as adventurous as going up one of the many giant hills. Four of the seven at my campground also took a trek along the creek where we



happened to find Red's flag.

For showers, a counselor used a hand pump sprayer filled with hot water to wash us down. We got our swimsuits on, then he sprayed us down, we washed, and then got sprayed again.



Sleeping most of the nights was fine. We had two tents to sleep in, so we weren't short on room, and there were no snorers in my tent.

If I were to go on that camping trip again, I would definitely make sure to bring plenty

of bug spray, maybe even a second bottle, and make sure to use it very often.

GEMS Camp

As told to Katie Magnussen

This year we had 7 girls attend GEMS camp at Camp Wesley Woods. They were Georgia DeVries, Alexis Vos, Carmen Walker, Taylor Walker, Lexi Branderhorst, Nora Van Arendonk, and Addie Van Arendonk. Alexis Vos describes the weekend activities.

Gems camp 2019 was from Friday, July 19 to Sunday, July 21. It was located at Camp Wesley woods. There were a lot of girls there, ranging from 3rd graders to 8th graders. I was in a cabin called New Life along with 14 other girls and 3 counselors. It may seem like a lot, but it was a lot of fun to have that many people all together. I can guarantee you there was never a quiet moment!

With 15 eighth grade girls together with very generous and patient counselors, that's what's going to happen!

The first day we got there, we were told to put our bags down and go get a snack and to meet people. We did that for a half hour after most everybody got there. Then we moved to the center where we sang some songs, and learned who was in our groups. We all moved into our groups to get to know who people were, and to get our shirts and lanyards. After that, we went and did a craft. Our craft was painting pots and planting succulents. You could choose between one

large pot with 3 succulents, or 3 individual smaller pots for each succulent. When we were done with that, we moved to the dining hall and got supper. Supper consisted of hot dogs, hamburgers, and brats. They were very good. Next, we went on either a night hike (which is a hike around the property) or went around the fire for s'mores. By the time those were over, it was dark out, so we moved to our cabins and just hung out there.

The next day, we did all of our activities after we finished devotions and breakfast. Each of us would have 4 activities total. Some of the activities included horseback



riding, high ropes, low ropes, fishing, canoeing, swimming in the pond and/or swimming pool, and archery. We did our first activity and then had something called a canteen. A canteen is a table where they had snacks and drinks. You could get one snack food, one piece of candy, and one beverage. We had our second activity after

that and then lunch. We had our third activity and then had supper. Then we were sent to our cabins and played some games there due to some big storms.

The next day was Sunday, our last day at camp. We all got up early and went down to breakfast. We went next door to the chapel and waited there as the parents started to come in. When most of the parents got there, we started our songs and devotions. Some of the groups went up and performed skits. But before we knew it, it was all over and it was time to go home. We took our parents to our cabins with us to get our belongings, then we picked up our craft and headed out.

Each of the girls had a great time but each had their own favorite parts. Nora Van Arendonk liked playing games in the cabin with friends. She also liked going on the slip-n-slide and going in the pool. Addie's favorite part was playing games with her friends in the middle of the night. She also really liked swimming in the pond and canoeing in the lake. She explains, "The theme of GEMS camp was to always be kind. One night we had a bonfire and s'mores. After we had s'mores, all of the GEMS learned that when you are mean and you say hurtful things, you can't take those words back. We all learned that hurtful words are like toothpaste, if you take some toothpaste out of the tube, you can't put it back in the tube." Lexi's favorite part of GEMS camp was when they did low ropes, she also enjoyed performing skits, planting succulents, painting pots, and doing group activities like canoeing, going swimming in the pool, slip and slide, archery, and the low and high ropes. Georgia loved doing the low ropes course, having breakfast with all the girls and just being with her group. She says on the first night they were walking to the bathroom at 9:30, so it was dark! As they were walking back to the cabin, they saw a raccoon, and the whole group was screaming and running back to our safe cabin! It was so funny!



I think a great time was had by everyone!

Pastor's Pen

By Pastor Paul Bradford

Dear Pella II Congregation,

In the Pastor's Pen we've been discussing the five core purposes of the church,

purposes which are commanded in the New Testament. These include *Community, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, and Worship*. Today we discuss the final topic – *Worship*.

Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*" Jesus tells

us that this is the greatest commandment. The word *heart* refers to our innermost being – our thoughts, passions, and volition. The word *soul* (Hebrew *nephesh*) refers to our whole being, both outward and inward. The words *strength* refers to intensity of effort. And so, the great commandment tells us

to love God with all our inmost being, with our whole being, and to do so with all our effort! That's a powerful statement of what God expects of us.

The Bibles also commands us to seek the Lord with all our heart and all our soul (Deuteronomy 4:29), to serve the Lord with all our heart and all our soul (Deuteronomy 10:12, 11:13), to obey God with all our heart and all our soul (Deuteronomy 30:2) and to repent with all our heart and all our soul (Deuteronomy 30:10). Loving, seeking, serving, obeying, and, as often as needed, repenting, are all aspects of worship. And we're to do all of these passionately with all our being.

But what does the Bible mean by *all*? We are so imperfect; we continually fall short of anything close to loving or serving God with *all* our being! Even when I'm trying hard to give all, surely, I can always try harder! We could easily put ourselves under condemnation for our constant failing.

But the gospel is about grace, not about law and condemnation. While we may fall short of “all,” what we can do is love God in the fullest way we are able in our present situation and with our present understanding. Love and serve Him as fully as you know how in the moment, and trust His grace to enable you to take that next step in ever more loving, all-encompassing worship of Him!

As a congregation, we want to be known as passionate worshippers of God, a people who are seeking, serving, and obeying God with all our heart and soul, and repenting deeply as well. May such passionate worship be expressed as we gather together, and in our day to day lives. In view of all of

God’s mercy for us, may we offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, for this is our spiritual act of worship! (Romans 12:1)

Lord, you are our creator, you are perfect in love, goodness, and justice. In every way, you are worthy of all our worship and all our love. Serving you is our great joy. Pour out your grace upon us, that we may love you ever more fully. As we gather on Sundays, may our worship be passionate, thoughtful, and heartfelt for your glory. And as we walk through the day, may our obedience become ever more steadfast. We seek your face, oh Lord, and we delight in you!

Welcome to Pella 2

Mason Samuel, born July 14
to Jon and Nicole Yoder

Lane Henry, born July 20
to Kurt and Emily Boender

Serenity Ruth, born July 23
to Tony and Sarah Van Zee

Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the mailbox of any one of our editors.

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