

the Woods

Fall 2023

Get prepared, Fall is fundraising time for Westminster Woods Camp!



A Christ - Centered Camp dedicated to the Glory of God.

Camp memories are the best memories!



From our Executive Director:

The rhythm of a new season has begun. We had an incredible summer. A summer filled full of laughing campers and God moments. The Westminster Woods summer staff was an inspiring team of young people eager to learn, serve, and share their faith. I feel so confident about the future when I interact with these dedicated young people. Our permanent staff is a blessing to this ministry every day. We had campers from many programs who grew in their faith and encountered God in life-changing ways.

Now, the weather is finally getting cooler, and the rhythm of fall has begun. The Woods has been busy with Christian schools and various other groups. I am looking forward to the fall retreats to come. The fragrance of wood fires will be in the crisp air, and fall recipes will come from the kitchen. The Woods will ring with games, laughter, and worship in the chapel. The trees will be changing color, and the leaves will be falling. There will be leaves to rake and leaves to rake and leaves to rake. Volunteer anyone? Kaleb, Diane, and I will begin to visit college campuses to say hello and recruit our 2024 summer staff. Diane is already busy with fall cooking, planning our winter retreats, and next year's summer camp. Kaleb is preparing for fall weather and has an incredible vision for the facilities of Westminster Woods. He is constantly working to make The Woods beautiful and ready for the future. Fall is our fundraising season. I have been working hard with the fundraising team from the board to ensure the continued financial stability of Westminster Woods. Please watch for giving opportunities and keep Westminster Woods in your prayers.

By Brian Wheeler



Fall is fundraising time, join us in supporting camp!

Watch for more information on social media

Facebook: Westminster Woods Instagram: @westminsterwoods

www.westminsterwoodscamp.com

Ways to give:

- Venmo: @wmwcamp
- Paypal or Credit Card:
- Set up an ACH payment
- Mail a check: 18487 Barber Rd. Fall River, KS 67047

A Camper's Perspective

I first went to Westminster Woods in 4th grade, now, as a senior in high school, I have attended 27 retreats at the woods. Throughout these years, I have bought into what God has to offer me at this amazing camp. While the campgrounds themselves feel like home to me, the staff and campers that are there each time I visit truly make the most special memories. Through all of the retreats that I have attended, I would pin the importance of a Christian community as the most impactful lesson. Because of the people that surround me and continually pour into me, my faith is consistent and constantly growing. At Westminster Woods, God speaks through people, God creates life-long friendships, God fills the chapel with the holy spirit, God reveals himself in mysterious ways, and God remains. I am overwhelmed with his love that is ever so present every time I enter that front gate. The woods have become my home away from home. It's where I find the most meaningful friendships and where my faith grows stronger. I am forever grateful that God placed me at Westminster Woods.

By Alana Shetlar



NEW IN 2023

Growing, Improving, and Replacing, a thank you to our donors



New sign at the front gate

New beach chairs, dock replacement mattresses, furnishings and lots of flowers!

We are planning a cabin remodel for one of the original cabins as soon as contractor time and our funds allow it.



Lanterns at entrances

Westminster Woods
Winter Retreats 2024

Young Adult / January 5-7
High School / January 19-21



The beach received a Cabana this summer

"The Woods" Summer
Camp Dates
2024

Family Fun Day / May 25
 3rd & 4th Grade / May 28-31
 5th & 6th Grade / June 3-7
 7th & 8th Grade / June 10-14
 High School / June 17-23

From our Woods Camp Summer Speaker

This summer we taught the campers about relentless pursuit. Not only God's relentless pursuit of us, but how we should relentlessly pursue Him back. We explained how God knows everything about us, even our worst sin, and still chooses to relentlessly pursue us because He loves us that much. We showed how each and everyone of us matter to God and are loved by God through the Parable of the Lost Sheep. We then moved into dissecting the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and how both of sons were lost but in different ways. We moved on to the best part of the week: the Gospel! We shared how Jesus dying on the cross for our sins was not only the greatest act of love ever done, but how it is also an open invitation to pursue God back. After that, we talked about how to practically pursue God back in four easy steps once we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Step 1: Having a personal relationship with God. We do that by communicating to Him through prayer and Him communicating to us through the Word. Step 2: Putting love at the center of that relationship. Step 3: Putting Him at the center of our lives, not just a few hours a week at church. Step 4: Repenting after we sin. We started wrapping the week up by showing how the Great Commission is not an option but a command. We also stressed that everyone needs the Gospel. There are no throwaway people to God, so there should be no throwaway people to us! We ended the week by explaining how relentlessly pursuing God is not always easy, but it will always be worth it if we cling tight to Him.

By Jordan Laub



Eastminster Presbyterian

I am so refreshed spiritually after witnessing all the amazing things the Lord did! From lives being dedicated to Christ, hearts turning back to faith, to watching community blossom, there was no shortage of kingdom work this summer retreat. Our theme for the week was "Set Apart," a series on holiness and what it means to be in this world, but not of it. We looked at 1 Peter 1-2, which shares our call to holiness in response to God's holy nature and what it means to live a life renewed by the sanctifying power of the blood of Christ. We also heard from each of our four summer interns how the Lord has moved in their lives through their testimonies. While I did see so much growth and change from hearing how the messages impacted the students, I saw the Spirit working the most in the friendships and sense of community that grew as the week went on. One student put it best, "It didn't matter where we came from or what group we were a part of; we were all there for the same reason, the same God. It made me feel like I belonged." Witnessing our community flourish is genuinely a delight, and I can't wait to see how the Lord will work through our students as He guides them in their schools this fall.

By Seth Montgomery

"I learned what it means to be holy and that it's important to pursue holiness because it's the culture of heaven."



"I'd say one thing I learned throughout the week was we as Christians are supposed to lead a life that looks different from the rest cause it allows us to spread God's glory and light to other non-believers as they just watch us live our life."

"On the HS retreat God reminded me that He is waiting for me. It doesn't matter how far I run or what path I take, He will graciously welcome me back and put me on His path."



Westminster Woods has always been a haven to retreat both as a youth and an adult. Leading a group at the Woods this last year has been nothing but a blessing that jumpstarts the youth groups at Eastminster and sets lifelong memories for the rest of our student's lives. The staff at the Woods proves to be instrumental in the success of our programming by assisting us with last minute requests, providing support where needed, and setting the scene for our students to truly encounter God in a way not possible anywhere else. I am always pleased with Westminster Woods and would recommend the camp to anyone seeking to grow their faith in one of a kind ways.

By Josiah Bolton

Kansas Wesleyan Camp

Our week at The Woods was simply amazing!! Our theme this year was from Colossians 2:6-7. Kids learned that God has a plan to build them up in His ways! When we asked leaders their campers favorite take aways we heard a range of answers - the Lake - I was launched on the trampoline!! I loved Chapel time! Worship was really good! I loved being in nature! Gaga Ball - my knuckles bled but it was worth it! Spending time with friends! Making new friends! Cabin time was the best!! The food!! My leaders were the best EVER! Tiger Lily and Molly! Small group time really helped me connect with God! I loved learning to read my bible on my own!

There is simply something magical that happens for campers and leaders when we can escape every day life and just be at The Woods. Brian, Diane, Kaleb and their staff have a way of making you feel as if you come home when you come to The Woods. Being able to hang together for a week with kids and leaders allows us to build relationships that don't happen 1 hour a week and we can go home and continue to build on them! We have leaders who attended camp who now are volunteering to spend time with the kids they led on Sunday mornings!

God is present at The Woods and in all who serve to make it what it is! It is a place that people can quiet their thoughts, let go of worries from home and meet Jesus for the first time or take further steps with Him. Fears are eased. Hearts are transformed. Memories are made. God is Glorified! We are forever grateful for The Woods!!

By Rhonda Zimlich

Kansas Bible Camp

Kansas Bible Camp was conducted the week of July 24-28, 2023 at the Westminster Woods Camp in Fall River, Kansas. Two camps were simultaneously ran for youth who had completed grades 3-5 (Kids' Camp) and Middle School.



Our theme book was the book of Nehemiah, and our Camp Speaker, Pastor Jeff Lowther, used the story of the Prophet Nehemiah to explain how God calls each of us to "Be A Leader."

The first night of camp consists of getting acquainted with counselors and cabin-mates, a brief orientation on camp rules, dinner, evening worship and a planned recreational activity. A typical day at camp starts with a 7-7:30am wake-up, various activities through the day which include two chapel services, two planned recreational activities, a period of unplanned free-time, and of course - Bible Quiz. The campers do not stop to rest for very long and are usually in bed between 10:30pm (Kids' Camp) and 11:30pm (Middle School). Thursday night is a time to spend winding down and reflecting on the lessons learned over the week.

By Joshua Luevano