



# The Bay News

3rd Edition

9403 Camp Ln Belle Haven, VA 23306 757-442-7836 www.ootbay.org

A place where  
All are **Welcome**  
**Faith** is  
Strengthened  
Lives are  
**Changed**



### Coming Up...

Sept 2-4 VWU College Retreat

Sept 10—Emmaus Reunion

Oct 1 Holly Grove Christian School

Oct 6-9 Walk to Emmaus

Oct 14-16

Cozy Camp Fall Family Retreat

Oct 20-23 Walk to Emmaus

Nov 4-6 William & Mary College

### Summer Camp Reflections

This was my first summer at Camp Occohannock, and I must say, it exceeded my expectations! I still cannot believe the response in our registrations and the success of our programming this summer. With God, All things are Possible!

I still think about Day Campers running through the doors of the worship center, ready to experience another day at camp. They had so much fun during ninja week, and forts week. In my mind our memories of the transformation that occurred from uncertain overnight campers arrival at camp, to kids full of the spirit during our closing celebrations.

This summer, God met the challenges of few hands when volunteers showed up like Angels to help accomplish the mission. Servants that stayed overnight in cabins, churches that came to provide hands in the kitchen, and Spiritual Guides that faithfully taught us about Jesus!

We made it through several canoe trips that resulted in great stories. Some that might be a little embellished, but exciting none-the-less. The Appalachian Trail trip came with rain, a natural water slide, and ended in pizza, like manna coming from heaven. Horse Camp was a huge success, and the Trip to Camp



Bethel proved to be a favorite experience among the staff that attended it this summer. We had tractor rides in the dark, that provided beautiful view of the stars at night. We also had sights of the creek from the tree tops through the new tree climbing program offered this summer.

The greatest part of the summer for me was experiencing lives changed through intentional Christian Community. Campers who expressed they had been changed by God, many beginning a new journey of following Jesus for the first time. There were staff and campers that had expressed that they had felt a call to ministry. There was the forging of bonds so strong it require serious commitments and a promise to return again and meet at camp!

I am overwhelmed by the work of the Spirit through my first summer at Camp Occohannock!



## Staff Spot Light



This summer has impacted me in many ways that I can't explain. When I finish college, I want to become a Child Advocate to help kids! This summer has really helped me prepare for my future career. It has given me the opportunity to work with different children from different backgrounds and experiences. Camp counseling has taken me out of my comfort zone. Before camp, I was not use to being around so many people all the time. I was used to spending most of my time alone at home.

There were time when I felt I like I wasn't doing enough or that I might fail as a counselor. The summer staff was a huge boost to my confidence regularly encouraging me. In the past, I have struggled to make friends. This summer really helped me in that area of my life.

Being a camp counselor at Camp OOTB has also helped me grow my faith in GOD, I was always a believer but had lost my faith prior to camp. This summer allowed me to regain my faith. I grew so much through the morning watches, bible times, and evening worship services during the summer.



Being a camp counselor is more than games and fun, it's a real job. It's a big responsibility caring for children and youth. I learned that there has to be a balance between being their friend and being their leader during the serious times. A good camp counselor is invested in making sure that nobody is left out and that isn't always an easy task. It is hard work but it is incredibly fulfilling. I can't wait to come back next year and return as a proud OOTB Camp Counselor! - Dsani Ray

## Check Out the Fun This Past Summer



## Camper Quote

**"I went into camp as a self-doubting girl. I am writing this now as a confident person. Camp has changed me mentally and spiritually. Keep doing what you are doing here!"**

-Female. Age 11



# Cozy Camp

## FALL FAMILY RETREAT

OCTOBER 14-16

COME SPEND THE WEEKEND AT CAMP OCCOHANNOCK WITH YOUR FAMILY!!

COST \$95/PERSON

\$80/PERSON FOR A FAMILY OF 4+

FRIDAY 7-8P.M. CHECK-IN  
THROUGH  
SUNDAY - 11A.M. DEPARTURE

### Meals

This camp is an all inclusive weekend. Meals will be served in the dining hall with plenty of delicious options for everyone.

### Lodging

Families will stay in our cabins, possibly with other families. All cabins have A/C & Heat. They are just a short outdoor walk to bathrooms.

### Activities

This weekend will be a self-guided adventure! Family campers are given the freedom to choose from a variety of activities. Programming may have to change based on weather - but we have fun planned for all ages! You'll have the choice of self-guided activities like fishing, hiking, etc. to staff-led activities.

\*Activities are geared towards  
5 & up

CAMP OCCOHANNOCK  
*on the bay*



# Play-Spiration Playground

We are building an inclusive community space, for all children, youth and families.



PLAY-SPARATION WILL INCLUDE:

- ~ 4 DECKS OF ACTIVITY ELEMENTS (SLIDES)
- ~ SEVERAL CLIMBING AREAS
- ~ TRICYCLE AREA
- ~ PEDAL KART TRACK & GARAGE
- ~ JUMPING PILLOW



A smaller climbing area will be added near the current climbing wall.

Cost of Project is: \$120,000

We are seeking \$100,000 in Grants  
We are seeking \$20,000 in donations

ESTIMATED COMPLETION BY  
FALL 2023

## PARTNER WITH US

### 1. Pray:

PRAY FOR THE FUTURE AND SUCCESS OF MINISTRY AT CAMP OCCOHANNOCK

*"the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16*



### 2. Volunteer:

BOTH PROJECTS WILL INVOLVE A LARGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, HELPING US TO REDUCE COSTS.

REGISTER TO HELP HERE:

[bit.ly/CampOOTBVolunteers](http://bit.ly/CampOOTBVolunteers)

### 3. Give:



WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS TO MAKE THE VISION A REALITY. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YEARS TO COME. YOU, YOUR CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE AN IMPACT!

Paypal: [paypal.me/ootbay](https://paypal.me/ootbay)

(Please use FAMILY/FRIENDS option)

contact camp if you cannot find this  
\*Otherwise we lose a large part of your donation to 'fees'  
\*Indicate which project it is on the memo

Or Send in your donation with Check

9403 Camp Lane

Belle Haven, VA 23306

\*Please indicate in the Memo which project you are donating to (Hope Project or Play-Spiration Playground)

## Expansion Projects

Coming 2022-2023

## Hope Project

We are going to build an addition between cabins 4 & 5 that will connect the two cabins.



BENEFITS:

- ~ SPACE FOR MEETINGS/GATHERINGS
- ~ FAMILY RETREATS
- ~ YOUTH GROUP RETREATS
- ~ DECREASE STAFFING NEEDS FOR SUMMER CAMP & INCREASE CAMPER BEDS



Cost of Project is: \$25,000

We have \$9,000 to start the project.

ESTIMATED COMPLETION BY  
SPRING 2023



## *Praise Report from Summer Camp*

This past summer OOTB gave out \$9,275 camper scholarships for children and youth unable to afford coming to camp. This represented 38 campers. In addition, we served 36 campers who had an immediate family member incarcerated.

This past summer we had served 309 children. Out of those 309, 165 participated in our Residential program. Each camper completed an evaluation of their experience including statements regarding when they felt closest to God at camp. Out of the 139 respondents our ministry impact included:

### *Camper Quote*

**"This camp increased my faith, and allowed me to have a religious experience early in the morning. I've been going to church a lot more and have gone evangelizing since then. I can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and it comforts me."**  
-Jonathan. Age 15

First Time Followers of Jesus—30  
Rededicated Their Life to Jesus - 45  
Felt a Call to Ministry—20  
Felt a Call to Serve in Their Church—26  
Prayed about Something Important—81

### *Book Your Date Today*



Rev. Joel Coleman would **love** to come to your congregation or organization and share about the ministry of **Camp Occohannock!** Whether it's Sunday School, a Youth Meeting,, Adult Groups or message at a **Worship Gathering**  
Contact the office for more info. 757-442-7836

### *Save the Dates*

Polar Duck Dip

January 21st (Reschedule Date January 28th)

Volunteer Work Day

March 11th (Reschedule Date March 18th)

Costal Virginia District Youth Retreat

March 24-26

Family Easter Event

April 1 (Egg Hunt, Food, Activities at Camp)

### *Amazon Wish List*

<https://bit.ly/OOTBWishlist>

The camp is making improvements and updates as it looks into the future. Check back regularly as the Amazon Wish will continue to be updated. For more information contact [campootb@gmail.com](mailto:campootb@gmail.com)

