THE OCCOHANNOCK Current
STORIES • PEOPLE • FAITH • ADVENTURE
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Welcome to "The Occohannock Current" - November 2026 edition!





Fall Work Day - Join Us!

It isn't too late to join us on **Saturday, November 7** for our Fall Work Day!

We have a lot of jobs that could use some hands, from moving crushed concrete, to light construction, cleaning, raking and more! We're asking you to sign up so we can prepare and organize jobs and have food prepared for you! If you have tools, you are welcome to bring them to help!



19th Annual Polar Duck Dip Fundraiser

We are preparing for our 19th annual fundraiser!

Please note: in previous months we had a mistake, the event is actually on January 23, 2027.

Join us for our Annual Fundraiser.

We have ways for you to dip and raise funds as a TEAM this year!!

We will have some new elements to our day along with favorites - like our Duck Dash 5K.

Hope to see you at camp!
Saturday, November 7 from 8a.m. - 3p.m.

Sign Up Today





Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

It's time! Our Summer 2027 Registrations are open and it's time to grab your spots now! We have made a few *upgrades* to the Summer Schedules!!!

**Day Camp will now be ages 5-10.
**Elementary Camp now begins with those finishing Grades 2 (instead of 3) through Grade 5.
**We brought back our Appalachian Trail Camp for High Schoolers with some new leadership helping us!
**We have also, on most weeks, separated age groups so that our program can be of higher quality!

We have some other fun program/structure elements that we adjusted and will introduce for Summer 2027! We can share more of those in the coming weeks and months!

For now it's time to get yourself REGISTERED!
Registering early can help us plan for staff numbers, it also helps you not miss the week you wanted. We

And together we'll reach our goal to raise $100K for ministry and impacting lives!

A special newsletter edition will be out shortly with all the details and ways you can support Camp!



We're Hiring for Summer 2027!

We have opened Applications for our Summer 2027 Team and are already seeing applications come in! What an exciting time!

We are hiring for these positions:
Day Camp Program Coordinator
Day Camp Lead Counselors
Day Camp Junior Counselors
Residential Program Coordinator
Residential Counselors
Residential Junior Counselors

Please see the flyer above and our application for information on each position.

We've been praying for our Summer team and ask you to join us in praying for these young adults (and teens) who will help shepherd, influence and guide our campers!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joel or Niki at 757-442-7836 or you can email

had that a lot last summer. **All you'll need is the deposit ($10 for Day Camp and $25 for Residential) at sign up!** You can select payment plans or you can pay later by cash/check/credit card.

Get Registered Now!

Niki at: campootboffice@gmail.com

Apply Here!



November 7 (8a.m. - 3p.m.) - Fall Work Day
January 1 - Financial Assistance Opens for Summer Camp 2027
January 23, 2027 - Polar Duck Dip Annual Fundraiser & Duck Dash 5K
February 1 - Early Bird Discount Ends for Summer Camp 2027
March 19-21 - High School Youth Retreat



Mealtime Memories

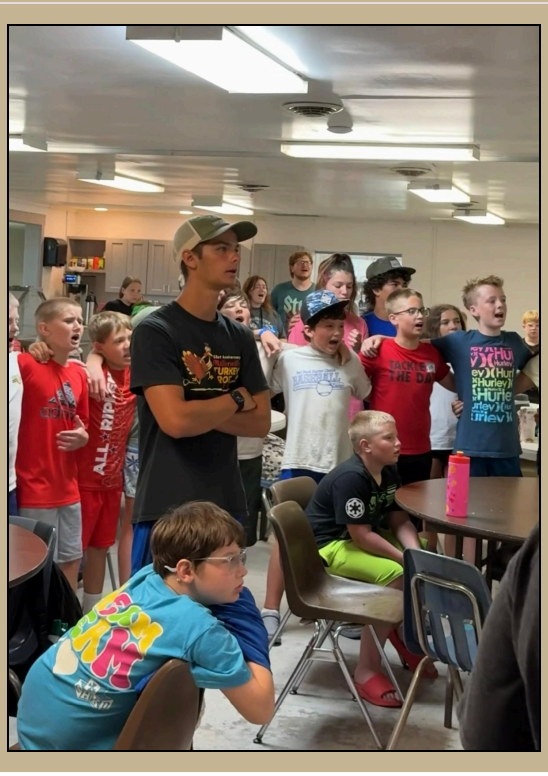
by Paula Foley, Food Service Director

Mealtime, especially lunchtime at camp, is always full of excitement. Tables are filled with food, and of course hungry campers and staff. As everyone is filling their bellies, conversation about the day and what's to come is the anticipation that fills the air. The room is bustling and it's a beautiful sight.

Before afternoon activities can begin, a lunchtime tradition needs to happen. And this is my favorite time of the day. The Assistant Director, Niki Coleman and I, rush to finish our lunch and meet in the kitchen dish window to begin our daily ritual. It's a competition between us and the campers to see if we can keep up with them putting their plates in the bus tubs to be washed and getting them on racks and through the dishwasher. But the event that motivates us throughout this task is the music and guitar playing led by Jake Canody, and the loud and inspirational singing by the campers. It's the best and most memorable part of my day. To witness our campers linking arms, or doing the motions to many fun Christian songs fills the

room and our hearts. It's a time that's so uplifting and heartwarming. It really is a time we cherish! The memories of those lunch times stick with me now and I can't wait for them next summer!







It's been a BUSY October around camp!

















Faith On The Water

Keeping us Connected to God

The Occohannock Current



Responding with God's Grace

I love sharing Camp OOTB with families, churches, and campers. Summer is an explosion of activity as youth groups and families fill the property with life and energy. If a drone were to capture footage of camp during the summer, you would see activity happening everywhere!

This fall, we have continued to welcome groups almost every weekend as people enjoy retreats, youth gatherings, and special events like baptisms, weddings, and birthday celebrations. I enjoy those moments when I can step back and simply watch people enjoying their time at camp.

But as the leaves begin to fall, so does the pace of life around camp. The busy days gradually give way to quieter moments. There are more opportunities to enjoy the amazing views of the water without feeling the constant pull of the many tasks waiting to be done. The other day, I sat outside on my deck and took in the beautiful colors of the sunset stretching across the water. Recently, I've also restarted running in the mornings and incorporating my audio Bible into those times. It's amazing what God reveals when we slow down and really listen.

A few days ago, during my morning run, I heard a familiar Bible story in a way that connected some things I had never put together before. The story begins with the beheading of John the Baptist. After this tragic event, Jesus is told about the death of someone he loved. Jesus seeks an opportunity to withdraw and be alone, but the crowds follow Him. He doesn't get the solitude or the space to grieve that He was seeking.

What happens next caught my attention. Scripture tells us that when Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them. He began teaching them and healing those who were sick and in need. As the day wore on, the people remained there, far from home and without food. Jesus then involved His disciples in feeding the crowd of more than five thousand people.

I actually paused the audio Bible and stopped running for a moment. As I thought about the sequence of events, I realized there was another miracle taking place that I had never really considered. If I had been Jesus, hearing that

someone I loved had been killed because of the jealousy and pride of a king, I imagine I would have been angry. I might have wanted to respond with retaliation or vengeance. I might have been frustrated with the relentless crowds who continued to demand my attention when all I wanted was time alone with God to grieve. But Jesus responded differently. In the midst of His own grief, He chose compassion. In the midst of personal loss, He chose to serve others. Rather than allowing His pain to turn into anger or bitterness, He allowed His love to continue flowing into the lives of those around Him.

His grief did not prevent Him from showing grace. Instead, His compassion became the beginning of a miracle that would feed thousands.

That realization reminded me of something I still need to work on in my own life. How do I respond when people hurt me? What happens in my heart when someone says or does something that leaves me wounded? Do I allow that hurt to turn into anger, bitterness, or a desire to retaliate? Or do I bring that hurt before God and allow His Spirit to shape my response? Responding with grace doesn't mean that the hurt isn't real. It doesn't mean that we ignore wrongdoing or pretend that painful things never happened. It means that we don't allow the actions of others to determine the condition of our hearts.

Jesus showed us that even in our most difficult moments, we can choose a response that reflects the heart of God. I know this doesn't come naturally to me. It is something I need the Holy Spirit to continually work out in my heart. I need His help to respond with compassion when I feel hurt, patience when I feel frustrated, and grace when my first instinct is to react in anger. Perhaps one of the greatest miracles God wants to work in our lives isn't always changing the circumstances around us, but changing how we respond to them.

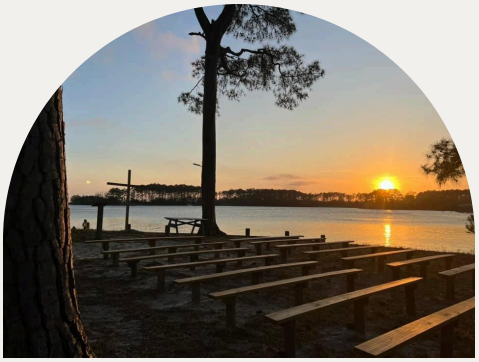
The next time someone hurts you, or life doesn't unfold the way you hoped, pause before responding. Bring your feelings to God. Ask Him to help you see beyond your hurt and respond in a way that reflects Jesus. We may not always have control over what happens to us or how others treat us, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can choose what flows out of our hearts. May our response to a hurting world always be shaped by the grace we have received from Christ.

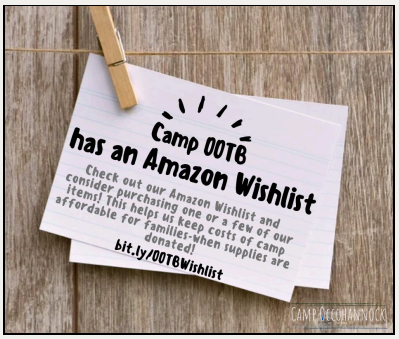
~Reverend Joel Coleman,
Camp Director



Our Full-Season and Summer Staff have compiled a Spotify playlist with all of songs they are loving this fall!
We hope you love the list!

Listen Here!





Camp's Wishlist



Monthly Giving



Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center | 9403 CAMP LN | BELLE HAVEN, VA 23306 US

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