2026

HILLTOP HOLLER

NOVEMBER

How can it already be November? Even with warning signs of cooler weather, our first frost a few weeks ago, and trees with no leaves, it still feels like the end of the year crept up on us! The holiday season is right around the corner, and before long, we'll be looking at a brand-new year. How often do we get caught up in everything that needs to be done and find ourselves wondering where has the time gone? When life starts to feel busy, that's the time to take a moment to slow down and remember where our peace comes from. Philippines 4:6-7 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." How amazing is it to serve a God who promises peace to His children!

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" -- This song reminds us to Whom thanks is due and for what reason. "Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son...because of what the Lord has done for us." The time is here for us to be reminded of His goodness over the last year. So, let's do that. Here at camp, we're thankful...

- That we're moved in and settling in at The Summit. It's been a long time coming, and there have been plenty of hiccups along the way, but we all are excited to get some miles out of this new facility.
- For the staff and volunteer team we've been blessed to work alongside in the last year.
- For unexpected blessings. You know those days when something just works out for no reason other than God was showing His love for you? Throughout the last year, many times we've been able to step back and see how God worked something special out just for us.
- For running water. Even with two wells taking breaks at the most inconvenient time of the year, we were able to have running, drinkable water at camp all year long. Sometimes we had to haul it from one place to the next or tell campers to take it easy on the length of their showers, but God allowed the camp program to be uninterrupted during this whole time. Additionally, those wells are back from their summer break and working very. . . well. Thanks to numerous generous donors, we were able to pay for these expensive endeavors in a timely fashion.
- For spiritual decisions made at camp. There were 14 campers who put their trust in Christ at camp this summer and many others throughout the year indicated spiritual growth in various ways. We're thankful to be able to have a front row seat to watch God at work!
- For our campers. Throughout the year, we have various retreats and events, each of which are attended by campers from various walks of life. Though some require extra time, attention, and maybe a call home, I can't think of any camper that I wish would not have attended camp. We're grateful for every one of them and the special place they hold in our hearts.
- That we have a message to proclaim. The Good News of Jesus will always be relevent. God's Word is living and active. It points us to real answers regardless of the challenge we're facing. Its message will never expire, and it's truths will always remain truth. We don't have to wonder about anyone's opinion or extra revelation--it's sufficient.

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is just one month away! Since its creation in 2012, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has been a day to encourage supporting nonprofits and ministries through donations, volunteering, and acts of kindness. Think through people that have made a difference in your life over the past year--your church, Pastor, non-profit organizations and community centers, missions groups, etc. Reach out to see what ways you can offer support! In Luke 12 we are given the principle, to whom much is given, much shall be required. God has blessed Trail Ridge with so much this year! We've received many practical items from our wish list, hundreds of volunteer hours, camp scholarship donations, building project donations and furnishings, vehicles, and so much more. We are grateful for every person who has given, served, prayed, and supported camp in so many ways. We thank the Lord for providing through YOU. Since we've been blessed with so much this year, we know that God has big plans for our ministry! It's our responsibility to be good stewards, work to the best of our ability, and make sure everything that's been given to us is used for His glory.

If you are looking for a way to give back this Giving Tuesday, please consider supporting Trail Ridge. More than anything, we ask that you continue to pray for our ministry, our staff, and each person who comes through our gates. Practical ways to support Trail Ridge include:

- Monetary Donations - Financial gifts to the General Fund help cover the ongoing needs and upkeep of camp, as well as unexpected expenses that arise when larger issues come up like our well situation this past summer. We work hard to offer summer camp at an affordable price and subsidize the cost with our Camp Scholarship Fund. This is a great way to invest in the lives of campers!
- Amazon Wish List - Trail Ridge has a wish list of practical things we use in our Kitchen, Housekeeping, Programming, and Maintenance Departments. These items vary from Rec Center games, to towels, to shop tools and are specific needs we have right now. Items will be shipped directly to camp and are tax deductible!
- Most Wanted List - Throughout the year we go through basic items as we clean, conduct maintenance, and host activities. The cost of all this adds up! Items from this list can be mailed, dropped off directly at Trail Ridge Camp, or dropped off at VCY in Milwaukee.
- Vehicles - Vehicle donations are a great way to support Trail Ridge. We may be able to use your old car, truck, van, or SUV for our day to day camp operations! We've also partnered with CARS, a donation company that will coordinate the pick up and sale of vehicles in any condition and the majority of the proceeds are donated directly to camp!
- Utility Vehicles and Equipment - As you can imagine, it's a lot of work to maintain the 372 acre property God has blessed us with! From time to time, we need specific tools and equipment for a special project or large job, and if it's something camp doesn't own, like a mini excavator for example, we have to rent it. Equipment donations, or monetary donations towards rentals is much appreciated!
- Outdoor Furniture - Do you have ties with a distributor of outdoor furniture? With the completion of the Summit, we've got a need for outdoor chairs, benches, and swings to place around the new building and around camp in general.
- Trees and Shrubs - We could also benefit from someone who's in the nursery business for trees and shrubs around camp!

Visit our website for more information on ways you can give to camp. If you click the "Support" tab, you'll see all the above information including links to the specific item and equipment lists, CARS donation website, Amazon Wish List, and more. Every gift, big or small, helps us continue the work God has called us to do. As we look ahead to another year of ministry, we pray that we will stay faithful!

"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:48

Follow us on social media to stay connected with camp and get updates on upcoming events!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Rooted Marriage Retreat: November 13-15

Giving Tuesday: December 1

Our 2027 Calendar of Events will be available soon!