

Suwannee Ripples

Published for Camp Suwannee by the Advent Christian Village Office for Resource Development



A SPECIAL PLACE



By Craig Carter, ACV President/CEO

There is a place located on the banks of the Suwannee River that many consider one of the most special places on earth. What makes it so special is not its natural beauty, of which there is plenty, or its facilities, which are most functional; it is not even the engaging programs and fun activities that also help people to grow and learn. It is a place where our youth experience God and learn of His unfailing love and salvation through His son Jesus Christ — that's what makes it so special.

Obviously, the place to which I am referring is Camp Suwannee, and all of the above listed attributes that make up the camp combine for the purpose of

enabling people, primarily our youth, to experience God and learn of His everlasting love and salvation through His son Jesus Christ. That *is* what makes Camp Suwannee so special, and you can play a lead role in its ongoing success.

Camp Suwannee truly is blessed with all of the components to reach our young people for Christ — a beautiful setting; functional facilities; engaging, inspirational and fun programs and activities; and committed volunteers serving as counselors, Bible teachers, evangelists and activities directors.

If, however, families cannot afford to send their children to Camp Suwannee or do not even

know about it, all of the efforts of creating a special camp are in vain. You are essential in the equation because, through your gifts and promotion of the camp, you provide the means for the lost to be reached and for others to be strengthened in their faith through its ministry.

As you read about the camp through this *Ripples* and learn of the good things that occur in this special place, please prayerfully consider how important your support can be. Is there anything more important than enabling our youth to experience God and learn of His love? Together we create a most special place that is called Camp Suwannee.





DIRECTOR'S NOTES



By Doug Mabey

(386) 658-5100 • dmabey@acvillage.net

With every new year comes a feeling of optimism as we get a fresh start and set new goals. One of our goals for Camp Suwannee is to get the word out so more people know that the camp is available for their group to rent.

Camp Suwannee is a gift from God. It is a beautiful, natural setting where campers of all ages can get away from the bustle of everyday life and focus on what is really important. It is a shame when such a great facility is not in use every week. It is a missed opportunity for ministry.

We're working hard to spread the news on social media and other avenues so that more groups will know about us and might choose to use the camp for their ministries as well. **We ask for your help.** If you know of a youth or adult group looking for a place to hold their event, please mention us to them and send us their information.

Camps all across the U.S. are experiencing a drop in the number of campers, and unfortunately, that is true at Camp Suwannee also. As a result, the Youth Committee made the tough call to consolidate the three weeks of camp into two. The weeks of A.C. camps in 2018 are as follows:

Week #1 — July 8–14 — ages 13–18
Week #2 — July 15–21 — ages 7–12

Please spread the word and encourage the youth in your church, your neighborhood, and their friends to attend these amazing weeks of camp. Camp is still the most effective atmosphere for reaching youth for Christ.

The RVICS (Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service) are coming back to offer their volunteer labor in March.

They will be working on projects all over Advent Christian Village, the following projects specifically at Camp Suwannee:

1. build stairs behind the canoe storage area,
2. mount basketball hoops permanently in Rumph Pavilion,
3. paint the Pavilion floor, and
4. make improvements to Oak Lodge ramp.

We are grateful for their help in keeping the camp looking good and functioning well for our groups.

Two years ago, I shared with you that Jeremiah 29:11 was on my heart, and a great parallel verse is Psalm 40:5: "You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told."

We trust the Lord to continue to do His will for Camp Suwannee.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial support. Have a blessed 2018.

Counselors & Staff Members **NEEDED** High School Seniors & College Students

Camp Suwannee is an amazing opportunity for high school seniors and college students to participate in ministry. As a counselor or staff member, you will be directly involved with students in worship, games, fun activities, Bible study, and building relationships that will last a lifetime. This is an awesome way to spend a week or two during the summer and watch what God does in and through your life. Camp Suwannee will hold two weeks of camp in 2018: Week #1 for ages 13–18 July 8–14 and Week #2 for ages 7–12 July 15–21. If you are interested in serving on staff for either or both weeks of camp, please contact Randy Lamb at (386) 658-5344 or rlamb@acvillage.net.

Most Wanted List

Horton's Landing Revitalization: still need \$23,500 (received \$1,500 of \$25,000)

New Dowling Cafeteria Ceiling: \$10,000

Handicap Lift for the Outdoor Pool: still need \$6,900 (received \$1,100 of \$8,000)

Youth Lodge Ice Maker (75 lb. installed): \$1,500

Paint for Gym Floor: \$1,000

Stairs at Canoe Storage Shed: \$250

We are thankful for those who have given toward items on our Most Wanted List. Thank you, all!



2017

CAMP

SUWANNEE



This was my first time going to camp at my granny's work in the Village. I had a lot of fun!

My most favorite part was having a campfire at night and hearing stories about Jesus. I really liked sleeping in the cabins at night, but not for naptime. I have never slept in a cabin before — it was really fun. My other favorite part was when Mr. Brett got his Chevy stuck in the mud and someone else had to pull it out with a Ford F150! I also liked playing tug of war, even though I fell in the mud and ruined one of my shirts. My mom said it was okay as long as I had fun. I am excited to go back to camp next year.

*Ryan Tanner,
Junior Camper*

Let me just start out by saying that Camp Suwannee was a fun and spiritual experience. It's a week full of fun games and activities. Everyone is very welcoming and always willing to help. Camp is a great way to get close with God! From morning worship service to the bowl at night, it's always very moving seeing God work in everyone's life. And what is great is the staff members are always willing to help pray with you and talk to you about God. It's a very moving week in all the campers' lives.

In addition to all of this, the activities and games are very fun as well. We always have a great time together and getting to know each other. We all have a blast at White Sands and even the pool. By the end of the week no one wants to leave because of such an awesome time they had. Camp Suwannee was great, and I can't wait for next year.

*Helena Kunstmann,
Intermediate Camper*

This year was my first year at Camp Suwanee. I wanted one last chance before I left for college to have a good time with new friends and also to re-align my relationship with God. I strongly believe that it has been changed for the good. I have been able to come to peace with my life struggles and it has made me a much happier person. I honestly feel like God is and will be working through my life, thanks to Camp Suwanee. The counselors were very personal and were always a listening ear. I am so thankful and will definitely be back next year.

*Jordan Lumpkin,
Senior Camper*

Upcoming Groups

Dates	Group Name	Dates	Group Name
April 4-8	Tres Dias Men	July 15-21	A.C. Week #2 (Ages 7-12)
April 6-8	Leadership Phase IV	July 29-Aug. 3	Boys Choir of Tallahassee
April 18-22	Tres Dias Women	Aug. 4	Young Family Reunion
May 4-5	SHS JNROTC Ball	Aug. 17-19	Leadership Phase I
May 11	Dance Shop	Oct. 3-7	Tres Dias Men
May 25 & 26	Westwood Christian School	Oct. 12-14	Dynamos
June 16	Bell-Ransom Family Reunion	Oct. 17-21	Tres Dias Women
July 8-14	A.C. Week #1 (Ages 13-18)	Oct. 26-28	Grace Anglican

WE NEED YOUR REFERRALS

Camp Suwannee is a great place for groups to rent, whether for a day, a week or somewhere between. It offers sleeping accommodations and places to meet, eat, play and worship. Help us get the word out so that we may minister to more groups. Have them call us at (386) 658-5100 or visit acvconference.net to find out more.



REMEMBERING CAMP SUWANNEE



By Steve Hett

I began attending Camp Suwannee in 1967 when I was 10 years old, and finally gave it up 34 years later in 2001. During that time, I was a camper, worked on the secondary staff, and served as a camp director. Camp Suwannee holds a very special place in my heart.

Those years as a camper were some of the most life-changing weeks of my life. God used my time at camp to convict me of sin, remind me of his love, increase my faith, and draw me closer to him. I spent many nights at the Bowl bearing my soul and rededicating my life to him. I was truly blessed by the many counselors, teachers, speakers and directors who invested their time and prayers in me.

During my summer breaks in high school, I was privileged to work on the camp's secondary staff washing dishes, unclogging toilets, mowing grass, roofing buildings, and doing whatever else needed to be done. I will be forever grateful to my boss,

mentor and friend Ron Thomas, who taught me so much and made a significant difference in my life.

I was also blessed to attend the very first River Runners camp in 1974, a five-day canoe trip down the Suwannee River. It was the beginning of a lifelong love of canoeing, camping and roughing it in the river's natural beauty. It was this love of the river that inspired me, along with John Butler, to take the reins of that program and direct that camp for

over 20 years. Those trips down the river created many great memories and were filled with experiences that will always be special to me.

Throughout the years, God has used Camp Suwannee to make a difference in my life, as well as in the lives of many people who have had the opportunity to attend camp or otherwise participate in its ministry. It is indeed a special place.

Thank you, Steve, for sharing your memories of Camp Suwannee.



Three campers around 1960 on Camp Suwannee grounds (now the Village Square parking lot). Dining hall on left; tabernacle on right; river behind the photographer. Photo courtesy Tony Lehtola, one of the boys.

WHERE CHRIST IS EXALTED THROUGH CAMPING



Camp Suwannee
P.O. Box 4313
Dowling Park, FL 32064



386-658-5100 • 1-800-371-8381
dmabey@acvillage.net

Suwannee River Conference & Retreat Center
is part of ACV Conference Services, LLC,
a wholly owned Limited Liability Company
of Advent Christian Village, Inc.

Camp Suwannee 2018

Two exciting weeks:

Week #1 **July 8-14**
(Ages 13-18)

Week #2 **July 15-21**
(Ages 7-12)

Applications will be mailed out in March.
For additional applications, go online
to www.campsuwannee.net or call
Director Doug Mabey at (386) 647-6624.