



2023 IMPACT REPORT

Cedar Crest Camp, a United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministry, is committed to being a place where children, youth, and adults discover and connect to God's call to transform the world.

931-670-3025

<https://www.cedarcrestcamp.org>



Cedar Crest Camp



@cedarcrestcamp

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, RUSSELL CASTEEL

High above the clouds, the sun still shines. Writing this in Spring 2020 was a way to hope that summer camp at Cedar Crest would return. As I heard from families and churches of their support and deep sadness, the constant of “we cannot wait to come back” echoed over and over again. One day a letter came in from an elementary camper. It included his favorite parts of camp (the food, the games, the laughing, the counselors) and the letter closed: sending you lots of sunshine. Friends, you have given us sunshine. Thank you for your constant support of Cedar Crest.

Holding on to our momentum and vision in the ebb tide of a changing church, mental health and financial support has been a challenge. Yet here we are, at a turn of the tides. We are only three summers of repeated growth away from needing to build new cabins! We are creating a long term plan to shift from the Annual Conference as our biggest donor to our supporters, our families, and our churches. Our Conference has been and continues to be our biggest supporter, our largest giver; this shift is one of necessity, as our churches have grown smaller and the ministry of the conference is adapting to the changing nature of our communities. Discipleship and relationship remain our core values, and continue to create opportunities for camp to transform the world.

We need you to give. It’s admittedly a shift to ask our families, our guests, our churches to help shoulder our annual expenses. It will take time to implement this cultural change and yet time is short. That elementary camper who sent sunshine is now a junior high camper, stresses the importance of camp:

I definitely found a deeper connection with God at camp. I felt like the whole experience just changed me in ways that I didn’t even understand. I became friends with people I had just met and got even deeper connections with people I already knew. Being with the people I love is how I find God in myself and other people. Cedar Crest brought out the best in me. It showed me that God can heal and love. I learned how to find that at camp.

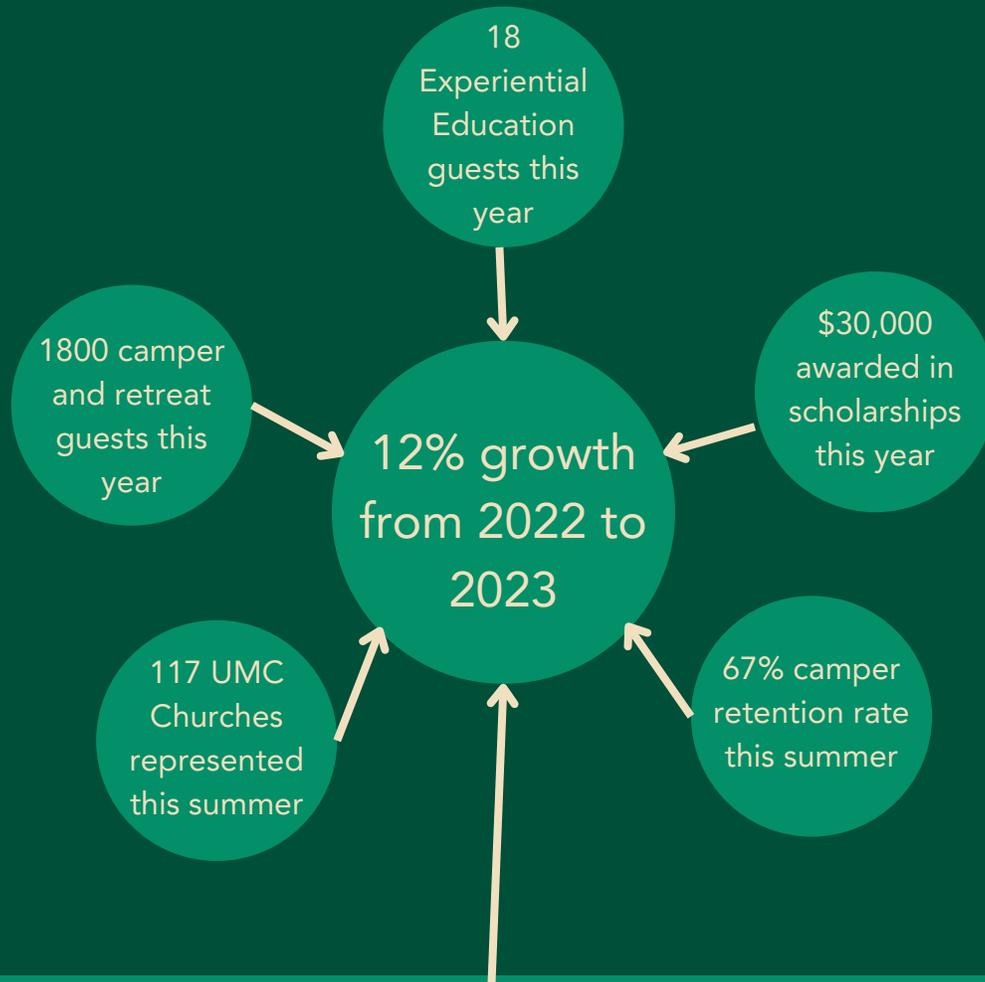
Thank you for making camp a priority in the life of your family. We are grateful for you! If you, your family, or your church can give to the Cedar Crest Annual Fund please contact me at russell.casteel@twkumc.org. Your checks are welcome at Cedar Crest Camp /7900 Cedar Crest Camp Road / Lyles TN 37098.

Russell Casteel

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2023 Milestones



From camper to counselor



“Going from camper to staff meant that I was going to be part of a team that could create the same meaningful experiences for campers that were meaningful for me growing up at Cedar Crest” -Discernment Intern Caleb Purdue

“It was a space that allowed me to push my comfort zone and just play with friends. Now, as a staff member, Cedar Crest has allowed me to spend my summer in community outdoors which combines a lot of the things that I love.” -Counselor Emma Anne Stephens



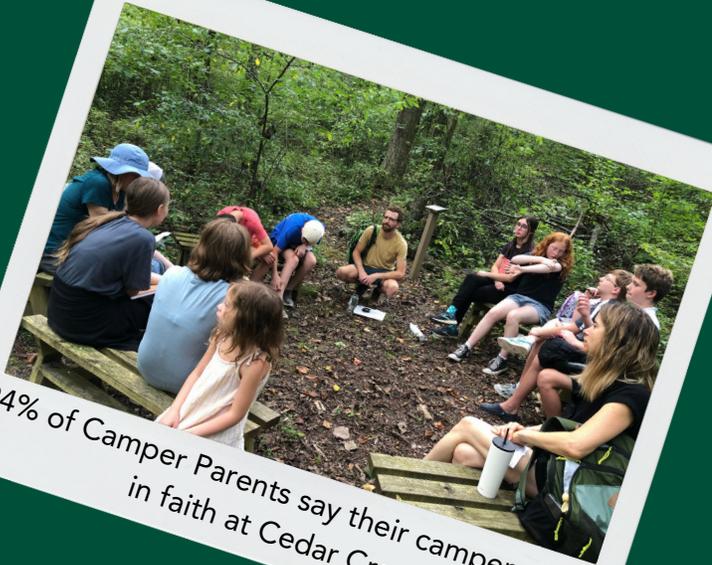
2023 Highlights



Former Summer Staff Jessi Persson and Tayla Fugate now serve as UMC Camp Directors



24% of Summer Campers came from a diverse ethnic background



94% of Camper Parents say their camper grew in faith at Cedar Crest



98% of Camper Parents say their camper is excited to return to Cedar Crest

Special thanks to our partners:

TWK Annual Conference
American Camp Association
GBHEM Young Clergy Initiative
TWK UMC Campus Ministry
Tennessee Environmental
Education Association
NOMADS

Americorps
Dialysis Clinic Incorporated
Tennessee Wildlife Resource
Agency Clean Streams
MGA Environmental Foundation
America Walks
St. Mark's Murfreesboro UMC
Disaster Relief



How can I support Cedar Crest?

1. Giving Tuesday is November 28th. Please consider giving to Cedar Crest this year. Proceeds from this year's Giving Tuesday will go towards the Cedar Crest Annual Fund. Online giving is under construction, our conference is currently shifting accounting and it will be up ASAP. We will let you know when it arrives!
2. To help us continue growing, share Cedar Crest with your church, community, and friends. With your help, more children and youth can find a loving and supportive community at Cedar Crest.

Thank you for supporting
Cedar Crest Camp!