



# camp selah

## This has been an active year for Camp Selah!

**We have hosted more children than ever before**, engaging them with nature and great adults. We believe kids need to be engaged with nature, rather than entertained. In 2018, over 12,000 hours of kids + nature added up to one amazing year (and we're not counting the adults who were with them).

**We have made significant progress** winterizing our cabin, keeping the road graded, and establishing new educational trails.

**New programs emerged in 2018**, expanding camp traditions and providing opportunities for more children (and adults) to make memories at Camp Selah. See the back of this letter for some 2018 program highlights and more photos.

**Our property has been devastated** by the flooding of Hurricane Matthew and Florence, leaving our footbridges demolished, our playground wiped out and pushing tons of sand out of the creeks into the fields. Our thanks to volunteer Paul Davis for grading and regrading the road, but Spring 2019 will need lots of work teams to be ready for our season. Plan now — we need folks who are willing to work and/or support the workers!

## We need your help!

**Your donations of money, time and ideas are essential** to the best use of this camp! Please use the link below to donate to Camp Selah Ministries or call us to schedule your visit with us here. There is no gift too small to make a difference.

With thanksgiving for all God is doing,

Rev. Sallye Hardy, Chair  
Board of Directors



**DONATE ONLINE**

[CampSelahMinistries.com/donate](http://CampSelahMinistries.com/donate)

*If you prefer to donate by check, please make payable to Camp Selah and mail to: PO Box 10184, Danville, VA 24543. Thank you!*

## UNPLUGGED

Partnering with Children First Learning Center, Selah hosted 80 children per week, exploring the woods, the creeks and their own selves in a totally UNPLUGGED program. Thanks to owner Paul McKenna and his great staff, this was a life-changing experience for all of us. Some lessons learned:

- Kids actually enjoy time without their ‘technology’.
- Sticks are used for many things, besides making weapons.
- Our pool is an amazing tool for building self confidence, creative play, and new skills.
- Young kids really look up to young adults, but they do tolerate us older folks!
- Flexibility is a key element to creativity.



## SWIM LESSONS

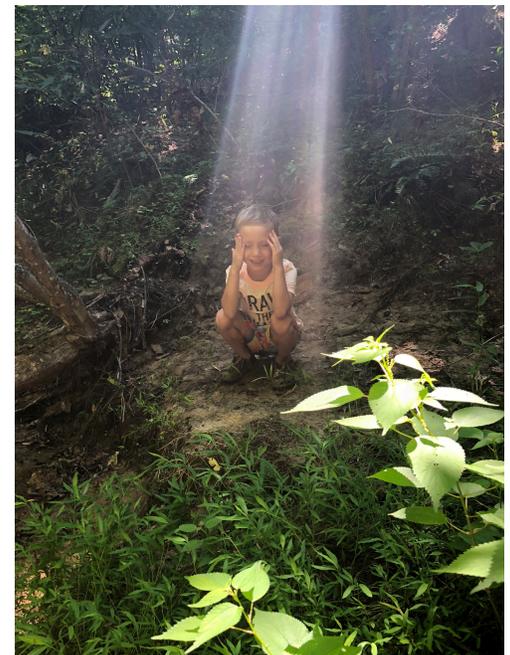
For three years we have searched for a certified instructor to teach swim lessons. At the last minute, Michelle Pruitt was available and we were able to provide four kids with 8 lessons. Three students went from being non-swimmers to swimmers and one really increased his swimming skills. Thanks to Jesse Saunders for keeping the pool clean and clear, H2O Zone for guidance, and Betterton Foundation for helping us have this pool available to all our camps! We anticipate expanding swim lessons dramatically in 2019!

## CREATION STEWARDS EXPANDS

With volunteer Jessica Driver's guidance and hard work, two Saturday events were held. Each camp had time of exploration and a Night at the Pond with Jessica, who is a certified Naturalist with the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Did you know most of our kids run at the speed of a chicken? Did you know there is a deposit of clay in our creek? Did you know there are millions of bugs out there you never see? Do you know many of our young children already see themselves as scientists? Did you know that one of the most important ways children are able to connect to the transcendent is through their connections to nature?

## PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY CAMPS bring in new volunteers.

Both camps were full with new and returning campers and new and returning Junior Counselors... we even had a major presentation of BABY SHARKS! Centered in the stories of David and Jonathan and Ruth and Naomi, camp traditions and memories were created and sustained! Remember: *“What happens at camp, stays for a lifetime.”*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SHERIFF'S CAMP challenges Middle Schoolers to stay unplugged.

With nature education, daily swimming, canine demonstrations, dramatizations of airbags, and even courtrooms, 8<sup>th</sup> graders from all four area middle schools and deputies connected to each other and learned better ways to live together. This year they also completed leather projects and fashioned their own walking sticks — yes, with real knives! Thanks to Sheriff Taylor and the leadership of Harris Silverman!