

Every Summer has a story...

Once upon a time in the heart of the Flint Hills, surrounded by a glorious lake, was a fantastic place where everyone was welcome and anything could happen! Take part in the epic tale. **and it begins with YOU!**

Registration is OPEN! Sign up online or submit a paper registration to receive discounts, a free camp t-shirt, and be entered to win prizes such as; limited edition t-shirts, sleeping bags, s'mores kits, camping gear, camp discounts and more!



New Camp Spotlight: Clash of the Camps (Grades 4-10)

Pick which category of camp best suits you, and we base your camp experience on your interests!

For example: if you are sporty- choose the health and fitness camp. If you are a singer, actor, comedian, artist, or wanna be chef- choose the "creative arts" category. Maybe you enjoy the basics/surviving outdoors and exploring new terrain- choose the "outdoor adventure" category.

And finally, perhaps you want it all?! A fully loaded camp experience- choose "mix 'n match me!"

Go online or call us with questions!

2019 WMC Scholarships are available. Contact director@whitememorialcamp.com to learn more!



2019 Work Hard, Play Hard: The Fourth Awakens!

Saturday, May 4th 2019 marks our second annual volunteer work day and appreciation event.

Join other camp enthusiasts for a day of service. All are welcome, but please note, this is not a day-camp, however daycare can be provided. First time volunteers and long-time supporters, join us for a fun time. We'll bring the food, entertainment and chore list. You just bring yourself and three of your closest friends. Contact Justin or visit the website to sign up. It's free!

Email us:
office@whitememorialcamp.com

Visit the website:
www.whitememorialcamp.com

Mark Your Calendar

April 26-29: Flint Hills Wisdom Keepers

May 4: Work Hard, Play Hard

June 8: Volunteer Orientation

June 9-14 Camp Celebrate

June 17-21: Arrowhead Camp (ID/DD)

June 23-29: Prairie Run Cross Country Camp

June 23-29: Clash of the Camps

July 1-7: Book your CAMP VACATION!

July 15-19: Augusta Saturate Camp

July 22-26: Cottonwood Camp (ID/DD)

July 28-30: Young Adventurer's Camp

July 28-Aug 3: Last Blast!

August 3-4: Family Camp / Open House

September 27-29: NWTF JAKES Camp

October Festival

2019
Choose your Adventure!

From the Director

The date is February 15, 1965. Two years prior, a large piece of prairie land was donated to the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ by a local family of which our organization is named- White Memorial Camp. Council Grove Lake had just become operational for flood control in 1964. The rocks from the new reservoir were to be used to build the structures of WMC. Before the camp infrastructure was built and water levels would fill the lake, WMC began hosting the very first work summer camps dedicated to developing the site.

Thanks to a group of passionate people with a vision to use outdoor education as a means of expanding the church, camp still stands strong on that solid foundation. Camp was quite literally grown from the native, local stone into a unique and spiritual place.

One man and his family would begin shaping the WMC legacy. Enter, Harry Kasitz, WMC's first Camp Host.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Harry. I arrived, with recently retired Pastor John Austin and WMC Accounts Manager Tricia Austin, at his home in Newton, Kansas. Harry is 93 years old.

He arranged his kitchen table with photos, news articles, budget reports, and letters. While we sifted through 17 years worth of camp history, Harry and Rhonda, Harry's caretaker, entertained us with quirky anecdotes about camp. Some stories were comical. Others were quite meaningful and delved into the true spirit of camp and how a summer experience with the right mentors, just might save a life.

My favorite stories were about overcoming the perils of the prairie. In one such story, snakes infested the rocks people were trying to relocate. Harry arranged for a flock of 2,000 sheep to be brought to camp to stomp on the snakes as they grazed the hard to reach places. I didn't ask him what he had to bring in to get rid of the sheep! And then there was the weather. It turns out tornados do not wait around for cabins to be built.

The first year, there was no running water and nearly 500 campers stayed in tents on platforms. Harry spent much of his early days hauling water to and from the kitchen. To feed campers, chickens and cows were purchased from local farmers. I was glad to hear that camp has always had delicious food! To attend camp in 1967 it cost \$27.50. Although times have changed, the experiences remain priceless.

Other traditions that remain strong, other than a constant need for tire repair, are the emotional farewell Friday mornings experienced by our campers with ID/DD who spend the last hours of camp missing everyone and planning for what they will sing at Vespers the next year. As for the youth camps, we still gather around the dinner bell donated by the Santa Fe Railroad. We still build faith, community and friendships. We still make lasting memories and have unique experiences that only a summer camp can provide. We still act goofy, get messy, and sleep outside (albeit this time, by choice.)

I think of the myriad of projects we currently have going on and I sometimes feel overwhelmed. Then, I think back to Harry's great leadership and the early days- the uncertainty of a new camp, the intense manual labor, the know-how of the workers, the dedicated volunteers, the community contributions, and the vision it took to bring WMC to life. That gives me something to aspire to. I am grateful for our safe place and cherished amenities. Join us this summer and let's make our own memories!

Thank you Harry, and to everyone who was there in the beginning.

And thank you to the snake-squashing sheep, there are too many of you to name.

*Hope to see you soon!
Justin Whittaker*

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