# Together We **Touch Lives**

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klahoma Disciples foundation, inc.

### **Church Camp in the Winter?** It's Not Too Early to Begin Making Plans for Church Camp

The saying "Christmas in July" is familiar to all; however, you've probably never heard anyone mention church camp in the winter. The Region's Outdoor Ministry is more than just summer camp. It includes weekend retreats, traditional residential week-long camps and non-traditional week-long camps providing children, youth and adults of all ages the opportunity to play, pray, worship study and serve one another.

In Oklahoma, there are three main camp facilities with Disciples roots dating to the early 1950s: Camp Christian (Choteau), Texoma Christian Camp (Kingston) and Central Christian Camp and Conference Center (Guthrie). These camps are financially supported by private individuals, congregations and endowments. The Foundation holds more than 10 endowments which provide funding for camps and campers, including the "Leave No Child Behind" endowment established by the Oklahoma Disciples Men's group.

**CAMPCHRISTI** 

It's not too early to begin thinking about summer camp. Campers from 39 congregations attended Oklahoma Disciples' summer camps this year. A copy of the 2018 camp schedule is available on the Region's website and a downloadable "Camp Registration Guidebook" will be available in January. Campers registering between February 1, 2018, and April 18, 2018 receive a discounted camp rate.

# A Camp Counselor's Personal Reflection

Erin Hopkins Davis, daughter of NW Area Regional Moderator and Pastor Ronnie Hopkins, shares her thoughts about summer church camp. In the summer of 2016, Erin was an intern for the Region and Oklahoma Disciples Foundation as well as a camp counselor.

Camp is, by far, the best possible way to spend the summer. Campers are challenged in a variety of ways and experience significant personal and spiritual growth. Being surrounded by the

grandeur of God's creation allows for a time of quiet distractions and interruptions.

from camp. When such matter what." distractions are taken away, -Samantha Hopkins campers have the time to ponder God's Word in a

much deeper way than a weekly church experience often allows.

A typical day in camp has some form of personal or group devotional time, an evening worship service and a small group setting where participants can ask and explore questions they have about faith or other topics they may feel uncomfortable asking at home or church.

Friendships often last years as campers attend the summer camps annually to reconnect with friends and make new memories. These experiences, memories and friendships often lead campers to become future counselors and staff.

Most staff members would agree that moving from camper to staff is one of the most difficult transitions to make. One summer may be spent as a carefree youth enjoying all the fun activities, and the following summer young adults may return as staff members with a great deal more responsibility such as making sure young campers are safe and

"What I enjoy most at church Being a counselor can reflection away from everyday camp is the community. The be difficult as well as single best thing about camp exhausting; however, it Television, cell-phones, is that you're surrounded by is music devices, computers, people who care about you rewarding as young and video games are absent and are willing to help you no minds are shaped and

2016 Camper

certainly verv children grow, learn and experience God in very individual and personal ways.

Camp offers a place for young people to grow in serving Christ behind the scenes but also in learning how to share the gospel, pray and pray for other's needs.



### THE POWER OF TEXOMA CAMP

Stephanie Sager, a senior at Eureka College, served as youth intern at Texoma Christian Camp this summer. She is a psychology major, pursuing a minor in religion philosophy. She shares her experience at Oklahoma's Texoma Christian Camp.

My experience at Texoma was honestly one of the most powerful camp experiences I have ever had. I was accepted with loving arms by a group of amazing adults from the start. They helped guide me as well as let me take the lead on some projects even as a newcomer. I was able to learn so much, not just from the curriculum or the keynotes or the interest groups, but from the people at Texoma and the wisdom they had to share. My CYF small group members were open and honest from day one and my fellow counselors were willing to be vulnerable and share truly moving experiences and emotions. This helped me see more of what it means to continue to strengthen one's walk with God.

I felt God in a way at Texoma that I had never experienced before at my camp in Arizona. I cannot say this was a better way because I believe any experience with God is a wonderful one, but there was something incredible about camp in Oklahoma. The week refreshed my soul and strengthened my love and devotion to Christ and to the work that Christ has called me to do. I just want to say thank you to all the amazing people who made the experience so special.



## Cameron Campus Ministry at Cameron University, Lawton To Host 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Event



In January each year, Cameron Campus Ministry hosts an annual Dr. Martin Luther King community event at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. This special celebration includes a "Day of Service" where hundreds of students and local residents join together to work on community service projects.

In 2018, they will celebrate 34 years of leading this regional event to recognize the historic spirit of the civil rights movement and share information on current social ministries of the church.

Over the years, the annual banquet has hosted prominent area, state and national leaders as well as notable authors and pastors as keynote speakers. Each year, men and women within the local community are recognized and honored for exemplifying the teachings, life, philosophy, goals and principles of Dr. King-historical advocate of change through nonviolent civil actions based on his Christian values. Find more information at www.ccmcenter.org.

Join on Giving Tuesday as we support the ministries and missions of the Church. Cameron Campus Ministry was one of many applicants for the Foundation's Grant Program. We are sharing their story in the hope you may feel compelled to assist them with their ministry.

"Together We Touch Lives"

Black Friday. Cyber Monday. **#GI≫ING**TUESDAY

November 28,



#### Who Should Attend?

Disciples clergy, church moderators, laity or others wishing to learn more about stewardship within the Church. Pastors are eligible for continuing education credits. This event is offered in conjunction with the Region's Pastor/Moderator event at First Christian Moore on Monday, March 5th.

A selection of Dr. Christopher's books will be available for purchase at First Christian Church, Moore the day of the seminar.

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