

Mikell Camp and Conference Center, Annual Council 2024

As we reflect on another vibrant year at Camp Mikell, we are excited to share the remarkable progress we have made, the transitions within our leadership, and our vision for the future.

A Heartfelt Thank You

I am thrilled to have begun my call as Mikell's new Executive Director, starting in September of '24. The staff and I extend our deepest gratitude to Hazel Glover for her dedicated service as our interim director over the past 12 months. Hazel's commitment and leadership were instrumental in maintaining our camp's mission and spirit during this transition period. Additionally, we honor Ken Struble for over 20 years of unwavering service as our Executive Director. Ken's vision and dedication have shaped Camp Mikell into the cherished place it is today. We are immensely grateful for his contributions and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Upgrades and Improvements

This year has been marked by significant upgrades across our camp facilities. We have installed new wheelchair ramps at Sims and Osborne Cottages, ensuring greater accessibility for all our guests. Interior updates to Alexander and Smith Cottages have created more inviting and comfortable spaces for our guests. We are proud to report that our Walking In Faith capital campaign is in full swing, allowing us to continue making meaningful improvements.

Progress from the Walking In Faith Capital Campaign:

- **Bathroom Remodels:** Complete remodels of each dorm bathroom and public restrooms to enhance functionality and comfort.
- **Main Entrance Upgrade:** Widening and repaving of the main entrance for better accessibility. This included installation of a new water main and hydrant for the main camp.
- **Fiber Internet Service:** Implementation of high-speed fiber internet to improve connectivity for our guests.

As we continue to raise funds, **we are excited to announce our plans for a large event pavilion in the main athletic field, as well as a complete rebuild of our retreat village.** These projects will create more welcoming spaces for community and fellowship.

Camp Participation Highlights

This year, nearly **600 campers** experienced the joy of Camp Mikell, while the Blue Ridge Outdoor Education Center served over **2,000 public and private school participants.** Additionally, more than **2,500 guests** enjoyed our hospitality through private retreats and events, a testament to the vibrant community we are building together.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we invite you to join us in supporting our ongoing efforts to enhance Camp Mikell. Your contributions play a vital role in ensuring that our camp remains a place of joy, learning, and connection for generations to come.

Thank you for being a part of the Camp Mikell family. Together, we are making a difference!

Warm regards,
Jessica LeFiles
Executive Director
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