

Greetings from Camp Garner Creek!

Where God's handmade beauty is on display, memories are for the making, and those who gather here sleep better than the average person.

Vacancy update for District Assembly & Family Camp

Online registration for this year's Family Camp and Assembly is no further than CampGarnerCreek.org/events. Make reservations soon.

VACANCIES

- 2 - 3rd floor rooms in Johnson rooms for the entire week
- 2 - "no-stairs" rooms in Johnson for the week
- 2 - rooms in Poplar for Sun-Tues nights
- 3 - RV spots
- An abundance of dorm space

Meal Registrations are forthcoming. If you don't have access to the web call the CGC office at 615-446-3279, and Katie or Lori will complete the online form for you.



Apr 29 – May 2, 2021 Thurs - Sat



May 30 – Jun 4, 2021 Sun - Fri

Hey Rusty! An interview with CGC's new Chef, Rusty Hertzler

CGC: Hey Rusty. When did you first decide that you wanted to be a chef?

Rusty: I began cooking at home for my family at an early age because both of my parents worked. Then, when I was ten to earn a patch in AWANA, I had to cook at home with a parent and that's the moment that I remember knowing I wanted to cook for people.

CGC: What did you do that prepared you for this vocational path?

Rusty: My training began early in high school with their vocational program in the culinary arts. Once I graduated high school, I attended Keystone College and graduated with an associate degree in Culinary Arts. After graduation, I had a variety of experiences from family restaurants to fancy restaurants and everything in between. I worked at a nursing home for several years before I started in camping ministry. The nursing home was an amazing experience because I loved getting to know all the residents and spending time with them when I was able.

CGC: What attracts you to "chefing" in the Christian camping world?

Rusty: Christian camping ministry puts me in a place where I get to watch others grow in their faith. I also enjoy mentoring the people that work with me in developing their skills and their walks with the Lord. Camp is such a sacred and special place for people, and I take joy in being able to make someone's stay memorable. Kids and young adults often give their lives to the Lord while at camp and I love getting to play a small part in that life changing moment. Food is love and it's how I get to express God's love to others.

CGC: Okay, Rusty, I must ask. Have you experienced your first Southern culture shock? You are from Pennsylvania, and you know, there may be some differences!

Rusty: Not yet. But I did think I was leaving the snow in PA when our third week here we shared a snowstorm with "ya'll!" It was interesting to see how Tennessee handles the snow.

CGC: As a foodie, what's your favorite food?

Rusty: Pizza! Our small town had 20 about small pizza parlors. These were usually mom and pop places where you could get a pizza and a hoagie (sub) to go. I've noticed here in Dickson that there's only a few pizza places and they are mostly chain places. I'll miss my small local pizza places, but I'm very excited for all the amazing BBQ!



- CGC:** Will our guests be able taste your pizza in an upcoming meal?
- Rusty:** Not necessarily. I told you it was my favorite food. I meant to eat. I didn't say it was my favorite food to cook. I'm more of a pizza consumer than a connoisseur of making it. But sure, I'll include pizza in my menus.
- CGC:** Then what is your favorite food to prepare for others.
- Rusty:** I love making soups, and I love making comfort foods like roast beef, meat load, and mash potatoes. And I mean the kind of mashed potatoes that starts with actual potatoes. I enjoy cooking from scratch.

Covid 101: It Will End

We are seeing a spike in requests for retreats at CGC as people plan to be out of Covid soon, so please make sure to contact us if you are thinking about planning a retreat for Spring or Fall. We are here to serve our MidSouth family first and want to make sure you are never squeezed out by outside groups. Many groups book over a year out, so start early and get your date. We definitely have great dates available over the next few months.

Camp Board Passes 2021/22 Budget

The Camp Board passed the new budget for CGC. The new year is seen as an unsure time as COVID winds down, so the budget is conservative. Projected income is \$875,017 with expectations for expenses set at \$818,066. The difference provides a \$56,951 cushion as we live real time through the last days of COVID19. My personal expectation is for us to do far better, because people certainly have the itch to return to normalcy. But an itch is not a basis on which to build a budget for this ministry.

Keep the perspective for CGC's last two years. 2019 brought us a huge flood which wiped out all reserves. 2020 brought, well, you know what, so have survived with gifts from camp friends, our very own MidSouth District, and two PPP loans made possible through stimulus passed through Congress. The first PPP loan is formally forgiven, and by following the spending guidelines that come with the loans, the second will be forgiven in its entirety when the time comes.

Finley Knowles, Executive Director, Camp Garner Creek