



Anthony Baugher

Executive Director

I feel like I have always known about Camp Attitude, for years I watched from a distance the ministry up in Foster, Oregon. I had worked at Santiam Christian (near Corvallis, OR) as an athletic director from 2010-2014 and we sent many student-athletes up to camp each summer, and they would return on fire for the Lord and amped up to serve others. I had always known that camp was an amazing ministry, but nothing could have prepared me for what I would experience when I was asked to lead the organization.

It was February 2018 when camp's board of directors asked me to be the executive director for Camp Attitude. The excitement was so much more than just starting a new position. I remember commenting to my wife, "I don't think the ink was dry on my contract and my phone started to blow up with calls, texts and emails." People I had never met were reaching out to let me know that they loved, and I mean LOVED Camp Attitude and that they wanted to help in whatever capacity that was needed. This blew me away; I have never been part of an organization where so many people desired to volunteer and help. It was amazing!

Some of you might be able to relate to this feeling.... When I walk around, up at camp, I can feel God's presence so deeply. It is hard to explain sometimes, but God is there, and He is in all the details - AND then when the staff, volunteers, buddies and families show up – you can really feel God smiling.

The volunteers....where do I begin? Summer Staff, CORE team, Church Partners, Youth Leaders, Pastors, Speakers, Buddies, The Horse Team, Servant Team, Kitchen Crew.....the list goes on and on. So many people, giving their time and energy to make camp happen. How cool and exciting is that?! So many times, when I have been thanking them for serving, I have felt like a "thank you" just isn't enough for all that they do; they all are heroes in my book. Like I said, you can feel God up at camp.

Nothing warms those involved in camp more than seeing the families arrive for their week of camp. The car drives up, the buddies grab the luggage and then we all can tell right away whether the family is a first timer or has been to camp before; and if you have been to camp you know exactly what I am talking about. ☺

Last summer I had the honor to run the Monday Morning Dad's Group up at camp. It was an easy sell when they told me that there would be doughnuts and coffee..... Such a privilege to be able to meet so many fathers and their families, I am so proud that I have the chance to be a part of an organization that does so many wonderful things. It is very humbling and rewarding all at the same time.

The best for last...the true stars of camp.... All of our amazing campers!!! I have had so many people ask about camp, people that have no idea what our camp is and what we do... and I explain it like this, we make camp happen for the kids and families we serve – we do whatever it takes; and if you really want to know what our camp is all about, come up on a Thursday night and watch a Talent Show. Just typing those words brings out so many memories of joy and happiness.

If I was only allowed one word to use to describe our campers it would be inspirational. I am a better person, a better man, a better father and husband because I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know some of our campers over the past three summers. Also...All the smiles and laughter, oh my gosh....all the smiles, truly wonderful.

So when I sat down to author this newsletter, and I was thinking about sharing why I am involved with camp; the thought kept coming back to me, "why wouldn't you want to be involved?" Camp Attitude is so much more than just a special place, a place where the community we serve can come up and experience a week of camp....Camp Attitude is all of us! From the mom staying up half the night to pack for the family's drive to camp, to the youth pastor spending so many hours planning and training so they can bring up their youth group to volunteer for a week, to our donors who give so much and with a joyful heart so camp has the needed funds to exist, to the camper who has a calendar on their wall so they can keep track of the days until they can go back to camp, to the first time buddy who nervously signs up not truly knowing all that God has planned for them, and to the summer staff member that is coming back for the 17th summer straight....Camp Attitude is all of us, and it is God's place.

