



Royal Family Kids #204

Issue 25

Sept—Oct 2020

Upcoming 2021 Dates

Winter Retreat

Feb 19th & 20th

Spring Training

Fri, May 14 & Sat, May 15

RFK Camp #204

August 1—6, 2021



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Director's Corner

From the Director:

Greetings from RFK Greencastle, Chapter #204! We are very happy to report that we successfully completed our 13th year of camp in early August! It was a little different, but it was still camp and we still blessed our campers with some special moments and made many wonderful memories. Since our camp wasn't scheduled until the first week in August, we really thought that COVID 19 would have little affect on us. We had already trained over half of our staff in February, and we trained the other half remotely via ZOOM in May. Our reserved week at camp was still available, and despite having to cancel or postpone our spring fundraisers, we still had the funds to hold at least a "bare bones" camp so we pressed forward. However, in the end, many employers were requiring 2 weeks of quarantine from our volunteers AFTER using a week's vacation for the week of camp. This factor along with COVID concerns of having campers overnight in tight quarters, led us to come up with an alternate plan. We opted to hold 3

one-day camps instead. We had 12 campers the first day and 13 campers the other 2 days. Campers arrived at the church for registration at 8 am. Registration was completed in record time each day. We arrived at camp by 9 am. Then the campers enjoyed a fun-filled day with their counselor. Most counselors spent 2 days at camp so that they could give plenty of individual attention to their camper all day long. They enjoyed group games, hiking, playing in the stream, crafts, swimming, a birthday party complete with cake, ice cream and gifts. They ended their day with some fun songs and a Bible story before they received their photo album and Play A Way filled with music, puppet skits and 2 dramas from the curriculum they would have enjoyed had they been there all week long. They went a way very tired but happy! We wore masks to protect everyone, and we served bagged lunches for lunch and pizza with pre-packaged veggies and snacks, but they had a wonderful day at the camp they have grown to love.

A NEW TRADITIONS!

Since this is the first newsletter following camp, we thought our readers might enjoy reading some stories from camp! ENJOY, and thanks for being a part of RFK #204!

Rain Rain Go Away!

Weather can play a big part in our week at camp. One or two rainy afternoons or days can be a nuisance, but a rainy day when it's your only day can be a real problem. The forecast originally seemed very bleak. On Sunday, we were told there was a chance of 3-6 inches of rain due to a hurricane that was headed our direction. Many prayers went up. During "Circles of Prayer" on Monday night, Counselor James said he prayed, "If it must rain let it rain now so it can be gone for the day (tomorrow). . . " It did rain through the night and all during registration. Our first

rainy registration in 13 years. But around 10:30 am when we were ready to start moving around the camp to go fishing, boating, hiking and swimming the sun came out. The campers enjoyed a beautiful day and went home exhausted! We praise God for hearing our prayers.



I hate bugs!



By Counselor Bernadette

When my camper got off the bus and we met each other on **Tuesday**, one of the first things she said to me was, "I hate bugs!", and she went way out of her way to avoid a small bug as we were going to our seats. Then throughout the day she held a wolf spider, picked up a slug, picked up a centipede, picked up a salamander, picked up a fish, chased after a daddy long legs, and waded through the creek looking for crayfish. Throughout all this, she still told me several times, "I hate bugs!"



Our friends from Keystone ABATE have been raising funds for RFK #204 since 2008, and this year was no exception! ABATE reps and some of our other cycle riding friends showed up rain or shine to escort the bus and campers to camp!

Little Miracles Along the Road to Camp by Kathy Heebner

From a director's point of view, there were some major concerns with holding 3 one-day camps instead of our traditional 5 day overnight camp. The plan to hold 3 day camps led to several concerns.

- The schedule was extremely tight, and we had to rely on our families to bring the campers to the church for registration and then be back to pick them up that same night. We also needed them to be on time so that we could complete a quick COVID registration with sanitized pens, masks, temperature checks and social distancing with in a 30 minute time frame so that we could be at camp to have plenty of time to play. IT WORKED! Registration was done in record time each day and most days we were ready to leave the church ahead of schedule. We did have a few "no shows" that we had to go pick up, but we were determined to make sure they made it to camp if it was at all possible!
- Our friend, Tom Gift III has been providing the campers with the bus ride to and from camp free of charge for the past 12 years! But this year, we needed a bus driver to drive the campers to and from camp 3 different times. That seemed like a lot to ask. Since my husband, Jon Heebner, has his bus driver's license, we asked Tom if he would allow Jon to be the driver and allow us to rent bus instead this year. Tom agreed to let us use his bus, but he leant it free of charge, and our plan worked beautifully.
- Early on I had concerns about our finances since we were not able to hold our 2 biggest fundraisers this past spring, but thanks to continued support from our loyal donors, we had the funds we needed!

Fishing Without Worms

As shared by Counselor Seth Bendix

Unfortunately we exhausted our supply of fishing bait during the day on Wednesday, but one camper wanted to fish. Seth, his counselor, used this as a teachable moment. They did some problem solving, and they were resourceful. They decided to go catch crayfish in the stream to use as bait. Seth shared that his camper had barely dropped his line in the water when he felt a bite on the line. He was able to reel in a huge bass. It may have been one of the biggest fish caught all week. Of course, they called for a photographer to come to the lake to capture the moment. When the camper received his photo album at the end of the day, Seth said that he zipped through the pages saying "where's the bass? Where's the bass?" and he was thrilled to see that photo! Another happy memory in the books and in his heart!



Royal Family KIDS Support

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 First Assembly of God
 525 E Leitersburg Street
 Greencastle, PA 17225
 717 597-7024

www.greencastle.royalfamilykids.org

I would like to support the
 Royal Family KIDS

Name: _____
 Phone # _____
 Address: _____
 City _____
 State: _____ Zip Code _____
 E-Mail _____

I have enclosed my gift of:

\$25 _____
 \$50 _____
 \$100 _____
 Other _____

I pledge to give \$ _____
 In the coming year.

You're Worth It!

By Kathy Heebner

On our third day of camp, we had two boys from one family who did not show up at registration. We tried phoning them, but no one answered. In fact, the numbers seemed out of service. Knowing we had 2 counselors waiting just for them back at camp, Krista, our camp behavior specialist and I decided to make the trek from Greencastle to Newville. Krista put the address into her GPS and we were off. When we arrived, we rang the doorbell. One of the boys answered the door. He recognized us almost immediately. I said, "We are having RFK day camp today. . . do you want to come and play." Then his

dad came to the door and admitted that they had forgotten. He asked, "What do they need?" They grabbed it, we took their temperatures, he signed some papers, and we were on our way. In that car, Cayden said, "I can't believe you came to my house!" I said, we missed you. We wanted you to come so we had to try. Later in the day, he looked at me again and said, "YOU CAME TO MY HOUSE! That's crazy!" I said, "We sure did! We love you, and you're worth it!"



Thank You Tia & Friends!

When we were sheltering in and unable to hold two of our biggest fundraisers last spring, Tia went into action. She and a team of her family and friends made cookies and whoopie pies to sell. Then, Tia presented Royal Family KIDS, #204 with a check for \$600. It was the very first check she wrote out of her very first checking account. Thank you Tia and all who helped make this gift possible.

Stories from Day Camp 2020

By Counselor Kelli Martin

My first day camper almost didn't make it. Mom too busy. Not prioritizing this one 10--hour stretch—that mattered to Ivy like an ice-pop on a hot summer day. Ivy was a no-show on arrival. But the staff wouldn't let it rest, knowing the thirst levels of parched campers who had been confined in homes, whose thoughts and play and excitement had been cramped in tight spaces for months on end. So two staffers went the extra mile, like Jesus on the road to Emmaus, to be hounds of heaven, not let questions unsettled in Ivy's little heart. "Do I matter? Does anyone care to quench my hurt and neglect and boredom and godlessness?" Kathy and Hannah knocked on the door of a city apartment and scooped her up to bring her to camp. She came into my arms, late but better late than NEVER, squeezed me. "Miss Kathy saved the day," Ivy said. And saving the day means we had one more opportunity for Jesus to save her life—for eternity. I was reminded as a counselor all day long: To the Ancient of Days "A day is as a thousand years, a thousand years is a day."

My second camper Rosey bounced off the bus with smiles and squeezes, clutching the name sign I made just for her. Ivy—Wise—with a flourishing tree painted all green and thriving. We hauled ourselves up the hill to the Vesper Hall. After two songs, she looked up at me with brown eyes and grasped my hand possessively "Just you and me today, right? Just us." Another song and video and she affectionately pawed my arm, "We have all day, don't we? No one else." And finally, after the last song, a smile spread across her face, "I so excited. I love you." I made sacrifices to carve this day for Rosey. In the rush of my other priorities, time with Rosey seemed like a drop in the bucket. But camp this year was a chance for all of us to collectively shout, "You are important. If you were the only one, Jesus would gather you in his arms and spread those same arms out and die on the cross." How wise of Rosey—to comprehend with wide-eyed wonder the significance of special time carved just for her.

Camp was not the same this year. We lacked a lot of bells and whistles. But we had two things on our side, a day that stretched liked a thousand years and a God who loves the whole world as much as He loves one tiny camper with big brown eyes and wisdom beyond her years.

“Uncle Nick Miller” Shares a Few Memorable Moments

- playing baseball with the kids and seeing them light up when they were able to hit the ball and make their counselors run for it!
- The little camper's prayer where he thanked God for giving us enough gas to get up the hill to camp and then simply said "Bye"... What a precious relationship between a child and His heavenly Daddy!
- Seeing the kids get excited to catch crayfish in the stream. To many this was a first and it felt like a significant accomplishment to celebrate with them.
- Working with a group of volunteers that was passionate about providing a great camp experience to the kids.

It's Apple Dumpling Time! October – November 13, 2020

It's time for our annual apple dumpling fundraiser! This is one of our biggest fundraisers each year. Our goal is to make \$3000 each year. There are several ways that you can help. You can help to make these delicious treats on the dates listed below, you can take orders, and of course you can order some to enjoy too. Our apple dumplings are available baked or unbaked. Both can be frozen to be enjoyed later so get plenty to last through the holiday season!

Help Make the Dumplings!

Do you enjoy cooking and baking? Do you love hanging out with our RFK team members, then we'd love to have your help! If you'd like to help make the dumplings, we will be working on them at First Assembly of God, 525 Leitersburg Street, Greencastle, PA 17225. We will make the dough and syrup on Wednesday, November 11 from 9am – 2 pm and then we will make the dumplings on Thursday and Friday, November 12 & 13 from 9am – 9pm. If you're available to help, please call or text Kathy Heebner at 717-658-7455.

Take Orders or Order Your Dumplings!

The cost will be \$3 each or \$30 for a dozen as it was last year. That's a great deal! We will accept orders through the end of October. Apple dumplings will be available for pick up November 12 & 13th. If you take orders, here is the info we need. I can email you an order form if you would like.

Email me at jkheebner@embarqmail.com to request an order form.

ORDER FORM

Deadline to Order is October 31, 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

_____ Baked

_____ Unbaked

_____ Baked Sugar Free

_____ Unbaked Sugar Free

Pick up November 12 & 13th

Make checks payable to **Royal Family Kids**

Contact: Kathy Heebner (717 658-7455)

