



CAMP SERTOMA WORK WEEKEND





**SMILES
ABOUND
ALL
AROUND!**



There's A Reason

*There's a reason the original director of the Outdoor Lab, who walked this land before a cabin or road was built, is STILL out here 54 years later helping keep this place beautiful.*There's a reason older Sertomans who can't walk well any longer still show up and celebrate this place by sitting and painting a scene from our camp.*There's a reason campers return to work as CIT's and CIT's return to be counselors and counselors grow up and return with their families to spend their vacation at camp volunteering with their children...who then work at camp as counselors themselves.*There's a reason Sertomans show up and serve camp despite loss, pain, illness, and any number of personal difficulties.*There's a reason teenagers are here working and serving alongside said Sertomans.*There's a reason our staff stand on the camp road and wave goodbye until every camper is out of sight.*There's a reason people remember Camp Sertoma in their will and their loved ones and fellow Sertomans support Camp Sertoma in their memory.*There's a reason campers from 20 years ago reach out to us to find the Sertoman who brought them to camp and loved them in a way that changed their lives.* There's a reason Sertomans from 30 clubs around South Carolina work and plan and serve and fund-raise and recruit and register and transport kids, sometimes driving 9 hours in one day and turning around to drive 9 more a week later.*There's a reason Sertomans and summer staff return for 15, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years.*There's a reason every bed in camp was full for 20 years...with 50 kids waiting and hoping for a spot in camp.*There's a reason returning campers run to hug their counselors and then run to find their name in our rock garden.*There's a reason all of our hearts beat a little faster and a little happier when we hear that bell.*



Dr. Dale Treash at our Friday Dinner



SHOW UP



SIGN UP





ALL OVER CAMP!



YOUNG...

OLD...ER

05.12.2023

05.12.2023



I came to work at camp to bless the heart of my husband, who loves camp about as much as he loves our family. About. ♥♥♥ Also, I worked go show our children that the most joy comes from giving away your life in service to others, whether serving others in our home or in camp or wherever the Lord puts you. Christine Treash

I come to the camp clean up every year so I can be apart of the magic that is Camp Sertoma! The stories we hear about camp are so inspirational it makes me want to give everything I have into camp. I also know how hard Leslie and the others who are full time employees at camp work to help make the magic possible, so I want to give back to them in any way I can. It might be a little selfish of me to go too because I ALWAYS have so much fun. The fellowship and comradery around the work weekends makes me want to be a better Sertoman. Everybody puts 110% of their effort into making camp look amazing so if I can help by cleaning water activities, power washing stairs, painting signs, life guarding for some kiddos (and adults ;)) who need to cool off, I will be there!

Dr. Shanna Schmutte, Anderson Oconee Speech and Hearing



In addition to the satisfaction of getting the camp areas ready for the kids, the Workday provided a great opportunity to network with Sertomans from other clubs and areas on fundraising ideas and other club operation matters. Keith Roberts

Getting out to the camp to help prepare the grounds for summer campers is one of my favorite events. The friendships, bonding, and common purpose of working together to get the camp ready is so enjoyable knowing all of the kids that will visit to build unforgettable, lifetime memories, is extremely fulfilling and rewarding for me. Rick Smyth



We had such an incredible, productive and fun time with Sertomans and Serteens! Camp looks awesome and is so much closer to being ready for campers to arrive!



Leslie Conrad, Director, Clemson University Outdoor Lab



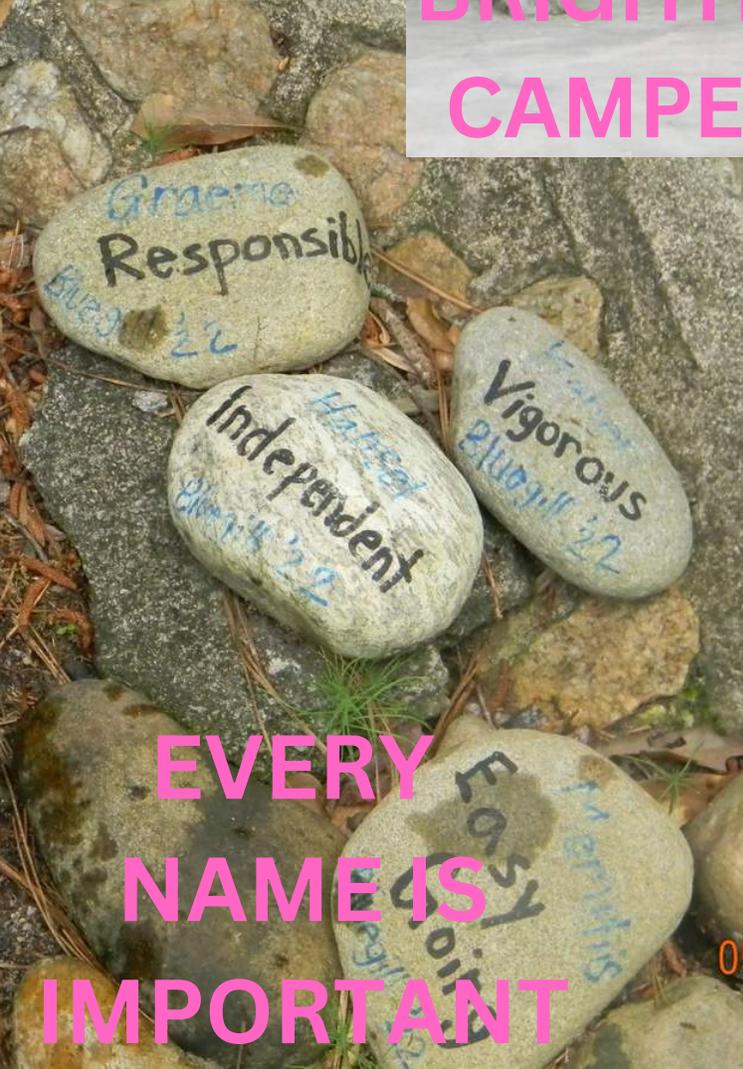


MAKING
EVERYTHING
BEAUTIFUL





BRIGHTENING OUR CAMPERS' ROCKS



EVERY
NAME IS
IMPORTANT





OUR BEAUTIFUL LAKE!!!



is IRRESISTABLE...





**NO TIME
FOR
BREAKS!**

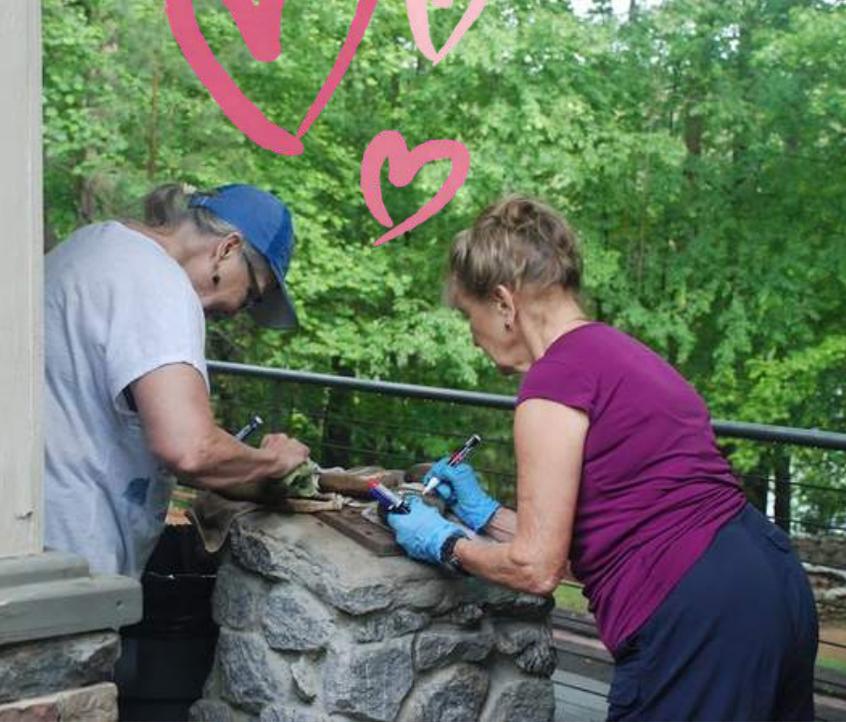






THE RAIN
DIDN'T
STOP US







EVERY.

DETAIL MATTERS.



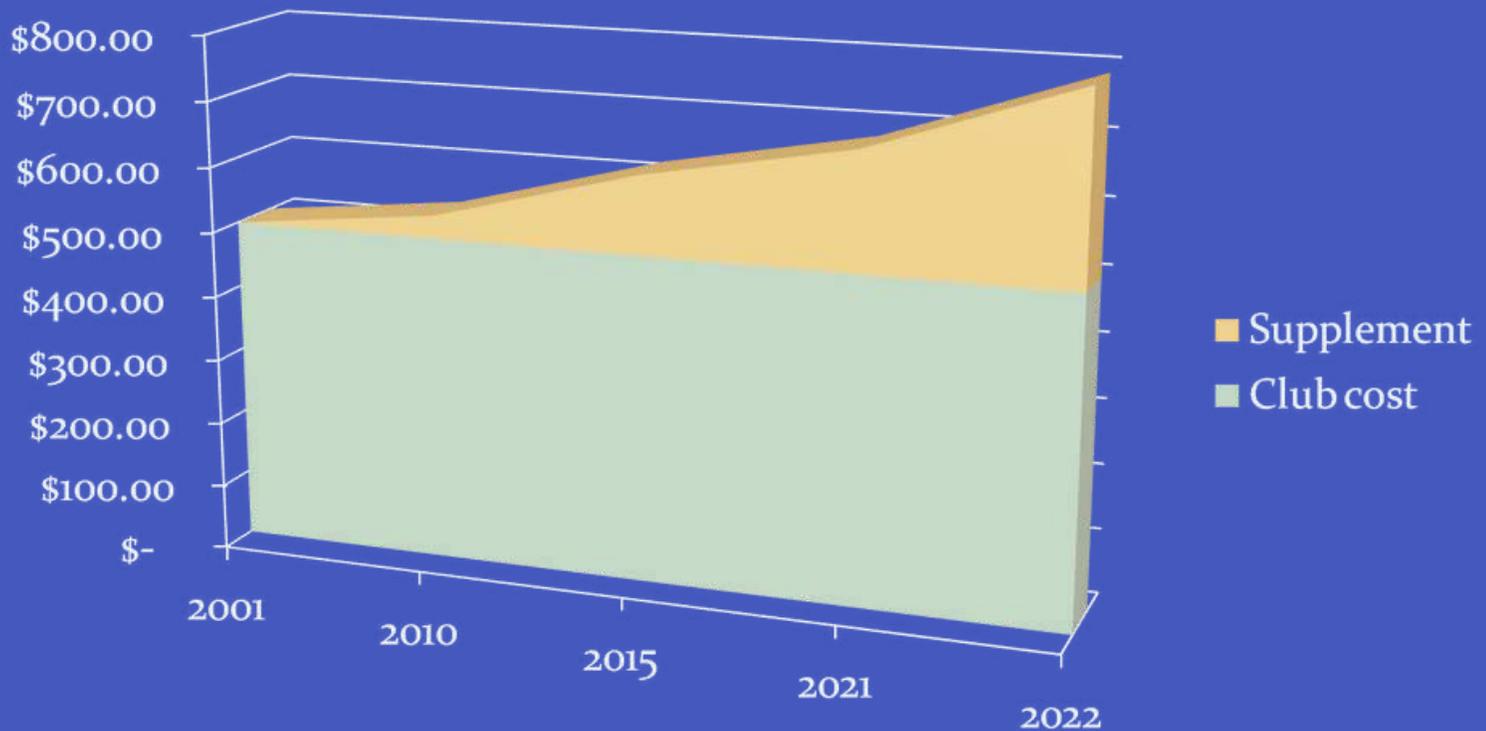


**TAKING STEPS TO
KEEP OUR KIDS
SAFE!**



Camp Sertoma

Working For You!



In 2001, the cost to send a camper to Camp Sertoma for one week was \$500. Despite the cost increasing to \$825 over 21 years, the cost per camper FOR YOUR CLUB has remained \$500. The \$325 difference is paid for by our Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament and our Camp Sertoma endowment.



LOOKING BACK

Development, Part 2

If you followed Part 1, you remember that the Clemson University Outdoor Lab, home of Camp Sertoma, was built in the Clemson Forest and opened in 1975 to campers and staff. But the Clemson Forest was supposed to be off-limits to development. It happened anyway. Who gave approval and how was this new development idea viewed?

The answer to the first question was Dr. Robert C. Edwards, president of CU. Dr. Edwards liked our idea of a new “service” component of the university and, as unbelievable as it sounds, gave my boss and me the keys to the Clemson Forest. Essentially, he said, find a suitable site and report back. Over a period of 2-3 months, with maps in hand, we walked over so many beautiful areas, all with lake access. We needed a place that would meet our needs, be somewhat remote, road accessible, and with the best topography for handicapped access.

That’s how we found our home. We reported back to Dr. Edwards and he took our land use proposal to the Board of Trustees. The Board approved. Soon, the word of this new development “in the Clemson Forest” began to spread. The reactions were quick and hostile in some areas, on campus and around the state.

The enemy thought that this Department of Recreation and Park Administration little ‘ole summer camp would never be anything but a weak effort that would be closed in 5 years, but with lasting damage done to the Clemson Forest. The enemy was vocal. The enemy protested...to the President and the Board. One prominent Dean, despite warnings from Dr. Edwards, tried to rally support across the state to have Dr. Edwards back away from this development. Allegedly, he was fired for insubordination.

So, the development went forward in 1973 and the first campers were welcomed in 1975. In five years, we did not close, but we grew slowly at first. By year 10, we began to flourish and had moved beyond summer services only. Today, over 50 years later, the CUOL is a solid year-round performer still only serving summer campers but welcoming thousands of other users throughout the year. Google www.CUOL-camps and see what our “little ‘ole summer camp” has become.

And it all goes back to Dr. Robert C. Edwards. He saw and believed in our vision. He cleared the path, administratively and politically. He became a user of the OL for important meetings. I think, when he retired, he saw the CUOL development as one of many shining stars of his administration.

On my last full day at work before retirement, about 5:30 in the afternoon, after all other OL staff had left for the day, I was in the office alone and packing up a few last items before saying goodbye the next morning. The phone rang. It was Dr. Edwards. Dr. Edwards, calling me, just a tiny spoke in the university system to thank me and wish me the best. We talked for over 15 minutes, reminiscing about how we started and what a valuable asset the OL had become for the university, state, and beyond.

He was that kind of man. Bold, able to take a stand, a decisive decision maker. He was also a man with a big heart, a servant heart, a kind heart, and a thankful heart. Now you know.

Had he given in to the many naysayers, his headaches might have been fewer, and the Outdoor Lab and Camp Sertoma would have been forgotten decades ago. Thank you, Dr. Edwards.

Charlie R. White
CUOL Director, Retired

