



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST





Fundraising
Reservation
Camper
Recruiting
Registration
Transportation
CAMP!

SERTOMANS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2023 IS PROFOUNDLY INCREDIBLE.

FOR 3 SUMMERS, OUR CAMP, OUR CAMPERS, AND THE SERTOMANS OF SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE BEEN BATTERED, BRUISED, AND BEATEN.

BUT WE'VE NOT BEEN BROKEN.

WE KEPT WORKING, SERVING, LOVING, ADJUSTING, PLANNING, READJUSTING, REMINDING OURSELVES OF ALL THE GOOD OUR CAMP DOES, REMINDING OURSELVES IT IS WORTH THE TOIL, FRUSTRATION, VEXATION, EXASPERATION, IRRITATION,..WELL..YOU GET THE POINT.

AND HERE WE ARE. HAPPY CAMPERS. HAPPY CAMP. HAPPY SERTOMANS. AND ALREADY HIGH HOPES FOR A RETURN TO OUR BUSTING-AT-THE-SEAMS 240 CAMPERS IN 2024.

WE HAVE SEEN MANY OBSTACLES GETTING TO 240 CAMPERS. SICKNESS, STAFFING, HEADLICE, PANDEMIC, SOCIAL DISRUPTION, COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS, NOT BRINGING MEDICATION TO CAMP, CAMP PHYSICALS, DELAY IN TURNING IN RESERVATION FORM, DELAY IN TURNING IN CAMPER NAMES, GETTING PARENTS TO RESPOND TO CAMP'S REGISTRATION EMAIL, AND SO ON.

TOGETHER WE HAVE OVERCOME EVERY ONE OF THOSE AND WE WILL DO IT AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN.

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL AND THE WORKERS ARE FEW. BUT WHAT WORKERS YOU ARE!

WE WILL SOON TURN OUR ATTENTION TO 2024. BUT FOR TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE HARVEST OF 2023 AND LOOK BACK AT THE BEST OF THE PAST 5 YEARS.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY....

TOP PICTURES FROM THE LAST 5 YEARS...



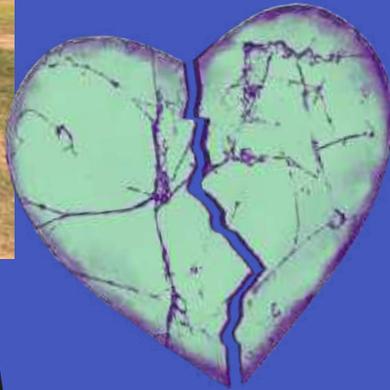


WATER FUN





The hardest goodbye ever



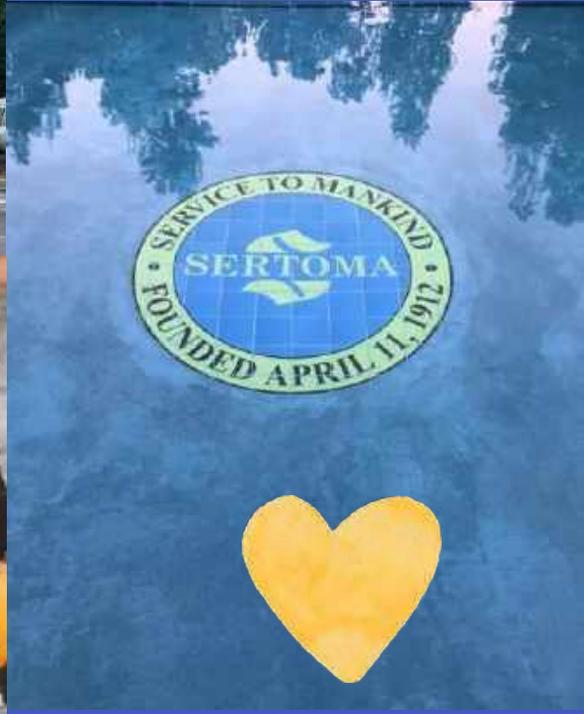




Just a normal check in Sunday



MORE WATER FUN





COVID DIDN'T
LET OUR KIDS
COME TO
CAMP...



SO WE
TOOK
CAMP TO
OUR KIDS!



Camp Sertoma was the most funest place i've been to and I said was because this is my last year I loved playing thunder ball with everyone and going hiking and camping most of all I loved the pool partys we had with everyone I miss my friends and counselors they was the best and I love everyone of you! I hope the new campers have fun at camp Sertoma I hope you all stay safe and I love u all.
By: Rilee A



OUR NEW DOCK



OUR OLD DOC





ROPES COURSE FIRE HOSE



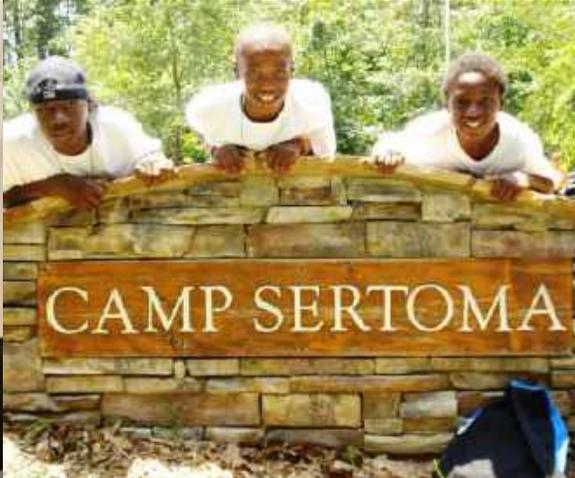


KIDS EXPERIENCE THE RIGHT KIND OF DRAMA AT CAMP





CAMP SERTOMA GOLF TOURNAMENT





LOVE
IN
ACTION



A (AHEM) CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNOR

A breakthrough in funding for the CU Outdoor Lab, particularly for our main facility, Kresge Hall, begs a story of significance. Early in my career, I had the good fortune of meeting and working with Lois West, first lady of SC, during her husband's term as Governor (1971-75). Lois was a camp person through and through, particularly in service to those with physical impairments, and, more specifically, those with muscular dystrophy.

At that time, she was a summer staff volunteer at a camp near Rock Hill. As our programs jump-started, I was able to get Lois to visit Clemson where we had some day camps in operation. This gave me a chance to create a strong personal and camp relationship with her and to share our vision for building a comprehensive facility (the CU Outdoor Lab) on Clemson property to serve citizens throughout the state in summer residential camps.

We had already received a grant of \$100,000 from the Kresge Foundation to begin the construction of our major facility, to house a dining room, kitchen, administrative, and program offices. When that money ran out, we had the foundation, beams, fireplace, and roof completed. But the space was completely open, no walls, no bathrooms, just a huge open-air shelter. We needed more funds, much more.

To complete it, we were finally able to get our first major state funding request (\$500,000) for the Outdoor Lab through the numerous channels at the university and to Columbia. We then turned loose our existing support constituents (Sertomans, Jaycees, Lions, camper parents, etc.). Collectively, the purpose was to contact their elected representatives to gain traction for a positive vote and avoid a veto by the Governor.

By the last week of the legislative session, our request had worked its way through the proper channels in Columbia and was nearing a vote. On the day before the vote, a last-minute, quiet request was made to Lois for support. That night, she made the appeal to her husband. The next day, the Governor made last-minute calls for support of our request. The bill passed, we got our \$500,000, and work that had been stalled on Kresge Hall resumed. When Lois was asked about this development, she said she emphatically told John, "John, don't you come home today without getting that request from Clemson passed." Today, each of them, now deceased, have plaques on the wall at Kresge Hall.

Charlie White
CUOL Director, Retired
Camper Recruiter
Clemson Sertoma Club

MAKING CAMP SMOOTH

October 1-Your Camp Sertoma Representative will receive your **CAMPER RESERVATION FORM**. This needs to be emailed or mailed to me in order for your club to secure spots for your campers. This form only requires you to request the **NUMBER** of campers you would like to sponsor. It does **NOT** require you have the names of your campers yet.

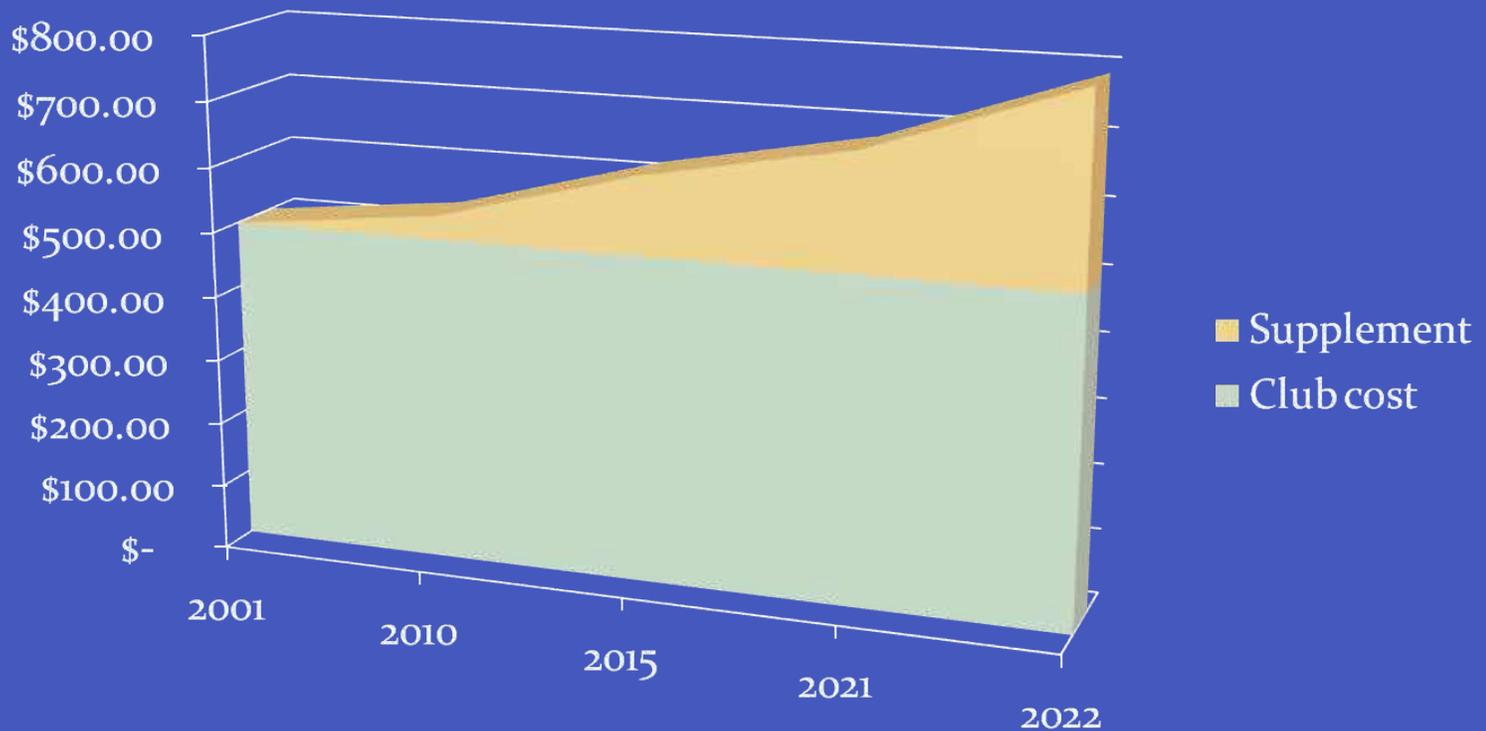
February 1-This is the deadline to turn in your reservation form. Getting your form in as early as possible allows me to combine reservations from the whole state into our six sessions with precisely 40 campers each. Thus, in order to have the maximum amount of time to know your week and recruit your campers for that week, **turning in your reservation form AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE** helps you, me and our whole state of Sertomans greatly.

February 1-If all clubs have turned in their reservation forms on time, this is also the day you will find out which week of camp your club has. (***Note: if your club would like to request a specific week or to be paired with a specific club, be sure to request this on your reservation form at the time you turn it in.**)

June 1-Deadline/Target for **COMPLETING** camper registration. Exceptions can be made if requested up to one week before the start of your assigned week. If your campers haven't completed registration by 1 week before your session, we will fill that spot with alternate campers who have completed registration and are hoping to get in to camp. **SO START EARLY RECRUITING AND REGISTERING YOUR CAMPERS!**

The week before your session- keep in communication with your campers. You don't want to hear "Oh, he's at his dad's house this week." when you go to pick your camper up for camp. Check the packing list, make sure campers have all medications in original bottles, including epi-pens. **ANY MEDICATION LISTED ON THE HEALTH FORM WILL NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO CAMP. IF A PARENT DOESN'T WANT THEIR CHILD TO TAKE A MEDICATION AT CAMP, THEY WILL HAVE TO TALK TO THEIR DOCTOR ABOUT THAT AND NOT PUT IT ON THE FORM (THE FORM SAYS "MEDICATIONS CHILD WILL BE TAKING AT CAMP")**.

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.

