Camp Winona, my summer home away from home

Long-running summer camp an intergenerational tradition

BY RAYMOND LONG
info@beacononlinenews.com

For nine years, I went to YMCA Camp Winona in DeLeon Springs for the whole summer for all three sessions, which at that time were two weeks each. Each session cost $39.

Because my brother, Lewis, was older than me and also went to Camp Winona every summer, the camp let me start earlier than the usual required age.

In 1921, Camp Winona opened its doors to boys 7-17 years of age. They did not allow girl campers back then. Camp Winona made a big impact on my life as a young boy growing up.

An old adage says, "Character is caught, not taught." The staff at camp always had good counselors who taught by example how to live, have good clean fun, work together in scavenger quests, and play along with each other and with the boys who were assigned to our cabins.

Swimming was a big part of summer camp. One summer in particular, I remember we had fur among us from plumbing and having so much fun in the lake. After that, they started putting drops in our eyes every day at dinnertime, so we would not have fur among us anymore.

The camp program was well-rounded. A favorite event was hiking all the way around the lake and all the way to the fire tower on U.S. Highway 17 in DeLeon Springs and back. The best part of the trip was being allowed to climb to the top of the fire tower.

Camp Winona made a big impact on my life. The staff at camp always had good counselors who taught by example how to live, have good clean fun, work together in scavenger quests, and play along with each other and with the boys who were assigned to our cabins.

Swimming was a big part of summer camp. One summer in particular, I remember we had fur among us from plumbing and having so much fun in the lake. After that, they started putting drops in our eyes every day at dinnertime, so we would not have fur among us anymore.

The camp program was well-rounded. A favorite event was hiking all the way around the lake and all the way to the fire tower on U.S. Highway 17 in DeLeon Springs and back. The best part of the trip was being allowed to climb to the top of the fire tower.

Fishing was another big event that summer. Because Lake Winona had a lot of fish. When we had campfires, we would do skits and sing songs and tell stories. Other activities included archery, softball, lacrosse, basketball, bowling, badminton, campfires, storytelling, canoeing, and fishing.

Fishing was another big event that summer. Because Lake Winona had a lot of fish. When we had campfires, we would do skits and sing songs and tell stories. Other activities included archery, softball, lacrosse, basketball, bowling, badminton, campfires, storytelling, canoeing, and fishing.

One of our favorite camp songs had the lyrics, "Nobody loves me; everybody do skits and sing songs and tell stories. Other activities included archery, softball, lacrosse, basketball, bowling, badminton, campfires, storytelling, canoeing, and fishing."

Rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who showed up June 4 to DeLand City Hall to protest injustice and racism. Not did he burst down on the messages of tragedies, suffering, and hope. "The whole point of this is to be as peaceful as possible. We’re not going to have any violence," Zeffy Emerson told 120 or so people assembling for a rally and march.

Emerson’s words set the tone for the noontime gathering, which he led in organizing in response to George Floyd’s killing.

Calls for social justice resound in Deltona

See what you’re missing in The Beacon newspaper!