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My First Summer at Hidden Acres by Nobel Farr

When I first started my summer, there were a lot of things I wanted to accomplish. I wrote down what books I wanted to read, what my workout goals were, and how I could change my morning routine into one of productivity and time with God. Although my intentions were sincere, I fell short on completing most of my goals. One goal, however, was fulfilled unexpectedly through my time at Hidden Acres. That goal was to find three types of people with whom I wanted to surround myself this last summer:

Mentors—older, wiser Christians from whom I can learn more about living a Christ-centered life

Fellow Christians, preferably of the same age, who are at the same stage in their walk with the Lord

People/kids whom I can mentor and attempt to make a change in their lives

The latter of these three is what I think most people go to camp to fulfill. At least this was my reasoning behind “giving up” my last summer before college to work at Hidden Acres. The surprise that was in store for me, however, was that all three of these things, all of which I think are imperative to living a successful Christian life, were fulfilled at Hidden Acres. Instead of only mentoring children, I was mentored by people like Carp, the Core Staff, and others in leadership. At the same time, I found friends who were like-minded and were there for the same reason I was: to bring God to children who need Him. And of course, I got to be a part of one of the best weeks in many of these kids’ lives, where I prayed, laughed, and worshipped with children from Christian homes, broken homes in Pleasant Grove, and from all over the world. I can wholeheartedly say that I made a difference in many of the kids’ summers.

This is what I think the “hidden” beauty of Hidden Acres is all about: that not only did I as a counselor and lifeguard make a positive impact on kids’ lives, but that I was counseled as well! I am also grateful for the friends I made while at Hidden Acres. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” The friendships made at Hidden Acres were ones full of iron sharpening. Hidden Acres is a place full of growth and restoration for all ages; there is no limitation to what God can do at camp! It has changed my life, and for that I am truly grateful. Here’s to next year!



Hidden Acres is a Christian Camp and Retreat Center. Our mission is to serve individuals and the community by sharing Christ's love.

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CAMP COUNSELOR NOW YOUTH PASTOR TESTIMONY BY JACOB STEPHENSON

"When I began working at Hidden Acres six years ago, I could never have imagined the impact it would have on my life. Now, working as a youth pastor, I can clearly see how my years at Hidden Acres have prepared me for ministry with students. I was able to engage children at their own level to teach the Bible. I learned how to deal with stressful situations with patience and love. I learned the value of hard work, responsibility, and selflessness. However, without a doubt, the largest takeaway from my time on staff is that every child has a story. Every child deserves to be listened to, to be cared for, and to be given the opportunity to express their uniqueness.

Although I am no longer able to take part in summer camps, Hidden Acres still holds a special place in my heart. This month, my church's youth will have a retreat at Hidden Acres. In the same way that I have been impacted by Hidden Acres, I want to continue to see God move in the lives of young people. I am thankful to be able to serve through work days once a month, and see the growth of a place I love so much. I am positive I would not be in the place I am today without my time serving on staff at Hidden Acres. I know that God will continue to use Hidden Acres as a place for leadership growth and maturity in the current and future staff, just as he did in my life."



Jacob giving a message during our Great Commission Camp

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