



SUMMER CAMP OUTCOME 2012

One of the questions that we often ask ourselves at Land o' Sunshine Camp Cedarbrook is, "Have we made a difference in the lives of our campers? Have we accomplished our goals?" Several years ago we began to choose one outcome for our camp each summer. What is an outcome? Simply put, an outcome is a benefit for participants during and after a program. It is designed to have lasting effects. In camp terms, we would ask, "What capability do we want our campers to develop at camp and take home as well?" Outcomes we have had in the past included speaking and acting kindly, leadership, reaching out to others, real relationship with God and emotional safety in community living.

Cedarbrook Camps "sign on" to a list of thirty outcomes that are spread out among our four major goals: 1) spiritual formation, 2) relationships & community, 3) skill-building & personal development and 4) creation appreciation. We operate on a three-year rotation of the first 3 goals with the fourth goal divided up among the three years.

This year we are targeting the third goal, and primarily the personal development aspect. The theme is "Keep Watch" and in keeping with the theme and the growth of the individual, we've chosen "wise choices" as an outcome title.

Our campers live in a world where they are bombarded with unwise, ungodly, options. And young people don't often see the consequences that can arise from the choices they make. Nor are they usually aware that so much of what they do IS a choice and eventually leads to habits that affect their personal development. We want to guide them to be alert to temptations, consider what pleases God (even to take care of themselves) and know how to make good age-appropriate decisions - both in the small every day choices and the big ones.

Last year we encouraged "waiting on the Lord", with tools for studying God's word and having regular quiet time. As a practical follow-up, waiting on the Lord should spawn making wise choices, and those choices in turn will affect how they stay strong in God.

We hope that families will see the benefits of this outcome long after camp is over. In order to determine if this outcome has been achieved we will be surveying all parties. We hope that you will support this effort by completing all evaluations. We will be happy to share the results with staff, volunteers, supporters and families.

If you have any questions about outcomes, or need any additional information, please feel free to contact the executive director, Joe Santerelli, at (352) 799-8213 or at director@LOSCC.org