

# CAMERON BOYS CAMP

A 24/7 YEAR ROUND RESIDENTIAL WILDERNESS MINISTRY HELPING BOYS AND FAMILIES FIND HEALING AND EQUIPPING THEM FOR SUCCESS. CAMP'S CHRIST-CENTERED PROGRAM IS A MINISTRY OF BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) provides a unique, outdoor residential program for boys near Southern Pines, North Carolina. Cameron Boys Camp is a wilderness camp that operates 24/7 throughout the entire year. It is designed to provide boys and their families an opportunity to overcome their challenges through a highly-structured program.

For decades, the lives of boys have been transformed through this unique camp model developed by New York University and the University of Michigan in the late 1940's. Today, BCH's camp program is thriving and is bolstered by partnerships that include Cornell University and the University of North Carolina.

Located on 902 wooded acres, Cameron Boys Camp offers the freedom of being outdoors and the structure of small groups with constant, caring supervision. Boys live in groups of ten with three counselors, called "Chiefs." With the help of their peers and Chiefs, campers learn discipline, positive behavior patterns and self-worth.

Residential wilderness camping uses a team, or group work approach, to help boys grow socially, emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. The goal is to build positive, healthy relationships between the boys and Chiefs. Through these relationships deep hurts are healed and lives are changed. The relationship skills each boy learns are transferred home



**ACTIVITIES:** Campers and their Chiefs plan daily activities. They build their own living shelters, cut wood, cook meals two days a week, sort laundry, care for equipment, maintain trails, plan trips, and have fun! Group games, fishing, swimming, crafts, and personal time fill their weeks, providing a well-balanced program.

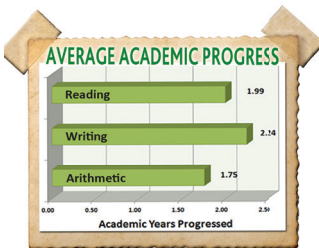
**ADVENTURE:** Paddling 250 miles down the Suwannee River, camping in the Pisgah National Forest, and backpacking the Appalachian Trail are all part of the camp adventure. Trips open doors for growth, team building, and practical lessons.

**CAMP COMMUNITY:** Camp spirit and team effort are vital. Everyone helps create the friendly atmosphere essential to group therapy.

**CHIEFS (COUNSELORS/MENTORS/TEACHERS):** As authentic, adult role models, Chiefs wear many hats - from counselor to friend to teacher. Christian values and strong standards are the backdrop of a Chief's life. Chiefs become deeply involved in the boys lives, daring to love unconditionally, building relationships, and challenging them to grow and succeed.

**EDUCATION:** Camp is an accredited, year-round, non-public school. Trips to historical and cultural sites, skits at camp-wide parties, writing for the camp newspaper Trail Talk, drafting plans for a new shelter and building

it, enjoying natural science, and preparing meals - all make learning enjoyable. The primary goal of Camp is to foster a happy, well-adjusted young man who is confident enough to want to learn.



In **ONE YEAR** at Camp, the average academic **IMPROVEMENT** of boys is **TWO GRADE LEVELS.**





**FAMILIES:** A continuing relationship with family is essential. From arrival at Camp through follow-up visits after a camper leaves, family workers counsel family members. Family workers provide support, education, and insight on family issues. They also serve as a means to monitor family progress and keep parents and custodians informed about their child. Family sessions, parent group meetings, and quarterly review conferences monitor progress and highlight achievements. Every six weeks, campers return to their homes for a four-day weekend, called "Homesday." Working on family relationships is an important part of the program.

**GOALS:** Campers learn personal worth and discipline through a goal-oriented program of tasks and accomplishments they set for themselves and their peers. From this informal, consistent group therapy, campers learn effective behavior patterns and deeper values. And each new achievement is evaluated for meaning, insight, and lessons learned.

**GROUP PROCESS:** Structured 10-person groups living in the outdoors are the heart of therapeutic camping. Boys are grouped by ages and the types of challenges they are facing.

Each camper learns the value of honesty, trust, and friendship. The group's success depends on each camper. An evaluation process occurs during a "pow-wow" at the end of the evening as the group discusses personal insights, their successes and failures, and the next day's activities. Boys receive positive affirmation from peers before the pow-wow is complete. The main goal is to build positive, healthy, trusting relationships between the boys, Chiefs, and peers. These shared experiences and affirmations provide incentives which foster behavioral change. As group identity grows, boys begin to develop self-efficiency and group cohesiveness.



**PARTNERSHIP:** At Camp, partnership consists of these elements: the campers and Chiefs, staff members, families, and referral agencies when applicable. When all are together in spirit supporting and working on goals, great progress is made toward families being reunited.



**SOLVING PROBLEMS:** Daily routines are flexible to allow time to deal with behavior problems. Because solving problems is key to a camper's progress, each boy is led to freely and responsibly express himself in discovering positive solutions. The group is the instrument of behavior change. Together they discuss a problem using P-S-P procedure: identify the problem, decide on a solution, and discuss the prevention of a similar problem.

**DISCIPLINE:** At Camp, discipline is a learning opportunity. Discipline is achieved through mutual goals, group plans, a problem-solving process, routines, and a caring group. No physical punishment is used. Natural consequences may occur for disruptive behavior such as missing fishing time.

**SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS:** The spiritual emphasis at camp is life-wide. It is emphasized in all activities, whether fishing, building a tent, or going on a trip. Everything is done in the spirit of rightness and with an attitude of serving Jesus Christ. Through this attitude and spirit, boys experience peace and a sense of rightness drawing them to right relationships with others and God. Moreover, the entire camp meets twice a week for devotions. The small, informal service allows campers and Chiefs to share spiritual insights and biblical truths realized through the course of their week. Singing, a large part of the camping experience, helps the boys learn to harmonize their voices and their lives with others.

**INFORMATION & REFERRALS:** To inquire about admission, contact 910.245.4034, [cameronboyscamp@bchfamily.org](mailto:cameronboyscamp@bchfamily.org), or go to [cameronboyscamp.org/referral](http://cameronboyscamp.org/referral)

