

THE WILDWOOD WEEKLY



HAPPENINGS LAST WEEK:

- We welcomed over 90 students to The Ranch on Monday.
- Students had a blast on the blob and enjoyed the lake.
- The horses were a big hit (as usual).
- Students learned about forgiveness.
- Friends were made.
- Fun was on repeat every day.



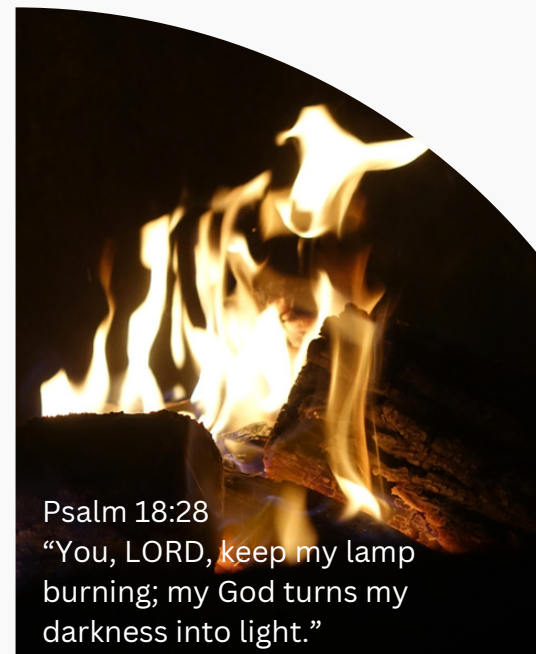
Summer Edition

NIGHT ONE

When most of us think about going away for a week during the summer, we think about friends, fun, and memories. However, students attending our week-long summer programming think about safety, food, and anxiousness (especially for those attending for the first time). As one student displayed her emotions, our staff immediately began encouraging and assuring her of the impact The Ranch can have on students. They worked diligently to diffuse her fears and provide reassurance. They sat with her, looked at the stars, named them, and shared a story of God creating those stars. She was curious about our favorite bible verses and asked if we would share them. And the "storm" began to calm. In the middle of her darkness, we were discussing God. Through those discussions, she started feeling joy and love; we could see and feel the darkness dissipate. We laughed so hard; for a moment, she forgot why she was angry or upset. We could see God's work, turning her darkness into light and her sadness into joy. In the end, she couldn't stay. And even though she left that evening, we are sure that she will remember some of that peace and joy

LIGHT AMIDST DARKNESS

One staff member said, "I remember why I choose to work here year after year. There is no place that can make an impact like I experienced tonight." Tonight, I witnessed peace amidst so much chaos, joy amidst pain, and light amidst darkness as I helped one student navigate her thoughts and emotions. I knew HE was here. I knew HE would help us through this difficult time. I pray for this student as she navigates her difficulties and struggles. I pray she finds HIM and let me always find HIM right here.



Psalm 18:28
"You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light."

