

where the fun never ends

Camp Westminster, located in Rockdale County, begins its 66th season of summer camps this June.

Horseback riding and fishing. Cooking and crafts. Ziplining and paintball. From mild to wild, there's an activity to engage nearly every kid at Camp Westminster.

But it's not the broad menu of activities that keeps youths ages 6–16 coming back summer after summer, says Andy Rogers, director of the non-denominational Christian camp that is marking its 66th consecutive year in operation in 2021.

"Campers tell us it's the relationships with our counselors and other campers that bring them back year after year," said Rogers.

Camp Westminster, a Walton Gas customer since 2009, is situated in 144 acres of woodland in Rockdale County. In June and July the camp offers 20 different sessions offering a mix of weeklong overnight, day and special interest camps.



The camp welcomes about 1,000 participants during an average summer. Of those, 65 percent are returning campers. Most hail from the Atlanta area.

Though the camp offers a wide variety of activities meant to keep kids moving from breakfast to bedtime, there's one thing notably missing: mobile devices.

"All of our campers are unplugged while at camp," Rogers said, explaining that disconnecting from the internet can benefit campers mentally, physically and emotionally. Getting outside and enjoying face-to-face relationships results in "five days of more laughter and more excitement for these kids," he said.

Last summer, Camp Westminster became a welcome refuge for many students who had missed out on social interactions during coronavirus-related shutdowns. The camp's staff doubled down on cleaning and safety protocols, which resulted in a normal offering of summer camping sessions and zero incidents of COVID-19.

Activities at the camp aren't limited to a few weeks in the summer, either. From August through late May, the facilities are used as a location for private functions such as church retreats and school outings. The camp is also opened for family camping sessions a few weekends each year. Horseback riding lessons are taught year-round from the Camp Westminster stables.

Registration for summer camp sessions are now underway at the Camp Westminster website, campwestminster.org. Session descriptions, daily activity schedules and information about other opportunities at Camp Westminster are detailed.



In good company

Walton Gas supports Georgia's powerhouse poultry industry

Shanon Hayes didn't plant the namesake trees on his Sycamore Farm in Madison County. But they're fitting, says the poultry farmer.

"Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to be closer to God, and this farm helps me do the same," the Walton Gas customer said, recalling the biblical story.

Hayes annually raises nearly 650,000 broilers — chickens whose meat is desirable for roasting, grilling or barbecuing. It's work that puts him in good company. The poultry industry supports 170,000 Georgia jobs and annually contributes \$41.8 billion to the state's economy, according to the Georgia Poultry Federation.

The University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development's AgSnapshots 2020 indicates broilers and eggs are Georgia's two largest agricultural commodities, making up 41.5 percent of the state's production value. Even more impressive is Georgia's position as the nation's leader in broiler production, according to the latest numbers compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The Producer's Choice

"Reliable, affordable heat, like that supplied by Walton Gas, is essential for broiler production," said Hayes.

"I maintain a constant 93 degrees in my houses for the comfort and health of the birds," he said

Gas heat also plays a key role in cleaning. Between flocks, vacant houses are flooded with 100-degree heat for 72 hours to help destroy harmful bacteria.

A search for a locally headquartered gas supplier that could offer a higher standard of customer service and a better rate led Hayes to make the switch to Walton Gas a few years ago.

"Walton Gas is pleased to support Hayes as well as many other Georgia poultry producers, hatcheries and processors," said Savannah Chandler, communications coordinator.

"We're dedicated to maintaining their loyalty and trust while playing an essential role in this important industry," she said.

MAR. 19
is National
Poultry Day



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gas up the stove

Concoction

- 6 ounces egg noodles
- 8 ounces cheddar cheese
- 1 can asparagus, drained
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Boil noodles until tender in lightly-salted water. Drain and mix with cheese. Place in a casserole and top with asparagus. Spread soup over the top and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Submitted by Lynne Davis, Alpharetta. Featured recipes are not independently tested, so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from the recognized experts.



**Creamy
and light – a
wonderful
spring meal.**

SEND US YOUR RECIPES!
The best entry each month
will appear in the Gazette and
receive a FREE cookbook.

Send recipe, name, address to:

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