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**A multitude of people are blessed by
Camp Anderson experiences**



Camp Anderson Camp Director William Bloodsworth stands in an open area of the pavilion with the Suwannee River behind him. This pavilion can be open air or panels close to make it climate controlled. It can seat 1,000 people and includes a stage.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © March 26, 2018 at 4:08 p.m.

DIXIE COUNTY -- A multitude of people have been blessed by their experiences at Camp Anderson.



Men enjoy dining in the pavilion before the evening program on Saturday (March 24).

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Most of The Camp Anderson Praise Band is seen here. They are (from left) Nicholas Messina, Josh Hage, Dalton Driggers, Josh Carter, Wayne Hamlin, Tabitha Harvey and Tom Powell.



Here on keyboard is Jaxson Crews. He was late to band practice Saturday evening, but his fellow band members forgave him. Camp Director William Bloodworth said there are 19 staff members who live at Camp Anderson, and that includes all of the band members – who perform duties in addition to their music.

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This giant chess and checkers sets are used by Camp Anderson campers as a recreational outlet. There is also a game where people throw bean-bags into holes in slanted wooden planks (in the background).



A show truck with a \$30,000 price listed on it is available for sale. The buyer of this truck will be contributing to the scholarship fund for campers.

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Here is one view of the huge facility. There are some cabins in view here, as well as an old fire truck that is in place for ambiance more than function.



Most recently, the conclusion of “Man-Up!” at Camp Anderson reflects some of the growth for this Christian-based campground.

Camp Director William Bloodsworth said there were 125 men at this event last year. This year, it more than doubled and took two weekends. There were 260 men during those two sessions of Man-Up! this year.

At summer camp, there are 850 youths who enjoy their experiences at Camp Anderson.

Over a one-year period, Camp Anderson draws about 10,000 people to the Old Town area of Dixie County, Bloodsworth said.

The late Joe H. Anderson Jr. and his family are to be commended, Bloodsworth said, for their incredible contributions not just to Dixie County but to the Southeast United States.

Camp Anderson has become a destination, Bloodsworth said. People travel here from all over Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama.

And the list of places from whence the campers come goes beyond the United States.

There are student exchange programs with Taiwan and Shanghai, he said.

One woman called from another country, he said. She told him that she knows “America is Christian” and she wants children to be able to experience this. And so, she spends \$3,500 in transportation costs for a \$200 summer camp experience.

Near the end of the most recent Man-Up! Event, a couple of men from Drug Addicts Anonymous (DAA) of Gainesville spoke about their experiences at Camp Anderson.

Clint Britton said he and Matthew Kennedy brought nine DAA men to this event this year. DAA is a 12-step, spiritually-based program to help drug addicts stay off of drugs.

These men live in sober homes, where they work on slaying the dragon of addiction.

Kennedy said this was his third visit to Camp Anderson, having come here previously with his church the Gainesville Church of God.

“We love this facility,” Kennedy said.

After learning about the Man-Up! Christian retreat for men, he called Britton and they brought the DAA men who were able to go.

Britton said the men enjoy the ability to have fellowship with other Christians and live the lifestyle they need to live.

“Jesus said He came to help the sick,” Britton said.

As it is noted in Mark 2:17 (KJV) Mark 2:17 -- When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They

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that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Britton and Kennedy both said they feel blessed to have been able to enjoy the retreat at Camp Anderson.

They said it was awesome, clean, fun fellowship that included listening to speakers, enjoying The Camp Anderson Worship Band, boat rides, skeet shooting, paintball, Concealed Weapon Permit classes, riding in a buggy through a big game preserve with wild deer from places other than Florida, and more.

Among the many enjoyable aspects, was being able to wake up and sit by the Suwannee River to meditate in peace.

The men will return to their homes. DAA manages two women's facilities and one for men in Gainesville and there are four houses in Ocala.

When they return to their day-to-day reality, however, the men who enjoyed this Christian retreat will be carrying those experiences with them.

Both Britton and Kennedy said they want to return next year for the Man-Up! event.

The event at Camp Anderson will bring 800 women to the facility. Bloodsworth said this event is completely booked.

Summer Camp will bring hundreds of youths to Camp Anderson.

The Rock The River event for Child Welfare will be helping 1,500 children who have been neglected or abused, Bloodsworth said. All of those children are being sponsored for the camp experiences.

Camp Anderson has made a spiritual difference in the lives of thousands of people and it continues to thrive.

The community of Old Town may not know about the spinoff impact of so many people coming here for the camp; however, in the summer, the Hardee's Restaurant may notice that every Friday there is an unusually large number of people stopping there for lunch.

This is because of the check-in time for camp, Bloodsworth said.

Camp Anderson has become a destination for people from around the world, he said, and as a result it is helping one of the poorest counties in Florida to see an economic boost from the added visitors to the area.

There are retreat and rental costs at CampAnderson.

Typical cost for a weekend retreat range from about \$20 to \$95 per person. Weeklong retreats range from about \$38 to \$199 per person.

There are also scholarships for children to enjoy Christian summer camp.

Camp Anderson has meeting space.

Its Riverside pavilion can seat up to 1,000 people. It is climate controlled or it can be open air, thanks to its retractable insulated walls.

There is a stage, sound and lighting suitable for concerts and conferences.

And there are plenty of cabins. There are eight cabins that have 12 beds each. There are 25 cabins with 10 beds.

And there are nine cabins with six beds each. There are spaces for 400 campers in cabins.

To learn more about Camp Anderson, click [HERE](#).