

# smoke signals



## Starr Teel Leads Arrowhead Adventure

The general winter time perception of the camping industry is that this is a time of rest and relaxation. Not so for any of my director friends and certainly not for Camp Arrowhead. We are in a whirlwind of activity with extensive planning, hiring and construction. It has been especially exciting for me to be working with such an impassioned investor group and a leadership team of former Arrowhead alumni, all brought together to expand and enhance what we know to be one of the great traditional summer camps in the country.

You will note throughout the newsletter the many physical plant improvements that are in progress, but the more subtle aspects of our attention are going on behind the scenes: concerted planning for improved communications with campers, parents and Arrowhead alumni; online discussions with senior staff and campers regarding our most critical programs – programs that have had such a powerful impact in developing leadership skills in the lives of young boys. At the end of the day we provide exceptional programs, leadership and fun, but the greatest impact and hallmark of every Arrowhead camping adventure is relationships.



Starr and Virginia Teel, with daughters Virginia Frances and Annie Starr

Our talented and child-focused staff will inspire hope and promise in the lives of young boys, teaching that their lives matter to themselves and to those around them (their camp community and beyond). Our exceptional programming, beautiful wilderness setting and grand Arrowhead adventures provide teachable moments to help these boys grow into caring and responsible young men. These goals are at the heart of our ministry and mission, and we are grateful for this opportunity to serve.

We're planning to have another great summer. Don't miss it. ~Starr Teel, Executive Director

## Fun Facts

- Over 230 acres of beautiful Blue Ridge mountains with an average elevation of 2600 ft.
- Campers have more than 30 activities to choose from.
- Only blacksmithing program in the region, led by resident artisan George Mathews.
- Ten Foot summoned 200 brook trout to make their home in our own Rock Creek.

## What's New at Camp Arrowhead?

Plenty! While our unique traditions and our commitment to being agents of positive change for your sons will never waver, there are, indeed, exciting new things happening both on and off the property.

*Cabin and shower renovation:* This winter, each of our cabins are being fitted with new tin roofs (remember the sound of rain?), new wooden decks to encourage small gatherings and R & R, new tile on the bathroom floors, and an on-demand hot water system has been added (ahhhh.....need we say more?).

*Property upgrades:* By the time camp sessions begin, we will have re-graded the roads and groomed the trails. We plan to upgrade the ropes course, add a new staff laundry facility (no more stinky counselors!), and have the outdoor wood-fired pizza oven ready for use.

*Program enhancements:* We will continue our commitment to providing challenging and high-quality arts and crafts experiences for our campers. We are installing a new kiln for the ceramics program, expanding the blacksmithing activities so more campers can

*see What's New on page 3*

---

## Jeز Places 8th in World Kayaking



We look forward to welcoming back policeman Jeremy “Jeز” Blanchard who will once again make the long trip from Sydney, Australia. In late January, Jeز placed eighth at the 2005 World Freestyle Kayaking championships, and he will pass his considerable paddling skills along to our campers.

Jeز says, “The competition was in Sydney this year. This means the best paddlers from all over the world were here, so it’s been very cool to be sitting in a wave with a world champion or two cheering you on. I hung out with world champion Eric Jackson a bit, which was awesome since he’s been a role model of mine for quite a while.

I have also been working hard trying to keep the streets of Sydney safe. But I still think of those ‘good ol arrowhead days’ and can’t wait to get up to camp this year. There’s so much to do and so much fun to be had. It’s my second home, and my favorite place in the world. See you this summer.”

---

## Camp Helps Build Promise & Hope

Last summer, Heath and Bruce would not stop bugging me about going back to camp with the final group of the summer. My name is Jeff Killebrew, and I work with an inner-city youth ministry in New Orleans. Each year we take small groups of teenage boys to our own little adventure camp in the mountains of North Georgia. Rafting, hiking, tubing, camping, swimming, capture the flag in the woods and more. It was worlds away from back home, and Heath and Bruce loved it so much they stopped in my office everyday and insisted I take them again. Waiting for next summer was just too long.



Opportunities like these are rare for urban youth. Many of those involved in our organization have never seen a mountain. Never been on a boat. Most could count on one hand the number of times they’ve been out of the city. Taking them to camp for the first time blows their minds, and they talk about it year round.

While these new and adventurous activities are central and critical components of the camp experience, the real beauty of it all lives in the focused, uninterrupted opportunity to help young people mature, make wise decisions and become better equipped for the challenges they face back home.

The kids in New Orleans deal with many of the same obstacles young people from other impoverished, inner-city communities must overcome in order to succeed. While the cards often seem stacked against them, they are filled with as much potential as any child growing up in a more privileged setting.

And camp often serves an environment where they begin to believe this last statement is true. They experience new things and build self-confidence. They realize trusting in others is possible, and they determine to become trustworthy themselves. They begin to see their lives have promise, and they return home with new insights, perspectives, values and hope.

At Camp Arrowhead, we want to serve these “Children of Promise,” because we want to play a role in changing their communities. By providing an exceptional Arrowhead experience for these young people, we can begin to make small but significant changes in their lives. As they become young men they will begin to have greater impact in their own neighborhoods, and new cycles of promise and hope will flourish.

I am excited to be working with Arrowhead in order to make these opportunities real for urban youth, for boys like Heath and Bruce, who went with me to camp a second time. Heath brought his god-brother and Bruce brought his neighbor. They’re becoming leaders already, and that’s what it is all about.





## What's New *continued from pg. 1*

participate in this popular program, and improving opportunities for self-expression through glass bead making, raku, and our unique Camp Arrowhead Racing Team.

Of course, campers will continue to have access to all of the same activities they have come to look forward to, including: hiking, water-skiing, horseback riding, spin and fly fishing, blobbing, and more! All of our activities are taught in a safe, nurturing, and always fun, environment.

*Speaking of safety...* the Health Clinic not only will have the benefit of our compassionate and skilled Nurse Judy, but Dr. Scott Donaldson will join our full-time staff this year, providing full-time medical services for our campers, counselors and staff members.



Danny & Cissy Elmer,  
with sons Ben and Sam

## Greetings from Ten Foot



Young campers, the cold and bare winter has been a welcome time of reflection for me. As I stand guard atop the ridge and then make my way down to Rock Creek, I think back to when you were here during the warm summer months at Camp Arrowhead.

I remember watching you and your fellow campers on the pond, in the blacksmith shop, on the rock wall and in the woods learning how to be team players, encouragers and servants to others.

These memories warm me with pride, like a well-built campfire on a cool evening. I find joy in watching you and the others take steps toward manhood – conquering fears, respecting adults and respecting the land. I am certain these lessons have served you well in your time away from camp.

While the last snows of winter melt into the creek, the sun shines down and reminds me that your return is just a few moons away. I look forward with great anticipation to the sounds of your excited young voices in the woods. As you dream of the new Arrowhead adventures to come, I await your arrival and stand ready to watch over you during another great summer in the mountains.

## Send Your Computer for a Rainy Day

Ever wondered what to do with those old computers, cell phones and other electronic gadgets? Pack them with the rest of your son's summer camp gear and send them our way for an excellent rainy day project. We'll open them up and explore their inner-workings before taking them to pieces and rebuilding new mechanical monsters. So save up those outdated and unwanted machines, and when the mountain weather keeps us inside, we'll put them to good use.

I've always been involved in outdoor activities and have worked directly with the outdoor industry since college. Summer camp has consistently been a high priority for our children. Ben and Sam have become more independent, learned new skills and each summer they come away feeling part of a much bigger world through the camp experience.

~Danny

I grew up in Charlotte so coming to the mountains to camp when I was a child was like stepping off into a different world for me. I especially loved the routines and the traditions and knowing that so many others had done these very same things for so many summers before me. It really gave me a sense of history and my place in it. ~Cissy

Danny serves as our business manager, co-director, and all around fun-hog. Cissy volunteers for Camp Arrowhead setting up camp shows and communicating with parents. Last fall she opened Flat Rock Outfitters, a great little outdoor shop, and will be outfitting our camp store as well. So stop by Flat Rock Outfitters the next time you're up this way.



P.O. Box 248  
Tuxedo, NC 28784



## CAMPERS

Find your special message from Ten Foot, camp protector, inside this newsletter!

## 2005 Season - don't miss it!

Family Camp: Fri. May 27 - Mon. May 30

Junior Camp: Tues. May 31 - Sat. June 4 (ages 6-10) **FULL**

Junior Camp II: Sun. June 5 - Fri. June 10 (ages 6-10)

June Session: Sun. June 5 - Sat. June 25

July Session: Mon. June 27 - Sat. July 23

End of Summer Session: Mon. July 25 - Sat. August 6

register today at [www.camparrowhead.org](http://www.camparrowhead.org)