

## Blue Ridge Launch Update

Four years ago we announced a vision to reach more boys with the mission to build godly men. We felt compelled to step out in faith because of the growing waitlist and the struggles boys are having (want to hear more about the 'boy crisis'? contact us!). The need and demand to build godly men has grown to new heights. Opening day of last year's registration was unprecedented. Within the first hour of registration, eighty percent of the season was filled. We finished the 2018 season with a record 200 boys on the waitlist. After years of saying 'no' to so many boys, this is the year we get to say 'yes' as the vision for Deerfoot Lodge Blue Ridge becomes reality.

This is the year we get to say 'yes' to boys



We are on an aggressive path to launching Deerfoot Blue in June of 2019. We feel like Joshua leading the people to conquer the promised land. There are formidable 'giants' in the land, but we have a great God who has already done wonders in our midst.

This is a year like no other at the Lodge. A successful launch is going to take more Prayer, Volunteers, and Funding.

## DEERFOOT

41 Overlook Drive,  
Averill Park, NY 12018

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### First DL Fall Work-weekend at Blue Ridge

Columbus Day Work Weekend. A treehouse platform was built, a woodsmen cabin and pioneer lean-to erected, stairs built, logs for bunks peeled, wildlife and campcraft areas cleared, and we had a beautiful breaking of the bread ceremony lakeside. There are plenty of opportunities for Deerfooters to volunteer at DL BR all year long. Please contact Chief Nick for more information.

No rain, no bugs; just sun, cool breezes and great fellowship. Deerfooters from all over the country descended on Deerfoot Lodge Blue Ridge for its first

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# DEERFOOT TRACKS

DEERFOOT

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## Dear Men of the Master,

If I could be one of Jesus' twelve disciples, I would want to be Peter. Like Peter, I have my 'masters' in putting my foot in my mouth, missing the point, and even betrayal. Yet for all of Peter's missteps, he still serves as a role model for me. He was the one who preached the Pentecost sermon that led 3000 to follow Jesus (Acts 2), he was the one who broke down the barrier between Jewish and Gentile believers (Acts 11), and he was the one who got out of the boat to walk on water (Matt. 14).

'Walking on water' describes how I feel now. Deerfoot is in a place we've never been before and it is a long way from the safety of the boat. We're out in the churning sea. Our wind and waves are the massive challenge of getting DL Blue Ridge built in time, and paying for it. Sometimes, I long for the boat where things were far more manageable and secure because out here at sea...I feel vulnerable.

Then I remember Peter, who quickly sank when he took his eyes off Jesus and focussed on the threatening conditions.

Suddenly, walking on water seemed like a bad idea. It's not safe and it doesn't make sense, until Jesus intervenes. It's a simple lesson: there is no water-walking without Jesus' power. I'm not sure my faith has ever been tested as it is these days. Keeping my eyes on Jesus is a full time job.

How about you? Do you have courage enough to get out of the boat and follow Him? Are you already out there, but sinking under the threats? Join me in trusting and following Him courageously. Let's fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our Faith (Hebrews 12:2).

This issue of the DL Tracks provides the 'low-down' on what it will take to launch Deerfoot Blue Ridge in 2019. We're moving full steam ahead, but we face challenges.

These are historic days at the Lodge! Read on.

In DL Bonds,

Chief Ron



## Help Us Launch!

If you've been on Deerfoot staff or at a work-weekend, you know that we specialize in carrying heavy things far. It's time to get a shoulder under the log and help carry, because we're on our way. Here are ways you can help us launch in 2019:

- 1. Recruit staff & campers.** Our 'marketing plan' for recruiting new campers and staff comes down to mobilizing the Deerfoot network. That's you! We're calling Deerfooters everywhere to actively recruit campers and staff. Do you need resources for this? Want to host a gathering in your living room? Need a speaker for your church or ministry to talk about the boy crisis? Contact us!
- 2. Volunteer.** We have opportunities for volunteers and teams all year. Contact Chief Nick for more information.
- 3. Give.** Deerfoot is facing greater needs for financial support as we launch. Besides the Blue Campaign needs, we will need more support for camper scholarships and the general fund to carry a whole new camp. Consider supporting Deerfoot and connecting us with potential donors who need to know about this mission.
- 4. Pray.** Join the Vision Prayer Team to receive occasional alerts.



## From Chief Craig

A couple of quick snapshots from this summer at Deerfoot Adirondack:

- An Indian camper confided in his teepee mates that he was ready to give up on the Church and Christian community altogether. Not only were his friends quick to go to prayer with him (at their own suggestion), but they were the literal embodiment of the Church in that moment, demonstrating how important Christian community is. They didn't know how to answer, and yet they, themselves were God's answer to that young man's need.

- A Woodsman camper was an expert in all things internet and television. He had memorized the theme-song to every streaming television show, and showed all the signs of having been glued to a screen for most of the year before arriving at Deerfoot for the first time. Upon arrival he seemed overwhelmed by all the relationships he was confronted with – real people with whom he had to interact and work as a team. His counselor, however, applied one simple tool to the problem: focused attention. By the end of the first week, the two were inseparable. By the end of the second, the two were talking about what it means to follow Jesus.

So what's the report from DL ADK? The mission is happening. In other words, God is changing the world, one life at a time, and we're witnesses to his grace.

*Chief Craig*



## DL ADK Work Weekend

What a blessing it is to walk through camp after a work weekend. Of course the foliage on the Dugs and the crunch of fallen leaves beneath my feet is satisfying, but it is the finished projects, the evidence of hard work from volunteers around every corner that remind me most of God's provision for Deerfoot. Our faithful team of volunteers worked together this fall continuing the construction of a new Beaver Cabin, building a timber stairway near Founder's Lodge, opening up the driveway and building a safe walkway at Loon Cabin, rebuilding a crumbling access ramp to the flushing tree, putting some solar lighting into the Owl cabin, and even jacking up a cabin to replace a faulty footing. All this, while another team of volunteers cooked 9 delicious and filling meals for the group. It never ceases to amaze me what work weekenders can accomplish. As is so often the case in Deerfoot's history, our volunteers are not intimidated by the size of the task. They simply pull on some gloves and get to work.

## 2018 ADK Operations Report

Praise the Lord for another great season of building godly men in a Christ-centered community through wilderness camping. Here are some of the operational highlights from the 2018 season:

- 627 campers (96% capacity)
- Over 160 volunteers served at Work Weekends and during the summer season.
- 65 campers received scholarship help. These were made possible through contributions to the camper scholarship fund.
- CampMinder, our new registration and forms management software was launched successfully.
- Major Capital Improvements: Purchase of two new 15 passenger vans, one new generator, new Mink cabin, and more!
- Over 180 written evaluations received from campers and parents—helpful feedback!
- 23 participated at Winter Trek in the High Peaks

## From Chief Nick

At the end of every college lacrosse practice we would run 400-meter sprints. I loved these because, as a tall guy, it was long enough to build momentum yet short enough to be maximum effort. I feel like I'm a third of the way through a 400 sprint as we get ready to open camp in less than 7 months. Some tough running is behind us and the majority is still ahead. Voices in your head shout "you're going too fast, you can't keep up!" others saying "pick it up, your falling behind!" I draw the strength for each day, each footfall, from you. If I had to run this sprint alone, I couldn't. I am being carried by the Deerfoot community's prayers, financial donations, volunteer hours, and love. Thank you for all the ways you carry me and my family as the summer of 2019 approaches.



Chief Nick

*Chief Nick*

## 2019 Camper Registration

The leaves have turned and the morning frost is beginning to show up, which means registration season is nearly upon us at Deerfoot. This is a monumental year for camp, with sessions at Deerfoot Blue Ridge appearing as options for the first time! As you register, you can expect the process to work virtually the same as it did last year. You will be able to register for either Deerfoot Adirondack or Blue Ridge using the same CampMinder account. We are continuing with the CampMinder platform, and if you have not logged into your CampInTouch account ("CampInTouch" is the name of your personal account within the CampMinder system), we recommend that you do so before registration to make sure all your personal contact info is up to date. Check your email and [Deerfoot.org/registration](http://Deerfoot.org/registration) for more information as the dates draw closer.

As in the past, registration will proceed in phases:  
**PHASE 1:** December 1 – Returning campers, siblings of returning campers, and those who have been on the waitlist for 2 years or more may register at this time.  
**PHASE 2:** December 15 – Campers who were on the waitlist in 2018 may register.

**PHASE 3:** January 2 – Open registration begins!

**Note:** Each camper may register for one session at one camp. Registration for additional sessions will begin on February 1.

Visit [www.deerfoot.org](http://www.deerfoot.org) for dates, rates and details.



## Deerfoot Lodge Blue Ridge Hosts an Open House

On October 13th and 14th Deerfoot Lodge Blue Ridge opened its doors for community members to experience Deerfoot. The local community is thrilled that a camp like Deerfoot is coming to their area. They are investing their time, money and talents to help us be ready for the summer. Those that visited all noted something special being stirred in their souls when walking around the property. It was very affirming for all the Deerfooters who supported the event to hear this encouragement from strangers. The Holy Spirit is moving at His place in North Carolina.



## DL Blue Registrar

Martha Dotti will be serving Deerfoot families as they register for Deerfoot Lodge Blue Ridge. She is available now to answer your registration questions as they pertain to DL BR. Martha has attended many Deerfoot work weekends with her Dad, met her husband (Chief

Nick) at a work weekend, Martha's brother was a camper and on staff and she is a camper mom. We are thrilled to have her experience and expertise on the Deerfoot team; she makes the Deerfoot staff exponentially better. You can reach her at [martha@deerfoot.org](mailto:martha@deerfoot.org)



## Deerfoot Winter Trek

Registration is open for the 2019 Deerfoot Winter Trek. This trip is for Deerfoot alumni who are 18+. We'll hike in the High Peaks where the snow, ice, and wind are sure to provide an unforgettable Deerfoot adventure! Winter hiking experience is not required (we'll help you with what you need to know), but trail fitness is important. Information and Registration is available at [www.deerfoot.org/registration](http://www.deerfoot.org/registration), or contact Chief Ron.



## Deerfoot Lodge Blue Ridge has a Jo Nurse!

Meet Jo Nurse Vicki Hamer! Vicki is an emergency room nurse and a Certified Pediatric Nurse. She's volunteered at ADK for 4 years in the Health Center. Both of her sons, son-in-law and grandson are Deerfooters. Her husband Vic is a retired waterfowl biologist. Please pray for the Hamer family as they start a new journey with Deerfoot in North Carolina. Also, Deerfoot will be sending out applications soon for a Facility Manager and is still looking for anyone interested in serving as the Head Chef.



**DL Blue Ridge is searching for a Facility Manager and Food Service Manager**

## Contributions have been received in memory of...

Bob and Ruth DeWolfe  
 Dick Castor  
 Jim Masterson  
 Marie Eglund  
 Jacqueline Barry  
 Robert Shapiro  
 Scott Baehr  
 Timothy Jessen

Doug Trillet  
 Chelsea Trillet  
 Alfred Kunz  
 Virginia Chick  
 Scott Pokorny  
 Bill Gardner  
 Michael Owensby

## Thank you for...

- 2008 Suburban for DL BR
- Volunteers for Work Weekends, Camp Program, and more!
- Fishing poles for DL BR
- Custom metal brackets for DL BR Treehouses
- Hobie sailboat for DL ADK
- Sunfish sailboat for DL ADK
- Rowboat for DL ADK
- Hand tools and toolbox
- Praying for Deerfoot's Program & Vision
- Contributions toward Blue campaign, capital projects, scholarship funds, and operational expenses.

## We Have Need Of...

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**  
 ADK & BR General Fund  
 ADK & BR Camper Scholarship Fund

### CAPITAL NEEDS:

**ADK Capital Projects:**

- Two new camper vans
- Beaver replacement cabin

**Blue Ridge Capital Needs (currently needed):**

- Contributions to Launch Construction

### EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

Contributions toward any of the following are welcome. Contact us for information about specific brands that we use before ordering products.

- ADK Equipment:**
- 8 Spin-cast rod and reel combo for Fishing
  - Backboard, for Professional Rescue for the Waterfront
  - 12 Swimming Goggles
  - Staff two-way radios (call ahead)
  - Office computer
  - Trip Life jackets (call ahead)
  - Back-country water filters (call ahead)

### Blue Ridge Equipment:

- Riding mower
- Weed whacker
- Chainsaw
- Professional grade miter saw
- Wheelbarrows
- Program Equipment.

[www.deerfoot.org/donortradingpost](http://www.deerfoot.org/donortradingpost)

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