

Dear Friend,

I want to let you know that my time of leadership at Camp Roger/Camp Scottie is coming to a close. Being the Executive Director of Camp Roger has been one of the greatest privileges and joys of my life, but after 24 years, I find myself ready for a change. For those of you who know me well, you also know I love a new project. And while I'm not quite sure what that project will be quite yet, I plan to take some time off to work in my garage, stay quiet for a while, and see what God has planned. I am blessed to have been the fourteenth director, trying to follow in the footsteps of great Camp leaders. I have loved working with amazing Summer Staff, dedicated & hardworking Year-Round Staff, and a wise, intentional Board of Directors – it has been a true joy.

The Board of Directors and I have been working together for some time to plan for this change and craft a smooth transition in leadership, with a targeted timing around spring break 2026.

Camp is going to be ok. Why do I think that? I've had a front row seat to watch God be active in kids' lives. I believe the truth in His Word that He who began a good work (in this Camp) will carry it through to completion. I don't believe God's work is done yet at Camp, and so I trust his faithfulness to see that good work continue. The Board and the Staff are united in this work. I have loved laughing, learning, and leading alongside them, and I trust their leadership in this time.

The heart of Camp's ministry is firm. Many of you know that I am a geek about mission statements. Each summer, I have drilled it into the heads of our camp counselors. Over the last decade, Camp has become very serious about our mission, vision, and core values. The Faith and Life Covenant really nailed down our core beliefs and provided great biblical guidance for our ministry. Most recently, Vision 2025 charted a bold course of action to aggressively remove any barriers we can that are hindering any child from having a camp experience. Camp's ministry is so compelling, focused, and defined.

Program quality is secure, and exciting things are on the horizon. Camp is blessed to have spectacular directors with lots of experience leading our programs. Kelsey and Michelle lead top-level summer camp programs; Emillie has a great vision for our year-round programming; Donna passionately leads our Advancement Team and Community Engagement. Our programs aren't going to miss a beat. And, in fact, I'm excited to see where the mission goes with a fresh Executive Director working alongside this amazing team. On top of that, the Welcome Campaign will open critical new opportunities for new kids to experience Camp. Camp's future is bright!

This is going to be, without a doubt, a hard transition for me. I have worked with some of the most unimaginably talented and awesome people in the world. For any of you who have worked at Camp and then left, I am about to find out what that feels like. I am convinced I will miss it dearly, but I also know that it's time. Thank you so much to those who have prayed for, encouraged, put up with, and joined me in this amazing and crazy ministry that I love so much. Please join me in praying for God's hand to guide this transition and to lead Camp to an amazing, new leader with fresh ideas and energy.

If you have questions or thoughts to share, I'd love to hear them!

Trusting God,
Doug Vanderwell
616-460-6584
doug@camproger.org or
dougvanderwell@gmail.com