



2024

Impact Report

WESLEY WOODS

Letter from the Director

As we reflect on the Summer of 2024, it is evident that the Holy Spirit moved powerfully in the hearts and minds of everyone who encountered Camp Wesley Woods. The presence of God was unmistakable, leaving a lasting impact on all who participated in our programs.

This summer, countless stories emerged of Jesus becoming real in new and profound ways. Through meaningful interactions, personal growth, and a deep revival of faith, lives were transformed. These experiences were not by chance; they are a testament to God's work through the ministry at Wesley Woods.

Camp is truly a special place. It is where lifelong friendships are formed, confidence is bolstered, and faith is nurtured. We are incredibly grateful for the unique role Wesley Woods plays in the spiritual journeys of so many.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each of you who have supported God's ministry here—whether through the generous donation of your time, talents, or financial gifts. Your contributions have made these transformative experiences possible.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the expansion of our year-round ministries for youth, families, and adults. We anticipate that God will continue to move in powerful ways, revealing Himself in ways we have yet to experience.

In Christ's Love,



Sean Gundersen
Wesley Woods Site Director



WESLEY WOODS

Professional Staff

*Our
Mission*

**PROVIDING GROWTH
EXPERIENCES FOR CHRISTIAN
LEADERS FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE
WORLD**



Mikaela Dunn

Camp Program Manager



Sean Gundersen

Site Director



Asic Helberg

Camp Programs Manager



John Miller

Property Manager



Rick Peake

Food Service Manager



CAMP WESLEY WOODS

Our Reach In Numbers

765

Individual Campers



379

UMC Campers

253

Other Churches

133

No Church

87

Day Campers

349

New Campers

12,645

Meals Served

9

States

156

Cities

42

Summer Staff



2

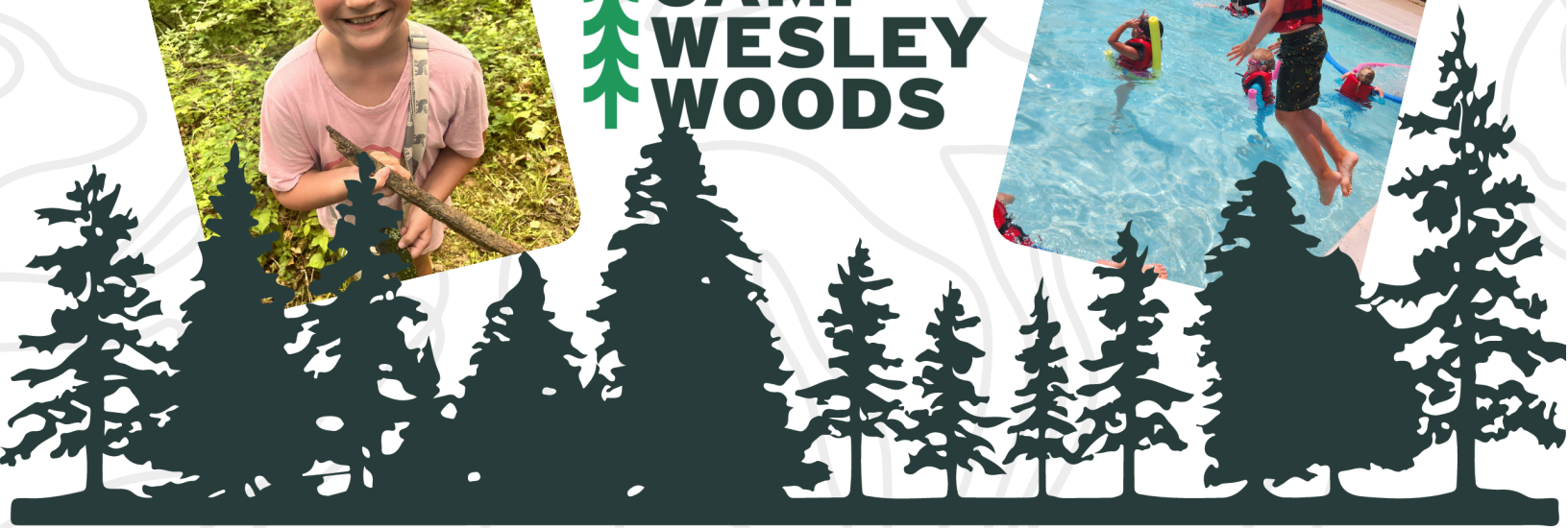
Camper Countries

9

Staff Countries



 **CAMP WESLEY WOODS**



WESLEY WOODS Camper Data

Our Campers Say:

- 98% I had a lot of fun.
- 98.2% I enjoyed my Cabin Leader.
- 82.3% I tried something new.
- 90.3% I learned more about God and my faith.
- 87.9% I plan to attend camp again in the future.
- 90% I made a new friend.
- 96.3% I enjoyed my overall camp experience.

"Camp was amazing!"
- Camper

"I want to live here!"
- Camper

"It was super duper awesome and a fun experience. I made some new friends and I got to try new things." - Camper

"it was 10/10 and I cannot wait to come back!!" - Camper
"I felt God at Camp"
- Camper

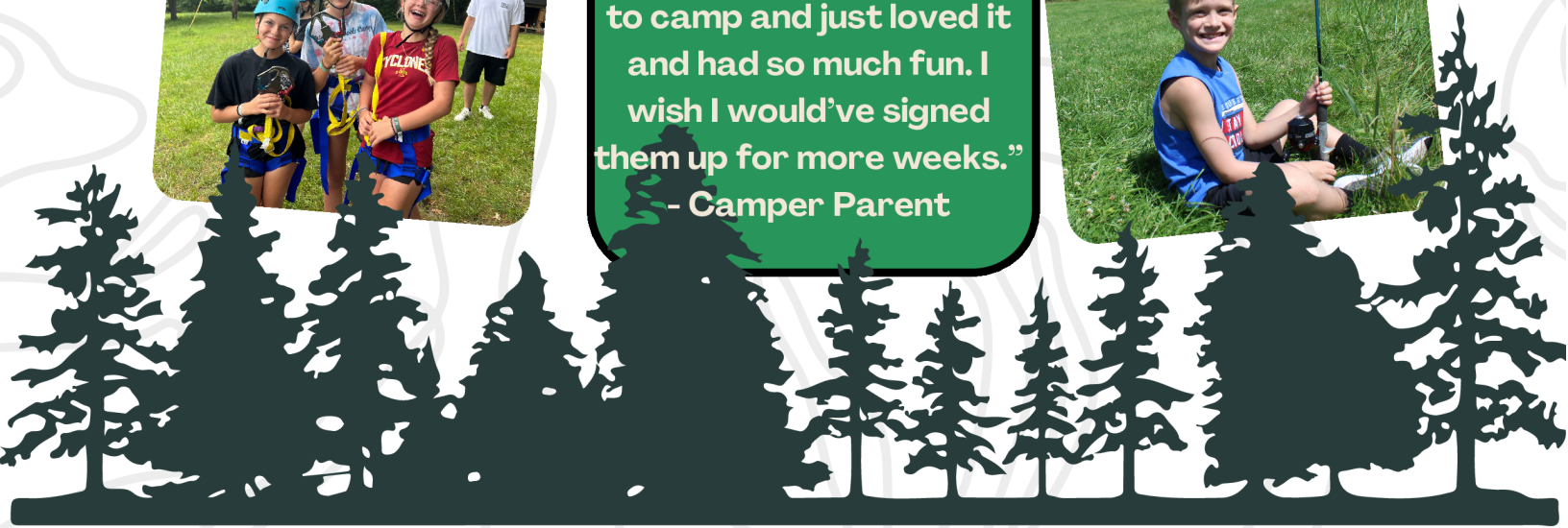


Parents Say:

"This was the kids first time at camp! They both enjoyed it and want to come back!"
-Camper Parent



"[Camper] had never been to camp and just loved it and had so much fun. I wish I would've signed them up for more weeks."
- Camper Parent



WESLEY WOODS

Stories from the Woods



Katie attended Wesley Woods as a camper for the first time in 2023. Her life outside of camp had been difficult. She recently entered foster care and was having trouble adjusting to a new school and new home environment. When her foster mom signed her up to come to Wesley Woods in 2023, Katie was very hesitant to attend. She quickly formed a bond with a few Junior Leaders and began to open up to them about her life outside of camp.



While Katie was very hesitant to attend camp in 2023, she knew Wesley Woods was exactly where she wanted and needed to be during the summer of 2024. She signed up for our Leaders in Training program and spent two weeks leading songs and activities with younger campers. It was apparent to all the staff at Wesley Woods how much she had grown from last summer. Her positive attitude and energy were contagious! Campers adored her and Summer Staff and Junior Leaders felt refreshed by her love for camp.



At closing chapel on Thursday night, Katie talked with a few of the Junior Leaders she bonded with during the summer of 2023. She thanked them for the love and kindness they had shown her. She had been in a dark place, and camp pulled her out of it. Without camp, Katie was unsure she would have been able to keep going.

The love Katie felt at camp brought her back to Wesley Woods this summer. She plans to return to Wesley Woods in the coming summers as a Junior Leader and one day Summer Staff in hopes of sharing God's love with campers, just like it was shown to her.



WESLEY WOODS

Stories from the Woods

Wesley Woods Opens Its Heart to Kids from Perry and Greenfield

When tragedy strikes, kids feel it deeply. At Wesley Woods, we believe in the power of camp to bring healing and hope, especially in tough times.

After the Perry school shooting and the devastating Greenfield tornado, we knew we had to help. We offered full scholarships to every child in these communities, inviting them to camp for a week of comfort, friendship, and a break from the heavy burden they were carrying.

Thanks to our faithful donors and friends of the camp, we made it happen. And the transformation we saw in these kids was incredible.

They arrived with heavy hearts but left with a renewed sense of joy and hope. Whether it was laughing with new friends, finding peace in nature, or just being kids again, their time at Wesley Woods helped them start healing.

We're grateful to everyone who made this possible. Together, we gave these kids a chance to find themselves again.



WESLEY WOODS

Stories from the Woods

My faith journey has been greatly influenced by my time at Camp Wesley Woods. I grew up coming to camp and in my teenage years I volunteered the majority of my time during each summer working at camp.

Camp helped me to discover what my own beliefs were as well as helped me find answers to questions I had about God.

The time I spent at camp had such an effect on me that I now want to give the rest of my life to working in youth ministry to help others discover their faith.



David Hollingsworth

5th Year
Summer Leader



WESLEY WOODS

Visiting Camp

Come Tour Wesley Woods: Discover Our Ministry and Its Needs

Are you curious about the life-changing ministry happening at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center? We invite you to visit us and experience firsthand how God is at work in this beautiful corner of His creation.

A tour of Wesley Woods offers a unique opportunity to see the heart of our ministry in action. From the laughter of children at summer camp to the deep reflection of retreat participants, you'll witness how we strive to create a space where people of all ages can grow in their faith and connect with God.

During your visit, you'll also learn about the various needs that help sustain this vital ministry. From maintaining our beautiful grounds to providing scholarships for campers in need, there are many ways you can support Wesley Woods. Whether you're able to give your time, resources, or simply lift us up in prayer, your involvement makes a significant impact.

We believe that when you see Wesley Woods in person, you'll be inspired by what God is doing here and moved to join us in making a difference. Schedule your tour today, and let us show you how together, we can continue to nurture faith, build community, and transform lives.

To arrange your visit, please contact us at 515.961.4523 or send us an email to info@wesleywoodsowa.org. We look forward to welcoming you to Wesley Woods!



WESLEY WOODS RETREATS + EVENTS

Our Reach In Numbers

5,578

Guest User Days

259

Church Events

133

Non Church Events

7

Pastoral Retreats

7

New Partnerships

3,228

Individual Guests Served

15

New Groups

28

Iowa Annual Conference Events

22

New Opportunities for Youth, Families, Adults, and Clergy

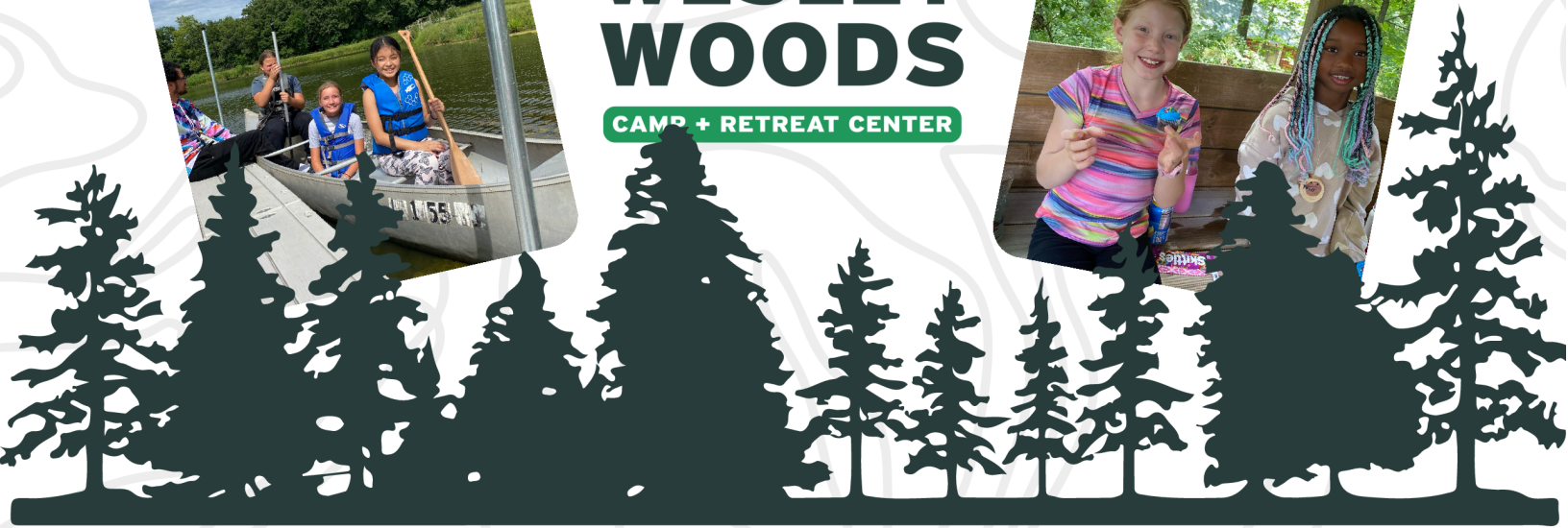
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Partner Camps

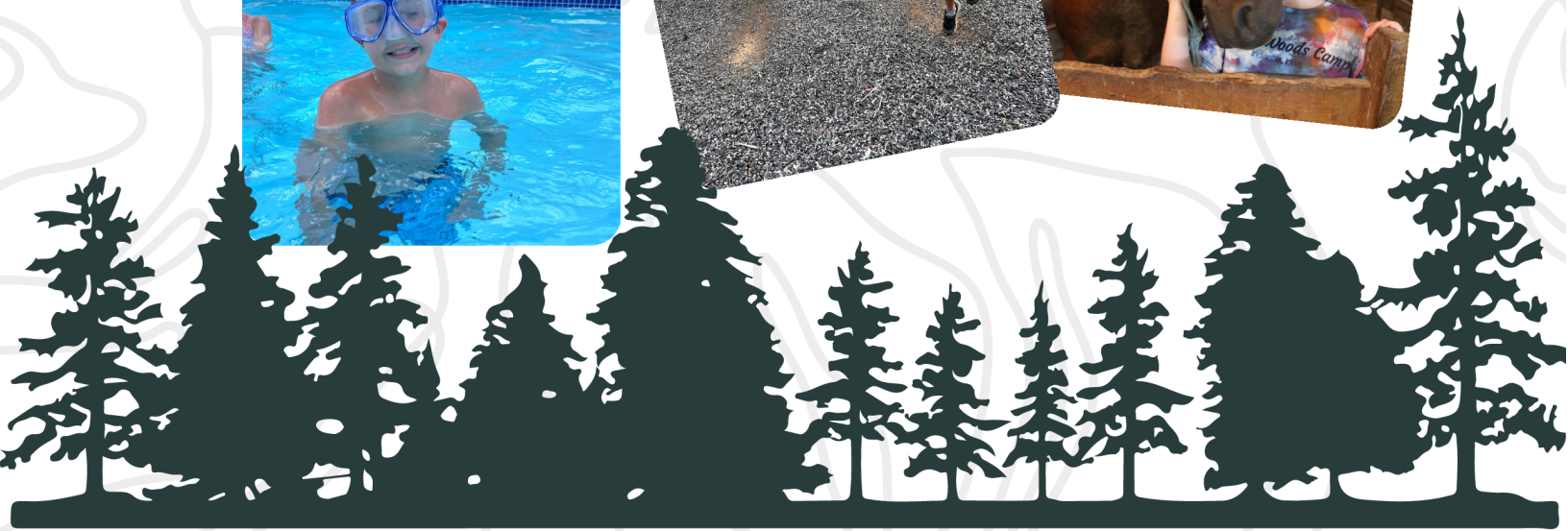


WESLEY WOODS

CAMP + RETREAT CENTER



WESLEY WOODS *In Action*



WESLEY WOODS

Friends of United Methodist Camping

Thank you to all who have supported the Mission of Wesley Woods Camp + Retreat Center. Your generosity is making a powerful impact, transforming lives through Christ!

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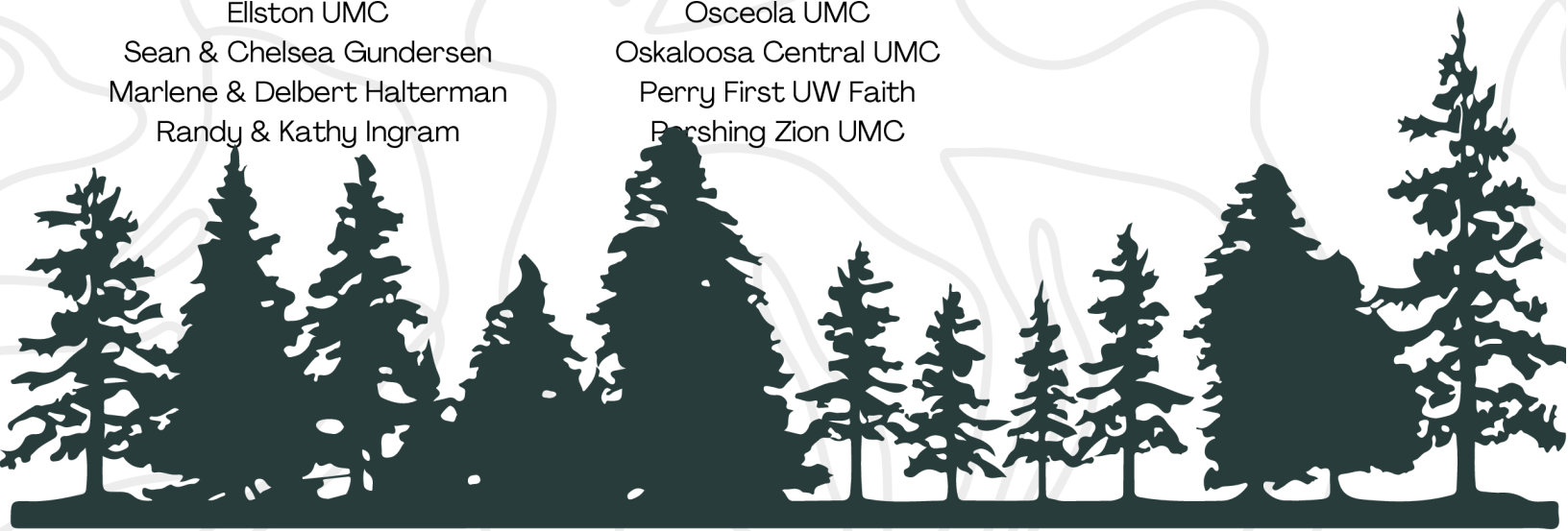
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WESLEY WOODS

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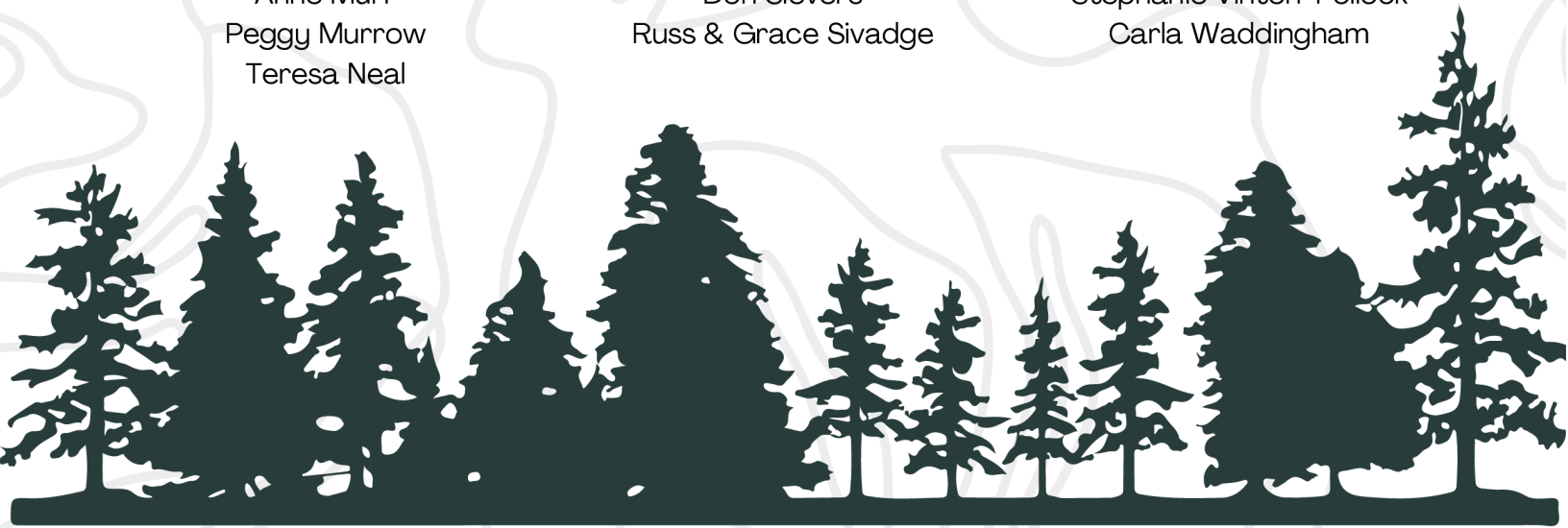
WESLEY WOODS

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WESLEY WOODS

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Staci Winborn
Nancy Winegardener
Cheryl Wion
Christine Wion
Lea Wood
Jody Woodruff
John & Anna Woolson
10 Anonymous Donors

*Inclusive as of 9/6/2024

\$310,000
Annual Campaign Goal

\$139,602
*Pledges
Wesley Woods*

\$100,943
*Pledges
Lake Okoboji*

\$81,740
*Pledges Where
Needed Most*

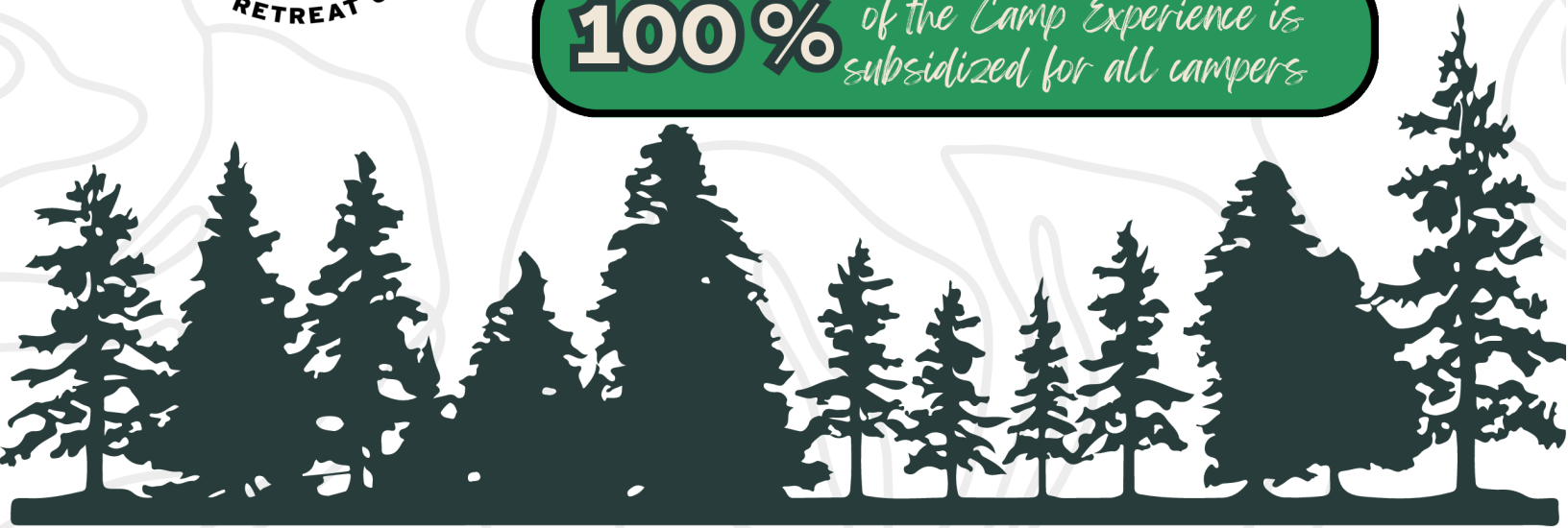
\$15,115
*Camp
Scholarship
Designated*

\$337,402.17
*2024 Total Pledged
Camp Ministry Support*

\$41,000
NW Awarded Camperships

11%
*Received
Additional
Camperships*

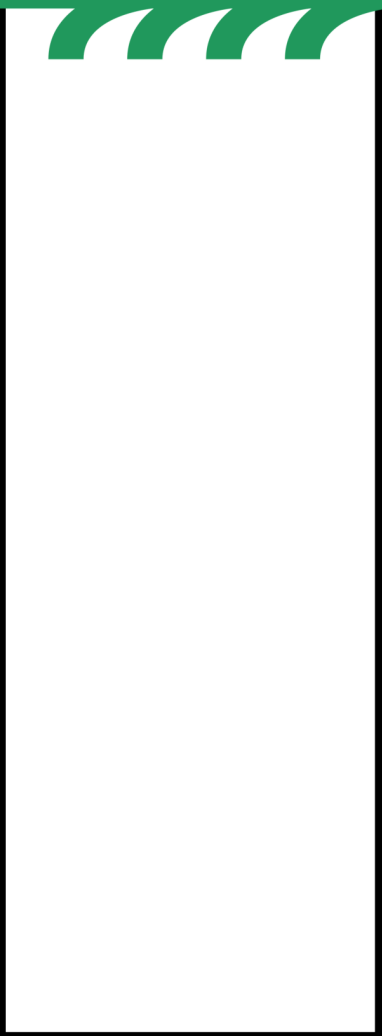
100% *of the Camp Experience is
subsidized for all campers*



WESLEY WOODS

CAMP + RETREAT CENTER

Wesley Woods Camp + Retreat Center
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