

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Country Kids Camp and all the children that have been to this camp or are excited to go for their first time. Every year for the past 13 years in our Community of Walton County and surrounding areas children have come with smiles on their faces whether it be catching a fish for the first time, riding a horse, playing in the dirt, going down the slip-n-slide just being outdoors and enjoying nature it's an experience they remember forever. My personal experience with my own children this is a camp that made them think, explore and appreciate their natural surroundings as an endless playground full of wonder and endless possibilities. It's more hands on fun outdoor activities; letting the kids be kids Old fashion fun! Playing in the mud, catching a fish, singing songs, making new friends and riding a horse are probably some of their favorite times at Country Kids Camp. And let us not forget always giving back to the community with the famous dunk tank. The children have the opportunity to bring money for the dunk tank which is then donated to a family in need that particular year. This shows how important it is to help others but having fun at the same time. No matter what the age every child always wants to come back year after year. Country Kids Camp has a powerful positive impact not only with the children that they work with directly but also on the larger community as a whole.

“Never miss an opportunity to put a smile on someone else's face”

Thank for your time,

Tiffany Nicholson
678-614-7317

5/3/2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the outstanding service provided to our community by Shelley Shelnutt and the staff at Country Kids Camp. I have three children that have attended Country Kids Camp for the past 10 years. They now return each year as volunteers and group leaders. This camp has provided them with the opportunity to make wonderful, life long memories and friendships. As young campers, they would cry on the last day of camp each summer because they did not want it to end. Even now as teenagers, it is one of their favorite things to do. They talk about memories from camp all year long and start looking forward to the following summer on the last day of camp each year.

They have had opportunities to participate in things that they would otherwise never have the opportunity to do. There is not another camp anywhere close to our community that gives kids the chance to learn and play outdoors each day like Country Kids Camp. Shelley and her staff are absolutely wonderful with the children. They teach them about kindness and compassion through modeling that behavior on a daily basis. The love they have and show for the children shines through in all they do.

As a parent, I am eternally grateful to Shelly and her staff for all they have done and continue to do for my children and the children in our community. It is truly remarkable that we have such a wonderful experience so close to home that children can be a part of.

Sincerely,

Katie Allen

May 3, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this information. Country Kids Camp /nonprofit is an unbelievable organization. This organization not only focuses on sharing real life things our children need but it gives our children a support system. In any time throughout history, more importantly today, our children need support. They need people they can trust. Shelley and Kevin Shelnut are that for anyone they meet. Over the years they have built an extraordinary camp. They have taught children how to help others. It gives children somewhere to go and BE OUTSIDE. It gives children an opportunity to learn about others, to be with all types of children, learn together as ONE.

This has not only been for their camp attendees but for even our baseball group. Our players gathered items at Christmas in order to just participate in sponsoring a few of the 900+ children she organizes to have Christmas!! These are children in need IN OUR COMMUNITY!! These are families under our noses, these may be our neighbors!!! We need people like Shelley and Kevin to host this nonprofit to help others.

Please I ask that you review all information and help Country Kids Camp nonprofit organization and help us as a community. Also, visit their Facebook page yourselves, look at these children that benefit. This is a vital part of keeping our community what it is, community.

Thank you again. Thank you for your time an investment as well.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gilley

May 3, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Country Kids Camp, locally known as CKC, is a fundamental part of the community in Walton County that allows children to have an experience with an outdoor setting. I have gotten to be part of the camp as a parent and as a volunteer, and I believe that CKC should be allowed to continue its current practices and should even be used as a model for other summer day camps.

As a parent of a child who has attended CKC for the last three years, I cannot say enough positive things about the program. I have a child who has severe ADHD impulse issues. At CKC, he doesn't need his medication to function, and it gives him a chance to truly be himself and explore his creativity, proprioceptive awareness, leadership abilities, and so much more. The staff at Country Kids Camp are plentiful but quality, and every one of them have a heart for loving the kids and demonstrating great behavior. They understand my son, and keep my child constantly engaged and entertained by moving through many different activities. Every day after CKC, he is fully tired and satisfied, something that is hard to do with a child whose brain is normally nonstop. He invites all of his friends to CKC and stretches his social skills by making new friends each week at CKC, which can be tough for a child who has severe ADHD. He opens himself up to others, which is a skill he was taught by his camp counselors, and not something I could replicate on my own. It is a beautiful thing to see him grow through his experiences at Country Kids Camp.

As a volunteer staff member, I see the love and dedication that the Shelnutts have for everyone involved. She truly wants the best staff, and I have seen her make the hard decision to only choose the best volunteers and paid positions so that the children are the first priority. Safety is key at CKC, and every staff member, paid or unpaid, goes through a safety training that teaches them how to prevent accidents and injuries, but also how to handle them if things were to ever go wrong. Shelley employs registered nurses, certified and trained lifeguards, and many certified Georgia educators, myself included. Most of the staff are first aid and CPR trained. Last year, the ratio of campers to counselors in most groups was 3:1. Every aspect of camp from carline to lunch, to each of the activities has been thoroughly thought out and made as safe as it possibly can be.

Country Kids Camp is a part of the community, and people bond over their experiences there. Children are coming back every year and can't wait until school is out so they can go to camp. Many of the counselors were once campers, and the camp made such an impact on them, they felt the desire to pass that sense of belonging on to the next generation. This is a huge testament to how wonderful and impactful the camp is. I would recommend it for the highest honors as both a volunteer and mother of a camper.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Caylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Megan Caylor

Subject: Fwd: Country Kids Camp Community Letter

Michelle Gilley <mgilley09@gmail.com>
to Charna Parker

3:39 PM (48 minutes ago)

You are viewing an attached message. WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA Mail can't verify the authenticity of attached messages.

And yet another :)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shelley Shelnut** <wwf2006@bellsouth.net>
Date: Mon, May 3, 2021, 3:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: Country Kids Camp Community Letter
To: Michelle Croley Gilley <mgilley09@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jessica Shirah <jessica.shirah@gmail.com>
Date: May 3, 2021 at 3:24:41 PM EDT
To: wwf2006@bellsouth.net
Subject: Country Kids Camp Community Letter

Hi. My name is Jessica Shirah. I live in Walton County with my husband and 3 young children. I have been a teacher for 5 years, volunteering with young children at church and my husband is active in coaching multiple sports across multiple ages in this community. Therefore, we have been lucky enough to observe and learn how children learn best and avenues that benefit their emotional well being. That being said, I have never witnessed a space where children benefit as much as they do both socially, physically, emotionally and cognitively as they do at Country Kids Camp. What a mighty blessing it is to have this (along with the charitable Country Kids Christmas Round-Up) in this community. What better evidence of the MASSIVE support this camp has than the number of people wanting to sign their children up. The fact that it books up with one month of openings (3-4 months) before summer is the overwhelming evidence that other parents and people in the community see the benefit of this camp for children as well. I am overwhelmed with joy to have a space where by boys can be boys and play outside. In a time where such limited options for outdoor sensory play is available to small children; something every trained child care giver knows is vital, we are privileged to have this within our community. Shelly Shellnut is one of the most caring, passionate, hard working and driven individuals I have had the pleasure to meet and know. There is no one better to provide a safe and enriching space for children. I know what a detriment it would be for not just my children, but the children in this community and beyond to lose this amazing opportunity. I pray that children will continue for many years to come say "That was the best summer ever!" as they do now and to look back at the Country Kids Camp in Walton county shaping them into the wonderful men and women to lead our community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shirah

jessica.shirah@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

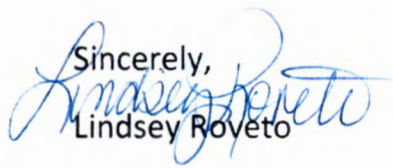
I am writing on behalf of Country Kids Camp. CKC has been a part of our lives for many years. Both of my children attend each summer and I am the Registered Nurse at camp. Camp has touched the lives of many children and has provided so many children with life long memories. Screen time has changed the way our children develop and play. Camp teaches children that they do not have to have video games in order to have fun.

The laughter alone is contagious at camp. Walton County is a better place because of Country Kids Camp. Families drive for miles and miles to be able to attend camp.

The day is started out with prayer, and then it's a rotation of activities that the campers love. Fishing, swimming, team building, art and music are just a few of the many things that our kids get to enjoy. Back to the basics is so important for sensory skills and social skills.

Country Kids Camp is much more than an outdoor experience for children in our community. This camp teaches our children to be Good Samaritans. The Christmas Round Up provides over 900 kids in our community with Christmas, and we always raise money for a sick child in our community.

Children in Walton County would be devastated not to have camp. My kids look forward to it all year. They have made lifelong friends. I ask you to please consider this as a plea for CKC.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Roveto