



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NOVEMBER 2025

Introducing New Executive Director: Lewis Knisley



We're excited to welcome **Lewis Knisley** as the new **Executive Director of Camp Grady Spruce**. Lewis comes from the Chickasha Area YMCA in Oklahoma, where he spent 10 years as Executive Director, and many will remember him from his earlier work at the Lake Highlands YMCA.

With 19 summers of camp experience and a strong passion for youth development, Lewis brings both heart and leadership to this role. His first day at Camp Grady Spruce will be December 22nd.

Camp's Latest Construction Milestones



(Welcome Center Exterior)



(Welcome Center Entrance)



(Welcome Center Interior Walls)

The inside walls are up, the ceilings are being finished with beautiful wood, and the windows and doors are now installed. Outside, the stone is being installed on the building, the front entrance is coming together, and fresh grass is being laid around the lakeside fire pit area.

The Welcome Center will also include a special history wall celebrating decades of Camp Grady Spruce memories. The Camp Grady Spruce Welcome Center has a projected **completion of Jan 2026**.

A big thank-you to our camp alumni for helping bring that vision to life!

Campaign Progress

4.7 M

Total Capital commitments
secured to date

157 Donors

Including Alumni, Staff & Board
Staff

\$2.3 M

Cash collected towards capital
campaign commitments

Thanks to your continued support, the future of Camp Grady Spruce is taking shape, and we're not done yet!

In early December, we will be installing **new signage across camp**, including the Ray Bean Cabin and Dining Hall signs, aquatic area signs, and all Welcome Center signage.

With Phase I nearing completion, we look ahead to the next chapter. **Phase II of the campaign will begin in 2026**, continuing our mission to enhance and elevate the camp experience for every child and family who steps onto these grounds.

Roger Ellison's Lasting Mark on Camp Grady Spruce



As the new Welcome Center takes shape, one of camp's most influential leaders has added a meaningful touch. Former executive director Roger Ellison handcrafted the furniture that will greet every camper, visitor, and family who walks through its doors.

Built from Texas wood and inspired by the Brazos River Basin, Roger's pieces carry forward the love, leadership, and legacy that defined his years at camp.

[Learn more about his story](#)

What's Going on at Camp?



Camp Grady Spruce is thriving, and the demand for camp experiences continues to grow. So far this year, our weekend programs have welcomed: **2,646 guests**, including **1,400 Adventure Guides families** across more than **16 groups**, with four more groups and another **300 visitors** expected before the year ends.

Our Outdoor Education program is just as busy, having served **38 schools** this semester with **12 additional schools** scheduled in the weeks ahead.

These numbers show how heavily camp is being used and how important our ongoing improvements are in helping us serve every family, school, and group that calls Camp Grady Spruce home.



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Camp Grady Spruce | 3000 Park Rd 36 | Graford, TX 76449 US

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