



John 15:5
 "Jesus said, 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.'"

Winter 2012

2011's Top 11 List

- #11. Added 3 kayaks.
- #10. Built a portable solar electricity generator.
- #9. Hiked to Marble-Head on Drummond Island during Xtreme U.P.
- #8. Watched 19 campers conquer stage fright and perform during Worship Explosion at Worship Camp.
- #7. Selected by United Way for their work day.
- #6. The shelter got a concrete floor.
- #5. Cowboys and Indians and Warriors of the Bible took over Horsemanship Camp.
- #4. Launched Seeds of HOPE Mentoring at Saranac Elementary School.
- #3. Were gifted 2 ponies, all their tack, and an adorable covered wagon.
- #2. Record-breaking 167 campers at Day and Adventure Camp.
- #1. Generously doled out 5,837 mosquito bites!



New Logo

Did you notice our new logo?

Did you know our motto is "Deeply Rooted and Reaching Out"?

The process of solidifying our logo and motto was fun but exhausting.

There is deeper meaning in it and the challenge was to present it with few words. I want to use words now, though, and show you the different layers of what we came up with.

It started with our motto, "Deeply Rooted and Reaching Out".

My father-in-law, the late Dr. Mamo Dibaba, taught me—"Know God, Love God and Serve God. It can only be done in that order."

We applied that principle to Branch Ad-

ventures. Branch Adventures needs to be "Deeply Rooted" in God's Word, to know God. When we know God, we can love God. When we love God we

can serve Him. Branch Adventures serves God by "Reaching Out" to our Community.

We paired that principle with our verse John 15:5 and our motto was conceived.

That was the deeper layer, the top layer was using the word "Branch" and identifying what a branch is. A branch reaches out, it comes from something bigger like a vine or tree, and it has roots. There you start to see how we connected Branch Adventures and a tree and how that captured what we are and what we want to be doing.

We turned all those



thoughts into a motto and picture and got our new logo.

What does our logo say to you?

Seeds of HOPE

We've really thought a lot about our motto, and it was that thinking that brought us to Seeds of HOPE Mentoring. We are deeply rooted in Biblical truths and have been all along, but over the past 2 years we started to wonder just exactly how were we reaching out. Were we even reaching out at all and to whom?

The idea of starting a mentoring program had been tossed around a couple of times and we had investigated how to go about doing it through other organizations. Being a camp and not a church, however, we didn't really fit any molds. Then DeAnn Eddy, our former B.A. Director and a mentoring program Director in Grand Ledge, encouraged us to just start our own program. She said she would help us along the way. So we did. We started Seeds of

HOPE Mentoring at Saranac Elementary School in November of 2011.

We currently have 16 active mentor/student pairs. We are still recruiting and have a pretty healthy waiting list.

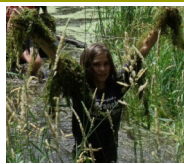
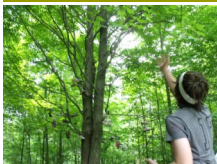
Mentors spend one hour, once a week, with one student. That student is the mentor's One and Only.

The hour is spent doing whatever each specific child needs from a loving, attentive adult. Sometimes its academics, sometimes its just being a friend.

We believe this is how we are fulfilling the "reaching out" part of our mission. We are a day camp in the summer and a mentoring program during the school year.

Please consider becoming a financial supporter of Branch Adventures. Gifts of any amount are tax deductible, and greatly appreciated.

Our immediate camp improvement goal is better restroom facilities. A "Bathroom" Fund has been started. You may designate your giving toward this project.



YEAR ROUND STAFF:

- Caroline Dibaba—
Executive Director
- Steve Grody—
Property Manager
- Kelly Grody—
Administrator
- Kim Paton—
Assistant Director
- Doris McPherson—
Accounts Manager

2011 Camp Statistics

- Served 234 campers over the summer
- Gave out 20 scholarships to campers to attend
- Were blessed with the hard work of 121 precious Volunteers
- Provided 5 camping opportunities for youth in our community to meet Jesus

Merchandise with our new logo is available for sale. Return the enclosed order form to place your order by March 15th.



CAMP NEEDS:

- Money for the Bathroom fund!!!
- Funds for scholarships!!!
- Quad or golf cart
- Riding lawnmower or under tractor belly mower
- Enclosed cargo trailer
- Craft Shed