

History

History of Gilmont

In 1940, a small group of Presbyterians in East Texas dedicated Camp Gilmont – a place for young people grow in their faith for the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, it is a well established facility, with over 400 acres of beautiful forest, hills and lakes. The property was originally acquired in the early 1940's as a permanent campsite for the use of Paris Presbytery which later was merged into Grace Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, USA. In the late 1990's Grace Presbytery contemplated the sale of the camp. At that time, a group of 28 Presbyterian churches, many with members who had grown fond of the camp as children, formed a 501(c)(3) corporation known as Presbyterian Camps at Gilmont, Inc., and took over ownership and management of the camp.



Our mission at Camp Gilmont is to serve as a year-round, well-developed, Christian-based Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center where groups and individuals grow in mind, body, and spirit. Our current focus is (1) building the capacity of other organizations to meet their goals through camping experiences and (2) building our own capacity to serve more people. Additionally, our leadership has a commitment to preserve the natural forest ecosystem as we expand our facilities. These priorities lay the foundation for our future and give us the vision of Camp Gilmont serving as the North Texas camp facility of choice.



In the early years, Camp Gilmont staff kept the facilities and grounds maintained for the use of the Presbytery and then later our member churches and several miscellaneous user groups. The groups who came to the camp rented our facilities and provided their own programming and counselors. Over the years, many of these rental groups outgrew our facilities and moved to other locations which left open dates in the calendar.

Starting in 2005, our Board of Directors and key friends of the camp began to revisit our goals. Working with Missionary TECH Team, we developed a *Ministry Definition Report* which was completed July 2007, and began our journey toward a purposeful future with defined goals and objectives. Internally, we took a new look at our staff resources and began maximizing their talents, redirecting individual emphasis to programming, marketing or relationship building with our current and prospective users. Along with this renewal, we began assisting other organizations by developing innovative programs to maximize the use of the camp and to support the needs of potential user groups. This has been an exciting adventure as we watch God work through individuals to bring about new, spiritually rich events at the camp.

