

Special TrailRidge Jargon

Bobbie created Camper and Parent Handbooks back in the very early days of camp. I'm not sure which year, but it would have been 1983 or a year or two after that because that's when we first got a camp computer. We thought we were pretty fancy to have one of those. One day I might scan and upload the entire handbooks, but for now...see how many of these special words and phrases bring back memories. Most of these came out of the Camper Handbook.

Bargain Barn

The camp store. It used to be called Bargain City when it was in the cabin that Bobbie and Mark lived in for a bit. You could always find the best prices in Buladean for all your camp needs from stamps to tarps to flashlights and pens. The most popular item was a hammock which could be had for a few bucks.

Beachy's Pond

Bill Beachy, a teacher from New Orleans, came up for a bit the first summer as a volunteer. He saw the need to be able to get into Pisgah National Forest from our property without getting your feet wet and so he built a small walkable dam at the part of the creek adjacent to Trail's End cabin (the Jerdee cabin) which created Beachy's Pond. To this day that is where you would cross into Pisgah from TrailRidge. (Trail's End didn't exist until a couple of years later so if you only came the first year you should still know where that crossing is.)

Cabin Day

Each Wednesday campers and their counselors would spend the afternoon and early evening doing something as a cabin group. They would normally cook out and sometimes spend the night out.

Cabin Names

Do you remember all of these? Trailside, Rocky Top, Wayside, Creekside, Roan View, Hemlock Hideaway, and Neuhaus. Do you remember which one was supposedly haunted?

Campfire Circle

The campfire circle was built in the mid 1980s and named to honor camper Brandon Yates. Prior to having this fancy decked campfire circle, we had our campfires in the open below the dining hall.

Falling Rock

The name of the first climbing rock discovered by Gus Jerdee and some hikers. It was in Pisgah National Forest land adjacent to camp.

Fay, Son of

Fay was the name of the company that supplied our porta-potties until we could get the bathhouse opened. When it opened (to great fanfare), the new facility was affectionately named Son of Fay.

Fay Duty

Your turn to clean the bathhouse.

Gazebo

The geodesic dome at the pond used for checking swimmers in and out.

Gus's Phenomena

Remember this place? I wish I had a photo of it. It was a stone chimney adjacent to camp on Pisgah National Forest property. It's all that was left of a house that had long since vanished before we ever arrived. Gus Jerdee discovered this one day when out hiking and saw had the honor of having it named after him.

Happy Hour

Not what you might think. It was our rest hour after lunch. It made counselors happy.

Hawk's Nest

The outhouse closest to the cabins. No one particularly liked using it, but we had to have it to meet state health department requirements.

Hiking Hut

This building is where camping and rock climbing gear was kept. It was at the end of the volleyball court.

Infirmary

This was our little building used for basic first-aid needs. The building it was in was called "Still House." Does anyone remember having to get "bug-juice shots" when you arrived?

Jerwell House

A seldom-used outhouse up the left-hand fork on the trail as you headed up to the cabins.

Mother's Place

The nature hut which was on the trail to the campfire circle.

Third Year Carabiner

We gave each camper and counselor a real carabiner when they came for their third summer. This represented a bond between the person and the camp. A piece of rock-climbing webbing was looped through the carabiner and embroidered with the camp initials TMC. On the fourth year a camper or counselor received a camp pin to attach to the webbing. I can't remember what happened after that but we had many campers and counselors who made it for four, five, or more years.



Tin Can

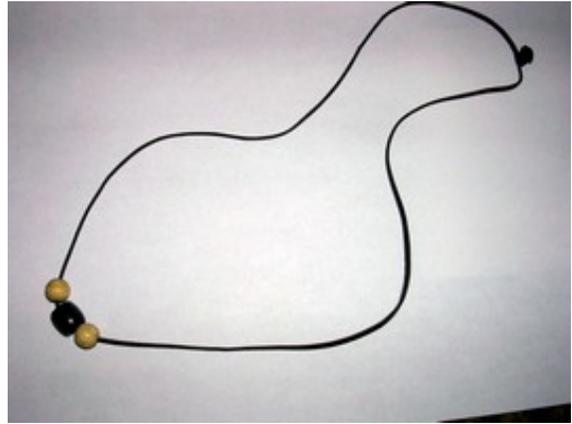
Aluminum building in "downtown" TrailRidge where counselors meet. It was also a storage building and at one time was everything the months leading up to the opening of TrailRidge in 1982.

The TrailRidge Beads

The TrailRidge Beads were given to honor campers and counselors. Counselors received a new bead for each year of service, but campers had to “earn” theirs with good citizenship and active participation in the camp program. There were six colors separated with a neutral bead. The color of the beads represented elements in nature. Over time, many campers and counselors earned a complete set.

This is the order of earning them:

first / yellow - sun	fourth / green - plants
second / white - air	fifth / blue - water
third / red - animals	sixth / brown - soil



The Wastewater

Do you remember this person showing up out of nowhere? His duty was to “patrol” the amount of waste being scraped off the dishes after each meal. He was pretty effective and quickly became a TMC legend. I remember one year a particularly scary Wastewater showed up on a motorcycle and took away a counselor or two. No worries...they were released unharmed.

Woodfield Chapel

A quiet place next to a creek. It was actually named for a camp in North Georgia, Camp Woodfield which had closed down. I think we ended up buying some of their equipment.

WoodLander Program

This was an outdoor-skills program where boys mastered a set of skills and went on a certain number of out-of-camp trips (hiking, biking, backpacking, canoeing, climbing). Boys completing the requirements earned their WoodLander beads.



Gathering at the Woodfield Chapel