



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# FAQS

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

## HOW HOT DOES IT GET?

We like to call it spicy! Yes, it does get warm in the summer. According to the National Weather Service, the average high temperature in the summer is somewhere between 98 and 105 degrees. We usually have one or two weeks during the summer that are warmer than usual. Thankfully every cabin is climate controlled. Every meeting room and dining room are also cooled. We reserve our big activity times for the morning and evening times because our average lows during the summer are between 65 and 75 degrees. The afternoon will usually find campers enjoying the lake or a cool room activity. The dry heat means that shade and a small breeze make it seem cooler than it is.

## HOW COLD DOES IT GET?

Campers who only visit in the summer are shocked by how cold it can get. The average high temperature in the winter is right at 60 degrees but the average low is right at the freezing point. If you are coming

to camp in December, January, or February make sure you bring plenty of layers. You'll find yourself starting off with a coat and sweatshirt and in the middle of the day be comfortable sitting in the sun in short sleeves.

## ARE THERE ANY POISONOUS SNAKES?

Yes, just one, the sidewinder. Since our beginning in 1973, no campers have been bitten by a sidewinder. The rattle at the end of his tail is warning a plenty to get away from him. The snakes are not aggressive and would rather just be left alone. Also, the venom is not deadly.

## WHAT ABOUT SCORPIONS?

Yes, we have scorpions but they are the "Ouch, that felt like a hornet sting" kind, NOT the bad ones. Scorpions are nocturnal, and, once again, rarely seen by campers.

## WHAT ABOUT POISONOUS SPIDERS?

There is just one to keep your eye out for, and that is the black widow. Their sticky webs are a sure sign of their presence. We work hard to eliminate them and once again they are not fatal. I know of no campers that have ever been bitten by a black widow.



## **HOW CLOSE IS EMERGENCY CARE?**

Right next to the Harvard exit is the emergency care unit that responds to all the major accidents on the I-15. They are within 5 miles of the property and have a response time of less than 10 minutes. They have the ability to call in air support if necessary. We also have an EMT on the property. Our staff is trained in CPR, AED, and basic first aid. Although it is impossible to prevent every accident we believe the best way to be safe is to keep things supervised. Our trained staff is scheduled to provide instruction and supervision throughout the camp.

## **DO I NEED TO BRING ANY MONEY?**

Yes and No. It is not absolutely necessary as the program is part of the camp price. Most camps have some add on possibilities that may include crafts, trail rides, old west photos, and extra ammunition at the shooting ranges. Most people will bring a little spending money that will be used for refreshment, souvenirs, and resources. \$5 a day is enough for the basics wants, add some more for the add ons or if you want a t-shirt or hat.

## **HOW BIG IS THE CAMP?**

We have a total of 523 acres with government property surrounding us on three sides. There are miles and miles of wide open space to give you that "I'm in the middle of nowhere" feeling. The camp is at the end of the power and phone lines as well.

## **HOW DO YOU RECRUIT YOUR STAFF?**

We visit several Christian colleges and recruit on their campus. We do an in-person interview with each applicant, and they go through an extensive process. They begin by filling out an application that involves writing what they believe about the Bible. We also require three references as well as a background check. Once they have been accepted we spend two weeks in training making sure that they are prepared for camp. We are very picky and consider the privilege of working with your children to be an honor and a huge responsibility.



## HOW DO YOU PICK YOUR SPEAKERS?

We look for people who have shown a history of working in ministry, loving people, and a desire to share God's word with others. You may not have heard of all the various speakers but we are confident that they will challenge you to take the next step in your spiritual walk without harping on their own "hobby horse" issue. A good speaker is one who rightly divides the word of truth and shows the love of Christ to each individual at camp.

## WHERE DID THE NAME IRONWOOD COME FROM?

When we first started the camping ministry in October 1973, Walt and Betty Brock and their children moved to this location. During that entire year they had been thinking about a suitable name for the camp. Our official corporate name was Fundamental Christian Endeavors, but we had not given the camp a name. We were looking for a one-word name that had a strong sound and carried a western theme. Also, we wanted a unique name that was not being used for other purposes. In looking for those qualifications, two other aspects were very important: that the name had a good connotation without any negative baggage and that it had some spiritual significance. Pages of possible names were listed. After more than a year of much prayer, thought, and discussion, we chose the name Ironwood.

Ironwood was a strong-sounding word, had a western sound to it, and was unique. The spiritual significance to it comes from the name of the ironwood tree, a low-desert tree that grows some miles from here and the ironwood mesquite trees growing on our property. The ironwood tree grows slowly and is strong. As with all young plants and trees when they are small and tender, the growth of the branches and limbs can be directed. When the ironwood tree is old, it stands strong and true; you cannot bend or direct the branches without destroying the tree. We want to see young people be molded by God's Word while they are tender and pliable. As they grow in life and become mature Christians, we want them to stand strong and true with convictions and Christlikeness in their attitudes, not bending under the pressures of the world and not compromising their convictions when under stress.

## WHY IS THIS CAMP IN THE DESERT?

When we were first considering the possibility of starting a camp here in the southwest, we looked at property in the mountains and on the coast. We found that the cost of land in those areas of southern California was exorbitant, leaving us the wilderness areas of the desert. The high desert is not quite as hot as the low desert areas, and you can find adequate water supplies to develop a facility. Lee Brock lived about eight miles from camp; therefore, his son Walt Brock knew the area, that it had adequate water underground, and that land prices were such that we could get a suitable amount of land for a camp. But, you can't have just a flat piece of land in the desert and build a camp on it.



It is very evident that the Lord worked in a miraculous way to supply us with a good geographical setting. We are close to the Mojave River, have a mountain to hike on, and have an adequate amount of flat, level ground to build upon. Our location is within a four-hour drive of some 15 million people and within a ten-hour drive of an additional 15 million people, giving us a total range within ten hours of driving of around 30 million people. As you look at the desert you will see how uniquely God has created it and how beautiful it is. The colors and creative genius that He used in the plants, animals, and topography in the desert present a setting that has a beauty and wonder all its own. As you read the Bible, it is interesting to note how many people God trained in a desert setting—Moses, the disciples, John the Baptist, etc. Even Christ spent time in temptation in a desert place and would call His disciples aside in the midst of their busy schedule to “come apart into a desert place and rest awhile.” The desert is a place where we are completely dependent upon the Lord Jesus Christ; we cannot live alone without His help in this environment. Upon first view one might think of the desert as a liability to a successful camp; however, time has proved it to be a substantial asset.

## **WHAT ABOUT YOUR LAKE? WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?**

When we first arrived here, we decided we needed a lake to make the desert location work. We enlarged the lake that was here when we bought the property, and we drilled a 250-foot well. In the hottest part of the summer, we have to pump water into the lake daily. During the cooler months, pumping water a few weekends each month is all that is necessary to maintain the water level. God has certainly blessed our facility with this lake and allowed us to control who uses it and how it is used, making it a central part of our camping program.

## **WHAT WAS HERE AT IRONWOOD WHEN THE CAMP FIRST STARTED?**

When the camp first started, there was a cement block building which included our present Cattleman’s Lodge, breezeway, storage, and two little restrooms. Besides that, there was a two-acre lake, a barbed wire fence that went around the perimeter of the property, and a couple of wells which have since been retired.





First summer staff, 1975

## WHEN DID THE CAMP GET STARTED?

The first camp was April 1973 when a group of about seventy-five junior high young people came from the church where Walt Brock was youth pastor. Walt cooked, preached, and directed the program with the help of the high school youth group and some adult sponsors. The first camp held for an “outside” group was for First Baptist Church of Santa Maria; they brought around fifteen young people to camp in April 1974 as a work group. They helped clean up around the lodge and get things ready for future camps. It was encouraging to have a group of young people come from a church other than the one the Brocks had been working at before coming to Ironwood.

The first summer we operated as a camp was 1975. All the camps that summer were Nehemiah work camps, as were all camps in 1976. During the summer of 1977, half of the camps were work camps. It wasn't until 1978 that we had a summer essentially set aside for camp as we know it today. The Nehemiah work camps of 1975, 1976, and the first half of 1977 built such things as the giant slide, the big shade at the lake, the diving tower, Durango, Submission, Obedience, the western fronts on the program office, fences, and put in water lines around the property. Who were the first staff people that worked here at Ironwood? The first people who moved to Ironwood were Fred and Eula Wheat. They were retired workers from the chemical plants at Boron and Trona and had been living in Newberry Springs. When we acquired possession of the property, we asked them to be caretakers of the property. Fred and Eula served here for many years. Fred was faithful and dependable in working in whatever capacity was needed, planting many of the athel trees around the property; Eula faithfully worked in the kitchen past her 81st birthday. We praise the Lord for them and their willingness to be of service to the Lord and for their faithfulness over the years.