



Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center is pleased to announce our participation in the **Effective Camp Project**, in summer 2025. We are part of a group of camps across the country who are part of this project. This ground-breaking study will reveal the strengths and growing areas of Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center. The Effective Camp methodology was developed by Dr. Jacob Sorenson of Sacred Playgrounds.

With parental permission, we are surveying a selection of summer campers at the beginning and end of camp, and 8 weeks after their camp session ends, measuring lasting change in critical areas like self-confidence, personal faith, social skills, and faith practices. We appreciate those households that have agreed to participate! By participating in this exciting project, we hope to take an honest look at how we are doing in serving our summer camp families and achieving desired outcomes. We are partnering with the experienced and respected research team at Sacred Playgrounds in order to tell the camp story in a new way and improve our camp programs for all participants.

Previous Effective Camp research has identified five fundamentals of Christian summer camping: faith centered, safe space, relational, unplugged from home, and participatory. Dr. Jake Sorenson, Effective Camp project director, says, "This project has demonstrated that, when the five fundamental characteristics are in place, the Christian camp experience has significant, lasting impacts on the lives of participants and their families." Our participation in this study will show us where our camp shines and where focused attention will generate significant improvement in outcomes for our campers.

As of 2024, we have data from over 24,000 campers and 9,000 camper parents at 95 Christian camps across the United States and Canada have participated in the Power of Camp Study and the Effective Camp Project. These camps represent multiple Christian denominations. You can learn more about the methodology and impacts of Christian summer camp at effectivecamp.com.