



Cedarkirk *A place apart to build up
the body of Christ in love.*
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

www.cedarkirk.org



ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MATTHEW SHICK

What people think camp directors do:

- Cook s'mores
- Play guitar
- Tie knots
- Paddle canoes

What camp directors actually do:

- Run a multi-faced outdoor ministry program with both churches and outside groups
- Maintain a budget and focus fundraising efforts for both the general fund and capital campaign efforts to ensure that Cedarkirk is a place for all
- Supervise and mentor staff - both full-time staff and summer camp staff
- They also cook s'mores, play guitar, tie knots, and paddle canoes and much more!

With all this in mind, Cedarkirk Camp and Conference center proudly announces its next Executive Director - Matthew Shick!

Matt stepped up and into the role of Interim Executive Director in November 2019. Little did we know what a challenging season this would be for camp and conference ministry - one that even the most seasoned Executive Director would have struggled to know what steps to take. But Matt was courageous and cautious in navigating our beloved Cedarkirk through a season of shut down - including virtual summer camp, staff transitions, and finding innovative new ways for camp to be camp. Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center would not be in the place it is now if it was not for his leadership. How could we not act and seek to hire this amazing candidate right here on our own property? Matt is the person for this job. We believe Matt Shick is called to be the Executive Director for the next season of ministry at Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center.

Meet Matthew Shick:



Matt has loved the outdoors from a young age, and his passion for outdoor ministry extends back almost as far. It was during his summers as a counselor on breaks from college that he first felt a nudge toward camp ministry as a vocational pursuit that might suit him.

As the son of a Presbyterian minister – and the grandson of one as well – he always knew that ministry might be in his future. When he first felt the stirrings of a call to ministry he ignored them with all the tenacity he could muster. After a year serving as interim youth director, though, his stubbornness abated and he realized working with people in a ministry setting, particularly one focused on outdoor ministry, was something he felt called to and fulfilled by.

He is a native Floridian and grew up in Tampa. He also grew up attending family retreats, youth retreats, and summer camps at Cedarkirk, which had a profound impact on his personal and spiritual development. He likes to tell people that he learned his faith in the church, but learned to live his faith at Cedarkirk.

Matt wholeheartedly believes in the unique manner of community building and faith formation that happens on retreats or during summer camp, and that people are open to encounter God in new and profound ways when they step out of their everyday lives and into wilder spaces.

Having spent twelve years on staff at Cedarkirk already, Matt is excited about the joys and challenges of a new position. As Cedarkirk approaches its 50th anniversary, he is eagerly looking forward to helping strengthen and secure its vital ministry for the next 50 years!

Matt and his wife, Kathryn, live in Valrico with their three children (Audrey, 9; Sam, 7; and Colin; 3), two dogs, five chickens, and whichever fish are presently surviving.

Time to Celebrate!

Please be sure to share words of welcome and blessing to Matt and his family as they make this important commitment to Cedarkirk. You can reach him by email - matt@cedarkirk.org or mail him a note or card addressed to:

Matt Shick
Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
1920 Streetman Dr
Lithia, FL 33547

Also consider making a financial contribution to Cedarkirk or a commitment to the “Setting a Place for All” Capital Campaign to mark this significant occasion. Giving options can be found on the website at www.cedarkirk.org/support