

Pee Wee Weekend Transitions to New Director



**Landon Clark will take over for Ricky
Collins in the 2024 season**

Collins stepped down after 16 years in the role.



Pictured L-R: Landon Clark, Teresa Clark,
Melissa Collins, and Ricky Collins



Pictured Left: The Collins Family.

Pictured Below: Outgoing Director Ricky Collins announces his replacement, Dr. Landon Clark of Murray, KY, during the closing ceremony in June 2023.



"It all starts right here. Pee Wee Weekend builds the foundation for camp." -Ricky Collins

"There was never a summer that God didn't provide," emphasized Ricky as he and Melissa reflected on their years serving Pee Wee Weekend.

WKYC is unique in that as a summer overnight camp, it relies on 100% volunteer staff to facilitate 11 different sessions, and Pee Wee Weekend is no exception. For more than 16 years, Ricky Collins directed the weekend with Melissa serving as the behind-the-scenes organizer and volunteer recruiter. God always provided their every need to make the weekend a success.

"We started off as counselors for Mark Hurt," reflected Melissa. "Back then, there may have been just two male and two female counselors needed." As time went on, the directorship transitioned from David Smith to Ricky, and since then the session has increased to nearly 80 campers in 2023.

"When we started, our children were pee wee campers themselves... we always did it as a family. Serving as a family was and is very important to us."

Family-focused is not just a core value of WKYC - it's something that's modeled personally by Ricky and Melissa. When the time came for them to transition to a new Director family, Landon Clark and his wife Teresa were an obvious choice.

"They love the camp and everything about Pee Wee Weekend because they have been coming since their oldest one was little. Both Landon and Teresa were always saying if someone needs help, to let them know. Gary (Landon's father) has been on staff years and years as a cook. We felt they would be an awesome fit!" said Melissa.



The Clarks (Landon, Teresa, Caden, and Tegan) started attending Pee Wee Weekend in 2015. “The weekend has meant so much to our family. Our girls have grown up at WKYC, and have enjoyed being, in their words, “junior-junior counselors” for Ricky and Melissa! We grew close to the Collins family over the years and were thrilled when they asked us to help continue the great traditions they developed. We look forward to continuing their work of helping campers and their families acclimate to WKYC,” said Landon.

When asked what they hope campers and families will take away from the session, Clark said he hopes that campers grow in their love for the Lord and learn to love WKYC. For the parents in attendance, he hopes they not only learn more about WKYC, but also “...understand that their children will be safe in an environment where they can learn more about God and grow friendships that will last a lifetime.”

“And, since my Dad works in the kitchen, everyone will leave Pee Wee Weekend well-fed!”

Clark added that “The Board and the weekly session directors have done a fabulous job over the years in creating unique opportunities for our youth to engage in a spiritually-f fulfilling experience at WKYC. From the all-ages weeks to age-specific weeks, there is a place for our young people and congregations to find a home at WKYC. Our job at Pee Wee Weekend is to light a spark that will continue to glow increasingly as the campers grow and mature in their faith. If a camper starts at age 4 and continues through high school, they will have 15 years of experience at WKYC, and words cannot express how much potential those lessons and friendships can have on the future of the church.”

The Clarks are looking forward to meeting all of the campers and their families during Pee Wee Weekend 2024! They are currently hard at work planning and assembling their staff, and hope that all those involved in the coming years will love WKYC as much as they do.

“Pee Wee Weekend will focus on creating a spiritually-rich environment for our campers and their families to focus on God and His wonderful creation. We truly believe there is no place better suited for children to grow in their love for God than at WKYC.”

-Landon Clark