

A Third Generation Camp Capers Kid

By Thomas Lillibridge



Growing up, I had two homes. One was a large two-story house in San Antonio, TX, where I lived with my family. My other home was very different than this city house; it was far away from the city. At this house, the weather was cooler, and it was much bigger than the houses in the city. This “house” is in Waring, TX, and is called Camp Capers.

My Grandfather, Dick Lillibridge, was a counselor at Camp Capers when the camp was just getting on its feet. He had so much passion and love for the place that he insisted on his children going. My dad, Gary Lillibridge, fell in love with the camp as well. After attending the camp for many years he served as a counselor, activities director, and was a chaplain and dean multiple times after becoming a priest. When I first started going to camp, I would travel along with my dad and stay in the River Cottage with my family while he worked different sessions over the summers and winters. I spent a lot of time up at camp before I was even a camper. Looking back on it now, after being a counselor, I must have been one of those campers who thought I knew everything about Camp Capers the first year I was there.

Camp Capers teaches people how to live and love the right way. I have been to Capers every single summer since before I can remember. Needless to say, camp helped form me into who I am today. Being on staff over the summer truly did change the way I saw the camp in a positive way. It was rewarding being on the giving half of camp rather than being a camper and being on the receiving end. I was finally able to see Camp Capers as my parents and my grandfather saw it; a place to grow, mature, and teach.

Where someone is raised can impact their ideology, personality, and the way they live their life. Being raised in both the city and in the west Texas countryside, I believe I had a very lucky upbringing. Being a third generation Camp Capers staff member means a lot to me, and I know it means a lot to my family as well. Being on staff, I have experienced what my parents experienced. Hopefully one day I will be able to watch my kids grow in Christ and then grow into adults at Camp Capers, the way my parents watched me.



Dick Lillibridge (left) and friend at Camp Capers



Gary and Thomas

