

What is Camp Zap and what are some of the Successes?

Hello, this is Woodlake Police Chief John Zapalac and you're listening to a "Minute with John Zapalac".

Camp Zap is a program of the Woodlake Police Department. It started in 1998 as an afternoon fishing and BBQ with Woodlake youth and Woodlake Police Officers. This event was initiated to improve relationships with our community. As a result of this outing, the young people requested we make this an overnight outing and hold this event 4 times annually.

A retired school bus was purchased and refurbished to resemble a police bus equipped with radio, emergency lights and siren. The Woodlake Rotary Club also helped fund the bus restoration project.

This campout activity has grown to 160 attendees that come from Lindsay, Exeter, Farmersville, Ivanhoe, Seville, Yettem and of course Woodlake. Volunteers come from parents, teachers, Police Officers, Fire Department, YMCA, Family Healthcare Network, Rotary and Kiwanis.

There are numerous activities for the youth with guest speakers emphasizing choices we make in our lives and the consequences associated with them.

We have not only renewed relationships, but also reduced our juvenile crime rate as a result.

We'll talk again more next week. I'm John Zapalac. Thanks for listening.