



Jennie Miller, Director

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PRESS RELEASE

Keynote Speaker at

Chamber of Commerce

Annual Dinner Announced

The St. James Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Mr. Brett Bailey, Director for the Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch, the Adventure and Wilderness Therapy arm of Great Circle, will be the keynote speaker at their Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony to be held Friday evening, January 27, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at Matt's Steakhouse.

Growing up in the Appalachians, Brett has been backpacking, climbing, kayaking, and biking since he was young. While earning his degree in Social Science, Education, and Missions Studies at Evangel University, he began professionally guiding adventure and wilderness trips and also working with youth in residential treatment at Boys & Girls Town.

After college, Brett served in the active army for five years as a Ranger including multiple deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before coming back to Missouri to develop the Therapeutic Adventure Program at the Ranch, where he has been since 2006. With incredible support and encouragement from the Great Circle team, the Ranch has been transformed in just a few years from an old cattle ranch into one of the most extensive adventure bases in the Midwest. In 2010, the Ranch had the honor to serve over 7,000 young men and women, including those in residential care and their families, military servicemen and their families, and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Brett is a Single Pitch Instructor through the American Mountain Guides Association, has multiple certifications in advanced and wilderness medical care, is a Red Cross Instructor, and a Leave No Trace trainer, and holds many other activity-specific certifications. Brett lives at the Ranch with his wife and best friend, Ashley, and their two incredible and adventurous kids. To Brett, there is no greater job than to have the opportunity to serve youth by harnessing the incredible transformative power of high adventure and the outdoors to inspire growth in efficacy, integrity, purpose, and hope.

Tickets for the Annual Dinner may be purchased at the Chamber office at 100 State Route B, St. James. Reservations may be made by calling the Chamber office at 265-6649 prior to Thursday, January 19, 2012. Cost of the Dinner is \$30.00.