

Sheri and Kol were gone from 1-8 p.m. On the way home, Kol got to choose where they would pick up food to take back to the harvest crew.

To keep Kyle in the loop, Sheri would share what she learned –such as how to talk about stuttering with Kol’s teachers and how to face bullies. And Kol would do his homework in the combine with his dad, answering questions like, “Has anybody ever made fun of you?” and “What makes you feel frustrated?”

“That’s probably one of the best things we got from camp,” Sheri says. “We are more comfortable talking about it and can have more open conversations. It’s OK to stutter; it’s not something we have to fix. We just have to figure out how to navigate it with confidence, and we feel so much more confident moving forward now after camp and with Dr. Tetnowski.”

In addition to Cowboy Stuttering Camp, Tetnowski co-founded the Oklahoma Association for the Knowledge of Stuttering, or OAKS. The group, about half of which is made up of rural speech-language pathologists, shares knowledge and resources to better serve those who stutter.

In the future, Tetnowski hopes to provide additional stuttering therapy training and equipment to rural speech-language pathologists. He would also like to build simulations that help those who stutter practice scenarios, like ordering in a restaurant or giving a job interview.

Children like Kol need to grow up knowing they are not alone and they are not limited by stuttering, Tetnowski says.

“If they want to be engaged in a profession as adults where they do a lot of talking, they can do so,” Tetnowski says. “Getting good services doesn’t just help that individual or a family; it helps all of society when people who stutter have the confidence to share their knowledge and skills.”

For information about stuttering support groups, clinics and camps, contact Dr. Tetnowski at john.tetnowski@okstate.edu.

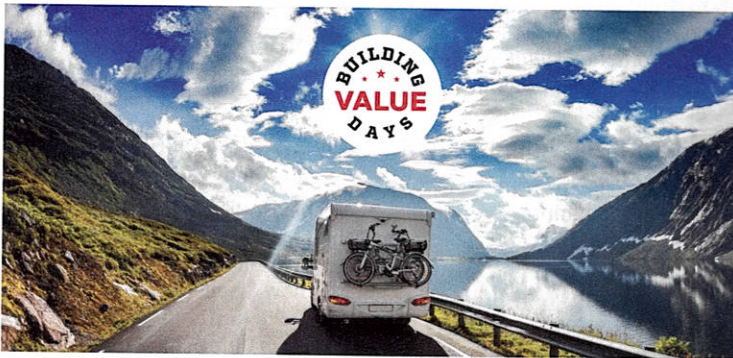
OK!



Kol Glazier, 7, with his parents, Kyle and Sheri Glazier, and Sheri's father, Mike Yost (center), during the 2021 wheat harvest, which coincided with Cowboy Stuttering Camp. Photo by Sheri Glazier

BY THE NUMBERS

The National Stuttering Association estimates that **1%** of adults and **4-5%** of children in the U.S. stutter. That means, based on the 2020 U.S. Census, there could be as many as **30,091** adults and **47,512** children who stutter in Oklahoma.



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