

CAMP MACK CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter

News from the Director

A Time of Rest

Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. -Psalm 46:8–11 (NIV)

In the middle of December, I returned to the Camp Mack office after a time of sabbath, generously supported by the staff and Indiana Camp Board. I spent two months stepping away from the ministry of Camp Mack to refresh relationships with family, church, and God. I pursued this through some limited travel, spending more time with my own congregation, and writing. It was a wonderful experience, and it allowed Camp Mack and me to grow in faith and trust.

When I was moderator for the Northern Indiana District, our District Conference theme was this passage from Psalm 46. The entire psalm is beautiful and reassuring. It discusses the power of God to provide for our needs and safety. The writer composed it as a hymn with three parts, each ending with the word, "Selah." Selah is not meant to be read or sung, it is an instruction to the hymn leader to "stop and listen" after each part.

These verses are the third part of the hymn. We often hear the words in the first half of verse 10, when God tells us to stop our clamoring and recognize that God is in control. Often, we confuse this passage with the one from Mark 4, verse 39 when Jesus calms the waters of the sea by proclaiming, "Peace, be still." But, that's not what the psalmist means. We are not receiving a sudden reprieve from the chaos of the world; instead, we are asked to step back for a moment, take a breath, and find God amid the storm. In the entire psalm we are challenged to step back, stop what we are doing, listen, and put our faith and trust in God.

Sometimes we can get caught up in our everyday struggles, feeling that we can't stop powering through, even for a moment, with the fear that we will lose the battle ahead. Yet, when we take the time to stop and listen, God often shows us a new way. In the pause, we are empowered to continue the work, because we are reminded of God's constant presence.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



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We wish you well, Todd!

CAMP ALEXANDER

To my Camp Mack family,

The past 6 years have been truly an amazing experience. It has been a joy to spend my days working at this magical place. When I look back, I think of all the amazing things I witnessed during my time at Camp Mack. I got to see summer staff grow from nervous high school students to flourishing young adults. I had the opportunity to work behind the scenes on many events, large and small, to give you an amazing Camp experience. I have gotten to know so many of you and made sure your financial support was used in the impactful ways you intended.

I have always been a big believer in God calling us to the right place at the right time. In 2018, it was the right time for me to come to Camp Mack. Now as 2024 comes to an end, God has a new call for my life. While I am excited for this new call, it is hard to say goodbye to this sanctuary.

The future for Camp Mack is strong. While I am biased, I believe the staff are the right people at the right time for this place. Camp Mack has an exciting year ahead with its 100th anniversary and many more exciting years of providing people with a sanctuary experience.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this special place, your love is overwhelming!
Todd Eastis



Todd Eastis



Kitchen News

It's a Wrap on 2024

“The kitchen was fully staffed with summer staff this year, and what a blessing that team of young people was!”

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Camp Mack kitchen! We are working hard on cleaning and resetting the kitchen from the busy season. Christmas Cookie Get-A-Way Day was a huge success, like always. Lots of delicious cookies were baked and decorated. It always smells so good in the kitchen on baking days! As we prepare to welcome an exciting new year at camp, a century of sanctuary, we reflect on what a great year we had in 2024.

We served meals to almost 100 different groups or events. We had an amazing group of volunteers who jumped in whenever we needed them and they were available to help out. Many of them helped out consistently through the summer and busy fall retreat season. The kitchen was fully staffed with summer staff this year, and what a blessing that team of young people was! We served meals almost non-stop from the end of May until the beginning of August and they were all elbows deep in the hard work of the kitchen. Dishes, trash, clean up, prep work—they were doing everything! We all learned so much from each other and enjoyed the occasional popsicle break or dance party.



There are some new faces around here as we welcomed several new staff and volunteers this year. And, we said goodbye for now to some whose health or schedules made it too difficult to be with us this year. We look forward to a time when they can come back and visit or volunteer again.

2025 will be a year of celebration and reconnection. We can't wait to serve the 100th anniversary events that are coming up on the calendar this year, along with all of our other groups and campers. When was the last time you were at camp for an event? There are things for everyone, so come and help us celebrate this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime, century of sanctuary.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director





Sunny Camp Mack

December 2024



It was a great fall for getting work projects done. We also had several groups of volunteers come alongside and help us. Early in the fall, Jim Bates came up and helped us put some vertical siding on the gable ends of Jacobs Well. With the new roof already on, Jacob's Well looks brand new! That facility is such a simple building, but it is heavily used in spring, summer, and fall, and it is right in the center of our campus, so it is important to take good care of it.

Another project we completed this fall with the help of the Shoue family was the deck at the home that I live in. I am guessing that the deck was originally put down when the building was built in the early 80's, so it had served well. Labor

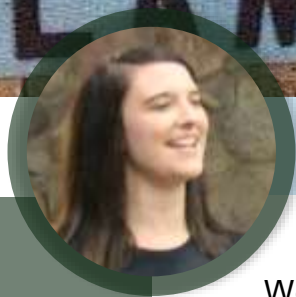
“Our goal is to always have lots of trees for kids to play under and birds to nest in.”

Day Family Camp donated the funds to do this, and the Shoue family came and put it on. The Shoue family has come up the last several years and had a family get-together as well as a volunteer weekend. This year they cut down five or six dead trees and cut them up for firewood. Then, they built the deck. The deck looks great as you can see in the pictures at the bottom of this article.

This summer we had a tree assessment done by Dogwood Hills Tree Farm. They performed a level one assessment of all the trees on our main campus. There were 636 trees and 49 unique species identified. There were 21 considered diseased or damaged and 71 in the last 20% of their life. Many of the rest of the trees need to be pruned to prolong their life. Our plan is to start to work through the diseased and damaged trees and then to the pruning. This report will help us to identify what new species we may need to introduce to our campus as we have gifts to plant new trees. Our goal is to always have lots of trees for kids to play under and birds to nest in.

Galen Jay, Facility Director





Be Our Guest

Joyous Gatherings

We still have things to do around here at camp! We have had several groups onsite this fall, though December has been a bit lighter on guest groups. We have been able to celebrate Christmas with our staff and with the Northern and South Central Indiana Districts' staff. We also had a fun time hosting former staffers for a reunion a couple weeks ago.

Vanessa and I attended the Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference earlier in December in Seattle and had such a good time. They are long days of learning, networking, worshipping, and growing. We brought back helpful information we learned from the speakers and seminar presenters. We met so many cool vendors at the exhibit hall.

We got to sing hymns and songs with other Christian camping people. And, we even had a bit of a chance to walk down to the market. We watched the not-yet-released movie, *The Unbreakable Boy*. Check it out this February. This was a much-needed trip for both of us.



We also said goodbye to Todd last week, as his last day in the office was on Friday. He came in about a year after I did, so we have been working together for most of my time at camp. We also worked together in the chapel at Manchester University (yes, it was a college part of our time there, too) for a few years a decade ago. Todd will truly be missed around here. But, we wish him well and are excited for him in his next adventures.

In November, we hosted the Outdoor Ministries Association Retreat. It was so great to see so many of our fellow camp folks from around the country. They are a joy to be around and spend time with, comparing camp notes and worshipping together. It's always helpful and fun gathering with others who work in ministry at Christian camps.

We are currently working on wrapping up our 2025 brochures, so keep an eye out for those! We're doing one big brochure again for the year. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for updated information. Check out www.campmack.org for further details and to register. We'd so enjoy seeing you at our upcoming events. Visit camp in 2025 as we celebrate one hundred years!



“It’s always helpful and fun gathering with others who work in ministry at Christian camps.”

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20 or 22, February 10 or 12

January, Water Wonders: From deep sea blobfish to freshwater jellyfish, there is so much to discover about the world below the surface of the water.

February, You Wood Not Believe It: Marvel at the amazing trees we have around camp, play fun games that teach about how trees defend themselves, and find out how to measure a tree.

Ages 7–14. Cost: \$25/child (optional camp-provided sack lunch for \$5).

January 25

Snow Camp Jr. & Snow Camp: Send your children and youth for a fun winter day at camp! Enjoy all things snow related through games, crafts, snacks, and outdoor play. Please dress for the weather and bring a change of clothes. Jr. is ages 5 to 12, and Snow Camp is for grades 6 to 10. Each day is \$35 and includes lunch, a snack, and all activities. 9a to 4p.

February 16

Eagle Watch Get-A-Way Day: Travel between Salamonie and Mississinewa to view migrating bald eagles and end your day at the roost. Learn about their reintroduction and comeback in Indiana and how to age an eagle that you see. Cost: \$40 (includes snacks and transportation). Saturday from 1p–9p. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center to then travel offsite. Dress for the weather.

February 13–16

Quilt Retreat: Arrival on Thursday or Friday. Meals begin on Friday. \$190 Fri eve arrival. \$215 Friday a.m. arrival. \$235 Thursday arrival (3 p.m. or after). Bring sewing supplies and projects, sewing machine, table light, show and tell items, bedding for a twin bed, towel, toiletries, etc.

February 15–16

Couples Retreat: If you are a Camp Mack Couple, you're invited to join in a time of celebration, relaxation, and growth. Led by Maria and Aaron Alexander. Cost: \$250/couple

February 20–23

Scrap and Craft Retreat: 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday with arrival options. \$190 Fri eve arrival. \$215 Friday a.m. arrival. \$235 Thursday arrival. Each participant will have a 7- or 8-foot table, power strip access, Wi-Fi, and trash can. **February 22 Scrap and Craft Get-A-Way Day:** Join the group for a day! 9a to 4p. Cost: \$35 (includes lunch).

February 22

Knitting and Crocheting Get-A-Way Day: Bring your hooks and needles, patterns, and yarn and learn to knit or crochet, learn a new stitch, swap stories, and show off your favorite creations. 9a to 4p. Cost: \$35 (includes lunch). This is for all levels of experience.

Check out
campmack.org
and Camp
Mack's
Facebook page
for more details





2025 Spring Homeschool Outdoor Ed Days



Water Wonders
January 20 or 22



You Wood Not Believe it
February 10 or 12

Medieval Day
March 10 or 12

Survival Day
April 14 or 16



Ages: 7-14 Cost: \$25
Register at campmack.org



Quilt Retreat

Join other quilters and work on your latest project while enjoying a peaceful time at Camp Mack.

February 13–16

April 23–27

October 15–19

(options for shorter stays available)

Scrap &

Tackle those work-in-progress pieces during a weekend of crafting therapy at Camp Mack.

Craft



Retreat

February 20–23

October 23–26

Get-A-Way Days: Feb. 22, Oct. 25

Find out more and register at campmack.org



Couples Retreat

FEBRUARY 15-16



Did you meet your significant other at camp? Get engaged or married at camp? Have great memories as a couple at camp? Attend this special experience led by Maria and Aaron Alexander with time for activities, rest, fellowship, a candlelit dinner, & more.



Eagle Watch Get-A-Way Day



Travel with us to areas near Mississinewa and Salamonie to visit well-known eagle locations. Learn about their reintroduction efforts and how to age an eagle.

Ages: 10 and older (those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

February 16
1p-9p

Knit & Crochet Get-A-Way Day

Get your daily dose of fiber at Camp Mack with all levels of experience welcome!

February 22, 9a-4p

Save the Date: October 25



Join Us February 28–March 2

Pack your games for this adult gaming weekend. Learn new games or play a favorite. Late nights, strategy, and lots of snacks are waiting for you.



Enjoy karaoke, crafts and activities, a themed tea, and more.

Open to mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmas, and women of all ages.

(Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

IN MY MUSIC ERA



MOTHER DAUGHTER RETREAT

March 8-9

9a Saturday- 1p Sunday

Register at

campmack.org