

CAMP MACK CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter

News from the Director

Planting the Seeds

Scatter your seed in the morning, and in the evening don't be idle because you don't know which will succeed, this one or that, or whether both will be equally good. -Ecclesiastes 11:6 (CEB)

Planting seeds is a gamble. Ask any farmer, and they will tell you, even with all their knowledge, science, and technology, they cannot predict, on planting day, what the harvest will be. Yet every year, with optimism and dedication, they prepare the ground, plant the seeds, and tend the fields.

This common metaphor for our responsibility to "make disciples" challenges us to find ways to share our faith with others regardless of the conditions. One way to plant seeds of faith is to bring children to Camp Mack. There are no guarantees of the outcome, but you can trust the soil is good and the field is tended carefully.

Perhaps the hardest part of planting this field is finding the seeds. If there aren't many children in your congregation, I would guess you can find some in your communities or extended families. You could reach out to parents who once were children in your church, especially those who attended camp. Talk to the people you know who work in schools, or you can call us. We have several families whose children want to come to camp, but they cannot afford it. Send them to Camp Mack events year round.

You don't know what will grow from the seeds you plant, and perhaps you will never see fruit. God calls us to plant the seeds and nurture the plants that emerge. What better gift can we give back to God than to start another disciple in the garden of faith.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



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Sunny Camp Mack

A Camp Mack Summer

Welcome to Episode 2 of my Camp Mack Facility Article!!! Sounds ominous doesn't it? This is my opportunity to fill you, The Reader, in on what's happening around camp. Let's take a small journey down Camp Mack Road and see what we find.

1. First off and most definitely the biggest project of the year is carpeting Sarah Major! (Eh, there was also that internet thing.) Between donors, Giving Day, Church of God volunteers, a medium length delay, plenty more volunteers and some VVVEEERRRRYYYYY long nights, the project is complete!!! It was done just in time for one of our rental groups. The last beds were rebunked, and the building was ready to be used again. Thank you all for helping give Sarah Major a much needed facelift.

2. Summer is never complete without a few storms, and we really got one at the beginning of summer. First off, I should mention that we really did get lucky. The north side of camp was virtually left untouched, with no damage to the wilderness area, which includes the climbing tower, high ropes, and archery course. The south and east sides were not so blessed. At least 6 partial or full trees came down plus 1.5 million branches. Two cabins had minor damage. But with the help of friends, we had a plan already. The summer staff worked very hard the first day to help unblock driveways, and Montana Green made huge strides in removing what was left. It took several weeks to straighten up, but we worked hard to accomplish this!

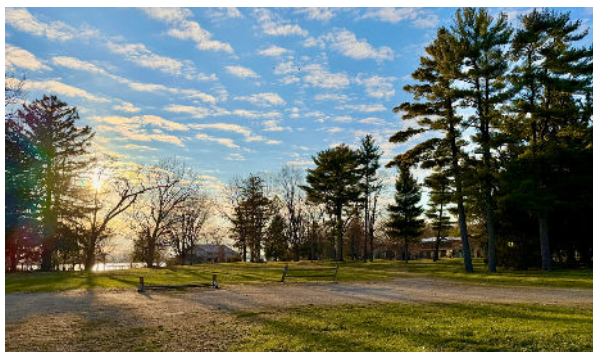
3. Third, and everyone's favorite, are the CAMP MACK CHICKS!!! These little guys are not so little anymore. They are growing like feathered weeds. Just as a reminder, there are 9 Black Jersey Giants and 2 Silkies this year, and yes, they are all named Steve except for the Silkies, which Peter and Oliver Bohannon named Cheetah and Hot Wheels. This brings the grand total to 8 Isa Browns, 9 Amber Links and 11 chicks. As a side note, if you look at the Ink Free News, you might see a few of your feathered friends from our June Food Truck Friday.

I know, I know, you want more, but you'll have to wait until next time.

With love,
Your Camp Mack Facility Crew
Cory Charlwood, Facility Director



**“Thank you
all for
helping give
Sarah Major
a much
needed
facelift!”**



"...what better place to create community than around a table while eating a delicious meal."



Kitchen News

S'mores Bars!

Summer has been in full swing. We are serving some of our last campers of the season in the dining hall right now. The sounds of laughter and conversation as heaping bowls of food are passed around the table is like a beautiful hymn to my soul. To be a part of making those core memories is such a privilege and I am so blessed to be a member of the amazing team at Camp Mack. We strive to live Camp's mission in our work, and what better place to create community than around a table while eating a delicious meal. Our summer staff are also creating community around those tables. We are having great conversations at meal times as calories are being consumed and bodies fueled for the hard work of providing a sanctuary space for our guests and ourselves. We have all enjoyed serving you this summer season!

I want to leave you with a new to us recipe from last summer, s'mores bars! These Rice Krispie-like bars were a HUGE hit with our staff and campers last year!

S'mores Bars

Ingredients

8 cups mini marshmallows
5 tbs butter salted or unsalted
8 cups golden graham cereal about $\frac{3}{4}$ large box
1 cup milk chocolate chips
Extra chocolate chips and marshmallows for garnish

Instructions

Spray a 9x13 pan with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside. In a medium-sized pot over medium-low heat, add 7 cups mini marshmallows and butter, reserving 1 cup of marshmallows. Stirring constantly, allow butter and marshmallows to melt completely. Remove from heat once melted. Stir in the golden graham cereal. Once that's thoroughly stirred in, add in the chocolate chips and 1 cup of reserved marshmallows. Stirring to get them evenly distributed. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish, pressing down to get a nice, compact bar. Sprinkle and gently press in the extra marshmallows and chocolate chips onto the top. Cool for several hours to harden. Cut and Serve

Enjoy and have a great summer!!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



CAMP MACK

Be Our Guest

Community: The Heart of Camp Mack

At its core, Camp Mack is defined by community. As a history enthusiast, I have learned that this spirit has always been the foundation of our camp. The very structures here stand because a dedicated community donated their time, expertise, and building materials. Their financial contributions ensured that others could come here to connect with God's creation, deepen their faith, and discover the essence of Christian community.

The Power of Volunteers

Our program and partner camps thrive because of a selfless community of volunteers. They arrive early to prepare and stay to support the experience, while a wider community offers prayers for the campers and leaders. By disconnecting from technology and engaging with nature, guests learn to build better communities both at camp and in the world beyond our arch.

Lasting Impact through Shared Experiences

I recently saw this beauty in action at Shultz Chapel. A community of loved ones came together to transform the space for a wedding, adorning it with personal touches that reflected the couple's journey. This act of sharing love and self truly transforms moments into special memories for a lifetime. Furthermore, our tireless volunteers—those who mow the grass, tend the plants, and join us for work weekends—enable our staff to keep Camp Mack ready for every group that enters our grounds.

Connect With Us

If you are interested in having a retreat, banquet, wedding, or workday at Camp Mack, I would love to help you. Please reach out to me via email at guestservices@campmack.org or call 574-658-4831. Together, we can continue to keep faith and community at the heart of everything we do.

Chris Power, Guest Services Coordinator



“This act of sharing love and self truly transforms moments into special memories for a lifetime.”





BE A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE—INVEST IN CAMP MACK'S MISSION

**YOUR GIFT HELPS CAMP MACK PROVIDE A
SANCTUARY WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE
WELCOMED TO CONNECT WITH GOD,
EXPERIENCE CREATION, AND BUILD
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.**

**SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE
WEBSITE BELOW TO MAKE A SECURE
ONLINE GIFT.**



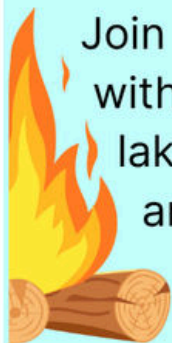
Our Website: →

[CAMPMACK.ORG/DONATE](https://cammack.org/donate)



**YOU
BELONG
HERE**

COLONY FAMILY CAMP



Join us for a relaxed family camp weekend filled with fun and fellowship. Make memories at the lake and by the campfire. Bring your own meals and your RV or stay in cabins or yurts at camp.

Families of all ages.

6 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Sunday.

\$120 per family, or \$50 per person ages 21 and up.

Connect with Colony Camp leaders for group meal details.

AUGUST 14-16



SAILING 101 GET-A-WAY DAY

Learn the basics of sailing and give it a try!
Open to beginners through experienced sailors.

AUGUST 15 | 9A-3P 12 and older



\$35, lunch included
Bring a swimsuit, sunscreen, water shoes/sandals, and a towel. Flip test required.

LABOR DAY FAMILY CAMP

SEPTEMBER 4-7

Wrap up your summer with a great family experience! Enjoy many of your favorite camp activities, worship, meals, and more.



Families of all ages.

6 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Monday.

Program fee: \$100 per family until 7/14 (\$110 between 7/14 and 8/20, \$120 after) for full time with options for other packages. Additional fees for lodging and meals.



Registration Tip: Add all family members as account members before registering. Registration will be as a family.

Keep an eye out for registration open dates for these events!
Find out more at campmack.org.

YOUNG ADULT CAMP

Young adults who have completed high school through the age of 24, this is for you! Whether you've been connected to Camp Mack for years or have never been before, come for an unforgettable weekend of faith, fun, and food.

Register or Donate at scindcob.org/yacdonaate



August 7-9

AUGUST 29

Older Adult Retreat Day

FROM HAY RIDES TO LAUGHS WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SPECIAL DAY. COME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN. DEVOTIONS FROM MODERATOR DENNIS BECKNER! LUNCH AND SNACK INCLUDED, AS WELL AS ACTIVITIES.

\$35 10A-3P



Join us!

REGISTER AT CAMPMACK.ORG!



Join us for the 2026

CAMP MACK FESTIVAL

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



Enjoy a wide range of entertainment, demonstrations, crafts, food, and other activities.



Shop the silent auction for artisan crafts and unique experiences.



End your visit at the ice cream social at 2:00!



Free admission and parking. Festival proceeds support the mission of Camp Mack.

DATE:

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3RD

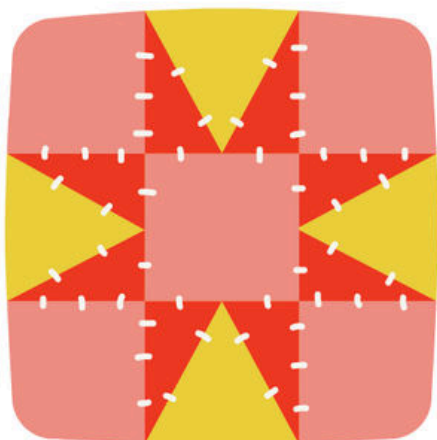
10-2



Handicap parking and transportation are available.

Check it out at campmack.org!
Contact us at info@campmack.org, 574-658-4831

Camp Mack Quilt Retreat



Spend a long weekend at beautiful Camp Mack working on your latest project with fellow quilting enthusiasts!

October 14–18

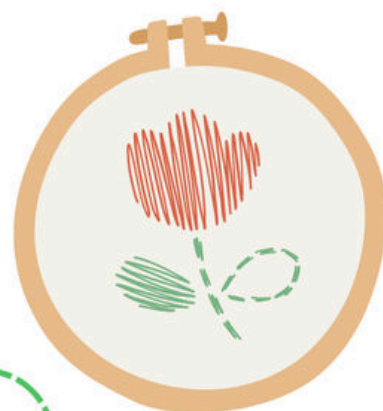
Options of shorter stays available

scrap + craft retreat

Enjoy a weekend of uninterrupted crafting time at Camp Mack. Meet new people, enjoy meals & snacks, and craft all day long!

October 29–November 1

Options of shorter stays available

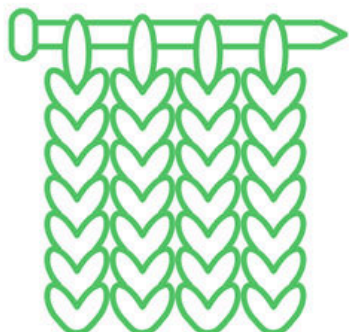


get-a-way day:

9 a.m.–4 p.m.

October 31

knit + crochet get-a-way day



Learn a new stitch or pattern from a seasoned crafter or teach a novice a new skill in this get-a-way day suited for people of all skill levels.

9 a.m.–4 p.m., lunch included

October 31

Find out more and register at campmack.org

PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORK DAY

OCTOBER 10, 9AM-12PM

LUNCH INCLUDED

Join us for a Prairie Restoration volunteer work day as we work together to remove invasive species and support the native prairie at Camp Mack.

No experience is needed.

RSVP to jessk@campmack.org to register



Annual Dinner

Spend an evening supporting Camp Mack while enjoying a nice meal, entertainment, and by learning more about our sanctuary.

November 7

Board Games

Extended Get-a-Way Day

Join friends and meet new ones at this extended get-a-way day for adults. Bring your favorite game and find your next new favorite.

November 13 (optional) and 14th



Find out more and register at campmack.org