



# Mackabilia

Camp Alexander Mack  
PO Box 158  
1113 E Camp Mack Rd  
Milford, IN 46542  
  
574.658.4831  
[info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

# Camp Alexander Mack

## News from the Director

### "What a Wondrous time is Spring"

Even though winter does not officially end until March 20<sup>th</sup>, February is the start of spring at camp. It may be bitterly cold with snow and ice, but the isolation of winter is ending. We see more and more people at camp: groups and individuals. Our staff is finishing winter maintenance. The phone rings every day with people inquiring about summer camps, Get-a-Way-Days, wedding spaces, and rentals for groups and reunions.

This is the time to plan for some of our most important events. Information will be sent soon about our annual dinner. We are recruiting our summer staff. The Gift Shoppe is filling up with new items for summer. Materials have been distributed to our camp reps at the churches. Registration is live online. Team leaders will be in soon to start planning for their individual weeks. Excitement is building for a wonderful year!

How can you think spring at Camp Mack?

- Set aside time on your summer calendar to volunteer. If you're not sure how you can volunteer, call us and we can share many options.
- Find a child who hasn't been to camp and sponsor them. Maybe your Sunday school class, Bible study, or small group could go together to send a child to camp.
- Think about making a monthly pledge to camp. This might even be an automatic payment. Spring is Camp Mack's most difficult time of the year financially.
- Plan a retreat for a group from your church or another group of which you are involved.
- Make a decision to join the fun with Get-Away-Days through the year.
- Look for opportunities to volunteer before the summer starts. Organized spring volunteer days are March 12, 13, and 14, and April 2, 3, and 4. If you don't have anywhere to go during spring break this year, volunteering at Camp Mack would be fun and rewarding.
- Stop by to visit. This place belongs to you. Take a walk, browse the Gift Shoppe, say hello to our staff, and reconnect with Camp Mack.

The third verse of one of our camp anthems, *Pass it On* starts, "What a wondrous time is spring..." Camp Mack is the place where you can experience God's love in such a way that you can't help but *Pass it On*. We can't wait to see you again. Happy Spring!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



# Be Our Guest

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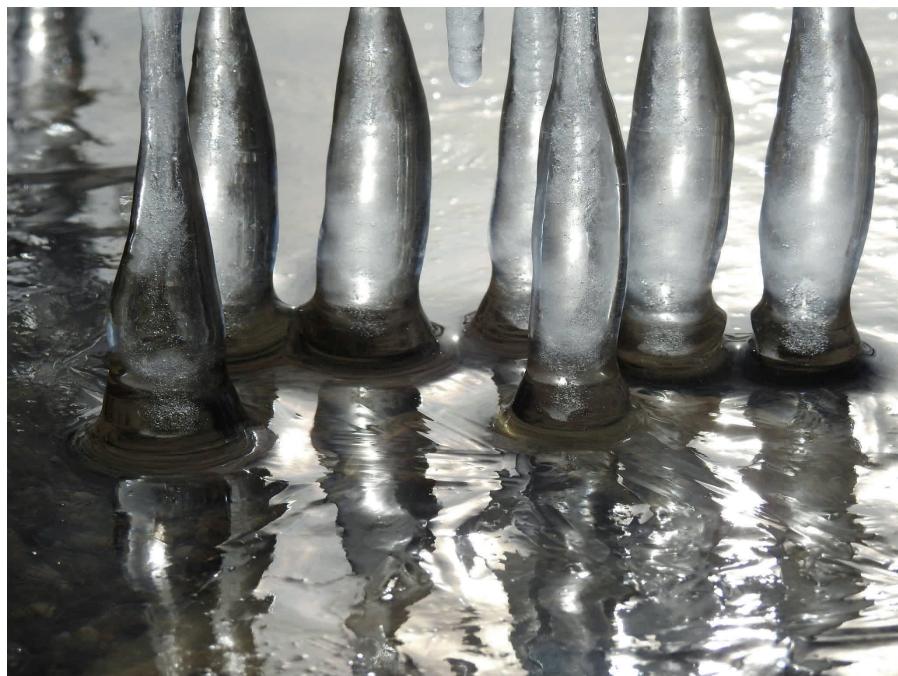
## Peace Like a River

Through this busy season, I've found strength and peace in God. I am sure that I would be lost without it. There seems to be a need in this world for more peace, whether it's in individual lives, communities, or warring nations, I can imagine that there are people out there who would appreciate a bit more peace and calm in their lives. Maybe you need peace from a difficult relationship. Maybe you seek peace from social media and the constant connections. Maybe you search for a peace from stresses at home or at work. However your peace looks, I hope you can find it, see it, and feel it, or have at least glimpses of it. I hope you can forgive yourself a little more because you probably deserve to give yourself a break.

The beautiful nature that is Camp Mack helps ground me in each moment and touches a part of my soul that brings me peace. I think many of the campers and guests that come through the arch to Camp Mack don't always know that they've missed the peace at camp until they return and experience it, acknowledging each moment that they smile at the frogs along Lake Waubee, or discover a new skill of burning a nametag, or laugh at simple things that might not have been noticed otherwise. If you let it, camp helps to touch those parts of our hearts—the parts seeking something different from what the world offers. I hope that you have peace like a river, flowing through you, reminding you to turn to God because God is always there. May we have the courage to seek peace and pursue it.

I continue to appreciate your questions, patience, interest, and excitement. Please let me know how I can serve you. We would love for you and your friends and family to visit Camp Mack and find peace.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



# Sunny Camp Mack

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## The Sky is falling!

We have been working in Wampler the last couple of weeks. The paneling in the entry way had become discolored and weathered looking. We had decided to replace that paneling with a bead board four foot high and dry wall the rest of the way to the ceiling. In the process of removing the paneling we had to take out part of the suspended ceiling. To remove the suspended ceiling in the hallway is fairly straight forward. You just disconnect the wires and take it down.

Where the hallway enters the kitchen it gets a little more complicated. The ceiling tile rails in the kitchen go all the way across the kitchen and into the living room to the far wall. Therefore, when you start to take apart the ceiling in the kitchen you are jiggling the ceiling all the way across the living area.

The ceiling is suspended by a wire hooked to the rail and then hooked into a staple driven into the bottom of the rafter. Over the years these staples have a tendency to loosen up and fall out. You can lose one or two, but if too many of them let go, you have a problem.

We quit work on Friday afternoon to get ready for a group coming in Friday evening. The group called "Stranded in Michiana" is a knitting group. They have been coming for a long time and are a great group of ladies. Things went very well in Wampler until Saturday evening.

I got a call about 9:00 p.m. that the ceiling in Wampler had fallen. I had to clean up a collapsed suspended ceiling in Becker a bunch of years ago and it was not a pretty sight so I had some bad visions in my head.

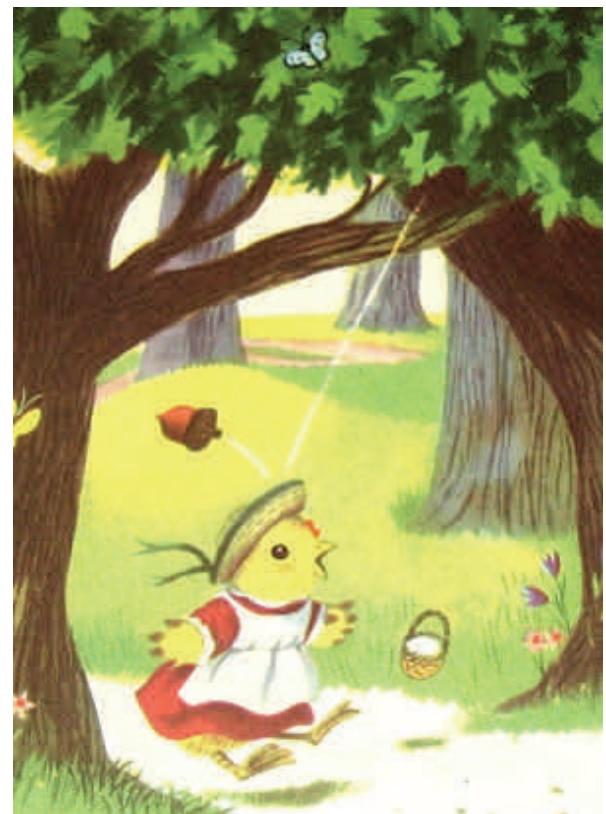
Fortunately when I arrived, nothing had fallen completely, but we had some knitters who thought it was going to come down!

It turned out we had a section that crossed the entire living room that had come free but it was just bowing down.

With the help of our guests, we put in some new lag screws and rehung the ceiling. By 10:30 or so, all was well with our ceiling. I did check the rest of the ceiling on Monday morning.

There are probably a couple of lessons in this for us on facility. It sure is hard to create "*..sanctuary where people connect with God*" when the ceiling is falling down!!

Galen Jay, Facility Director





## THE POWER OF INQUIRY

I had the pleasure this past week to spend a morning exploring with 20 amazing kids from the Faith Christian Homeschool Co-op.

So many times in nature we wish we could see certain animals and may get disappointed when we don't see the fox or the weasel we set out to find. When I go into nature, I often don't see the animal itself, but their evidence everywhere I go: in the scat, tracks, claw marks on a tree, a bush nibbled away, and calls heard from the trail.

For two hours this past week, 20 homeschoolers used their senses to be nature detectives and explored the grounds at camp looking for signs of the animals that call Camp Mack home. We looked at scat and tracks to discover what animals had traveled across camp. We knelt down and stood on our tiptoes to peer into their homes. Young children went up and over, down and under, or walked across downed trees to discover new locations while following deer trails through the woods. One group even followed a deer trail counting over 40 tracks in a row!



Even though we may not see animals, the signs of their presence are all around us when we take the time to discover them. This month, I encourage you to take some time outside. Kneel down and look at the tracks and scat on the ground, follow a deer trail through the woods, and just open your eyes to how big our world really is. And maybe one day you will find that fox or weasel you are hoping to see. What will you discover?

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



# Kitchen News

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## Grasshopper Parfait

### INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups crushed Oreo cookies  
1 cup crushed Andes mints  
2 — 3.9 oz. packages JELL-O chocolate instant pudding  
4 cups cold milk  
2-4 drops green food coloring  
1 teaspoon peppermint extract, to taste  
2 cups whipped cream  
Additional Oreos and Andes for garnish

### INSTRUCTIONS

Combine chopped cookies and Andes.

In a medium bowl, whisk together pudding mix and milk. Let stand 5 minutes.

While pudding is setting, mix food coloring and mint into whipped cream until blended.

Layer chocolate pudding, whipped cream, cookie/chocolate mix into cups and repeat layers.

Top with whole Oreo and one Andes Mint as garnish. Add a fresh mint leaf if available.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



## Camp Mack Wish List

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### We are in need of Team Leaders for the following camps:

Seekers June 3-8

Finders July 1-6

Co Director for Grand Camp, June 14-16

Please contact Jessica Kreider at [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org) if you are interested in being a team leader, cabin counselor, counselor in training, medical staff, or health check in staff this summer.



# Farm Land Sale

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## Camp Stewardship Continues

Did you know that Camp Mack has been in the farming business for the last several years? That's right. We own a 29.5 acre field just east of our farmhouse at the edge of the wilderness area. For the last several years it has been farmed by a local farmer for the Foods Resource Bank, increasing our outreach. Many of you know that this is an exciting program that has had significant impact fighting hunger in many areas of the world.

One of our tasks during 2017 was to review all of our assets and to think about how those assets were impacting our mission of being a *sanctuary where people connect with God*. Some assets provide the space and the structure where programs can be completed. Some assets provide needed supports like food, maintenance, and comfort. Some assets provide income so that the program can continue. As we looked at our field, it became clear that what we were doing, while meaningful and valuable, did not match our mission.

The sale of the crop from that field has been returning between \$3,500 and \$4,500 each year. The value of the land has been suggested to be at least \$250,000. If we were to put that amount of money in a long-term fund, our expected return annually would net approximately \$10,000 to \$12,500. There are other possibilities of using the value of the land to shore up other assets as well. For this reason, the Indiana Camp Board, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, voted in December to place the field up for auction. This decision was not made lightly, because liquidating an asset has to be done carefully in order to protect value. Once the asset is gone, it is unlikely it can be recovered at the same level of value.

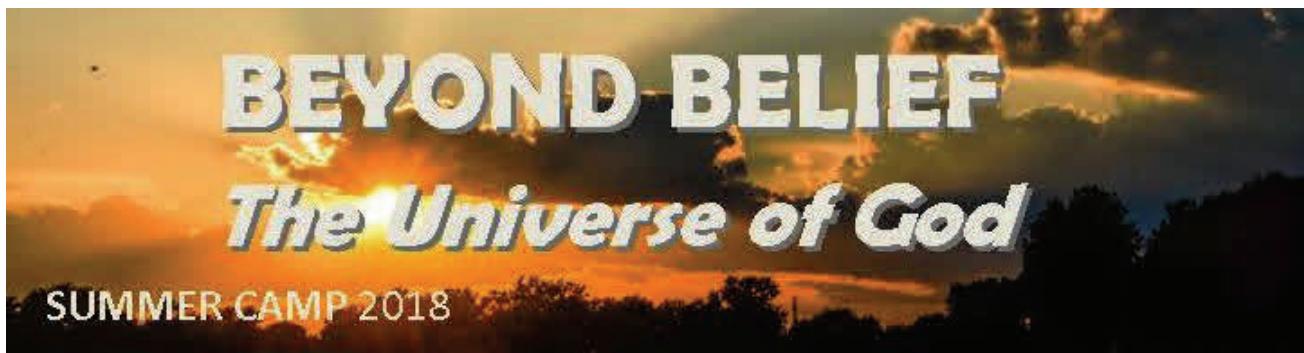
The farm property will be auctioned on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Turkey Creek Conference Room here at camp. When the sale is closed, the Indiana Camp Board will make decisions about the disposition of the proceeds so we ensure that the value we have taken from that asset becomes a value that will grow and support our mission for years to come.

Please feel free to call Gene Hollenberg at camp if you have any questions about this process. Stewardship of our mission and stewardship of our physical and spiritual treasures are among the most important things we do.



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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<b>Samplers</b>	<b>June 3-5</b>	<b>Dadirri</b>	<b>July 8-14</b>
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>June 3-8</b>	<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>
<b>Beginners</b>	<b>June 6-8</b>	<b>Creative Arts</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>June 12-16</b>	<b>Followers</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>
<b>Grand Camp</b>	<b>June 14-16</b>	<b>Splash Camp</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>
<b>Survivor</b>	<b>June 17-23</b>	<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>
<b>Eco Adventure</b>	<b>June 24-29</b>	<b>Culinary</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>
<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 1-6</b>	<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>July 1-7</b>	<b>Grand Camp</b>	<b>July 29-31</b>
<b>Samplers</b>	<b>July 8-10</b>		

### Summer camp registration is officially open!

Register online at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) or with the paper registration in the brochure you received. Register by March 19 to avoid any late fees. Please contact us with any questions about summer camp at [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org). We are looking forward to great campers and leaders alike. Who will you invite to camp this summer?

# ***Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:***

## **Camp Mack Calendar**

Feb 15-18 Quilt Retreat  
Feb 22-25 Scrapbooking Retreat  
March 3 Team Leader Training  
March 9 Annual Dinner

March 9-10 FLYE Weekend  
March 12-14 Volunteer Work Days  
March 17-18 Mother Daughter Retreat



### **Quilt Retreat**

This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. February 15-18, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$123 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$138 for Friday morning arrival, and \$167 for Thursday evening early arrival.

### **Scrapbooking Retreat**

Crop until you drop with a weekend of scrap therapy. Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. February 22-25, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$117 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$131 for Friday morning arrival, and \$146 for Thursday evening early arrival.



### **Annual Dinner**



This is our annual fundraiser dinner to provide support for special projects and operations support. Fee is donation of \$35 per person, \$300 for a table of six or \$400 for a table of eight. Additional contributions are gladly accepted. Please contact our office for registrations. Friday, March 9. Appetizers begin at 6:15p. Dinner begins at 7p.

### **FLYE Weekend**

FLYE weekends (Fun Leadership Youth Events) will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. FLYE participants will help serve our Annual Dinner this year. These weekends will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serving as a CIT (Counselor in Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. The first FLYE weekend is Friday-Saturday, March 9-10. Ages: 14-17. Cost: \$25.



## Volunteer Work Days



Volunteers will work with the Camp Mack staff as we make preparation for the summer camp season and work on other projects. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Monday, March 12—Wednesday, March 14. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available during this event. Please contact our office for reservations.

## Mother Daughter Retreat



"There's no place like home, there's no place like home..." Join us in the Emerald City for a Wizard of Oz themed tea. This weekend is full of crafting, pallet crafts in the woodshop, relaxation, an evening of nail art, and time spent building friendships. March 17-18, 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday. \$164 per mother and daughter pair, \$73 for each additional person.

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

**\*Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1–2 weeks in advance.**



### February 11—Eagle Watch

Eagle Watch is a program put on by the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center. We will meet at camp and then travel to the Salamonie Nature Center for a brief program on Bald eagle restoration in Indiana. From there, we will caravan to popular eagle locations in the area before ending up at the roost site. Dress for the weather. The colder the weather, the better the Bald eagle viewing. Sunday 1p–10p. Cost: \$20 (Includes travel and snacks)

### February 24—Scrapbooking

Join the Camp Mack scrapbooking crew for a day of preserving memories. Work on the book you need to finish, catch up on your journaling, scrap a page or two, gain inspiration from the projects surrounding you, and find treasures at the swap table. Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$15 (Includes lunch)



### February 24—Board Games

Winter is the perfect time to light up the fireplace, gather up snacks, pull up a table, and bring out your favorite board games of yesteryear and today. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (Includes lunch)

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at [www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).