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# Camp Alexander Mack

## News from the Director

There is an awful lot of noise in our world right now. Even the Winter Olympics couldn't close off the anger and division that shows up on the news, in social media, and in our communities. Regardless of your opinion, there seems to be someone, not far away, who wants to argue with you.

Jesus called on us to love one another. He showed us how we can let go of the world's difficulties and focus on God and the things that make for peace. The distractions bring us fear, but our faith and trust in God conquers that fear. It is exactly this focus on God that is the mission of Camp Mack:

*A sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation, experiencing creation, and building Christian community.*

Our mission is even more important at this time in our history. This is a place where you can find strength in Christian community. Look at the opportunities that lie ahead in the next several weeks. Get-A-Way-Days to find joy in our shared lives together; retreats that allow us to grow together; weekends when you can make arrangements to bring a group to build on the love you have for one another.

Our staff is here to provide the space and the environment that will help you renew and restore by connecting with God and each other. That is who we are, and it is our ministry to meet your needs.

If you are stressed with the cares of the world, imagine what it is like for children. Recent events have promoted fear and the children we talk to are confused by what they see. Research has shown that guided faith communities, particularly those based in the outdoors, have an extremely positive impact on children's ability to cope with conflict and stress. So what does that sound like? It sounds like summer camp.

The more children we can get to camp, the more healing can occur. Our curriculum this year is so appropriate. *Beyond Belief: the Universe of God* is all about showing the unbelievable grace and love of God and then demonstrating how each of us is important in taking that grace and love into the world.

The ministries of Camp Mack are more important than ever. Please pray about how you can participate in this ministry, how you can experience the community we can provide, and how you can impact the lives of children by ensuring they have the chance to come to camp.

Call me. I would love to discuss it more with you. Better yet, drop by, and we can show you the impact you can have through Camp Mack!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



## Cá as duit?

Where are you from? If you've done some traveling recently, you may have heard this question. I attended the American Camping Association conference last week and offered up and received this question many times. It's certainly one of the ways we connect with others—trying to get to know people by associating them with where they live.

I studied abroad in the Republic of Ireland my junior year of college at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. It was the spring semester, so I was able to take a bus into Dublin with a couple of friends to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Street corners were flooded with people from all walks of life. Festive music was playing. Fun carnival-like rides lined the streets. Smells of pub food permeated the air. One of my friends was having a birthday that Saturday, so we celebrated with a fun picnic in the park (St. Stephen's Green). As we were sitting there finishing our food, a couple of younger women around our age approached us and asked if we would join them in singing "Happy Birthday" to one of their friends. We thought it sounded like fun, so we followed them over to where there was a large gathering of people. They had been asking several folks wandering the park to join them and had assembled an impressive group. The friend was to arrive soon. In the meantime, we met a couple from New York who came over to celebrate and also spoke with more of the birthday girl's friends. They were from various parts of the Middle East all studying abroad at a few different schools in Dublin. The birthday friend arrived and began laughing and crying at the surprise her friends had arranged. As a group, we sang to her several renditions of the birthday song—one in Spanish, one in French, one in Arabic, and one in English. There may have been a couple of other versions in there, as well.



We celebrated with song, and then the crowd began to dwindle. The young woman with the birthday and her friends invited people to stay and enjoy some food with them. The three of us were the only ones who stuck around, but we ate hot dogs and cupcakes and spoke with them about school and travels. We also sang to my friend Kecia, who was also having a birthday. It was a wonderful experience I won't soon forget. I'm even friends on Facebook with a few of the people we met that day.

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That type of easy friendship is what I have experienced at camp, too. Camp Mack has provided and continues to provide me with opportunities to ask someone where she or he is from, to make a friend while swimming in the lake or rowing a boat, to eat a hot dog with someone I've never met before or a longtime camp friend. This sanctuary touches those who experience it, and I feel blessed to be associated with this place, the people who bring love to it, and the God that fosters community within it. Sláinte!



Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

# Sunny Camp Mack

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## Spring brings work at Camp Mack

We just had our first 60 degree day (I know it was in the end of February, but still...) and we are thinking spring and all of the outside work we have to do. This has been a fairly productive winter for us on the facility crew. We reworked the entry way to Wampler with new wainscoting and drywall. We also replaced the lights and that really changed the looks of the entry hallway of Wampler.

We have been working in the basement of Sarah Major. Part of the lakeside wall needed some updating. We took out the old drywall with its wallpaper and replaced it with new drywall and a nice bright color. That really changed that corner of the lower program area. The kitchen in the Ulrich apartment needed updating and we have spent a lot of time working at that.

Lynn and his crew of volunteers have been busy this last month working on the old benches we took out of the Chapel. His crew built new benches for the Chapel a couple of years ago and put the old benches in storage. Usually we can take two or three benches and make one good one. They run the wood through a planer and then reassemble the bench. A little bit of stain and a lot of polyurethane and you have a very nice looking bench. They redid one a couple of years ago and we put it in the food line hallway in John Kline. It looks so nice. They may have a couple of them for sale at the auction this year.

This brings us back to a 60 degree day and spring work. We are going to finish the Ulrich siding this spring. We have a cabin in the E circle that the frost has heaved the back end up in the last few winters. We will want to relevel it. We need to do some work on the outside of Sarah Major this spring. We need to clean the siding and rebuild a door. The boardwalk in Mission Village needs some releveling and some board replacement needs to be done. The list goes on and on. If you have some spare time and would like to spend a day at sunny Camp Mack, come on down! We could really use your help.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



## Project Real Job—Summer Camp Jobs Exposed!

Caution, this first paragraph may cause a bit of an eye roll for anyone who has ever worked in the camping industry. Imagine this, an Executive Director of a camp walks into an event, and a person making introductions introduces them to another person saying something like this. “Nice to meet you, this is (insert name) and they are a camp counselor at (Insert camp name)” I’m not making this up. I have seen and experienced this with everyone from an camp counselor, to a program director, to an executive director at a camp. If you have worked in the camping world for any period of time, you have most likely been introduced as a camp counselor at some point in your career. Don’t get me wrong, camp counselors are awesome and are the backbone of the program. Counselors are the ball of energy that lead Bible studies one moment, recreation next, and then take the time to comfort a homesick camper. Counselors, summer staff, persons in the camping industry as a career, your experience matters! Which brings me to Project Real Job.

Project Real Job is a new volunteer initiative through the American Camp Association that is working to expose summer camp jobs for what they really are, a real job! I am excited because they have released 3 posters that guide summer staff as they fill out resumes, apply for jobs, and interview post summer camp. PRJ is all about translating the camp employment experience to future employers. These posters help staff focus on active language for resumes, 21st century skills that are developed and practiced at camp, and how to demonstrate the critical thinking and problem solving skills used at camp.

As we look forward to summer, we are currently accepting applications and interviewing for our summer positions at Camp Mack. We are looking for 10 Summer Staff, a Challenge Course Manager, Waterfront Supervisor, Program Assistant, and Summer Photographer. After a summer on staff, skills a summer staffer may leave with may include: 5 ways to plunge a toilet, how to expertly line up plates in a dish rack, belay skills, how to give a swim test at the waterfront, how to start a campfire in the rain, a dozen new campfire songs, how to live with roommates, and so much more. But, what a summer staffer is really walking away with after a summer at camp are skills like critical thinking, problem solving, communication, creativity, contribution, leadership, and the list goes on. They are also walking away with new certifications in areas such as lifeguarding that may lead to a supervisor position at a pool or other waterfront.

Working at camp is so much more than chores done each day. It is a life changing experience that may even lead to a career in the camp industry. As you explore your options for summer employment, please consider working at Camp Mack this summer. Apply today!

Jessie Kreider, Program Director





## Cookie Scooping Professionals!

March 12 -14 and April 2-4 are Volunteer Work Days at camp! The kitchen staff would love to have a few volunteers who would like to help scoop cookie dough for an hour or two. We have decided to try something a little different this year in regards to our cookie crews. We are going to scoop and then freeze our delicious cookie dough, so that we can pull the dough out and bake it as needed! This will provide our guests with soft, warm, right out of the oven cookies, and who doesn't love that?!? So if anyone would like to come out on any of those dates to scoop cookies, we would love to have you! Since we love to spoil our volunteers, I'm sure we will be baking a few cookies that day as well. And you never know when the Facility crew will pop in the kitchen for a snack or two!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



## 55 Volunteer Counselors Needed! Where can I sign you up?

Camp	Date	Male	Female
<b>WEEK 1: June 3-8</b>			
Samplers	June 3-5	2	3
Seekers	June 3-8	3	1
Beginners	June 6-8	3	THANK YOU!
<b>WEEK 2: June 12-16</b>			
Archery	June 12-16	2	1
<b>WEEK 3: June 17-23</b>			
Survivor	June 17-23	4	2
<b>WEEK 3: June 24-29</b>			
Eco Adventure	June 25- 30	1	1
<b>WEEK 4: July 1-7</b>			
Finders	July 1-6	3	3
<b>WEEK 5: July 8-14</b>			
Seekers	July 8-13	4	4
Followers	July 8-13	2 (Age 21+)	5 (Age 21+)
Creative Arts	July 8-13	1	THANK YOU!
Dadirri	July 9-14	1 (Age 25+)	1 (Age 25+)
<b>WEEK 6: July 15-20</b>			
Culinary	July 15-20	1	1
Finders	July 15-20	4	4

# Strategic Plan Summary

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As you know, we have been working on a strategic plan since late October. A draft is ready to be presented to the board in late March. Once the plan is adopted, it will guide the work of the staff and the board over the next two years, so we can meet our goals for stability, high quality ministry, and meeting the needs of all those whom we serve. Please take some time to look through the plan. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to Gene at [gene@campmack.org](mailto:gene@campmack.org). Your input will be very helpful as the board works through the plan.

Please be on the lookout for a meeting near you. We will set up several meetings throughout the two districts in the next couple of weeks to listen to your thoughts about the future of camp. Our hope is that we can begin to establish a regular time of listening every year.

Remember to share your thoughts!

## CAMP ALEXANDER MACK STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

**Goal Area 1:** Maintaining our historic tie to the Church of the Brethren we seek to re-envision a future of Camp Mack in order to expand its ministry.

**Strategy one:** Review and articulate the core elements of Camp Mack's ministry to encourage faith development and stewardship of creation within the context of Christian values.

**Strategy two:** Develop a governing philosophy and framework that maintains our historic ties to the COB while engaging the broader community in the transformative power of Camp's mission.

**Goal Area 2 –** Ensure the financial health of Camp Mack to propel its ministry into the future.

**Strategy one:** Initiate a sustainable financial and pricing model that provides the necessary resources in order to operate high-quality camp and conference experiences.

**Strategy two:** Initiate a more robust budgeting process.

**Strategy three:** Ensure that the financial reporting process provides accurate, meaningful, and timely information for the management of camp.

**Goal Area 3:** Ensure that the facilities support and enhance the mission of Camp Mack and the transformational programs it provides.

**Strategy 1:** Determine the current capacity of the Camp Mack facilities for various programs including summer camp, year-round programs, and retreats and conferences to utilize our facilities more fully.

**Strategy 2:** Ensure the quality care and maintenance of each building and facility at Camp Mack.

**Strategy 3:** Ensure that the facilities meet the future needs of campers and guests for retreats, conferences, and year-round programming.

**Strategy 4:** Ensure that the green spaces and natural environment meets the current and future needs of Camp Mack.

**Goal Area 4:** Strengthen the transformational impact of Camp Mack through maximizing current programming, introducing innovative programming, and providing holy hospitality.

**Definition of terms:**

**Program:** An event or series of events to which campers and guests are invited and Camp Mack provides all or most of the programming.

**Programming:** Specific activities provided as part of a Camp Mack program or contracted by a guest program.

**Strategy 1:** Meet the needs of existing and new audiences through creating new and diverse activities.

**Strategy 2:** Strengthen and expand year-round programming to deepen our relationship with current audiences and meet the needs of new audiences.

**Strategy 3:** Ensure each group and program receives a unique experience that meets their needs, guided by the mission, vision, and values of Camp Mack.

**Strategy 4:** Identify new target audiences to expand the reach of Camp Mack's mission and programs.

**Goal Area 5:** Promote the mission of Camp Mack by strengthening donor and community relationships.

**Strategy 1:** Develop connections with important constituent groups.

**Strategy 2:** Initiate a comprehensive fundraising campaign and annual development program that will support the ministries of Camp Mack and increase the awareness of its resources and services.

**Strategy 3:** Initiate a comprehensive marketing and communication program that encourages the broader community to engage with Camp Mack.

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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**Summer camp registration is officially open!**

**Register by March 19 to avoid any late fees.**

Register online at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) or with the paper registration in the brochure you received. 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?



<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>		

# Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

## Camp Mack Calendar

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March 3	Team Leader Training	March 17-18	Mother Daughter Retreat
March 9	Annual Dinner	April 2-4	Volunteer Work Days
March 9-10	FLYE Weekend	April 18-22	Quilt Retreat
March 12-14	Volunteer Work Days	April 24-25	Pastor's Sabbath

## Annual Dinner

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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

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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

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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. March 12–14 and April 2–4. 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

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“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.



## Quilt Retreat

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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. April 18-22, 6p Wednesday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$123 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$138 for Friday morning arrival, \$167 for Thursday evening early arrival, and \$191 for Wednesday evening arrival.



## Pastor's Sabbath

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The Sabbath experience at Camp Mack is a time of reflection, fellowship, personal meditation, and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. Plenty of free time for fellowship with a balance of structured and free time! Guest leadership for April is Dan McFadden. April 24-25. Cost: \$20 (Includes CEUs for the event, meals, and lodging). Please encourage your pastor(s) to attend.

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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



### April 28—Container Gardening

Want the benefits of homegrown produce but are lacking the space? If you have an extra kiddie pool, 5 gallon bucket, 2 liter bottle, or even old gutters laying around, they you have the goods to make your own container garden. Come and learn which vegetables are best suited for your containers and walk away with the beginning of your first container garden. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$20 (Lunch included)

### April 28—Target Sports

Improve your aim and accuracy with a day of target sports. Let it fly, whether it be with a bow an arrow, slingshot and paintballs, atlatts and darts, or throwing rocks at hanging pots and pans. No experience needed.. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (Lunch included)



### April 29—Wildflower Walk

Experience the changes in the wilderness area as spring puts on a beautiful show of wildflowers and blooming shrubs. Appreciate the Trillium, Blood Root, Spring Beauties, Hepatica, and others in bloom. Sunday 2p–4p. Cost: FREE (Bring a snack to share)

-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).