

Camp Alexander Mack



News from the Director

“Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful.”

The first words from the Christmas song, *Let it Snow* describe the weather, and the second half of the verse describes our optimism about the upcoming year at camp.

As we experience this Christmas season and move into a new year, we are thankful for many gifts. We’ve had gifts of time and love from our volunteers; we’ve had gifts of treasure from all over our two districts – from churches and individuals; we’ve had prayers and phone calls of encouragement. Each of these gifts is crucial to our success, and we cannot thank you enough for what you have given us through the years – especially this last year.

We end 2016 with a much brighter future than we started. Our finances have stabilized, and we have begun working on projects that will significantly improve our camp infrastructure and the experiences of our guests. More groups are showing interest in using the camp facilities. There is a new excitement about what Camp Mack can become as we move through the next few years.

We also want to share that we continue to be involved in our community. In December we sponsored a family for Christmas, and we were able to provide temporary shelter to a homeless family as they were waiting for a paycheck to get housing in Milford.

My hope is that you have truly had the opportunity to reflect on God’s gift to all of us in this Christmas season. May the gifts you have received and the gifts you have given bring joy to you and all those who have been touched by them. Christmas is the time when we can truly understand the depth of God’s great love for us. “To us a child of hope is born; to us a Son is given.” We cannot really understand these words without pausing to marvel at the way God cares for us. Let us all carry that wonder with awesome gratitude into and throughout the coming year.

From all of us at Camp Mack. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Be Our Guest

As Christmas is approaching fast I marvel at the fact that Jesus birth still draws families together, stops fighting for a period of time, causing people to decorate and light up their houses in anticipation of the day that the Savior of the world was born. Jesus is remembered for over 2000 years because of who he was and is. As we are celebrating this season of joy and family, and especially of the birth of Jesus, it causes me to think about people that we remember, and why we remember them.

As I approach my retirement I seem to reflect a bit more about my time at Camp Mack and the people that have made this journey memorable. I think of the many counselors, Directors (Team Leaders), CIT's that give of their time, energy and talent to make summer camp a great experience for young people. Many give back because someone made a difference in their lives at summer camp and they want to pass a similar life changing experience on to others. I have been able to experience many times from my vantage point of a golf cart when I worked maintenance, or in my position as Program Coordinator, or currently as the Guest Services Director, lives being impacted by caring, compassionate, loving people in a similar way to the one whose birthday we will soon celebrate. I have seen the hugs and heard the tender words between campers and counselors that have known each other for less than a week, but the impact will last for decades. I have seen and heard first hand of children that do not want to go back to the situation they left a week before, because they have witnessed unconditional love, maybe for the first time. Children sometimes experience a week of peace as God's love is shown through caring persons and they have been given hope.

As the day approaches when we celebrate the birth of Christ I think of the love that God has for each of us, that he sent his Son as a baby to live among us to teach and show by example how we should live and love one another.

I have been fortunate to see followers of Christ emulate His example to children and adults during summer camp. For many of us we have made life changing decisions because of the love and example of others at Camp. That love and example that Jesus provided is the reason in my opinion that after 2000 years the birth of Christ is such an event to look forward to. When we remember the reason for Christmas, it makes all the difference in the world, just as Jesus made all the difference in the world.

I wish for each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you great joy, as you bring joy and love to others.

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services

Indiana Camp Board

Happy New Year from the Camp Board. It is exciting to be starting a new year here at camp. The Board has many ideas for this coming year. We are putting together ideas on the new East Lodge. This lodge will be a year round facility that will open up more opportunities for retreats and summer programs.

I am pleased to announce that the latest "400 Club" figure is down to \$22,000. We are so pleased for the amount of help we have received from the people who support and believe in camp. Thank you.

We have several other projects that we are putting together for the camp. Of course we can always use volunteers when we start the work of these projects. We will keep you inform as the months go by.

Again I feel it is an honor to serve as your Camp Board Chairman. Please be in prayer as we make decisions for your camp. If you have any questions please call someone on the board so we can find the answers for you.

Have a safe and joyous New Year. God's Blessings to everyone.

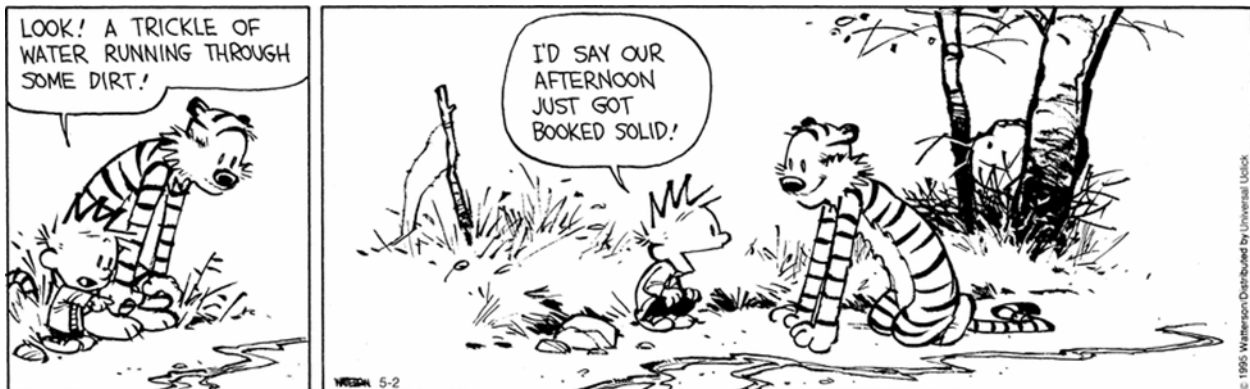
God's Blessings and continue to pray for camp and the leaders.
Sue Freel, ICB Chairman



Nature Nut News

I love Calvin and Hobbes and this strip describes me well. WARNING: If you follow me outdoors, I don't make any promises as to where you may end up. I may find a rabbit burrow under a pile of brambles. I may squat down to examine some scat or tracks on the trail to see what story it has to tell me. I may wade into some marshy ground to see the fragrant Skunk Cabbage peek out from under the snow. I may pick up an owl pellet and determine what it has been eating. I may stop and sit for minutes or hours outside an active fox den to watch them play. I may follow a deer trail to see where it leads. Whether you are a child or an adult, I encourage you to spend some time outside with a sense of wonder, following paths, rolling over logs, or just observing a trickle of water running through some dirt. Adventure waits just outside your front door. Let me know what you find.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Kitchen News

Tis the Season for Hot Cocoa

It's cold outside, the snow is blowing across the road in drifts and the wind is bone chilling. As a child I always enjoyed a good cup of hot cocoa made by my Dad to have with breakfast or in the evening. As Mom worked a night shift, my Dad and I often made breakfast together. As I recall we had an old white granite pot that he "dumped" (I'm sure he measured when he was first learning) the ingredients in and heated on the stove (no microwave back then) and in my memory the best tasting hot cocoa ever. This was before all of our modern day packets, pods, and instant brewers that can give us instant cocoa, tea and coffee in its many forms. Although I enjoy the modern conveniences, there is nothing to replace the taste and the warmth that comes with this family memory. So I encourage you on a cold snowy day, turn off the gadget coffee maker and take time to make this recipe for your family. Oh and don't neglect a shot of whipping cream on top of your mug to get a spot of deliciousness on your nose when sipping!

Old Fashion Creamy Hot Cocoa

1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder	3 ½ cups milk
3/4 cup white sugar	¾ tsp vanilla extract
1 pinch salt	½ cup half & half
1/3 cup boiling water	

Combine the cocoa, sugar, salt with the hot/boiling water in your saucepan. Bring this mixture to a boil while you stir for about two minutes. Watch not to scorch as you add the 3 ½ cups milk and heat until very hot BUT not a boil. Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla. Divide into 4 mugs and add a touch of the half & half. Enjoy with marshmallows or a dollop of whipping cream to complete a wonderful delight.

Wanda Gall, Interim Food Service Manager

Sunny Camp Mack

This morning the outside temperature is -13 and the wind chill is somewhere south of that. As you might guess we have shut down our outside projects. We were working on the new porch for Wampler, a new roof on the well portion of Jacobs well and a new drainage pipe to connect the 12 clay tile in the Mission Village area to the Lake. All of these projects will wait to be finished when warmer weather arrives.

Each fall the Facility crew walks our buildings and establishes some priorities for repairs for the coming year. We will continue replacing mattress this coming year with Wampler and Ulrich getting new ones. We also plan to replace the carpet in the three bedrooms in Wampler and then start working on carpet in Sarah Major. For our first project of the winter we have started on the Ulrich upstairs women's restroom. We are replacing the flooring to start with and will then look at painting the stall dividers, changing out the fill valves and flush valves in the johns, and getting some new lighting. We will replace the wood trim and repaint the room as we finish. The new lights and new flooring really change the looks of the restroom. The next two projects will be the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major and the showers in the women's restroom in Wampler. The S.M. project will be a big one in that we have to replace all three showers. This will require us to remove a couple of walls to get access to everything. Well at least our work is inside where it is warm! Our work continues as we try to make this place "...a Sanctuary where people connect with God..."

Galen Jay, Facility Manager

Summer Staff and Program Assistants

We are ready to start interviews for 2017 Summer Staff, Summer Photographer, Summer Challenge Course Manager, and the Summer Waterfront Director. Summer Staff employment begins at Camp Mack in mid to late May. Lifeguards have the opportunity to attend/ be trained as part of their job. Summer staff works in the areas of Facility, Housekeeping, Kitchen, Program, Lifeguarding and more. Lodging and meals are part of the summer staff package as well as opportunity for college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email info@campmack.org if interested. Applications are available at www.campmack.org under employment.



Summer Medical Staff

During the summer, we need medical staff for approximately 3 hours on check in days and volunteers to spend the week in the health office. Medical staff may be a MD, NP, PA, RN, or LPN. Check in staff are responsible for collecting health forms, checking in camper meds, or doing health checks. Weekly medical staff are responsible for passing camper medications, providing care for minor illnesses and injuries, and general care of campers. Staff are provided with lodging and meals. If you are interested or would like more information, email jessk@campmack.org for a list of dates and needs.



Team Leaders Needed

Team Leaders are needed for Creative Arts (July 9-14) and Pedal Paddle Camp (July 2-8). Team Leaders are a crucial link in forming the leadership team for each camp. We also have a few Team Leaders who would appreciate an assistant. They are Seekers (June 18-23), Finders (June 18-23), Finders (July 2-7), Dune Challenge (June 25- July 1), Culinary (July 11-15) and Archery (June 11-15). Training is scheduled for March 4. Email jessk@campmack.org if interested or in need of more information.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

January 14	Camp Rep Meeting	March 13-15	Volunteer Work Days
February 16-19	Quilt Retreat	March 17	Annual Dinner
February 23-26	Scrapbooking Retreat	March 18-19	Mother Daughter Retreat
March 4	Team Leader Training		

Camp Rep Meeting

January 14 is the annual Camp Rep meeting at Camp Mack. Encourage the camp rep from your church to attend. We provide breakfast, camp updates and important registration information, and marketing materials for the upcoming season. Camp Mack is SO much more than a Summer Camp. We are your place for every season of the year and of your life.



Quilt Retreat

The first quilt retreat of the year 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, and quilting supplies. February 16-19, 6p Thursday- 3p Sunday. \$122 per quilter (\$137 per quilter arriving Friday morning, \$166 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening.) Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.

Scrapbooking Retreat

Crop 'til 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 and uninterrupted time with fellow scrapper. Bring your extra scraps, paper, stickers and more to trade and swap.

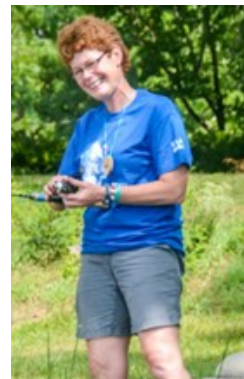
February 23-26, 6p Thursday- 3p Sunday. \$116 per scrapper (\$130 per scrapper arriving Friday morning, \$145 per scrapper arriving on Thursday evening.) Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.

** Can't make the whole weekend? Sign up for the scrapbooking Get-a-Way Day February 25.*



Team Leader Training

Team Leader Training is the first of our leadership trainings for summer programs. March 4, 9a-3p. See the Team Leader needs under Summer Needs in the newsletter if you are interested in being a Team Leader.



Volunteer Work Days

Work with Camp Mack staff as we prep for the summer camp season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. March 13-15. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available. There is no fee for this event. Please contact the office at 574-658-4831 for reservations.

Annual Dinner

This annual fundraiser provides funds for special projects and operations support. Fee: A donation of \$25 per person, \$300 for a table of six, \$350 for a table of seven, or \$400 for a table of eight. Additional contributions are gladly accepted! Friday, March 17. Appetizers begin at 6:15p, dinner begins at 7p. Contact our office for reservations.



Mother Daughter

“Camping or Glamping?” Learn from the wilderness from the comfort of camp and the lodge. Hone your crafting skills, enjoy an afternoon tea, spend time sharing your story with other women and girls, and leave with resources for camping or glamping. All women, mothers, daughters, and grandmas of all age are invited. \$163 for each mother and daughter pair, \$72 for each additional person. Includes housing and meals. March 18-19, 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

***Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days in 1-2 weeks in advance. We have had to cancel a couple of events when we have had no registrations and then find out we had numerous people interested in an event. Thank you!**

February 12 Eagle Watch—Travel to Salamonie to view migrating Bald Eagles at the roost. Some years we have seen over 80. \$20. Includes travel and snacks. We will stop on the way home for dinner.

February 25 Scrapbooking—Great day to work on your scrapbook or glean new ideas from the scrappers at the weekend retreat. Stop by the swap tables to get some great supplies. \$15. Includes lunch. *For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at www.campmack.org or by emailing info@campmack.org*