



Camp Alexander Mack
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Camp Alexander Mack



News from the Director

It is hard to believe, but in a month, summer camp begins! We are watching the wilderness area awaken, and trees all over camp are filling the branches with green. The grass is growing faster than we can keep up mowing, and dark tufts of darker green can be seen across the camp, showing us where the wildlife visited over the winter. Flowers, planted and wild, accent the green, showing God's gift of beauty, open to all with no strings attached.

I heard one of the pastors this winter describe camp as a "thin space." Thin spaces are places where God seems to be more accessible and we are more open to sensing God's presence. If this is true, then we have an even greater responsibility to provide this ministry as much as we can. We know of so many children and youth who have changed their lives because they have been able to really experience God for the first time at camp; they lived in a community of love focused on Christ.

Already, we have more than 400 registrations for our summer camp program. That is better than last year, but it is not where we have been in the past. We need to have all of our friends helping us get the word out, not only to the children in our churches, but those in our communities as well. While summer camp is about having fun and doing things not easily done elsewhere, it is even more about developing the faith journeys of our children. And there are a lot of children who need us.

When our ministry is put in those terms, it becomes very clear how important it is that we are ready and prepared. That is why we need to have working equipment and systems, comfortable and welcoming buildings, wholesome and delicious food, safe areas to play, boat, and swim, spaces for reflection and prayer, and well-designed and implemented programs.

Volunteers and staff have been doing the work to be ready, but there is one area we cannot control. We need volunteer leaders who will commit to training and leadership. In order to provide the program for our campers that will truly connect them with God, we need people who are willing to give their time to learn the program and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the next generation. I still have strong ties with children whom I counseled over the years. I still get tears as I remember the stories sparked by looking at the Waubee Waves of years past.

Counselor training is May 12th and 13th. A camp orientation will be held on Friday evening and a general training for everyone will be Saturday morning and afternoon. Won't you please consider how you can help bring God's love through Christian community at Camp Mack this summer? Counselor applications are available at our website: campmack.org/employment, or you can call us, and we will happily send you an application. *Branch Out* with us this summer. We are waiting to hear from you.

Gene Hollenberg
Executive Director

Be Our Guest

We are gearing up for summer as May approaches. As I anticipate my last summer at Camp Mack I think about the fact that, for many persons, Summer Camp is what Camp Mack represents. We are in the middle of April and this weekend we have 6 groups here as well as 2 others this week. We have 6 groups in next week and in May we have 18 groups in the first 3 weeks and the last week the camp has one group that takes the whole camp. I say all that to be sure the message is clear that Camp Mack is a Sanctuary to persons for retreats, weddings, get away days, day meetings, etc. Summer Camp is a great time for children to “connect with God through Faith formation, experiencing Creation, and building Christian Community” as our Mission Statement says. It is important for persons to know they also have opportunities all year round to experience the mission statement as well, and to know others are already taking advantage of this set apart place on the shores of beautiful Lake Waubee. I do look forward to summer at Camp Mack and all the excitement and growth that happens here. Lives change as persons live in intentional communities and focus on “Connecting through Christ” which is our summer theme. Come and experience Camp Mack any season of the year for a day, a weekend, or a week. It is a great place to grow relationships with others and with God and refresh yourself to go out and share your faith with others. I hope to see many of you this spring and summer at Camp Mack.

Mike Kauffman,
Guest Services



Camp Mack Wish List

Clean and comfortable recliners or rockers with ottomans for Wampler guest rooms

2010 or later model ¾ or 1 ton pickup truck

Box or floor fans for guest rooms and cabins

Blankets or throws

Gardeners: Culinary Camp would love donations of fresh produce for July 11-15

CMF would love donations of fresh produce for the Harvest Booth, Saturday, October 7.



Camp Mack Festival



Plan now to be a part of the Camp Mack Festival on October 7th. We are in need of a few more volunteers to help with the festival. First, is the need of an Auction chair. Second, we need someone who can observe children's activities this year and take over the planning of them in 2018. Churches and groups, contact us about Food Court ideas and what you would like to sell and serve. Also, please send us pictures and descriptions of larger items for the Camp Mack Auction so we can start forming a sale bill to advertise ahead of time. Thank you for helping to make this the biggest festival yet!

For questions regarding the festival, email Deb Roe at debra@campmack.org and she will forward your questions to the appropriate committee members.

Sunny Camp Mack

Recruiting new Volunteers

We had an unusual group of volunteers last Saturday morning. Community Church of Waterford has a group of young families who have organized and called themselves "Beyond Me". One of the purposes of this group is to expose their kids to a volunteer experience at a young age. They have had a variety of volunteer experiences and this is their second year of coming to Camp Mack. This year we had six families and their kids ranging in age from six to ten years old. It was a beautiful sunny, warm day at Camp and we chose to pick up branches and sticks in our lawn. We just worked two hours which was a stretch for some of the younger kids, but we had such a good time. I think some really good things came out of this experience. First of all we now have a trailer full of sticks that Ray doesn't have to mow over. We also have some parents of young kids who had their first experience here at Camp Mack. Hopefully they caught the "Sanctuary" feeling of this place. I think also we had some young kids get their first taste of what it means to give of your own time to a cause and to become a volunteer. I think of the "seasoned" volunteers that Lynn puts together on Tuesdays and Thursdays and I wonder how they got started volunteering? Anyway we had a great time, we accomplished some work and hopefully we exposed some more folk to this "Sanctuary where people connect with God".

P.S. I am in need of eight more sets of scaffolding to work on Ulrich this summer. If anyone has some scaffolding that you don't need for all or part of this summer we could really put it to good use.

Thanks,

Galen Jay, Facility Director





We have pups!



One of the joys of Spring each year is seeing camp turn a lush green, seeing the flowers open, and being greeted by so many cute babies. Baby animals that is. We have Red Foxes at camp but don't often see them. I was blessed last week to happen upon a den site and to sit at a distance and watch the pups play. They are masters at rolling around, yipping, hopping, nipping, and playing lots of Peek a Boo. I look forward to watching this family grow up. Keep your eyes on the Camp Mack Facebook page and I hope to keep you posted as camp babies are born.

Jessie Kreider,
Program Director



Summer Staff

We are in the process of hiring our final 3 Summer Staff and would like to have the positions filled ASAP. We really need staff who would like to be trained as lifeguards or have current certification. Summer Staff employment begins at Camp Mack in mid to late May. Lifeguards have the opportunity to receive free (re)certification 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 the opportunity for a college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email info@campmack.org if interested. Applications are available at www.campmack.org/employment. Apply today!

Kitchen News

Flowers everywhere... what a beautiful spring!

All kinds of FLOURS! **Gluten free flour** is the new trend with many types and textures. Coconut flour is a great replacement for wheat flour. It is high in fiber making it nutritious along with providing healthy fats. It is also low glycemic and doesn't spike blood sugar levels.

To name a few other gluten free flours:

Oat flour is made from sprouted oats.

Rice flour is made from brown rice.

Almond flour made from almonds which are high in fiber and contain healthy fats.

Tapioca flour which is the purest form of starch and is a good thickening flour.

To name a few more of the many gluten free flours: there is chick-pea, sorghum, cassava, amaranth, buckwheat, teff and cricket flour that is really made from ground crickets!

When using gluten free flour it generally measures the same as wheat flour. One cup wheat flour = one cup gluten free flour.

Another note about gluten free flours to be aware of is they are sometimes mixed with potato starch. Potatoes are a night shade vegetable that can cause allergic problems for those with such allergies.

I want to share one of our favorite gluten free cookie recipes with you.

NO BAKE OATMEAL CHOCOLATE COOKIES

Mixing Time: 5 minutes

SERVES: 2 dozen

Ingredients:

2 cups Granulated sugar

8 Tbsp. (1stick) Butter or soft trans-free margarine

½ cup low-fat milk

1/3 cup baking cocoa

3 cups oats (quick or old fashioned uncooked)

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, butter, milk and cocoa.

Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring frequently.
(total cooking time about 5 minutes)

Remove bowl/pan from heat. Stir in the oats.

Use a tablespoon to drop batter onto waxed paper or foil.

Let stand until firm. Allow about 30 minutes to form and cool.

Store tightly covered.

Wanda Gall,
Food Service Manager



Summer Medical Staff



We need medical staff for approximately three 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 distributing 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. Health personnel are needed for June 4-6, June 18-23, and July 9-15.

Summer Camp Schedule

BRANCHING OUT <i>Connecting Through Christ</i> SUMMER CAMP 2017			
Samplers	June 4-6	Pedal & Paddle	July 2-8
Beginners	June 11-13	Samplers	July 9-11
Archery	June 11-15 5 SPOTS	Seekers	July 9-14
Grand Camp	June 15-17	Followers	July 9-14
Seekers	June 18-23	Splash Camp	July 9-14 FULL
Finders	June 18-23	Creative Arts	July 9-14
Survivor	June 18-24 5 SPOTS	Culinary	July 11-15 7 SPOTS
Eco Adventure	June 25-30	Dadirri	July 23-29
Dune Challenge	June 25-July 1	Grand Camp	July 30-Aug 1
Seekers	July 2-7	<i>In RED are SPOTS REMAINING in camps that are filling up quickly</i>	
Finders	July 2-7		
Youth	July 2-8		

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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

- May 6** **Canoe the St Joe:** Canoe from Mottville, MI to Bristol, IN with this relaxed float. Count the turtles along the way. \$20. Includes a sack lunch. Meet at camp before going offsite.
- May 6** **Dutch Oven Cooking:** Food over the coals always tastes better. Explore a variety of recipes from appetizers to desserts. We bet you won't leave here hungry. \$15. Dinner included.
- May 6** **Wildflower Walk:** Experience the spring flower show in the Camp Mack wilderness area and get to know your spring wildflowers. FREE. Bring a snack to share.
- June 10** **Pumpkinvine Bike Trek:** Load up your bike at Camp Mack and head to the Pumpkinvine Rails to Trails pathway. Ride from Goshen to Shipshewana. This is a beautiful trail with little road traffic. \$20 (Sack lunch included)

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days or by emailing info@campmack.org



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

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| May 1-4 | Seasoned Citizen's Retreat |
| May 4-6 | Birdwatcher's Retreat |
| May 7 | 5K Run/Walk |
| May 12-13 | Counselor Training |
| June 1-3 | South Central Women's Camp |

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

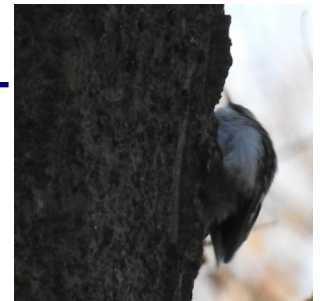


Seasoned Citizen's Retreat

Join this group of life-experienced people who gather twice a year to meet old friends and make new ones. Special programs, crafts, vespers, and Bible studies will be offered along with free time, "joke time," and more. Handicap accessible sleeping and meeting rooms as well as dining options for special diets. May 1-4, 3p Monday– 1p Thursday. \$171 per person staying overnight or \$115 if not staying overnight.

Birdwatcher's Retreat

Enjoy the spring migration with birdwatchers of all ages. New and experienced birdwatchers will experience the various habitats and birds at camp. We will also travel to other locations to see birds not usually found at camp. May 4-6, 6:30p Thurs. to 2p Saturday. \$115 for 2 nights and 5 meals or \$72 for 1 night and 2 meals.



5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run

Will you take the challenge?

The Annual Camp Mack 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for May 7th. The Kids' Fun Run begins at 2:00 and the 5K begins at 2:15. This annual event is a great way to get going for the spring and summer, and now we have a challenge!

Bethany Church of the Brethren brought 50 participants last year, and they had so much fun, they're doing it again. However, this time, they are challenging the other churches and organizations to **beat their number** of people registered. There is a traveling trophy involved.

Think of the fun and fellowship you could have if you could get a group from your church to come out on a beautiful day in May to enjoy the fresh air and support Camp Mack! Registration is \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for the Kids' Fun Run.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Counselor/ CIT Training Weekend

We are looking for around 45 more great volunteers to be counselors at camp this summer for 3-7 days. Counselor applications may be found under the employment tab at www.campmack.org. Counselor training will be a little different this year. CIT's, Team Leaders, new counselors, and those wanting more time at camp will arrive Friday, May 12 at 7p. All other counselors will arrive at 8:30a on Saturday, May 13 for a full day of hands on training. We will cover the three areas of camper behavior, Bible study and curriculum, and programming activities such as games and songs. Call us today and tell us where you can serve at camp this summer and attend this helpful and informative training.



Summer Camp Counselor Need

Camp	Date	Male	Female
WEEK 2: June 11-15			
Beginners	June 11-13	3	THANK YOU!
Archery	June 11-15	2	THANK YOU!
WEEK 3: June 18-24			
Seekers	June 18-23	4	2
Finders	June 18-23	4	4
Survivor	June 18-24	2	1
WEEK 3: June 25-July 1			
Eco Adventure	June 25- 30	1	1
WEEK 4: July 2-8			
Seekers	July 2-7	3	2
Finders	July 2-7	3	1
WEEK 5: July 9-15			
Seekers	July 9-14	3	1
Splash Camp	July 9-14	1	1
Followers	July 9-14	1 (Age 21+)	THANK YOU!
Culinary	July 11-15	THANK YOU!	1
Creative Arts	July 9-14	1	1
WEEK 6: July 23-29			
Dadirri	July 23-29	1 (Age 25+)	1 (Age 25+)