

Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director



CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

Mackabilia

Camp Alexander Mack
PO Box 158
1113 E Camp Mack Rd
Milford, IN 46542

574.658.4831

info@campmack.org

Summer camp is in full swing, and the voices of happy campers fill the air. The face and the focus of Camp Mack has always been the summer camp program, and that is as it should be. The visionaries who created our beautiful site on Lake Waubee dreamed of a summer camping program to help develop leaders among the youth of the Church of the Brethren. It is also appropriate because the summer camp program serves such a high number of children and adults.

We also connect people with God in a number of other ways too. Camp Mack provides retreat experiences for many groups over the course of a year, and over and over, we hear the comments about how people have appreciated the hospitality, the beauty of our site, and the opportunity to “let go” of the world outside.

As a youth at Lincolnshire in Fort Wayne, I have very fond memories of winter retreats in Ulrich House. I remember having incredible experiences led by the pastors or other leaders of the church, and they were faith-forming. We also had a lot of fun, and our youth group came together in ways that wouldn’t have been possible without the retreat environment.

Our facilities and our program staff are available for a wide variety of retreats. We can work with your group on leadership, team-building, faith formation, and many other positive development possibilities.

Many times I hear folks tell me that they would have church retreats, but they are too expensive. I know the cost seems high sometimes, but for what participants receive, the cost is quite reasonable. Think about what it would mean for your group to get away for a Friday evening through Sunday morning adventure, learning about God, God’s plans for your group, and bonding together through service and play. That kind of experience is priceless.

The cost for retreats at Camp Mack for two nights and five meals is far lower than the cost of two nights in a rented lodge elsewhere with restaurant or catered food, and they don’t have the number of programs we can offer. Please consider whether or not it is time to start planning a retreat for your group in the coming year. If it is, you can start saving now. Let your mission trip be you, so you are ready to fulfill God’s call in the best way possible!

Gene Hollenberg
Executive Director

Be Our Guest

On this first day of summer, it is a beautiful day at Camp Mack. It has been a great start for the 2017 summer camping season. Since June 1st we have already had 7 counties of 4-H camps with us with over 320 campers and leaders. We have had the South Central Women's Camp enjoy 3 great days with us. We also hosted the Episcopal Junior and Junior High camp. What a great time they seemed to have. The stage of Quinter-Miller was transformed with their theme of "Tree of life" and even included a tree house.



We have had one Sampler Camp, a Beginner Camp, Archery Camp and this last week Seekers and Finders and Survivors with campers from 1st to 9th grade. Our first Grandparent and grandchild camp of the year has also been completed. We hope that many memories have been made along with new friends and a closer walk with God.

Last week, besides the Church of the Brethren Campers mentioned above we had Deaf Camp with us. There were about 115 campers and leaders in that group. They enjoyed days packed with adventure of all sorts of programming that keep our staff very busy.

We hosted the New Paris High School class of '62 last weekend and a 60th wedding anniversary meal. We had the Goshen City Church worship here with baptism and lunch and then we hosted the Columbia City COB worship and meal. The Living Love church from Peoria enjoyed several days with us recently as well.

The month of June ends with our Eco-adventure camp and the Church of God Family camp who will once again transform the Quinter-Miller Auditorium into a great place of worship and family time. I wanted to share these June activities to let you know that Camp Mack is alive and well and ministry is happening in many ways with many people at this sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Camp Mack as hundreds of campers and leaders come through the arch to the smell of the pines and a glimpse of beautiful Lake Waubee, and know that they are once again in a place to experience creation and build Christian Community.

Mike Kauffman
Guest Services Director

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
- ♦ Groups to help with the residing project for Ulrich House
- ♦ 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, 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. We already have donations of antique Persian rugs, an antique marble-top bureau, and a number of other items! 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

Facility Notes— Updates and Volunteer Need!

Here we are in the fourth week of summer camp. We have been very busy with housekeeping and regular day to day facility repairs. I am blessed with a great staff that is committed to creating this Sanctuary where people connect with God. Pat and Brad do a fine job with housekeeping. Travis and Andrew (our volunteer who comes each summer) take care of the day to day repairs and Ray, another volunteer who comes back each summer, runs errands and keeps the grass mowed. In addition to these folk we get a few summer staff each day to fill the gaps. I had hoped to be farther along on the Ulrich project this summer but have had just too many daily repairs. We could use some volunteer groups to help with that. We had a scare a week ago with the Wampler septic system. It failed one evening. Turns out we just needed to pump out the tank and clean out the distribution box. Things are flowing once again at Wampler! The sound of johns flushing can be such a good sound!! This does lift up the issue that is facing us on the west side of Camp. We have four old septic systems that are grandfathered in but cannot be repaired because they don't meet the newer standards. When one of these systems really fails, we are faced with a very expensive problem. Another issue we face this summer that I have not faced before is we are running out of split wood. In the past we have had plenty of work groups to split wood in the fall. If you are a part of a small group and are looking for some volunteer opportunities, we have a nice splitter and plenty of wood to split.

I want to close with thoughts of camp. We have Church of God family camp here this week. They have been coming to camp for many years. We have become close friends with a lot of them. They feel a lot of ownership of camp. They provide a work weekend prior to their camp each year to help improve our facility. It is wonderful to see all the young families and their children this week enjoy this facility. We are truly living out our mission statement that Camp Mack "is a Sanctuary where people connect with God".

Bless you all,
Galen Jay
Facility Director





SUMMER BUCKET LIST

Summer gives you a perfect opportunity to explore nature and the earth above and below you. Here are a couple suggestions for your summer bucket list to get you outside and exploring. Don't forget sun protection and your bug spray.



- Cloud Shapes: Lie back and imagine all the things you see in the clouds.
- Stargazing: Find an open field on a clear night and check out the stars. Watch for satellites, meteors, and the International Space Station.
- Mud pies and Mud Puddles: Splash away after a summer rain. Jump in the puddles and then make mud pies.
- Make S'mores: What is your favorite recipe? Hershey Bar or Reese's Cup? Graham Cracker or Fudge Stripe Cookie? Marshmallows or Peeps leftover from Easter?
- Go outside at night and watch the fireflies light up.
- Grow food in a garden or pot. Don't have tons of patience to wait? Plant radishes, they go from seed to harvest in less than 4 weeks!
- Plant a flower garden with native plants and see what pollinators come to visit.
- Pick black raspberries, mulberries, strawberries, or blueberries? Eat your fill while picking and then make something yummy when you get home.

I hope you enjoy the days of summer. Adventure and exploration are around every corner. What will you learn and experience this summer while having fun outdoors?

Jessie Kreider,
Program Director

THANK YOU!!!



We really want to thank the folks and churches who stepped in to help us remove a couple of items from our wish list. We received 28 fans for our lodge rooms and cabins! They arrived just in time for high heat and humidity.

We also received several throws, lap quilts, and blankets for us to use in our lodges for fall and winter groups.

Camp Mack is blessed to have so many enthusiastic and willing folks who help us meet the needs of our guests. Take a look at this month's wish list. You may find something there that interests you!

Notes from the Camp Mack Kitchen... I love brown sugar!

With summer camp in full swing the kitchen is a sweet place to be. I try not to think about how much sugar goes through this kitchen in a week's time but it's important to keep campers and our staff happy.

One of our many types of sugar is brown sugar which is a sucrose sugar product having a distinctive brown color from 4.5% molasses. This sugar is usually labeled as soft which is why we need to measure brown sugar by packing it in our measuring cups. Brown sugar adds flavor to recipes and can be substituted for maple sugar or vice versa. Brown sugar has a slightly lower caloric value by mass than white sugar due to the presence of water.



One of my favorite no bake cookies that is not on our summer menu because of the peanut butter:

Peanut Butter Cornflake Cookies **Prep time: 15 minutes**

1 cup brown sugar
1 cup light corn syrup or honey
1 cup peanut butter
1 teaspoon Vanilla extract
6 cups cornflakes

Instructions:

- 1, In a large saucepan, combine the brown sugar, corn syrup, and peanut butter. Cook over medium heat until the center starts to boil, make sure to stir constantly so sugar doesn't burn.
2. As soon as the sugar mixture comes to a boil, remove from the heat and stir in vanilla and the cornflakes and mix until evenly coated.
3. Use an ice cream scoop to drop onto wax paper as quickly as possible before the mixture starts to cool and harden.
4. Let cool on wax paper for 20- 30 minutes before serving.

Enjoy!

Please note: The reason I use brown sugar instead of white sugar it helps keep the cookies a little bit softer.

Recipe by Wanda Gall
Food Service Manager



COOKIE BAKING DAY

Come join the cookie crew at Camp Mack on Tuesday, July 11. The baking begins at 9 am. Need volunteers to stir, scoop, and sample. Please wear closed toed shoes in the kitchen!
Call 574-658-4831 to volunteer.

Build a Drum Workshop

Build a Drum Workshop

Djembes, Ashikos, and Native Frame Drums are all a part of our annual Build a Drum Workshop and Kids Day. Join expert drum maker, “Stan the Drum Man,” and use your creative skills to make your own unique drum. These are high quality drums that are made and designed by you and will bring you many years of enjoyment. At Kids’ Day, kids will decorate and assemble their own youth Ashiko drum. **All drums must be ordered and paid for by September 28. Spread the word to friends, family, and drum circles in your community!**

Date: October 27-29, 7p Friday- 5p Sunday.

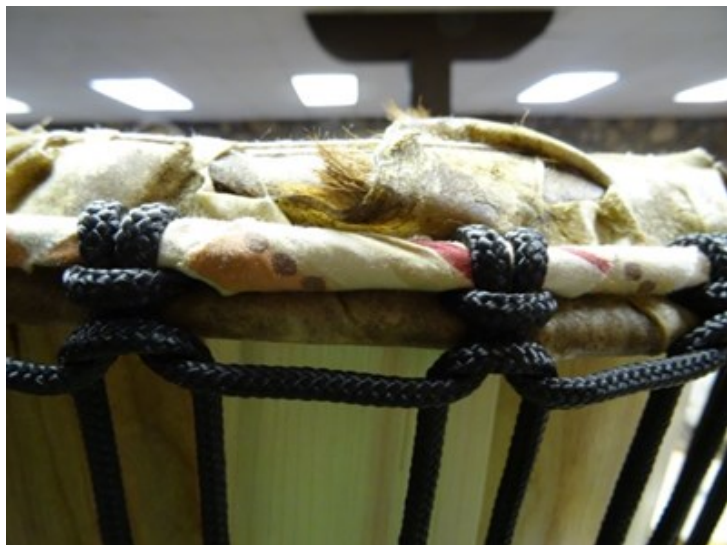
Kids’ Day, Saturday, October 28, 9a-3p.



Fee: \$112 per person for full workshop (2 nights/5 meals) plus cost of drum. Day rate available. Kids’ Day, \$40 for adult and child plus cost of drum



**If you have drums of your own that need to be reheaded, contact us to order skins and bring your drums to the workshop.*



Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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

- August 20** **Prairie Flower Walk:** Bring a snack to share for this free summer tradition. We will meet in front of the John Kline Welcome Center and spend a leisurely couple of hours enjoying the beauty of God's creation in our natural prairie. **2:00 pm—4:00 pm.**
- August 26** **Sailing 101:** Have you ever wanted to learn to sail? Were you once a sailor, but you have forgotten how? Sailing 101 is your chance to learn how to rig one of our sailboats and master the winds on Lake Waubee! Experienced sailors will help you have a wonderful day of learning and fun. The cost is \$15 (lunch included), and the group will meet at the Becker Beach. **9:00 am—4:00 pm.**

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

Don't Miss This!

Mike Kauffman's Retirement Open House

When: August 27, 2017

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm, with a short program at 3:30 pm

Where: Camp Mack's Kate Warstler Dining Room

Mike has given 38 years of service and ministry to Camp Mack. We would like to send him into his retirement with the best of wishes from the many people whose lives he has touched. Our wish is to collect written memories and pictures of his years at camp. Please send your thoughts or pictures to debra@campmack.org soon!

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

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| July 21-29 | Elkhart County Fair– come see our booth |
| Aug 12 | Golf Outing |
| Aug 18-20 | Colony Camp |
| Aug 27 | Mike Kauffman Retirement Celebration |
| Sept 1-4 | Labor Day Family Camp |

Beautiful!

For the folks who have visited us since April, you've seen the new signs that help our guests and make the John Kline Welcome Center more inviting.

That's not the only improvement to the front of John Kline. If you haven't taken time to look at the landscaping, you really should! **It...is...beautiful!**

Wayne and Kay Vardaman from the Pleasant Dale Congregation have been driving up to camp from Decatur, IN for years to volunteer. In the last couple of summers, they have focused on the landscaping for JKWC. The fruit of their labors is incredible to see (This picture isn't even close.)



Come and see, in person, the continuing work of our master gardener volunteers.

Annual Golf Outing

The Annual Golf Outing will be held at McCormick's Creek Golf Course in Nappanee on August 12th. We have had a long tradition of fun, friendly challenge, and great stories at this fundraiser for camp scholarships.

Registration begins at 8:00 and the first group will tee off at 8:30. Greens fees, cart, lunch, and prizes are included with your \$75.00 entry fee. Join us for good golf, great fun, and the chance to raise funds for an important cause. You can find a registration form at: <http://campmack.org/supporting>



Camp Board News:

We Need Your Voice!

A violin is a beautiful instrument, and when it plays the music can bring great joy and emotion. But actually, that could be said about all of the instruments of the orchestra. The other strings, the brass, the woodwinds, and the percussion can be beautiful and move people to great emotion all by themselves, but when they are combined, the depth and movement of the instruments together provide a full experience and expression of the composer.

Just as the individual voices of the orchestra are needed to complete the symphony, so do we need to hear all the voices of you, who are the people who make Camp Mack what it is.

A lot has been accomplished in the past year, and for that we celebrate, but much more needs to be done. We want to hear from you about your hopes and dreams for Camp in the next ninety years. So we can talk to as many people as possible, we have scheduled two listening sessions in July.

On July 11th, at 7:00 pm at the John Kline Welcome Center at Camp Mack, and on July 12th at 7:00 pm at the Kokomo Church of the Brethren (311 W. Lincoln Rd., Kokomo, IN), members of the camp staff and board will partner with Design Group International to have a conversation about the future of Camp Mack.

Please come to one of these sessions to help us hear all of your voices. The orchestra is not complete without you.

For more information, call 574-658-4831 or email us at info@campmack.org.

