

Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 (NRSV)

Our camp registration opened on February 18th. It is exciting as we think about each child already set to spend part of their summer here at Camp Mack.

The commandment from Deuteronomy is fairly clear. Not only are we to focus on God who creates and loves us, but we are also to take responsibility for teaching that to our children. The kind of Christian community we build here at Camp Mack is focused on love for God, and expressing that love with one another. When children come to camp, not only do they learn about God's love as shown in the life of Jesus, but they see how to love God through the way they live. Perhaps even more importantly, they see that there are people around them who also love God.

For over a year we have been challenging churches and individuals to share the gift of Camp Mack with children who need to find God's love. To those who have already responded to that call, you have shared a great blessing. There are children in every community who need the experience of camp; who need the experience of God. You can help personally or through your church by sponsoring one or more children for a session at camp. When you do, we will follow-up with you, so you can continue to develop relationship with that child and the child's family.

Please consider how you can become an angel for children who need to experience the love of God, by sharing ministry through camp and beyond. If you would like ideas for how to get started, call me here at camp or email me at gene@campmack.org.

The future of our church, our communities, and our world is dependent on the next generation. Let us share with them in ways that fill them with the hope and peace that comes from love and focus on God.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

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

574.658.4831

info@campmack.org

Another Way of Giving

Camp Alexander Mack ■ “Planting the Future” ■

Camp Alexander Mack ■ a new ■ “Planting the Future” ■
■ to their programs and ■ “to provide a sanctuary where
people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community.”

Camp Mack is ■ focused on ■ the reach of summer
camps, ■ year-round ■ facilities, ■ resources
to the community. ■ 1,000 summer campers,
■ 60% occupancy ■
outdoor education ■

For 93 years, Camp Mack ■
■ Originally, ■ Church of the Brethren, ■
■ a regional provider of ■ with many long-
standing partnerships ■ Many of the facilities at Camp are from
the early and mid-20th century and are in need ■
■

■ writes Camp Mack Executive Director
Gene Hollenberg. ■
■

As of February 25, 2019, ■ change to

■ This includes over ■
■ Camp Mack’s governing body. The goal is ■

■
■ continued Hollenberg. ■

■ One answer to this is: Camp.”

To join ■ please visit ■ or contact Todd
■

See you at the Annual Dinner,

Todd Eastis, Development Communication Specialist

Tea

I am not a coffee drinker. I have never found a great love in drinking what is a bitter liquid to me. Only on my most sleep deprived days, the ones where I have only a few hours of sleep because the toddler at home was up every hour, will I force myself to drink a cup of coffee for the blast of energy I so desperately need. But most days you will see me walking around the kitchen, sitting in meetings, or doing orders at my desk with a giant coffee cup in tow. I love drinking tea. When it's cold out I will have more cups of hot tea than I can count throughout the day. In the heat of summer I will brew a mug of hot tea and then pour it over ice and then continue to make iced tea as needed.

My family has always had sun brewed tea at all our gatherings. My grandpa was always bringing one tea jar in as he put the second one out on the patio. I have always loved drinking iced tea; it didn't matter if it was the coldest day in winter, or the hottest day in summer. In our family, iced tea is always the go to drink (unless you are my mother who has to have her decaf coffee every morning and her Diet Coke every afternoon).

When I started working at Camp Mack on summer staff in 2006, the food service director at the time was always drinking green tea. After years of drinking plain black tea, the camp coffee and tea bar was an exciting new world to me. I probably tried every tea we had at least once that summer. Besides loving green tea, I really enjoyed the fruit teas like apple cranberry, and lemon. This past year, as I continue to make sure we always have a fun variety of teas available to our guests, I have found a new love for mint tea. I think I have been drinking mint tea almost every day this winter. It's just so refreshing and yummy.

So as the weather starts leaning towards spring time, on those chilly days feel free to grab a cup of warm tea. I am likely to be joining you in spirit with mine.

P.S. Today I am drinking Pomegranate Green Tea



Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Marsh Madness

The month of March can only mean one thing... MARSH MADNESS! If you know the things I am passionate about in nature, wetlands biology tops the list. You thought it would be birds, didn't you? Wetlands come in many forms, including but not limited to, swamps, bogs, fens, wet prairies, prairie potholes, and vernal ponds. So what attracts me to these often wet and mucky places?

Swamps, bogs, fens, and such are some of the most biologically diverse and important habitats. They filter the water, act as water storage for flood control, and are home to many endangered and threatened wildlife.

At Camp Mack, you can find me daily around some wet area at camp. There are times of contemplation and bird-watching from the wetlands boardwalk, days of walking up Hammond Ditch, listening to the Spring Peepers in the vernal ponds behind the public beach, watching the sunset over the quarry pond, and taking in the abundant diversity of the duck pond in the wilderness area. So why aren't people as excited about wetlands as me?

Mosquitos. We dread mosquitoes, and since the news tends to talk about mosquitoes and water together, we often put the two together. Not so! A healthy vibrant ecosystem is a great tool for mosquito management. Frogs, fish, dragonflies, other flora/fauna dine often on the mosquito population keeping it under control. So, as the Skunk Cabbage begins to poke up through the mud, visit your local wetlands and explore the diversity within.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



A March of Celebrations

What can you celebrate in March? There's Mardi Gras (3/5), Ash Wednesday (3/6), International Women's Day (3/8), Daylight Savings (3/10), Ides of March (3/15), St. Patrick's Day (3/17), International Earth Day (3/20), and the Spring (Vernal) Equinox (3/20).

There are some unique holidays, too, like Peanut Butter Lover's Day (3/1), World Day of Prayer (3/1), National Pi Day (3/14), National Puppy Day (3/23), Make Up Your Own Holiday Day (3/26), and Take a Walk in the Park Day (3/30). Be sure to get some pie on pi day, pet a puppy, and figure out the holiday you're going to make up this month.

On President's Day in February, registration opened at camp. Since then, we've celebrated the number of campers who have already signed up for the summer and continue to praise that. Wow, is that a blessing! Each one of the kids and adults who come to camp touch each other's lives and the lives of everyone here on staff. Every camper plays a part in making the summer what it is.

We want to have as many of you join us as possible! March 18 marks the end of early registration. Be sure to register before then in order to avoid late fees. Maybe, throw a party at your church or invite some of your friends to your house to register with you. If you have any questions while registering, there are people at the office who can help. Call us at 574-658-4831 or email us at info@campmack.org. You might have noticed some of the summer camp programs are already filling up. It's exciting to have a busy summer ahead! Do you have a camp you'd really like to attend this summer? Be sure to register soon. Also, take advantage of pre-registration! After you/your child attends camp this summer, you'll be given the opportunity to register for next year's camp. This option won't last long, so be sure to jump on it if you know that you'd like to commit to coming next summer. We're here to help you in the process, so feel free to contact us along the way if you have questions.

If you have a celebration of your own that you'd like others to share in, contact us. We'd be happy to share in the joy of a new baby, an upcoming wedding, a grand birthday, a new job, a healthy diagnosis, or anything else that is sparking meaning and happiness in your life. We believe each of you are special children of God, and we wish you many blessings now and always.

Whatever you choose to celebrate, may you be surrounded by loved ones and God's presence. Blessings to you from your Camp Mack family!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Sunny Camp Mack

Volunteer Work Days

On March 11-13 and April 1-3 we are having Volunteer work days here at Camp. I thought I would take a little bit of time to explain what we might do during this time. At the top of our list is to work in the wilderness area if the weather is reasonable. This past year we had a grant from NRCS to control the invasive species in the woodland and the wildland next to it. We have hired a professional forester to guide us in this project. Last fall they brought in a skid loader with a grinder mounted on the front of it and ground up the bush honeysuckle on five acres just west of the main drive. This really opened up the area and we need to do a little clean up. We would identify the paths we want to keep and clear them. We need to take down a few dead ash trees and probably make firewood out of them. We have a butterfly garden that needs cleaned up. We also have a new front entrance to the area in mind and need to clear some brush and small trees out of that area. I will bring the skid loader back and we will need some chainsaws, but mostly we just need hands to drag dead brush to piles. The skid loader made an incredible difference last fall and now we want to work with Mother Nature to restore this area to a more natural and native area for our kids to come and become a part of.

If you would prefer an inside task we have some work in the JKWC to do. We need windows cleaned, walls washed and our chairs cleaned. We also need to clean the walls in the basement of SM and wash the chairs in the basement of Ulrich. The office staff also has a few tasks ranging from putting stamps and labels on postcards to pricing and attaching ribbons to our new stuffed animals for the Camp Mack store.

These work days are usually a fun time to get together and accomplish some work here at Camp to help create the sanctuary where people connect with God. Come join us in our ministry here. We will provide the meals and housing. Come for one day or all three.



Thanks

Galen Jay, Facility Director

Now Hiring!



Apply now for summer staff at Camp Mack. Spend a summer living in community. You will work in the areas of housekeeping, kitchen, and facility as well as opportunities in program areas that include lifeguarding, belaying at the climbing tower, leading night hikes, recreation, campfires, crafts, and more. Benefits include on site housing, camp meals, training, and college scholarship. Apply now for a summer you won't soon forget.

Applications are available at www.campmack.org/employment or stop by the camp office.

Camp Mack Wish List

We are now recruiting team leaders, counselors, counselors in training, and summer healthcare personal.

Team Leader needs:

Finders Camp— June 9-14: 2 leaders

Followers Camp— July 7-12: 1 leaders

All other volunteer needs are at campmack.org/volunteer-opportunities. Please contact Jessica Kreider at jessk@campmack.org if you are interested in joining!



Camp	Date	Counselor Male	Counselor Female	CIT Male	CIT Female
Week 1: June 5-7					
Samplers	June 5-7	4	4	4	4
Week 2: June 9-14					
Beginners	June 9-11	2	4	4	4
Archery	June 9-13	2	2	n/a	n/a
Seekers	June 9-14	4	4	3	3
Finders	June 9-14	5	5	5	5
Week 3: June 16-22					
Dadirri	June 16-22	1	1	n/a	n/a
Week 4: June 23-28					
Eco Adventure	June 23-28	2	2	1	1
Week 5: June 30- July 6					
Seekers	June 30- July 5	3	3	4	4
Week 6: July 7-12					
Samplers	July 7-9	2	3	4	4
Followers	July 7-12	3	6	n/a	n/a
Splash	July 7-12	THANK YOU!	THANK YOU!	n/a	n/a
Samplers	July 10-12	3	4	3	4
Week 7: July 14-19					
Seekers	July 14-19	5	5	4	5
Finders	July 14-19	3	3	2	4
Creative Arts	July 14-19	1	2	n/a	n/a
Culinary	July 14-19	1	2	n/a	n/a
Week 8: July 21-27					
Survivor	July 21-27	4	2	apprentice	apprentice

PEACE WORKS

Empowering Peacemakers

SUMMER CAMP 2019

Samplers	June 5-7	Samplers	July 7-9
Beginners	June 9-11	Followers	July 7-12
Archery	June 9-13	Splash	July 7-12
Seekers	June 9-14	Samplers	July 10-12
Finders	June 9-14	Seekers	July 14-19
Grand Camp	June 13-15	Finders	July 14-19
Dadirri	June 16-22	Creative Arts	July 14-19
Eco Adventure	June 23-28	Culinary	July 14-19 Full
Seekers	June 30-July 5	Survivor	July 21-27
Youth	June 30- July 6	Grand Camp	July 28-30

Register by March 18 to avoid late fees



Please Pray With Us

God has truly blessed us here at Camp Mack! As we begin the work of another summer camp program and we plan for the future growth and health of this ministry, we are in need of the greatest support you can give us. On Thursday, March 14, we are asking for you to take time to pray for this ministry. Philippians 4:6 tells us to thankfully ask God to support us in all things, so we do not need to be anxious.



At this time, we are asking for:

- Strong and courageous summer staff and volunteers
- Deep presence of the Holy Spirit throughout our camps
- Resilience and stamina as we serve our guests in the way Jesus taught us
- Wisdom as we ask our church families to join us in preparing for the decades ahead
- Submission to God's will for our ministry
- Peace and love poured out over all with whom we come in contact

The Spirit may lead you in other prayers, and they may be the most important.

The staff will take time at 2:00 on that afternoon to pray together and individually. We invite you to pray at that time or any other on that day.

The power of prayer is our strength. Please pray with us!

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

March 8	Annual Dinner	April 1-3	Volunteer Work Days
March 8-9	FLYE Weekend	April 24-28	Quilt Retreat
March 11-13	Volunteer Work Days	April 30-May 1	Pastor's Sabbath
March 23-24	Mother Daughter Retreat		

Annual Dinner: Planting the Future

The annual dinner is a special occasion in our spring schedule. The kitchen staff creates memorable Hors d'oeuvres and meals to share with our wonderful friends. One of the highlights of the evening is the opportunity to hear the stories of our ministry and its impact on so many children and adults. This year we will kick off our new initiative to grow our ministry: ***Planting the Future***.

This fundraiser provides support for special projects and operations. The cost is a 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 to reserve your table now. We invite you to join us on Friday, March 8.



Hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:15p. Dinner begins at 7p.

Exciting things are happening at Camp Mack!

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 8-9. 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 11– Wednesday, March 13. and April 1 – 3 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

Revisit the days of Laura, Mary, Carrie, and Grace with a “Little House” weekend. Baking, sewing, games, and primitive activities will fill the weekend. March 23 —24. 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday. \$42 per child ages 5-8, \$78 per person age 9 through adult.

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. April 24-28, 6p Wednesday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$122 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$137 for Friday morning arrival, \$166 for Thursday evening early arrival, and \$190 for Wednesday evening early arrival.



Pastor's Sabbath

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 Chris Bowman. April 30 –May 1. Cost: \$20 (Includes CEUs for the event, meals, and lodging). Please encourage your pastor(s) to attend.

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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



April 27—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 27—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, atlatls and darts, or throwing rocks at hanging pots and pans. No experience needed. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (Lunch included)



April 28—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)