

# Camp Alexander Mack

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# MACKABILIA



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## News from the Director

### Preserving a Favorite

Can you guess which Camp Mack photographs are the most liked when we post them on Facebook? A lot of folks would probably answer: nature photos by Jessie (including those beautiful sunsets). Well these are popular, but not at the top. Some might say that they are the closeups of smiling children enjoying camp activities. Well, these are popular too, but they aren't the winner either.

The most popular photographs are the ones of Shultz Chapel. Over the years, there have been many beautiful pictures that capture the color of the stained glass windows, the play of light through the open lake view, and earthen splendor of the fieldstone walls and primitive benches.

As a counselor and team leader for summer camps, I was grateful when Shultz Chapel was assigned to the camp with which I was working. I remember many inspiring morning watches and vespers there. I also remember times when I found myself deeply moved as I prayed quietly away from others - focused on God.

For those who have been to camp in recent years, you know that there has been a lot of work on the chapel. Stonework was repaired two years ago; flashing has been replaced; windows were fixed; leaks were patched; and benches have been rebuilt. But one of the most obvious concerns was the roof.

Earlier this year, an anonymous donor gave us the funds to complete a new roof. Just last week, the roofing contractor removed the old roof, put on the new sheathing, and stapled on the protective layer. By the time this newsletter comes out, the new steel roof should be on and providing a new and durable look for years to come.

This one project is inspiring to all of us because we know how important Shultz Chapel is to the experience of Camp Mack. But it is only one of the many projects completed because our community is making it all possible. Recently, we received a large donation from the Manchester Church of the Brethren that will allow us to complete the upper roof on Sarah Major. Other gifts, from both individuals and congregations, have allowed for replacing windows, finishing other roofs, installing new and more efficient HVAC and water heating systems, and many needed repairs to make Camp Mack a more comfortable and welcoming place.

Thank you. This ministry counts on your faithfulness. As Paul stated in his letter to the Philippians: *I thank my God every time I remember you.*

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



## Nature Nut News

### Invasive Species



Bradford Pear, Garlic Mustard, Japanese Barberry, Bush Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, Tree of Heaven, Privet, Purple Loosestrife, Burning Bush, and Common Reed are all plants that make me grimace when I see them. They are all invasive species of plants.

What makes a plant invasive? An invasive plant is a non native plant that when established can cause economic and environmental harm. They out compete for the resources native plants need to survive. At camp, we have a lot of them on our property, and maintenance of them is needed to maintain a healthy environment for our wildlife and diverse ecosystems.

Controlling the spread takes time and money, mostly a lot of time.

This last week I participated in a Weed Wrangle at Winona Lake with KWWIP (Kosciusko Water and Woodland Invasive Partnership) where we worked at removing honeysuckle, autumn olive, burning bush, and barberry primarily. Other than the pain of running into a barberry plant, they also create a microclimate that black legged ticks love. In the past year I have also done garlic mustard removals on ACRES properties and Siberian Elm removal at Baintertown, as well as continued work here at Camp Mack. So, what can you do to help?

Volunteer. Help with invasives removal at camp. Bring a group to work at prairie restoration, pulling garlic mustard, or doing trail maintenance. Use it for service hours for clubs, scouting projects, IMN (Indiana Master Naturalist hours), or just enjoy helping out camp. Plant native. When you work at landscaping, choose native, non-aggressive plants. If buying from a store, check the Latin names, as many times the genus and species can make a big difference even though many species may go by a common name.

I could write a book on invasive species at camp, but I will keep it to this short introduction. Thank you for doing your part to support healthy wildlife and ecosystems.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



## Sunny Camp Mack

### It's Coming!

It is a warm, wet, spring day here at Camp. The earth smells good. We have had several days with the temperature in the mid 60's, and we all start thinking about all the things that need to be done before camp begins. But, there are a lot of things happening right now. This winter we received a memorial gift for the Shultz Chapel roof, which finished off that fund. These past couple of days, Mast Construction, who built the health center, took the existing roof off and repaired some water damaged sheeting. Now we are ready for the new brown metal roof. A company out of Nappanee will be out today, and they will turn a roll of brown metal into sheets of roofing. It's an interesting process to watch. This is a roof that has needed to be replaced for the last several years, and it feels really good to get it done. The Sarah Major roof is the next one on the roofs needing repairs list. Funding for that is at about eighty percent, and we hope to do it yet this spring.

The Hamer Health Center is coming right along. Mast Construction is down to putting the finishing touches on it. A little plumbing, some electric work, and a couple of short sidewalks and we will be there. We are doing the painting of the trim inside. That takes a great deal of patience and skill to do. If any of you like that type of painting, come on down and we can put you to work.

The solar project continues. We shut down power to camp last week and R.E.S. connected their disconnect panel to the transformer on the east end of the John Kline Welcome Center. The solar panels are all on the auditorium, and they are pulling wire for the roof of the John Kline Welcome Center. Hopefully we will be producing power soon.

I want to thank all those folks who came for the March Volunteer Work Days. We had a very good turnout for the March event. We had several homeschool kids and their moms along with some of our frequent returners. We had two great weather days, and a lot of work was done. I cannot begin to express the gratitude the facility crew feels for having some of the spring work burden lifted. We have work days scheduled for the week right after Easter in April. If you have some time and would like to help improve this "sanctuary" place, then come on over and we will have a great time fixing stuff for summer camp.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



## Be Our Guest

### Let's Party

Last weekend, my mom and I threw such a fun baby shower for my sister who is due at the beginning of May. While we wait with alacrity for the little guy to join us, we prepare, like buying baby wipes and adorable little clothes (my sister is especially fond of baby socks). A small group of family and friends gathered in the fellowship hall at our church in a big rectangle of tables for the party, wearing masks while not eating and thankful that some were vaccinated. It was a true blessing to be there, and the long hours decorating cookies, arranging the details, and setting everything up was worth it.

We've hosted some fun parties of our own at camp and have had people rent out space for parties, as well. It's always a joy to see people gathered and enjoying time together at camp. We've had a mother daughter banquet put on by a nearby church, birthday parties, picnics, and more. The dining room is a popular place for such events and provides a flexible area for setup and meals, but there are several other options with the lodges, pavilions, and other spaces at camp.

Camp is a little farther away for some of our family to travel to, otherwise it would have been a great place to host the shower. With a wonderful facility crew to set up tables and chairs and a kitchen staff who creates delicious food, you can't go wrong. If you are in need of a venue for your next event, please contact us to set something up! Whether camp is nearby and convenient or you'd like to travel a bit for a get-a-way with your family and friends, check out what camp has to offer. I give tours, too, if you'd like to check out the space with your planning team.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



# Another Way of Giving

## A Different Perspective

Take a blank sheet of paper and draw a map of Camp Mack. Don't take too long, but try and include all the buildings.

What was the first thing you drew? Lake Waubee? John Kline Welcome Center? Ulrich House? Did you include Becker Lodge? Or other buildings that are no longer standing? Where is the arch in your picture? At the top? At the bottom? Did you include all the staff housing? The living cross trail? The wilderness area?

So many of the maps we draw are based on our memories and perspective. Many of us remember Camp not as it currently is, but how it was in our fondest memories. If your memories are playing four square in the entrance of Becker Lodge, I'm guessing that is where your map started.

It is always helpful to take time to explore a different perspective, it helps us see and appreciate new things. Especially for a place as historic as Camp Mack. With so many new projects, things might feel unfamiliar, but Camp Mack has always been changing and will always continue to change.

Below are two pictures of Camp's property from different perspectives. First is Google Earth showing all the property from the wilderness area to the living cross trail. The other shot is becoming one of my favorite pictures of camp, a shot from a drone (not mine) facing south.

Take out a second sheet of paper and draw a new map. What did you add, subtract, or change? What are your insights from a different perspective?

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



## Kitchen News

### Italian Sausage

I love making meat sauce to eat over spaghetti noodles. It's one of my all time favorite comfort foods, and it's a quick go-to in our house. When camp had some ground pork donated to the kitchen, I realized it would be a great addition to Dave's spaghetti sauce. But I wanted the pork to have that Italian sausage flavor, so I went looking online for a good recipe, and I found a great one! I feel like it contains every seasoning you could possibly put into one dish, but it tastes SO GOOD! I used this seasoning recipe with our ground beef and pork mixture in the take-and-bake lasagnas we have made. Yum! Feel free to try it out yourself.

3 pounds ground meat (pork, turkey, beef, chicken, venison, or any combination of these)  
3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar  
1 tablespoon sea salt  
1 tablespoon freshly ground pepper  
1 1/4 tablespoon dried parsley  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
1 tablespoon dried basil  
2 teaspoons smoked paprika  
1 teaspoon fennel seeds  
1/8 teaspoon dried oregano  
1/8 teaspoon dried thyme (whole, not ground)  
1/8 teaspoon tarragon  
1/8 teaspoon marjoram

Combine all ingredients.

\*If you would like your sausage to have a little kick, you can add 2-3 tsp red pepper flakes.

\*\*You can either cook your meat, then add the seasonings (which is what I do), or you can add your seasoning into your raw meat and then cook it.

\*\*\*This would also make a great meatball recipe.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



## Education Station

### Outdoor Education Comes to You!

With many schools still avoiding field trips due to the pandemic, we here at Camp Mack are working on ways that we can bring outdoor education curriculum to the schools! We are excited that we will be going to two elementary schools in Goshen this spring to bring a piece of Camp Mack to the kids there. We plan to play games, cook food over a fire, learn about a few science topics, practice some archery skills, and spend a day out under the sun helping them get to know each other and appreciate nature more. While I'm sure it won't be the same as having the kids experience camp here onsite, I'm glad that we'll be able to minister to them and give them a taste of what camp is like. We even plan to make popcorn in the kettle and sing some silly camp songs!



If you know any teachers who might want us to bring a bit of camp to their school, please let them know about us and tell them to send me an email! We still have many days available in May for our staff to be the ones to go on a field trip or two.



We hope that schools will be able to come to us soon (especially since we have a very cool new high ropes course we'd love for people to check out), but we're happy to be able to forge new relationships with schools in our region in whatever ways we can. Thank you for telling your friends and neighbors about Camp Mack and all we have to offer!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator



# Diversity Report

Our focus for the time being is on hiring. We have reached out to some organizations who may be able to help us connect with people of color we can add to our camp staff. Additionally, we are looking into ways we can organize and develop our staff training to be more inclusive and promote racial connection and understanding.

This is a long and slow process. In many ways, there are so many institutional barriers to providing more diversity at camp that it seems almost impossible. Yet, we understand that if we begin working at the pieces over which we have control, we can move in the right direction.



We can't control that we are a denomination that is primarily white in the State of Indiana. We can't control that there are only a few congregations connected to organizations that work with children of color.

We can control our employment recruiting, and we can reach out to the congregations in urban areas that have relationships with local organizations. This is our emphasis now as we prepare for summer camp.



Thank you for continuing to hold us in prayer as we seek to find God's will.

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

### April 24—Nature Photography

Discover the beauty of nature, study your subject, and gain new perspective as you learn more on how to frame and use the settings on your device.

A.M: focus on using your camera; P.M.: focus on smart phone camera use. Saturday from 9a to 4p. Meet at the John Kline Welcome Center. Cost: \$25 full day; \$20 half day (lunch included with both). Come dressed for the weather.



### April 24—Target Sports

Improve your aim and accuracy with a day of target sports. Let it fly, whether it be with a bow and arrow, slingshot and paintballs, or throwing atlatl darts through a hoop. No experience needed. Saturday from 9a to 3p. Meet outside of Wampler Retreat Center. Cost: \$25 (lunch included). Come dressed for the weather.



### April 25—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 from 2 to 4p. Meet outside of Wampler Retreat Center. Cost: FREE! (Bring a snack to share.) Come dressed for the weather.



**Please register for Get-A-Way Days at least a week in advance. We need to have enough food for you (lunch or snacks for full day events), and so our leaders can be prepared. Thank you!**

## Upcoming Events

All events will adhere to state and local guidelines and are subject to change accordingly. Before participating, please be considerate of other people's health by assessing your own. Thank you.



### **April 5–7—Volunteer Work Days**

Volunteers will work with Camp Mack's staff as we make preparations for the summer season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No charge. Come for part or all of these days. Meals and lodging are available—contact Camp's office for reservations.

### **April 14–18—Spring 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. 6p Wednesday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$140 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$150 for Friday morning arrival, \$186 for Thursday arrival, and \$211 for Wednesday arrival.

The fee includes housing and scheduled meals. **There are only a few open spots left!** The maximum for this retreat in 2021 is 24 registrants. Each registrant will have their own table.



### **April 29 to May 1—Birdwatchers' 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. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All ages are welcome. Cost: \$140 for 2 nights and 5 meals, or \$90 for 1 night and 2 meals. 6:30p Thursday to 2p Saturday.



### **May 2—5K Run/Walk**

A decision about the 5K will be made in mid-April. Keep an eye out!

### **Save the Date:**

- Seasoned Citizens Retreat, May 10-13

**Plan now for these upcoming events!**

**For more info, check out [campmack.org](http://campmack.org) or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831. Click "Register Online" at the top of the page at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org).**

## **Now Hiring!**

**Help Others  
Reach New Heights**

Now Hiring:  
Program/Facility  
Cabin Counselor  
Food Service  
Camp Nurse

Learn More at:  
[campmack.org/employment](http://campmack.org/employment)

**CREATION SPEAKS  
Summer Camp 2021  
CAMP ALEXANDER MACK**

**Week 1 June 27—July 3**  
Youth Camp

**Week 2 July 4—9**  
Beginners/Samplers July 4—6 and July 7—9  
Seekers  
Survivor (July 4—10)

**Week 3 July 11—16**  
Seekers  
Finders

**Week 4 July 18—23**  
Followers  
Culinary Camp **MALE FULL**  
Archery Camp

**Week 5 July 25—30**  
Finders  
CIT (Counselor in Training)  
Splash Camp **FULL**

## Sponsor a Summer Staffer at Camp Mack



**SPONSOR A SUMMER STAFFER**

**CABIN COUNSELOR  
\$1,400**

**FOOD SERVICE  
PROGRAM / FACILITY  
\$2,800**

**SPARK A SUMMER OF GROWTH, INSPIRATION, AND LIFE CHANGING MEMORIES. YOUR DONATION COVERS THEIR SALARY, FOOD, AND THE OTHER COSTS OF EMPLOYMENT. YOU CAN BE A DIFFERENCE BY SPONSORING A SUMMER STAFFER CONTACT [TODD@CAMPMACK.ORG](mailto:TODD@CAMPMACK.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## COVID-19 Response

Much of the news about COVID-19 lately has been relatively good. Most of our counties have maintained reasonable levels of infection, and vaccinations are now available for all Indiana citizens ages 16 and older. We continue to monitor recommendations from our local and state health departments and the CDC. In addition, we consult the recommendations of the American Camp Association, our accrediting organization.

As things change, we evaluate our protocols regularly. At this time, we are still following the recommendations we were using in January, since vaccinations for children will probably not be available until after the summer. If changes occur, we will notify all registrants and publicize those changes to the larger community. They will also be updated on our website: [campmack.org](http://campmack.org).

It is important for us to remember that our first goal is to protect campers and their families. Our second goal is to provide the best possible camp experience, combining fun, faith, and fellowship.

For now, we can expect Camp Mack 2021 will include:

- Hired summer counselors to limit outside exposure
- Activities scheduled in small groups who will remain together for most of camp
- Adjustments to community activities such as campfires and worship that honor the purpose of the activities as well as safety recommendations
- Emphasis on outdoor activities
- Changes to mealtime routines
- Mask usage for staff and campers in indoor spaces and when in close contact
- Cabin and sleeping areas limited to only individuals who are assigned to those spaces.



There will be a different screening and sign-in/drop-off procedure this summer. It will be communicated to parents of campers registered. If you have any questions, please contact our camp office or email us at [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).

## Camp Mack's 2021 Wish List

It is exciting to see the many improvements we have made through the last year. We hope you can stop by to see them soon. Better yet, look for a program that fits your interests and join us!

Each year, we put together a list of facility repairs and maintenance we have prioritized. Ideally, we hope to accomplish all of them; however, without help from others, we don't have the resources to get them all done.

This is the list of projects we have prioritized for 2021. If you see a project that interests you, please contact Galen (galen@campmack.org) and Todd (todd@campmack.org) to see how you can become involved. These are all projects that an individual, church, or community or partner group could assist with financial support and/or volunteer labor. There is a lot here, but with faith, together we can accomplish great things.

Here is the 2021 updated list:

- Replace the upper roof on Sarah Major Lodge—partially funded
- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the roof on Shultz Chapel—fully funded (individual donors)
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence—fully funded (individual donor)
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge—learn more at <http://www.campmack.org/123>
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge—learn more at <http://www.campmack.org/123>
- Replace the HVAC in Wampler Retreat Center
- Repair the electrical system in the East Stone restroom
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center—in progress
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands—partially funded, learn more at <http://www.campmack.org/wetlands/>
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room—learn more at <http://www.campmack.org/123>
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk—fully funded

Follow along at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org) for monthly updates.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, your hours of service, and your presence here in this sanctuary place.



## Rentals Available!

# BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO **CAMP MACK** THIS SPRING

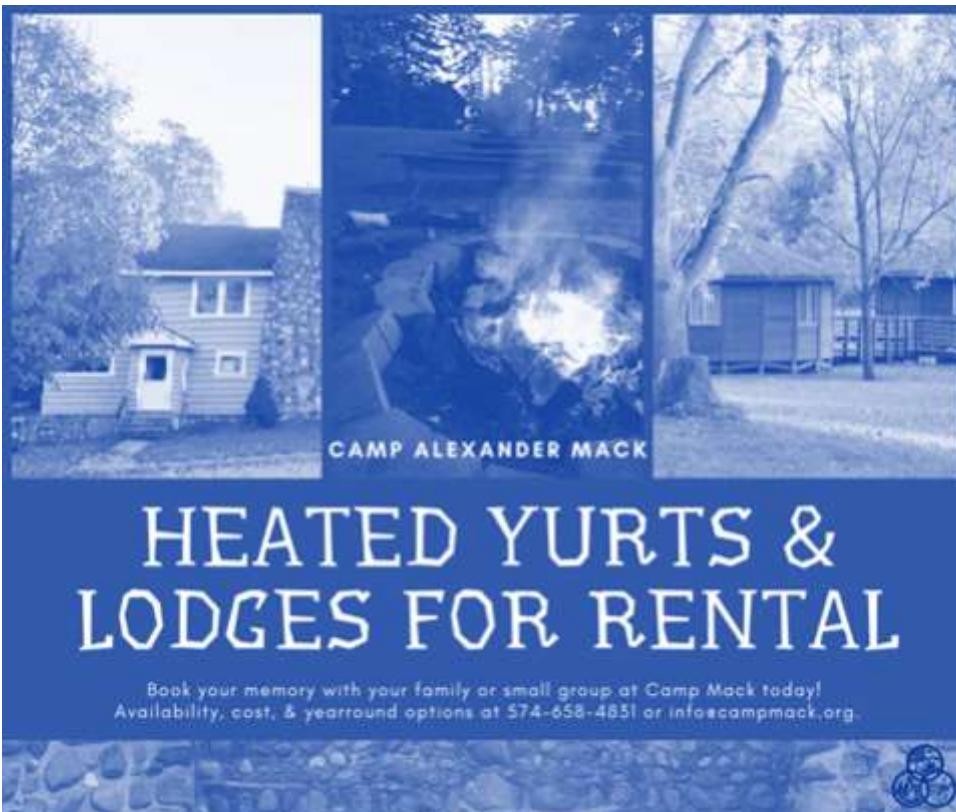
Haven't had a chance for a vacation? Take a break at camp! Camp Mack has lodges to rent to families and groups looking for a getaway to a safe and relaxing space. With the weather getting warmer as we near spring, there will be several nice days to explore camp. Book your reservation now!

Each yurt/lodge rental includes:

- A fully prepared and disinfected space
- Bathhouse/restroom dedicated to your family
- Campfire circle with wood
- Use of all camp green spaces and trails
- The experience of connecting with God in this holy place

Families will be able to choose additional options to add to their stay:

- Meals may be available at regular rates with different options to choose from
- Kiosk rental with table service, Dutch ovens, and other campfire cookware for outdoor cooking may be available



CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

## HEATED YURTS & LODGES FOR RENTAL

Book your memory with your family or small group at Camp Mack today!  
Availability, cost, & yearround options at 574-658-4831 or [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

- Popcorn campfire (popped by the Camp Mack staff in a kettle)
- A night hike through Camp's trails with flexible timing
- Geocaching
- Wagon Rides
- And more, as available!

*Call the Camp Mack office at 574-658-4831 or email a request to [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org) to ask about availability and prices.*

Dining room space is also available for rental for banquets, parties, etc.

Get away to a safe and beautiful place to make new memories and connect with God!