

Camp Alexander Mack

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Children's Christmas Party** Saturday, December 11: Parents, drop off your kids at Camp Mack, and then head out for a day of shopping, dining, and relaxing while your children have the time of their lives. We provide them with two meals and a snack while playing games, singing Christmas carols, hearing the Christmas story, doing crafts, decorating cookies, and more. Saturday 11a–7p. Ages 5–12.
Cost: \$25.



- **New Year's Eve Retreat, "What's in a Name?"** Friday, December 31, 2021–Saturday, January 1, 2022: Great fun for youth, and peace of mind for parents! Why bring in the new year sitting at home when you can have a great time reuniting with friends from summer or introducing someone new to Camp Mack? This is the place to be counting down minutes till the ball drops at our very own "Times Square" event. This overnight event is filled with awesome activities indoors and out, live DJs, dancing, Bible study, games, free time, and more. 2p Friday to 12:30p Saturday. Ages: All youth 6th through 10th grades and adult chaperones. Cost: \$75 per person early registration. After December 9th, \$85. A \$10 scholarship is available during early registration only.



- **Camp Rep Meeting** Saturday, January 15 at 9:30a. Camp Reps, join us to discover important updates, ask questions, and more. We encourage you to join this meeting onsite at Camp Mack to pick up materials and engage in conversation, but you may also join via Zoom.

CANCELLED EVENTS:

- **Wooden Christmas Ornaments**



Plan now for these upcoming events!
For more info, check out cammack.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 cammack.org.

GET-A-WAY DAYS

December Get-A-Way Days:

- **December 4—Wreaths and Swags** Make a traditional Williamsburg Wreath, Christmas wreath, or swag using greens and fresh fruit to grace your door this Christmas season. Saturday 9a–12p. \$35 (lunch and all materials included). Ulrich House Basement. Leader: Karen Kauffman. Bring gloves.
- **December 4 and 5—Christmas Cookies** Choose from one of three sessions to fill up your cookie jar! Camp provides the ingredients, measuring utensils, and mixing bowls. You bring the family or friends, mix the dough, and decorate cookies. Best of all, camp cleans up the mess! Choose 4 batches of cookies (each makes about 3 dozen). Saturday 9a–1p/12p–4p. Sunday 12p–4p. John Kline Welcome Center. \$55 (lunch and all baking materials included). Leader: Jess Kreider. Bring an apron and containers to take home your cookies. Cookie options: chocolate chip, chocolate crinkle (new for 2021!), gingersnaps, sugar cookies, monster, oatmeal raisin, butter cookies (pre-baked and ready for you to decorate!), peanut butter, snickerdoodles, snowballs (a.k.a. Mexican wedding cookies). Additional batches: \$9/batch. Additional adult lunch (ages 9+): \$9. Additional child lunch (ages 3–8): \$4.50.



SAVE THE DATES:

- **Snow Camp Jr.**, January 22, 2022
 - **Snow Camp**, January 29, 2022
- Snow Camp Jr. and Snow Camp are each a winter day filled with outdoor play, crafts, snacks, and a tasty lunch at camp. Please come with clothes to play outside in the snow and a spare set of clothes to change into if needed.
- Ages: Snow Camp Jr., ages 5-12. Snow Camp, grades 6-10.
- Fee: \$35, includes lunch, snack, and all activities.



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.

News from the Director

Tradition Transitions



On the day after Thanksgiving, our daughter and granddaughter came over after lunch to help us decorate the house for Christmas. Although it doesn't happen every year, this is becoming a welcome tradition.

A few years ago, when both our daughters were living nearby, we started decorating on Thanksgiving Friday. Both girls, our son-in-law, and eventually our granddaughter were involved. Typically, my son-in-law would help carry items upstairs and then take a nap in the midst of the ensuing chaos. (No judgment here. He is a teacher, and I readily support his time to refresh!) The girls, Pam, and I would then decorate.

Last year, for a number of reasons, decorating together didn't work out. This year, our older daughter had responsibilities in Indianapolis, where she has moved, and our son-in-law had a paper to finish for a graduate class. All of this is good, because it represents how each one of us is growing and changing.

New growth was also evident as our granddaughter, who is now six years old, did much more of the decision-making about where the decorations were to go. It was fun to see her excitement as she placed the nativity pieces and arranged various areas of the house.

You know, traditions are important. We recognize many of them during this time of year especially. Camp Mack is full of traditions, and we want to continue to faithfully honor those that help us meet our mission. But, there are times when we have to be thoughtful and consider how the growth and change of our community and the people who create it impacts what we do. After all, when a tradition is no longer fun, inspiring, or meeting its objectives, it is also no longer valuable. Perhaps, new ideas that change elements of the tradition will put us back on the right track. Perhaps, we need

to honor what that tradition has meant to us, and end it, in order to start a new one.

There was so much energy in the decorating this year as my granddaughter put things in places they had never been before. And while, in my mind's eye, I may always see the fireplace decorated as it has always been, I celebrate the new look because it was created with love and a child's experience of delight and joy.

May we always maintain and create traditions at Camp Mack for the purpose of love, delight, and joy!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

CAMP MACK'S TO-GO TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING PICK-UPS 4:30-6:30

Order at campmack.org/to-go

Nov. 2nd

Meatloaf

Nov. 9th

*Chicken
Parmesan*

Nov. 16th

*Beef &
Noodles*

Nov. 23rd

*Beef
Enchiladas*

*Baked
Goods*

Nov. 30th

*Kate's
Chicken*

Dec. 7th

Pot Roast

Dec. 14th

*Chicken
Parmesan*

Dec. 21st

Meatloaf

*Baked
Goods*

Dec. 28th

*Chicken
Enchiladas*

Camp Mack is offering To-Go Tuesdays again!!

These are individual, hot meals that will include the entree mentioned, a salad of some kind, two sides, and a dessert. Each meal will cost \$10.

A family meal option is available with 6 servings of each item for \$50.

Pick up will be from 4:30p-6:30p every Tuesday at camp. Follow the signs, and camp staff will bring your meal to your car.

We will have baked goods available for the holidays, as well, so stay tuned and follow our Facebook page (Camp Mack) for updates.

You can order each week by 5:00 p.m. the Friday prior, or you can order several weeks in advance! The Camp Mack Kitchen can't wait to serve you!!

Order here: campmack.org/to-go

Nature Nut News

Lessons from the Trail

2021 is winding down, and I am 20 miles away from my 500 mile hiking goal for the Get To Sesame Street Challenge. There were no speed or length requirements other than 500 accumulative miles. So, I chose hiking. Here are a few observations from a year of intention.

Wherever You are, There is Someplace to Be.

-Discover what is close to places you go. Beyer Farm Trail was beside the health department where I got my Covid vaccines. Dygert Woods ACRES preserve is four miles from my parents house. My backyard at camp has over four miles of trails.

Ground Yourself

-Walk barefoot; touch the moss on a tree; feel the coolness of a rocky seep; taste the sourness of sorrel; hear the snowflakes fall or the dewy grass spring up as the sun touches it. Awaken your senses and your awareness will also awaken.

Learn to Read the Stories of Nature

-As you awaken your senses, use them to read the stories nature is telling you. When you begin to notice what is going on around you in nature, you may begin to notice that you are more aware of people and being able to read things like emotion better.

Connect with Others

-Most times I set out on a trail alone, but I could share a dozen moments of the people I met, the stories they shared, and tips/suggestions from them on other places to experience.

Explore the Distractions

-Many times on a trail I would stop because a chipmunk was scolding me or I just stepped into a spider web. In those extra moments, it wasn't the first thing that caught my attention that I was meant to see, but what came next as I stood there. Like seeing my first Blue-headed vireo among a tree full of loud distracting common birds.

It Really is about the Journey

-I remember the day I took the ice picture. I planned on getting in a couple of miles, but I really didn't get more than a couple hundred yards down the trail. The beauty held me there as I took in the moment and explored. Had I not stopped, I wouldn't have seen the 9-point buck on the trail or dozens of turkeys gathered in a field. Mileage doesn't always matter. Don't pass up an opportunity to explore.

It has been a grand year, and I look forward to the next 500 miles and moments in 2022. In the next few weeks, I hope to end my 500 miles doing the 3 Dune Challenge at the Indiana Dunes. Take the time to get outdoors!

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Sunny Camp Mack

Winter Facility Projects

It's that time of the year when we move to our inside projects. The piers are all out, the picnic tables and benches are put away, so we are ready to move inside.

The process starts with the facility crew going through each building and making a list of what needs to be fixed. We make a master list of issues and then put some priorities on them. Most of the issues are small ones—a scratch on a door, a wall needing paint, shower valves needing replaced, and so on. Sometimes the issues are bigger, and we need to consult with Gene or Program folk to see what the possibilities might be.

We face that in Sarah Major Lodge this winter with the upstairs women's restroom. We have three showers, and all are stained and need to be replaced. In the process of replacing the showers we need to reroute the plumbing to give us better access to the shower valves in the future. This would also be a good time to replace the flooring and the sink vanities as well. With this much remodeling, we should consider reconfiguring the location of the showers. Is there a better way to position the three showers? Do we need three showers, or would two showers and a larger dressing area work better? These are program- and guest-related questions, and we need the input of Jessica and Deanna.

Once we have a rough idea of what the new restroom is going to look like, we can then get a cost estimate and have a conversation with Gene. We have been having conversations about this project for the last couple of years, so we have an idea of what it might look like, and we have some gifts toward this project to ease the cost. It is an interesting process, and hopefully when we are done, we have a restroom that serves our guests well. One that helps us provide that “sanctuary” experience.

Thanks,
Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Reserving Time for Rest

When I was little, I would stay up late awaiting Santa Claus's arrival, as many kids do, and I'm sure sleep overcame me before the magic happened, despite my best efforts. At least, I don't recall seeing any jolly old fellow dressed in red in our family room. Evidence of his presence was left behind, though.

As the years went by, I continued to be a night owl, though I got better at staying awake longer. Sleepiness often pervaded my days in school as I would stay up late to study, finish work, wrap up art projects, or have some fun after busy days of classes and extra-curriculars.

Sometimes late nights are still a part of my schedule so I can accomplish the work I need to do in the time I need to complete it. With a forty minute commute each way, when it's late, I often listen to audiobooks or music to keep me going.

However, I do value and appreciate sleep. Rest is so important for the body, and I continue to try to get more of it. Jesus rested—now to follow His example.



As I spend time with my seven-month-old nephew, I am impressed by his ability to sleep wherever and block out the world...until he gets hungry, of course.

During this Christmas season, how do you make time for rest? Through the busyness, the long to-do lists, and even the late nights of fun with family or wrapping gifts, what is your source of energy and renewal?

One of my favorite Christmas songs, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," though a phrase not originally conveying repose, may be a helpful reminder to seek sleep and pursue it. Or, maybe "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night" give you cause to pause.

Guests come to camp to getaway, and I pray that they find rest and peace in this sanctuary.

May you be granted blessings of sleep this Christmastime, giving you strength and energy to live out what God is calling you to.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services
Director

Diversity Report

The research is clear. When people of different cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, classes, or any other societal divisions we can think of get together in a community atmosphere, attitudes change.

This is why it is so important for us to increase our diversity. Camp is the perfect place for people to meet and discover that their differences are superficial. They don't have to live in conflict. When we create a community of respect for one another, using Jesus as the model for how we treat each individual, everyone grows.

Our diversity has increased significantly in many ways, but we still have a challenge to bring in more racial diversity, as well as serving more children who live in urban poverty. We will continue to reach out and meet the needs of all children and groups, and we dedicate ourselves to finding a broad group of people who can work together in the community of the *Peacable Kingdom*.





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.

Completed:

- Replace the upper roof on Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the roof on Shultz Chapel
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room

In Progress:

- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk

Needing Funds:

- Replace the HVAC in Wampler Retreat Center
- Repair the electrical system in the East Stone restroom

Follow along at 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.



campmack.org | 574-658-4831 | info@campmack.org

Another Way of Giving

Behind the Curtain of Camperships

Raising money for kids to come to Camp Mack, known as camperships, has long been a staple of fundraising at Camp Mack. It makes sense—many of our first interactions with Camp Mack were as kids, and now we want to make sure that other kids have the same experience of sanctuary. This need has been especially true as the Camp Mack camper base has grown beyond the Church of the Brethren into the neighborhood. As time has passed, funding for camperships changed and developed.

One way that camperships were previously funded was the Camp Mack Festival. The Festival did not always fund camperships. In 2000, the program said, “All proceeds from the Alexander Mack Festival go to benefit Camp Mack for needed projects and improvements.” The connection to camperships started in 2011, with the program reading, “Proceeds from all CMF activities provide Camper Scholarships.” This section was only in the program from 2011 to 2013. In 2014, half the proceeds went to camperships. Then in 2015, the Camp Mack Festival shifted to covering operations.

How does Camp Mack still provide camperships without the support of events like the Festival?

In June of 2016, longtime camp counselor, Frankie Copeland passed away. She and her husband, Sel, volunteered at Camp Mack for many years. The family honored them with a generous gift from their estate. It was decided to use more than half of it for camperships, and the rest to renovate the exterior of Ulrich. Rather than having this money sit in the bank and eventually run out, it was decided to invest the money in an endowment.

This was not Camp Mack’s first endowment, but it was by far the largest. The decision was made to invest the funds with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, and the community foundation matched 25% of the funds, bringing the initial total of the endowment to approximately \$100,000. With fund growth and additional contributions from others, this endowment is now over \$210,000.

The Sel and Frankie Copeland Endowment is expected to provide at least \$5,000 a year to help kids attend Camp Mack. That money can’t go to capital projects, staff salaries, or any other expenses. We also can not withdraw money from this account, so that money will always provide camp opportunities to children who need support to attend.

All of us at Camp Mack remain thankful for the estate gifts of Sel and Frankie and so many others. If you want to include Camp Mack in your estate plans, or if you would like to contribute to the Copeland Fund, contact me at todd@campmack.org for more information.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Kitchen News

Mixers and Amish Cinnamon Bread

The camp community is a community of giving. The camp kitchen recently reached out to our giving community with a need for a few new hand mixers, and we were blessed beyond measure! We received every mixer we had asked for, plus some extra things we weren't expecting to get off our Amazon wish list. Thank you givers! Our culinary campers and our cookie bakers will enjoy your gifts immensely. Here is a yummy quick bread recipe from Marilyn Keck that I love to pull out of our camp cook book for a yummy treat for the staff in the winter. Enjoy!

Amish Cinnamon Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2 cups buttermilk
4 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
Cinnamon Sugar
2/3 cup Sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Directions:

Cream together butter, sugar, and eggs

Add milk, flour, and baking soda

Line two greased loaf pans with wax paper. Put ½ of the batter or less into both loaf pans.

Mix cinnamon and sugar in a separate bowl. Sprinkle ¾ of this mixture on top of batter in each pan.

Add remaining batter to both pans, then sprinkle with remaining cinnamon sugar.

Swirl with a knife.

Bake @ 350 degrees, (300 for convection oven). 45-50 minutes. Test for doneness with a toothpick.

Cool in pans for 20 minutes. Turn out after cooling.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



2022 Retreats & Events

Camp Rep Meeting	January 15
Snow Camp Jr.	January 22
Snow Camp	January 29
Winter Spiritual Retreat	February 11–13
February Quilt Retreat	February 17–20
Scrapbook Retreat	February 24–27
Volunteer Celebration	March 5
Volunteer Work Days	March 7–9
Mother Daughter Retreat	March 12–13
Volunteer Work Days	April 4–6
Giving Day	April 9
April Quilt Retreat	April 20–24
5K/Fun Run	May 1
Pastors Sabbath	May 3–4
Birdwatching Retreat	May 5–7
Seasoned Citizens	May 9–12
South Central Women	June 2–4
Colony Camp	August 19–21
Summer Spiritual Retreat	August 19–21
Labor Day Family Camp	September 2–5
Teen Leadership Weekend	September 30–October 1
Camp Mack Festival	October 1
Father Son Retreat	October 8–9
October Quilt Retreat	October 12–16
Scrapbook Retreat	October 13–16
Seasoned Citizens	October 17–20
Volunteer Work Days	October 24–26
Pastors Sabbath	November 1–2
Annual Dinner	November 12
New Year's Eve Retreat	December 31–January 1
Camp Rep Meeting	January 14, 2023



CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

Summer Camp 2022

**Grades are grade completed at the time of camp*

Samplers	June 5—7	Samplers	July 10—12
Grades 1—2		Grades 1—2	
New grade range			
Archery Camp	June 5—9	Splash Camp	July 10—15
Grades 6—9		Grades 5—8	
Samplers	June 13—15	Finders Camp	July 10—15
Grades 1—2		Grades 5—6	
Grand Camp	June 16—18	Creative Arts	July 10—15
Ages 5-10/Grandparents		Grades 6—10	
CIT CAMP	June 19—24	Survivor Camp	July 10—16
Ages 14—17		Grades 6—9	
Seekers	June 19—24	Eco Adventure	July 17—22
Grades 3—4		Grades 5—6	
Followers	June 26—July 1	Seekers Camp	July 17—22
Grades 7—9		Grades 3—4	
Youth Camp	July 3—9	Culinary Camp	July 17—22
Grades 9—12		Grades 6—9	
Dadirri Camp	July 3—9	Finders Camp	July 24—29
Grades 9—12		Grades 5—6	
		Grand Camp	July 31—Aug 2
		Ages 5-10/Grandparents	

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Education Station

Introducing Ophelia the Opossum: Camp's First Educational Ambassador Animal!

Ophelia is a Virginia Opossum, which is North America's only marsupial. This means that she has a pouch on her stomach where she would raise any babies that she had. She's also unique in that she has thumbs on her back feet and a scaly tail that she uses to climb. Opossums also have more teeth than any other mammal in the country with a total of 50!

Ophelia arrived back in June with multiple wounds. She had just gotten to the age where she was independent from her mom (about 16 weeks old), and something

tried to eat her. She fought back and lost a few teeth. It wasn't long until someone found her and brought her in for rehabilitation.

Throughout the course of her recovery, she proved to be too slow to hunt effectively due to the wounds she had sustained. That made her unable to be released back into the wild. When an animal is considered non-releaseable, a permanent home needs to be found and she was approved to stay here at camp.



Some of you are probably wondering why I love opossums so much. They are gentle creatures when they have been raised in captivity. Ophelia loves being carried, hand-fed grapes, and is totally okay with being pet by people. She's learning to use a litter box and is very curious and excited about going on field trips out in public! She has already explored quite a bit of camp and loves going on golf cart rides and attending campfires.

Did you know? Opossums got their name from the Algonquin word "aposoum," which means "white animal".



Education Station, Cont.

Opossums like Ophelia are really great to have around for several reasons: first, they eat ticks! A single opossum can eat upwards of 5,000 ticks in a single year. They even eat the ticks that carry Lyme disease, so having opossums around helps keep us safe from tick bites. They also eat snakes and are immune to most snake venoms. They eat mice and other rodents, and therefore help cut down on rodent populations. They rarely disturb trash cans like raccoons do, and they also have a body temperature that is too low to harbor the rabies virus, so they don't present a threat to us or our pets.



As we get into colder weather and snowfall, keep an eye out for opossum tracks to see if you have any of these amazing creatures in your backyard!

Did you know that opossums can get frost bite? If you see one with a stubby tail or missing part of an ear, frost bite is the likely cause!



While some people think opossums are ugly, I hope this helps you see them in a more positive light and realize why we need them around. If you'd like to have Ophelia visit your classroom or organization to learn more about these unique critters (including what's REALLY going on when they play dead), please contact me, and I'd love to bring her out for a program! We're hoping to add more educational animals in the coming year, so stay tuned!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator