

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ Upcoming Events (p 2) Summer Camp Dates (p 3)
- ⇒ “Creation Speaks: Exploring the Summer Camp Theme” with Gene: topics for each day (p 4)
- ⇒ “Intentional Summer Camp” with Jessie: there is a purpose behind all that happens at camp (p 5)
- ⇒ Volunteer Counselors Needed! (p 6)
- ⇒ “From Light Displays to Addressing Beach Erosion” with Galen: summer joys and tasks (p 7)
- ⇒ “Appreciating Moments” with Deanna: the blessings of special moments through the busy summer (p 8)
- ⇒ COVID-19 Response; Diversity Report (p 9)
- ⇒ *Celebrating Sanctuary* with Giving Day (p 10)
- ⇒ “Come Together” with Todd: good memories; looking forward to Celebrating Community Campfire (p 11)
- ⇒ “Cheesecake Bars with an M&M Twist” with Vanessa: camp dessert in a new way (p 12)
- ⇒ 2021 Wish List (p 13)
- ⇒ “Summer Staff Spotlight” with Kristen: get to know Anna and Linda who are on summer staff (p 14–15)

MACKABILIA



Camp Alexander Mack
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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1–3—Grand Camps

Spend quality time bonding with your grandkids and making memories that will last a lifetime. This camp will provide a time for grandparents to make connections with their grandchildren through a variety of activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, games, campfires, crafts, story times, Bible studies and maybe even a nap! Due to supervision limitations, we ask that you bring no more than three grandchildren to this event. Space is limited and spots are almost filled!

Age: Grandparents of all ages and grandchildren ages 5-10 (11-year-olds are eligible this year only)

Fee: \$160 per grandparent and \$110 per grandchild.

<https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#family>

See summer camp list on the next page.

Check out www.campmack.org/summer-camps/ for further information on each camp.

See us at the Elkhart County Fair July 23–31!
We will be in Commercial Building E.

Save the Dates:

- Giving Day, August 7
- Colony Camp, August 13–15
- Sailing 101 Get-A-Way Day, August 14
- Sailing 201 Get-A-Way Day, August 21
- Prairie Walk Get-A-Way Day, August 22
- Canoe and Kayak Get-A-Way Day, August 28
- Labor Day Family Camp, September 3–6
- Soap Making Get-A-Way Day, September 11
- Write Your Story Get-A-Way Day, September 11



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.

Plan now for these upcoming events!

For more info, check out 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.

There is limited space in some camps.
Please see campmack.org/summer-camps/ for details.

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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
Beginners/Samplers July 7—9
Seekers
Survivor (July 4—10)

Week 3 July 11—16
Seekers
Finders

Week 4 July 18—23
Followers
Culinary Camp
Archery Camp

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

News from the Director

Creation Speaks: Exploring the Summer Camp Theme

Genesis 1 is the biblical narrative of God's creative power and love. In it, we understand that God brings the world into being by speaking. Over six days, God takes what is formless through the processes of being, separating, shaping, placing, filling, growing, and forming. At the end of each day, God proclaims it good.

God speaks in Creation, and if we listen, Creation speaks of God. This is the basis of the theme for summer camp. Each daily focus challenges our campers to look more closely at the incredible world around them. Campers discover they are *Invited by Light* and *Refreshed by Water*. They learn about how God, the potter (Jeremiah 18), forms us as we are *Shaped Like Earth*. The rhythm of life and the process of growth are developed as campers explore *Moving through Seasons*. *Kinship with Animals* explores our interdependence with the world around us. God's unique call to us as humans drives our understanding in *Purpose for Humanity* and *Inspired by Creation*.

Our summer curriculum challenges us all to take the time to recognize God's continuing creative work. We connect with Creation when we stop to observe, to listen, and to feel the power and love it represents.

This is the heart of camping ministry. What a blessing it is for us to welcome children, youth, and adults to this place of sanctuary.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31a, NRSV)

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Intentional Summer Camp



Campfires, boating, name tags, cookouts, morning dip, saying grace at meals, participating in service projects, and even games like toilet tag are all part of the intentional community of summer camp. Toilet tag as intentional? Yes, even toilet tag.

This week, I am beginning to work with a group of counselors who will be counseling four weeks each this summer at Camp Mack. Many of our discussions around training surround the theme of how summer camp is an intentional community, and everything we do must have a purpose. So, even a game like toilet tag, which is a version of freeze tag, has a purpose. When playing, if a person is tagged, instead of being out, they simply freeze. With the help of a friend, they can be unfrozen and get right back in the game. We all appreciate new chances to continue on.

For training, we are examining all the things that happen in a day at camp and how they can be intentional and reflect the daily themes. I remember years ago, a Team Leader was walking their group up to the dining hall when they noticed baby maple trees growing along the pathway. The team leader took the time to wonder why certain ones grew thick in the soil and others grew sparsely along the gravelly drive. After a while, a camper explained, "Wait! Did we just do Bible Study?" You see, that team leader chose a moment to notice nature at camp and also connect it with the Parable of the Sower that they studied that day.

Stories like that one are why I love working in ministry at camp. Our job is intentional. Facility, Food Service, Office Staff, Volunteers, Prayer Partners, Campers, and Parents, you all have a role in this intentional community of summer camp. Live a life of purpose and find connection in your everyday life.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS NEEDED!

| Camp | Date | Counselor Male | Counselor Female |
|--|------------|---|--|
| WEEK 1 July 4-9, 2021 | | | |
| Beginners/Samplers 1 st -3 rd grade | July 4-6 | THANKS | THANKS |
| Seekers 3 rd -4 th grade | July 4-9 | 1 | THANKS |
| Beginners/Samplers 1 st -3 rd grade | July 7-9 | 1 | THANKS |
| Survivor 6 th -9 th grade | July 4-10 | THANKS | 1 |
| WEEK 2 July 11-16, 2021 | | | |
| Seekers 3 rd -4 th grade | July 11-16 | THANKS | THANKS |
| Finders 5 th -6 th grade | July 11-16 | 1 | THANKS |
| WEEK 3 July 18-23, 2021 | | | |
| Archery 6 th -9 th grade | July 18-23 | 1 *Need 1 more counselor or a team leader | 1 *Need 1 more counselor or 1 more female camper |
| Followers 7 th -9 th grade | July 18-23 | 1 | THANKS |
| WEEK 4 July 25-30, 2021 | | | |
| Finders 5 th -6 th grade | July 25-30 | THANKS | 1 |
| Splash 5 th -8 th grade | July 25-30 | THANKS | 0-1 |
| CIT 14-17-year-old | July 25-30 | 0-1 | THANKS |

Volunteer counseling is one of the most rewarding ways to serve God. Children from a wide variety of experiences and circumstances come together and create Christian community through the activity and environment of camp. It's a big commitment to be a counselor, but it's also a big payoff. Not only are children's lives changed in a week at Camp Mack. The counselors' lives are, too.

Your commitment will spread the light of Christian love to children who desperately need to be in community again. Please call us today to find out how you can be part of this incredible ministry!



Sunny Camp Mack

From Light Displays to Addressing Beach Erosion

Camp is going full swing again, and it sounds great. To see and hear kids shouting and playing is a very good sound to the staff at Camp. We just finished Church of God Family Camp, and they were so happy to be back at Camp Mack. They are probably the longest running rental group we have, and we just love to work with them. They really use the auditorium well and take such good care of it. They have a work weekend in the spring and come and get Quinter Miller Auditorium (what they call The Tabernacle) ready for the season. For their week at Camp, they bring some extra lighting for the stage, and the wall made of rocks at the back of the stage just shines. Camp Mack is a sanctuary where people connect with God, and Quinter Miller Auditorium is a serious part of that.

I have been surprised at the number of facility issues we have had related to the Camp being nearly empty last year. We had several flush and fill valves in the johns that worked very slowly and needed to be replaced. There were several shower heads that produced only a half flow or so and needed to be replaced, too. The entryways on the swimming beach took a beating last summer without the piers to protect them. We added some extra sand to try to correct all of that. The area under where the piers connect to the shore were hit especially hard and we will work on that this fall. We need a better solution to stopping that erosion when the piers are not there.

I want to finish with gratitude for all the volunteers we have had this spring and summer. Time and time again you have come and pitched in to make it happen. Bless you for that!

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Appreciating Moments



Moments of opportunity: I was honored to be asked to lead a cookie decorating workshop for Church of God Family Camp. We had a blast creating some fun designs. My helpers were troopers.

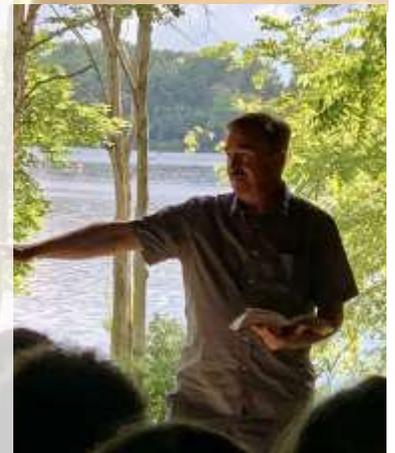
Moments of peace: Updates and new swings at camp allow for calm reflection.

Moments of joy: Enjoying time with staff and their families at meal times often brings smiles and laughter.

Moments of change: At the end of May, we had the first day of serving ourselves through the food line since the start of the pandemic—a welcomed change.

Moments of community and learning: We've had a lot of training happening this summer, and it's been great getting to know new staff better, though many have been involved at camp for a while.

Moments of worship and love: I was blessed to spend some time with my dad as he led Vespers at Youth Camp.



In the busyness of the summer season, I try to remember to appreciate the moments that make camp special. That appreciation is renewing through long work days and much flexibility, and what blessings all of these moments and more have been. I look forward to the rest of the summer!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



COVID-19 Response

Please visit Camp's website at: <https://www.campmack.org/covid/> for updated information and a letter to summer camp parents.

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Diversity Report

Our first diversity report was July of 2020. We had a lot of big ideas and dreams for change, but that's not what we are reporting a year later.

Instead, we have spent the last year listening to voices from a wide variety of perspectives. They have told us of their experiences and assured us that if we are truly interested in ministering to all people, we will get there. It just won't be easy.

Several folks have asked what kind of change we are looking for, and that is a fair question. There may actually be little change in our stated mission, vision, values, and philosophy. We still want to be a sanctuary for all people. We still want to help our guests connect with God. The beauty and diversity of nature are important ways for us to demonstrate God's power and care. The community we build together must demonstrate the lessons Christ gives us about how to live.

What changes is how we reach out to people who have not traditionally been part of the Camp Mack family. We have to seek people who have been marginalized, broken, ignored, and oppressed. Jesus calls us to this task as individuals, and it is no less important for us to meet the needs of others as an organization whose core is ministry.

In the second year of our quest to become a more inclusive and diverse community, we continue to need your prayers, and we ask you to hold us accountable for the goals we have set.



Celebrating Sanctuary

**Camp Mack Giving Day
August 7, 2021**

Join for a day of stories and sharing from different corners of the Camp Mack community. This is the day to celebrate the sanctuary that Camp Mack has provided for 96 years.

10am– Celebrating New Heights Documentary

Explore the new high ropes course, climb the rock wall, and fly down the zip line with stories of reaching new heights at Camp Mack.



1 pm to 4pm– Celebrating Sanctuary Telethon

Hear stories from the many corners of the Camp Mack community in this online event.

7pm– Celebrating Community Campfire

Join in person or online and sing along to camp songs new and old. Munch on popcorn during evening vespers as the sun sets.

**You can join in celebrating sanctuary at:
campmack.org/givingday**

Another Way of Giving

Come Together

When I was young, I went to Samplers camp twice. Both times were fine, but I just knew that camp was not my thing. Then in my teens, I started coming back to Camp through Worship Arts (now Creative Arts). To make a long story short, one of the parts that helped me stick with Camp was being able to be a part of campfires.

I can sing, although as a bass with little formal training, I know that is not my gift. Can I dance around and lead motions? Yes. Is it my gift? No. So I prefer to stick to drumming. As just the drummer, I had the chance to see how people interacted. The giant campfires with a hundred campers were fun, but I especially enjoyed the few times I have been to Grand Camp campfires. Not only are campfires then about singing together, it was also about sharing and passing down songs.

In March of 2020, the idea for a virtual campfire came really naturally. It was a joy seeing people engage and connect through this Camp Mack tradition in a 21st century way. Not only did virtual campfires bring people watching together, they also brought leaders together. We also tried a drive-in campfire that produced the best version of "Little Hunk of Tin" I ever heard. All of those Sunday evenings showed how important the campfire experience is to Camp Mack's DNA.

With those memories in mind, I am so excited for our Celebrating Community Campfire as part of Giving Day on August 7th. This is not just a virtual campfire, but also an in-person one! We will sing classics like "Peace like a River" and "Pass it On," but also new favorites like "The Fruit of the Spirit." There will be popcorn, vespers, and the joy of being together. Make plans to join at Camp Mack or online in celebrating the community of Camp Mack at campfire!

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Kitchen News

Cheesecake Bars with an M&M Twist

I have a favorite tried and true recipe that I have shared before, but it has a new twist! I LOVE making our chocolate chip cheesecake bars during retreat season. They are so good when they are still warm and gooey, but I really enjoy them as leftovers (if there's ever any left!) cold right out of the fridge. The chocolate has a fun crunch and the cheesecake is the perfect temperature. But last month for the South/Central Women's Camp, I decided to add mini baking M&Ms instead of chocolate chips. Best decision ever!! They were SO good! The staff loved them; the women loved them; I LOVED them! Since then, I keep thinking of other things I could add instead of the chocolate chips like Andes Mint pieces, or Reese's Pieces (if I wasn't serving them at home or to guests with nut allergies). The possibilities are endless. I can't wait to try out some of my new ideas!! Let me know if you try a great combination!!

Chip Cookie Dough:

1 Cup Margarine
1 Cup Butter
2 Cups Brown Sugar
1 Cup White Sugar
4 Eggs
2 Teaspoons Vanilla
1 Teaspoon Baking Soda
1.5 Teaspoons Salt
5 Cups Flour
4 Cups Chocolate Chips (Can substitute with M&Ms, other flavor chips, or candy bits)

In a mixing bowl, cream together margarine, butter, sugars, eggs, and vanilla until light and fluffy.

Combine dry ingredients, and slowly add to creamed mixture. Add chips last.

Spread a little more than half of the cookie dough on a greased sheet tray.

Cheesecake Filling:

16 oz Cream Cheese, softened
1 Cup Sugar
2 Eggs
1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract

Beat cream cheese in mixer until fluffy

Add in sugar

Beat in eggs and vanilla

Pour cheesecake filling over the spread cookie dough

Crumble remaining dough and plop it on top of the cheesecake filling

Bake at 325 (convection oven) degrees for 25–30 minutes

Cool and cut

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director





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—completed
- 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—completed
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence—completed
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- 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—completed
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands—fully funded
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room—completed
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk—fully funded

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.



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Education Station

Summer Staff Spotlight

Anna: Camp's very own Waterfront Wonder and Climbing Monkey



Anna has been coming to Camp Mack for 16 years! She has spent 7 of that as summer staff, with 6 of those years as a lifeguard. It makes sense we'd have her in charge of the waterfront this year! One of her favorite memories from being a camper was how she participated in Morning Dip every single day – by herself – because no one else showed up other than the lifeguards! Anna is at home in the water and up in the air: she loves running the zip line and the new high ropes course. Anna can often be found wearing a bandana on her head, walking the trails through the wilderness, or taking a quiet moment at the Observation Deck.

College Life: Recently graduated with her master's degree in Occupational Therapy

Favorite Camp Song: *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Favorite Camp Food: Taco bar and pudgie pies

Best Camp Memory: Attending the Eco Challenge/Wilderness camp and how awesome it was to do all their cooking outside, explore the duck pond, and bond with new friends in the small group setting

Weird Skill: Making lanyards blindfolded

Fun Fact: Enjoys helping with lighting for theater productions and doing anything outside that involves working with kids

On Her Time Off: She's often reading a book, writing fiction stories, or making origami frogs and cranes.



Education Station, Cont.

Summer Staff Spotlight

Linda: Camp's resident Old Lady and Gardening Guru



Linda is another long-timer at camp: she's been coming to Camp Mack for 14 years but this is her first year on summer staff! She wanted to work at camp because she was looking for a place of community where she can be herself and be around people with similar interests and beliefs. While we do share many beliefs, few here have Linda's love of old things (old junk, old craft methods, and handwriting letters to people) or enjoy collecting coins and stamps as much as Linda does. Linda also has a green thumb and likes to play in the dirt. Her knowledge has helped the Garden Club flourish this year!

College Life: Working on a double major in Business Management and Entrepreneurship

Favorite Camp Song: *Pharoah, Pharoah*

Favorite Camp Food: Monkey bread ("Why don't we make this anymore?" she wonders)

Best Camp Memory: The first time she did the Flying Squirrel

Weird Skill: She's an expert at knowing everything about chickens

Fun Fact: She's a painter, an animal mom, and a letter-writer. Her favorite camp programs to run are high ropes and low ropes because she loves watching people grow and learn to encourage each other.

On Her Time Off: She's often found helping Kristen with her animals, learning new skills like how to cook eggs in a microwave, visiting her dog and chickens, going for a hike, making things with lavender and lemons, or taking part in campfires (they were her favorite camp activity as a camper).



Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator