

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

EXPERIENCING GOD, COMMUNITY, AND NATURE



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MACKABILIA



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News from the Director

Doing a New Thing

Isaiah 43:18-19: *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

I write this on Memorial Day weekend. For the first time in several years, this holiday weekend is for family alone. You see, in a normal year, Camp Mack would be filled with people. One of our beloved partners sponsors a family camp, and our lifeguard training finishes as other summer staff arrive. Long-time camp supporters, Beth Sollenberger and Tim Morphew host a full-staff get-together to begin our staff training, and from there, the summer is on.

This year, I am sitting at our family place at the lake. The water is too high to get the boat out. In fact, the water is in the grass two-thirds of the way to the house from the channel. Carp are splashing here and there in a frenzy as the new food sources found in the grass of our yard have been opened to them. Dozens of snapping turtles sun themselves on the piers that float several inches above their supports. The sun shines; a breeze cools the porch. A boat, with a woman and a man fishing, silently glides through the channel trolling for bass. The birds call back and forth. Children play in the shallow overflow of water.

This is an opportunity. My brief break at the beginning of summer allows me to charge up before the challenge ahead. Although we are not having a traditional camp this summer, the restfulness of this weekend is deceiving. Camp Mack will be a busy place. There is much work to be done; new projects are under consideration; planning continues for the future. New ideas will be implemented. A new way of doing camp will be employed this summer, and many people will work together planning to ensure camp is in session during the summer of 2021.

Watch for ways to engage with Camp Mack over the next few weeks. These will be shared by email and Facebook. We hope to offer our cabins for single family rentals. The details should be worked out soon, and availability will be limited. The kitchen is working on preparing TO-GO meals that can be purchased each week for individuals and families to enjoy together. There will be lots of volunteer projects and perhaps some day outdoor education opportunities. And, of course, we will have our alternate camp experiences to share.

This summer of 2020 is certainly a different one than what we planned or hoped for, but we continue to recognize that when we are faithful, God can make incredible things happen. *Behold. I am doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19a, ESV).*

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Nature Nut News

Paddle Safely



This is a picture of a water rat who will kayak and canoe any month of the year. Around Memorial Day is when most people start thinking about going out on the water, though. So, you get your boat, your paddle, and jump in the water, right? HOLD UP! NOT YET! Let's talk a little about water safety, and you can arrive home with stories to share about your day. I'm going to share some basic water safety tips and also a couple other lessons I've learned along the way.

PFD stands for personal flotation device, or a lifejacket. Wear it! It's not a seat cushion, and it's not something you just put on after you flip. It needs to be fitted to you and secured properly. While you are at it, clip a pealess whistle to your lifejacket so you can whistle for help if needed.

Other gear: Carry an extra paddle in case yours breaks or it floats away if you drop it or flip. Carry and use sunscreen. Pack extra drinking water and stay hydrated. Pack some snacks or your lunch to keep your energy up and the hungry monsters at bay. Carry a basic first aid kit. Scrapes, bruises, and blisters are all common while paddling. Store everything in a waterproof dry bag and tie/secure it to your boat. Dress for immersion. Dry clothes in a dry bag is a great idea and needed in cooler water and outdoor temperatures. I also carry ropes and carabiners in case I need to tow a boat or use them to retrieve a boat off a log. Decide whether you need this, but I carry a knife and foldable saw when I am paddling smaller creeks and rivers. It has gotten me out of a jam (or giant rosebush in rapid current) more than once.

Before you travel, create and share a float plan. Let someone else know where you are going and keep a copy in the front seat of your car. What goes on a float plan? Who: the names of everyone in your group and a contact person for each one of them. Where: where you are putting in and taking out and the route you plan to take. When: when are you launching, when you are planning to take out/return, and when to notify someone if you are not back yet. Action plan: what to do if you have not returned by the time you said you would. Never travel alone. A paddling buddy will make the trip more fun with shared experiences, and there is safety in numbers.

Before you travel, part II: know the weather and conditions. Check the weather forecast for where you are paddling. Getting caught in a severe thunderstorm on a river with nowhere to take out is no fun (Yes, mom, you were right). Also, know your water conditions. Do not paddle in flooded rivers and streams. Avoid areas of branches and downed trees. Strainers are one of the most dangerous elements to paddle near; the current is drawn under them, and there may not be room for you to come out on the other side.

Plan ahead so you can enjoy a fantastic day on the water with your friends. I look forward to hearing about your adventures.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

An Unusual Time

We continue to work here at Camp under some very unusual circumstances. At least now we have Fellowship Missions out of Warsaw using our facility for a month or so. That feels good. It's Memorial Day weekend and we should have families scattered out across our campus, but it is empty. That is discouraging.

We continue to work with Judy De Pue on the Peace Garden. Judy designed it and is leading us in constructing it. It is going to be such a great change for Murray Mound. It will take a lot of labor, so if you have some time and want to help, give us a call and we can work that out.

The tree harvest is over, and they are loading out the logs. Now it is our time to get in there, clear some of our trails, and maybe create a new one. We also need to clean up around the climbing tower. They are starting to build the new high ropes elements, which are connected to the climbing tower. We could use some help cutting up treetops and some brush to clear this area.

Lawn mowing is in full swing. We have a young man who is volunteering two days a week to mow. We could really use someone else for one day a week on the mower.

Travis is working on the boardwalk in Mission Village. Some of the 4 x 8 beams under the walk are starting to rot out. We used native oak and thought they would last forever, but they didn't. As we do this, we are changing our design on how we support the beams in the ground. This is going to take some time, but it is interesting work and will be beneficial.

In closing, it is an unusual time, but God has a plan for a time such as this. We just need to listen and to continue to make Camp Mack "...a Sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Camp Mack Mad Lib



Dear _____,
relative pronoun (i.e. Mom)
I am writing to tell you about my day at camp. Boy was it _____!
adjective
I am staying with a cabin full of _____, and we have done a lot together. Today we
plural noun
took the _____ test at North Beach, and I passed! I can't wait to slide down the _____
verb *noun*
and jump off of the _____ raft.
verb ending in -ing
At Becker Beach, we rowed out in the boats and found _____ in the water. We even saw
plural animal
a _____ on Rock Island!
noun
At lunch, my cabin set the tables and said the prayer. I got to put _____ cups at each table. We
number
had my favorite meal, and I was so excited. For dessert we had _____. Halfway through
food
the meal we stood on the chairs and sang "_____."
song title
We had crafts in the afternoon. I made a(n) _____, and it was the
adjective *noun*
_____ thing I've ever made. I'm looking forward to showing you.
adjective ending in -est
My best camp friend, _____, made me a friendship bracelet and sat next to me at
name
Vespers. We sang "_____" together so loudly that the _____ on
favorite camp song *type of boat*
the lake could hear us. We learned about _____ in the lesson for today as a cabin
Bible character
group performed a skit.
Later at the campfire, we had _____, and our counselor said we could have seconds!
favorite camp snack
Of course we had to spray ourselves with insect spray so we wouldn't be _____ all night.
verb ending in -ing
We sang some new songs along with favorites like "_____" at the top of our
most fun camp song you know
lungs and continued to sing it as we went back to the cabin and as we _____ our teeth.
past tense verb
I'm pretty sure we drove our counselor crazy. Our counselor is _____, though!
adjective
I hear tomorrow we get to go on a night hike and eat _____ lightning bugs. _____!
adjective *exclamation*
I look forward to using my senses and playing the _____ games.
adjective
I miss you but am having a(n) _____ time at Camp Mack! Thank you for sending me! I'm
already hoping to come next year.

Sincerely,

your name

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Another Way of Giving

Method to the Madness

At a conference I attended last fall, another fundraiser said “Fundraisers will share everything with other fundraisers except their donor list.” These last few weeks, I have followed a number of organization’s giving days and other fundraisers to see what is working well for them. I wanted to take this opportunity to share about what we are doing for Giving Day.

Communications

Our main method of communication for Camp is either email or regular mail. Our annual appeal in 2019 went to 881 addresses, perhaps 2/3 of them were couples, so approximately 1,470 people received this letter. Our monthly newsletter goes out to over 2,500 emails in our system. On Facebook, we have 3,553 who like the page, making it our largest audience. With Giving Day, don’t look for a postcard or letter, check us out on Facebook!

The Capital Campaign

We have reached over \$770,000 for this campaign, and work has begun on the Peace Garden. Currently we are in the final stages of planning for the construction of a new health center, as the money has been raised to make that project happen. Even though finances are difficult, we will not use any of these funds for our operations expenses. That has been done for some projects in the past, but that is not a good practice for the health of Camp Mack.

Matching Gifts

Many of us don’t have the capacity to regularly make large gifts. We still love Camp, but it can be hard to feel like a small gift can make a difference. In the news of not having a normal summer, two anonymous donors each offered a \$5,000 matching gift. Support like this not only helps financially, but it also inspires. It’s a joy when a \$95 donation becomes \$190 because of someone’s generosity.

As Brittany Hartman, one of our office assistants, put it this week, “New Methods, Same Mission.” Fundraising for Giving Day might be a new method, but it is a method to the madness.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Kitchen News

Where do you get your recipes from?

Recipes. Recipes. Recipes. For the last two weeks I have been working on organizing the camp kitchen's recipe books. This is quite the task because we often have copies of different recipes stuck here and there throughout each book. I've found pages with notes, adjustments, additions, and add-ons. I found handwritten recipes from past managers, copies of recipes from church recipe books, and printed recipes from websites like Pinterest and AllRecipes.com. I have taken a lot of those notes and recipes, typed them up, and made them into official kitchen recipes. The process involved a lot of math, which I am neither a fan of, nor very good at. Taking a recipe meant to feed six to eight people and multiplying it to make enough servings for 25 people or 50 people, or a recipe that now calls for 36 teaspoons and converting that into tablespoons or cups (it's $\frac{3}{4}$ cup or 12 tablespoons). The process has included taking all the ingredients and putting them into a usable order. For example, if the flour is the fourth ingredient on the original list, but it's the first ingredient you put into your mixing bowl, flour should be the first thing on the new ingredient list. Making our recipes easier to follow makes our kitchen more efficient, because people don't have to stop and ask questions when the recipe is clear and easy to understand. Putting all the recipes into the same template makes the book look nice and consistent. I found a lot of recipes we either haven't made recently or haven't made since I started working here three and a half years ago. I am so glad to be cooking for guests again and that I've been able to try out some of these "long lost" recipes.

A lot of the recipes that got converted started off as recipes that someone printed from Pinterest. I use Pinterest at home a lot to find new recipes, especially the last few weeks. I recently received a Pampered Chef Quick Cooker (this is their pressure cooker similar to an InstaPot) and have been experimenting with a lot of new recipes. Pinterest is FULL of them. I love being able to search for something specific and getting all kinds of different ideas and recipes to try. It's also become my own personal recipe book because it saves all the recipes for me. Having my recipes at the tip of my fingers is a great help when someone asks me about a certain meal. I can just pull the recipe up on my phone and share it with them. How do you get new recipes at home? Have you tried anything new in the last few weeks of sheltering at home?

Here is a somewhat new recipe to the camp kitchen. Anna Sweeten found this Cinnamon Roll Coffee Cake recipe on Pinterest a few years ago and we have served it to a few smaller guest groups. Enjoy!

Cinnamon Roll Coffee Cake

Ingredients:

Cake:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, melted
2 eggs
1 cup sugar
3 cups flour
2 tsp vanilla
4 tsp baking powder
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups milk

Topping:

1 cup butter, melted
1 cup brown sugar
2 Tbsp flour
1 Tbsp cinnamon

Glaze:

2 cups powdered sugar, sifted
5 Tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla



Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, mix all the **cake** ingredients together until well combined. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan. For the **topping**, mix all the ingredients together in a small bowl until well combined. Spread evenly on the batter and swirl with a knife. Bake at 350 degrees for 30–35 minutes. For the **glaze**, mix all the ingredients together in a small bowl until it is a consistency like pancake syrup. While warm, drizzle the glaze over the cake and it will set into a harder glaze. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

Education Station Part I

Static Electricity

Static electricity is one of the oldest scientific phenomena people observed and described. Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus wrote in the 6th century B.C. that if amber was rubbed hard enough, small dust particles will start sticking to it. It took almost 2,000 more years before the English word “electricity” was first coined, based on the Latin “electricus,” meaning “like amber.”

In the 18th century, people mostly made use of static electricity in magic tricks like turning book pages or lifting small objects just using static attraction. Nowadays it can be funny when your hair stands on end, or annoying when you get zapped by your door-knob, or even surprising when you crawl into bed and the sheets spark. But how does it work?

Static electricity comes down to the interactive force between electrical charges. Many electrons sit on the surface of materials. When two materials rub against each other, electrons can be ripped out of the weaker material and find themselves on the material with stronger binding force. This transfer of electrons from one object to another is what we know as the spark of static electricity.



How can you make static electricity? Try these:

- Go down a slide at a playground and see if your hair stands up
- Rub a balloon against your hair and see if you can use the balloon to pick up small scraps of paper, power a light bulb, or even get the balloon to stick to the wall
- Dry your bed sheets without using a dryer sheet and then rub them (can be a cool light show in a dark room at night)

EXPERIMENT! How to bend water using static electricity:



Turn on a tap of water to make a steady stream. Run a comb through your dry hair several times. Put the comb near the water and watch the water bend! This also works if you use a PVC pipe and rub it with a wool cloth or use a balloon that you rubbed on your hair.

How does this work? When the comb is run through your hair, electrons move from your hair onto the comb. This makes the comb negatively charged. When the negatively charged comb comes near the stream of water, it repels the electrons in the

water so that the side of the water nearest the comb then has a positive charge. The attraction between this positive charge and the negatively charged comb results in a net force on the water, bending the stream.

Education Station Part II & New Adventures Begin

We notice static electricity more frequently in the dry months of winter when the air has exceptionally low humidity. However, it's very much going to be a part of our lives this month, as lightning consists of huge static electric sparks that jump from cloud to cloud and to earth (and weather forecasts say we're expecting storms this month). Turbulence in storms creates static electric charges that build up until they are released as a stream of electrons that create a bolt of lightning. Air is super-heated until it glows white hot and creates a shock wave that is the sound of thunder.



Sometimes we can feel the static electricity in the air right before a storm or we might experience the hair on our bodies suddenly stand up. Many animals also notice the changes in barometric pressure and electricity when a storm is approaching. See if you notice anything different in the air the next time a thunderstorm is coming at you!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator

NEW ADVENTURES BEGIN!

New adventures begin... Summer Camp 2020. Information coming soon.

I am so excited to announce a new summer camp experience for the summer of 2020. The command to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all circumstances will be experienced through the *This is Our Prayer* summer camp theme.

We will soon announce the registration process for summer camp. Sessions will begin June 28, July 5, and July 12.

This new camp will allow for individual exploration and time together as a community. Mornings will start at the base camp where the daily prayer practice will be announced. Join us at the creation station for crafts or go off the beaten path for nature time. We will also have video demonstrations, camp puzzles, and other activities for you to choose your own adventure. There will be an online area to post your expedition files (Waubee Wave submissions) and to share what you have made. Each night will end at owl light and join in vespers and a story.

So, get ready for a new adventure and stay tuned as more details are announced. We look forward to connecting with you this summer.

Upcoming Events & We Need YOU!

Camp Mack Calendar

June 7	Giving Day—95 for 95
August 14	Chicken and Rib BBQ Annual Dinner

Chicken and Rib Barbecue

The COVID-19 virus forced us to postpone our Annual Dinner. In its place we will have a chicken and rib barbecue followed by a campfire on August 14. Everyone who purchased a ticket or table for the annual dinner is already reserved for a place at this very special event.

Final details will be shared at a later date, but we'll follow the same schedule. An informal time for connecting with one another over appetizers will begin at 6:15. The meal will start at 7:00. The campfire will be traditional with some sharing from camp staff and others.

As an added bonus: if you were unable to participate in the Annual Dinner, you now have a chance to join in this event. Contact todd@campmack.org if you are interested in being added to the guest list, or you wish to purchase a table for you and additional guests.



We Need YOU!

As we have shared in this newsletter, there are lots of things happening at Camp Mack this summer. The Camp Board and the staff will make certain this time is used to improve our programs, facilities, and outreach, so the mission of Camp can be spread further in our communities. The struggle, however, is that we have limited staff and even more limited funds.

Our facility work requires additional help throughout the summer. We need landscapers, outdoor cleanup, painters, carpenters, housekeeping, and general labor. Several new programs are being considered for the future, and we need help in planning. We will need office help periodically. Please watch your email and Facebook for opportunities to help. We would love to have you join us.

What is critical for us is that we lost all our spring rental income, amounting to about \$250,000. We also will not be able to have our usual summer income. A new budget has been developed by the staff and reviewed by the Indiana Camp Board Finance Committee, and it helps make up the deficit, but it will still fall short. We have been blessed with one of the PPP loans to help us keep our staff through this critical initial period. We recently had the planned harvest of a timber stand, and the proceeds are also helping with lost income. Almost all our churches and many of our families donated part or all their summer camp fees easing our refund obligations. If our community (churches and individuals) continue to donate as usual, we will be able to make up a good portion of our lost income, but not all.

At this point, we believe we will have around \$86,000.00 to recover. There will be several opportunities this summer for all who are able to participate in giving events, beginning with our *Day of Giving* on June 7th. You can also use the services we will be offering, including cabin rentals, meals from the kitchen, and an online Gift Shoppe. You can register for our traditional fundraising events including the golf outing, 5K, and Camp Mack Festival. Even if we are not able to physically offer them, we will provide fun and engaging alternatives.

In the end, we count on you as we always have. We are doing everything possible to make sure we will emerge from this year ready and able to continue our ministry. But our success is dependent on you—because you are who we are.

Rentals Available!



BRING YOUR FAMILY TO CAMP MACK THIS SUMMER

Camp Mack has cabins to rent to families looking for a getaway to a safe and relaxing space. All four of our cabin areas are available through much of the summer at reasonable rates.

Each cabin rental includes:

- A fully prepared and disinfected cabin
- 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
- Kiosk rental with table service, Dutch ovens, and other campfire cookware for outdoor cooking
- Popcorn campfire (popped by the Camp Mack staff)
- Boating
- Other options may be available depending on state guidelines and staff availability

Call the Camp Mack office at 574-658-4831 or email a request to info@campmack.org to ask about availability and prices.

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

Hot Off the Presses

Press Release: June 1, 2020

Camp Alexander Mack, a Christian camp and conference center, will begin the major construction of an \$85,000 challenge course on its property north of Camp Mack Road in Milford, Indiana made possible by a grant from the K21 Health Foundation, which serves Kosciusko County. Executive Director Gene Hollenberg made the announcement to supporters of the 95-year old camp operated by the Church of the Brethren in Indiana.

“This challenge course will increase our ability to reach out to the communities around us,” Hollenberg said. “Research shows that physical activity is crucial for social, emotional, and physical health; however, when that activity is outdoors, the benefits are multiplied. We hope to serve a wide variety of groups including service clubs, business groups, schools, and churches by providing challenging and cooperative experiences in our challenge course and throughout our nature preserve.”

Major construction will begin on June 1st and the project should be complete by mid-August. “The mission at Camp Mack is all about connection,” says Program Director Jessica Kreider. “We are excited to expand and update our adventure experience to include a two-level high ropes course, two climbing faces with six routes to choose from, zip line, and expanded low ropes course offerings. The adventure education experience allows all participants to set personal goals, to be encouraged by those around them, to step out and try something new, and to have success on all levels. We are so excited to connect with our community through this adventure experience while enjoying the beauty of the wilderness area that surrounds it.”

