

Camp Alexander Mack

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10–12 or 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!

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.

Save the Dates:

- Giving Day, August 7
- Colony Camp, August 13–15
- Labor Day Family Camp, September 3–6



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.

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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 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**

News from the Director

Making Your Own Story

Last month, I shared Phyllis Leininger's book describing the development of Camp Mack. It tells about the growth and change of this beautiful place over many years. In case you missed it, you can find the book in our camp library, *The Cornfield that Grows People*.

Camp Mack is a place of stories. We use biblical stories to demonstrate concepts of love, responsibility, and community. The stories of the leaders of the Church of the Brethren give us examples of living faithfully, even when it is difficult. Our campers see new ways to live, as leaders share personal stories about the important influences of pastors and teachers on their lives.

But even more, each one of our campers and leaders is making their own story while they are at camp. One of our staff this summer completed the grueling lifeguard training. She shared her story on Facebook:

"This week was rough!! I am not a fan of the water, let alone bodies of water where I can't see the bottom. It freaks me out, and frankly, I have never been a great swimmer. I can swim, but ... I don't particularly enjoy it as a sport. So you can imagine my fear when this week started. Lifeguard training for work... was a whole new level of crazy intense. Nevertheless, we all pushed through and passed our certification!!! I have learned so many skills and pushed myself way past my limits (in a good way). Here's to a fantastic summer and a huge responsibility. Lifeguarding was never something I saw myself doing, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to be one." - Linda

Everyone who comes to Camp Mack (campers, guests, volunteers, and staff) leaves with a story. That story may simply be a new skill. It may be about new friends or the discovery of a new idea. Some will find a new talent or interest that leads them down a path they hadn't thought of before. Many experience Christian community at a deep level for the first time in their lives. I have been privileged to hear many wonderful stories about campers making a commitment to Christ while here. Once someone has made their story here, there is no going back.

You still have the opportunity to write a story this summer at Camp Mack. There are many openings still available for campers, volunteers, and staff. Give us a call to find out how you can grow and change with Camp Mack.

We have not stopped praying for you since the first day we heard about you. In fact, we always pray that God will show you everything he wants you to do and that you may have all the wisdom and understanding that his Spirit gives. ¹⁰ Then you will live a life that honors the Lord, and you will always please him by doing good deeds. You will come to know God even better. Colossians 1:9-10 (CEV)

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Nature Nut News



Summer is Made for Mothing

Summer nights are almost here. Bedtimes are important for young ones, but special activities after dark can make for great memories. Growing up, some of my fondest memories are of watching heat lightning on hot humid nights, hunting nightcrawlers for fishing, and seeing which insects and animals collected around the deck light outside after dark. With just a few simple items you already have lying around your house, you can set up an area for mothing and let the show begin.

Mothing starts in a dark area after the twilight fades to night in an area free of artificial light. Tie up a light colored sheet between two trees or poles on a windless night. Bring a form of light to set up behind your sheet and make sure it illuminates the sheet. Now, time to pull up a chair, lie on a blanket, or hang out nearby to see who shows up to your moth party. Bring a magnifying glass and your camera to document your findings.

Moths look furry with scales covering most of their body. All shapes, sizes, and colors will show up. How many species can you see in one night? Don't worry if it is a bit overwhelming as there are thousands of moth species.

Nights aren't just made for moths. You may have some other friends show up at your sheet including dobsonflies, caddisflies, and lacewings. Spend some more time observing and you may see moth predators show up to dine on the moth buffet such as bats, spiders, and tree frogs.

So, give it a try. Experiment with different styles of light, times of night, or different habitats. Here at camp you don't have to set up a sheet. Like growing up, I love checking out the moths that come in around the security lights above the doors at camp. I may have to make a "moths-found-at-Camp Mack" list of just the moths found around John Kline Welcome Center. Happy mothing!

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

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 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Camp is Hiring!

Help Others Reach New Heights

Now Hiring:

Program/Facility
Cabin Counselor
Food Service
Camp Nurse
Photographer

Learn More at:
campmack.org/employment

Click the
image on
the left to
visit camp's
webpage
with
position
descriptions
and
application
links.

Sunny Camp Mack

Summer 2021

I think it is here—the start of the summer of 2021.

Beth Sollenberger-Morphew for the last several years has invited Camp staff to her home for supper on the opening night of staff training. We enjoyed haystacks, ice cream, and cookies as we played and talked together. Now we are off to the summer of 2021.

It is an unusual start for the facility crew this year in that a lot of things were not used last summer. As we open the summer camp, we are finding that even though these facilities were not used they still did not do well just sitting empty. In the cabins we have two years of dust on beds, door closers that are stiff and not closing, flush valves and fill valves in the johns in the outside restrooms that sat in water all season and are full of rust. It seems to be taking us just a little bit longer this year to get everything working well.

Memorial Day weekend will be the first weekend that the whole camp will be used, and I think we will be ready for it. We had a great group of youth volunteers from Blue River last weekend. They helped us to clean up some dead ash trees down by the nature cabin and then they helped us clean the

Letter and E cabins. We already had the outside RR's up and going, so I think we are just about ready. I mentioned last time that we needed some help with lawn mowing, and we now have three folks who are willing to give one day a week to mow. That should take care of that issue which is a big relief.

Hopefully, we can get some boating and swimming piers in this week. The Memorial Day weekend group does not swim but they do fish off the boating piers, so we need to get that done.

The open house for the Hamer Health Center was a couple of weeks ago. We also showed off some of the recent improvements here at Camp. I was happy to see the number of people who went over to the new Peace Garden that Judy DePue has designed for us. They just sat in the benches and took in the beauty of God's creation here. Camp Mack is truly a "...sanctuary where people connect with God".

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Dear Summer Staff



Dear Summer Staff,

Thank you for putting in such hard work so far. Your training continues, but you've shown us who you are. More staff will shortly join this cool Camp Mack team, and we'll work together to live out the summer theme. You've learned, worked, laughed, played, and strengthened your new skills. May God guide you this summer through the valleys and hills. We're blessed to have you here at Mack—God we praise. There's much to experience in the upcoming days. You are sure to grow and find new things to see. Lean on each other in this holy sanctuary. M-A-C-K, Mack will always be your camp. Keep trying and getting rest, and you'll come out a champ. We'll keep you in our prayers and feed you great food. May Lake Waubee waves put you in a happy camper mood.



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.

[campmack.org](https://www.campmack.org) | 574-658-4831 | info@campmack.org



Diversity Report

After much discussion and research, we have developed a plan for emotional safety for all campers. It is important we communicate to everyone that Camp Mack welcomes all people to experience sanctuary and connection with God.

Beyond Holy Hospitality, it is important that our campers and guests feel safe so they are open to new experiences of faith. If you are interested in seeing our plan for emotional safety, please contact us at info@campmack.org.



Please Help!

There are still several needs for camp staff this summer. You can help by sharing this information with anyone you know who may have contact with possible staff. You see, working at camp is not like any other summer job. Our camp staff will be part of a ministry reaching out to hundreds of children, providing the love of God to rental groups and guests, and joining together in a community of faith and support.

We still need **lifeguard/program/facility** staff. If you are 18 years of age or older and are willing to be certified as a lifeguard, call us now. We need you. We also have part-time weekday positions for persons who are already lifeguard certified. If you are looking for a great place to work twenty hours a week, please contact us today.

We also need **counselors** for our youth camps this summer. This is a six-week position with two weeks of training and four weeks of camper supervision in cabins.

We are looking for people who:

- seek to be part of an important ministry
- enjoy serving others
- desire a caring and supportive community
- thrive in a natural environment
- want scholarship opportunities
- are team-oriented and motivated by challenge

If you know such a person, then we are a perfect fit. Help us connect and offer these and other benefits to them.

If you know of someone, please share information with them, or let us know, so we can contact them directly. Details of employment and applications can be found at campmack.org/employment.

Beyond helping us recruit, we have some additional needs:

1. Your prayers for finding the right people to fill our staffing needs
2. Volunteers for kitchen, lawn-mowing, general housekeeping, and facility maintenance
3. Communication with your church and community about our needs

We are so excited to provide camp this summer. Please help us make this the best summer ever in restoring community!

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

Another Way of Giving

Back Again



Last year, after we announced that summer camp was cancelled, I knew my job as a fundraiser was about to drastically change. We had been doing a virtual campfire for a few weeks at that point, but it was clear we would need to do so much more. A number of organizations inspired me to create Camp Mack Giving Day with the goal of 95 donors giving \$95 each in honor of Camp Mack's 95 years. You blew past our original goal of \$10,000 and raised a total of \$31,567.21.

While the amount of money you donated was amazing, what sticks with me are the stories I heard. I treasure the stories shared by Arden Ball, especially the ones about our emcee Dennis Beckner. Fun fact, that interview was recorded before Dennis committed to be the emcee. All of those who contributed their Camp Mack stories were amazing.

This year, Giving Day is back, with some changes. You will hear much more about Giving Day, so this is just a teaser of what to expect.

Giving Day is August 7th, 2021. Our theme this year is "Celebrating Sanctuary". Camp Mack has made a difference in so many ways for 96 years, so that is a reason to celebrate.

10am- "Celebrating New Heights" Documentary

Not everyone is a fan of heights, and in this documentary you will see how Camp Mack helps people reach new heights whether that a few feet off the ground, or 30ft up in the canopy of the wilderness area. **Premiering on Facebook**

1pm-4pm- "Celebrating Sanctuary" Telethon

We all have our own Camp Mack stories, and this telethon will give you a time to hear stories from a wide variety of the Camp Mack community. Keep an eye on Camp Mack's Facebook to see who will be sharing. **Live on Facebook**

7pm- "Celebrating Community" Campfire

Gathering around the campfire is one of the most quintessential Camp Mack experiences. Join singing old favorites, and learn new songs as well. Popcorn will be included. **In Person and Live on Facebook**

We are looking forward to you joining us in Celebrating Sanctuary!

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

Kitchen News

S'mores Cupcakes

We recently hosted an open house at camp, and it was great to see so many people walking around and spending time on the grounds. It was a great opportunity for the kitchen staff to get outside and provide refreshments to all the guests. I wanted to make some camp-y snacks and decided I needed to make something with s'mores. I went searching on Pinterest and found all kinds of ideas.

Cookies, Rice Krispie treats, cakes, cupcakes, snack mixes! There were all kinds of ideas online! I decided to make cupcakes, single servings that were easy to pass out. Plus of course we had to serve people cinnamon toast. It was a great afternoon and people really enjoyed the snacks. Here is the cupcake recipe I found. Enjoy!

Ingredients

Graham cracker crust:

- 1 ½ cups graham crackers, crushed
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted

Cupcakes:

- 1 box (15.25 oz) devil's food chocolate cake mix
- 3 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 cup buttermilk, room temperature
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup mini chocolate chips
- Graham cracker crumbs

Marshmallow frosting:

- 1 container (7 oz) marshmallow creme
- 1 cup butter, room temperature
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Toppings:

- Chocolate bars or shavings
- Graham Cracker crumbs
- Mini chocolate chips

Instructions

Crust:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Add cupcake liners to the pan and set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs and sugar together.

Melt butter in a microwave-safe bowl and blend into crumb mixture until well combined.

Add 1 tablespoon mixture to each liner and press down with spoon or fingers.

Bake for 6-8 minutes, remove from oven, and cool on wire rack for 5 minutes before adding cupcake batter.

Cupcakes:

In a large mixing bowl, mix together the cake mix, eggs, buttermilk and oil until smooth.

Divide batter on top of cooled graham cracker crust.

Sprinkle with chocolate chips and graham cracker crumbs.

Bake at 325 degrees for 16-18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from oven to wire rack and allow to cool completely before frosting.

Frosting

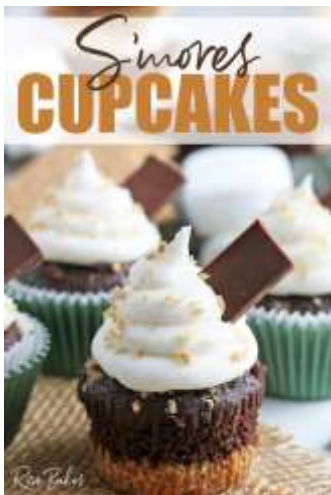
Cream butter in a large mixing bowl.

Add marshmallow creme and vanilla extract and mix until smooth.

Gradually add powdered sugar and beat until smooth.

Frost cupcakes and decorate as desired.

Store unused cupcakes in an airtight container in the refrigerator.



Chef in training, Peter Bohannon

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

High Ropes Community Day June 5th!

Camp Mack is having a Community Day where you can try out the first level of our new high ropes course for FREE!

The course is in the woods, a 15 min walk from the parking lot at the John Kline Welcome Center. Sign up for a time slot at campmack.org/challenge/. Please plan to arrive at the high ropes course at the start of your designated time slot. There are no bathrooms in the woods, but the Welcome Center will be open.

Participants should be at least 10 years old and plan to wear closed toed shoes. High Ropes Courses have some risk associated with them and participants should be in good physical health and able to climb, hold themselves upright, and be free from current injuries that would affect their ability to complete the course. All participants will sign a waiver on arrival. Maximum weight limit is 300 pounds. Thank you!



Questions? Call camp or email Kristen@campmack.org

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator



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—fully funded (individual donor)
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge—partially 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—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—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.



Volunteer Counselors Needed!

Because of COVID-19, Camp Mack decided that we would have to hire all our counselors for summer camps. This was because we believed we would not be able to provide a safe environment with different adults arriving each week. That decision was made in December.

Since that time, things have changed dramatically, and what we once thought was inevitable, is no longer true. Vaccinations have made it possible for much of the state to open up, and our protocols make it even safer.

For this reason, and because of worker shortages, we are again seeking volunteers for counseling this summer.

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 is a big commitment to be a camp counselor, but it is also a big payoff. Not only are children's lives changed in a week at Camp Mack. The counselors' lives are, too.

We are only looking for counselors during the weeks beginning July 4, 11, 18, and 25. However, training is extremely important this year. There will be a weekend training June 24-26th that will be critical for our coordinated program. This training will be unlike any you have experienced in the past. It will be filled with fun and great ideas.

We are calling you to join us the weekend of June 24th and one more week in July. If you are interested in serving in a bigger way, we are still taking applications for our paid summer counselors.

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!

