

# Camp Alexander Mack

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **May 10–13—Seasoned Citizens Retreat**

Join this group of life-experienced people who gather twice a year to meet old friends and make new ones. Special program, craft, vespers and Bible studies will be offered along with plenty of free time for fellowship, “joke time,” indoor and outdoor games, hiking, puzzles and naps, too! Our facility offers handicap-accessible sleeping and meeting rooms, as well as dining options for those on special diets. Bring your special talent, humor, Bible, bedding, and games... and be refreshed at Camp Mack!

**Age:** Older adults **Fee:** \$185 per person (\$125 if not staying overnight)

**Future Dates:** October 18–21, 2021. 3p Monday–1p Thursday

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



**May 16—Camp Mack Open House** See page 5. Join us for this special event.

<https://fb.me/e/NIEZNcFm>

## **June 3–5—South Central Indiana Women’s Camp**

Gather with Church of the Brethren women from South Central Indiana for a time of worship, reflection and fellowship. 4p Thursday–1:30p Saturday

**Age:** Women of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For registration and more info, contact the South/Central District office at 260-982-8805. <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#family>



## **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>



**Save the Date:** Giving Day, August 7

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](https://www.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](https://www.campmack.org).**

A decorative border of purple flowers, likely Salvia, surrounds the central text area.

# **CREATION SPEAKS**

## **Summer Camp 2021**

### **CAMP ALEXANDER MACK**

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

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

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

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

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

## Sponsor a Summer Staffer at Camp Mack

### SPONSOR A SUMMER STAFFER

**CABIN COUNSELOR**  
**\$1,400**



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

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

## Camp is Hiring!

### Help Others Reach New Heights

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

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

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

# Camp Mack Open House

**May 16th  
1pm - 4pm**

**Esther and John Hamer Health Center Dedication 2:30pm**

Going Solar



High Ropes



Hamer Health Center



Peace Garden



And More



**Masks  
Required**

**Refreshments  
Provided**

**Campmack.org**

**1113 E Camp Mack Road, Milford, Indiana 574-658-4831**



# COVID-19 Response

Recently, there has been an uptick in infections in this area. While they have not reached an urgent state, it is worth noting that our ability to serve people and to bring the community together is dependent on our ability to hold off the virus. For now, that means having people get vaccinations, wearing masks in indoor and public settings, and following good health practices.

Some of the new recommendations being considered by the CDC and our local and state health departments may include some easing of mask-wearing outdoors. However, these decisions have not been made, and as before, we will follow those official recommendations as well as those provided by the American Camp Association. If there is a change, we will inform all campers, parents, and user groups.

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

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

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

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

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



# Please Help!

Camp Mack is in **desperate** need of workers in all areas for the summer. Specifically, we need Lifeguard/Program/Facility staff, Kitchen staff, and Counselors.

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 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
- are eighteen years or older
- want scholarship opportunities
- are team-oriented and motivated by challenge

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

## News from the Director

### Making Way for New Life

In 1924, a group of church leaders had a vision for creating a camp that would provide a Christian community experience for youth and training opportunities for Christian educators. That vision led to establishment of Camp Mack on the eastern end of Lake Waubesa. For a delightful story about the building of Camp Mack, read The Cornfield that Grows People written by Phyllis E. Leininger and illustrated by Herbert L. Eveland.

As I look out my window, I see a beautiful tree at least 80 feet tall. That tree wasn't even a seed in 1924. It was planted by someone at some point in the last ninety-seven years, and from that planting, we see its beauty and enjoy its shade. We wonder at the life it gives animals and surrounding plants alike, but I have never, until this moment, thought about how it came to be there. It is likely that ninety-seven years from now, that tree will be gone, and some other life-giving thing will be there.

In God's creation, the world changes so creation can continue. What was once new serves its purpose and then is replaced by something else. This is the circle of life we all experience, and while we may mourn what is lost, we rejoice in the promise of the new creation that will replace it.

In this last year, some of the old things have passed in order to bring new opportunities for people to connect with God here. Murray Mound, a former outdoor theatre area that had been unused for years, is now a beautiful garden overlooking the lake. The stone restrooms near Jacob's Well were torn down to make room for clean and modern single restrooms as part of the new Esther and John Hamer Health Center. The old health center in Ulrich House has been dismantled to make room for additional guests in Ulrich House. Old windows in Sarah Major were replaced with new, more efficient ones, making rooms more comfortable. The old windows were sold to provide income for camp and give our artistic friends opportunities to take home a memory. The canvas yurts were taken down to provide more green space for campers to run and play.

As we continue to grow and respond to change in the world, we will always remember that our decisions are guided by determining how best we can fulfill our mission: *Camp Alexander Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community*, and by the power of prayer that surrounds us.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



## **Nature Nut News**



### **Earth Day 2021—Power of Connection**

Earth Day 2021 road trip began with a stop along a country road just miles from my house before I even picked up a friend to do some birdwatching. As I crossed over U.S. 6, I saw a large bird gliding in circles no more than 50 feet above the road. A quick glance at a white head and a white tail on a dark body gave me a quick confirmation of an adult Bald eagle. I pulled over, turned on my hazards, and just watched its patterns before it landed in a tree close by.

Fast forward an hour as we approached the beginning of Trail 3 at Potato Creek State Park. We entered the wood to a nearly overwhelming sensory experience of a strong chilly breeze, the tapping of a woodpecker nearby, and little birds, bouncy like energetic toddlers all through the brush. We took a deep breath to just take it all in. A minute later, things started coming into view. Trillium, phlox, and Dutchman's breeches carpeted the forest floor, and the energetic birds flashed neon highlighter yellow colors on their rumps, identifying them as Yellow-rumped warblers. They are among the first warblers to arrive for the spring migration. Later on that trail we heard the groan of a dead tree supported only by a small branch resting on another tree. We then saw a chipmunk frozen above its stash of nuts in a hollow log.

Trail 4 brought more wildflowers, time to watch an Osprey in a hover pattern as it prepared to dive for a meal of fish, and an assortment of small waterfowl hiding in the emergent aquatic plants. The pelicans were hanging out on the edge of Trail 1, so we headed over for a hike on that side of the lake. How lovely it was that the pelicans were close to a viewing location with a bench and a clear space. I stretched out on my stomach for some photo taking and observation. It was nice just to watch them preen, swim, fish, and snap at each other.

*Creation Speaks* is the theme this summer, and when we find ourselves connected with creation, we find ourselves connected more closely with the Creator. We catch ourselves noticing more about others and connecting more closely with them. Take the time to notice today.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

# Sunny Camp Mack

## April Showers and May Flowers

The pace is picking up. We had 70-degree weather a week ago and then 2" of snow this past week. It is April in Northern Indiana! I sit here in my office and I can see some shiny new roofs. When we started the year, we had three bad roofs: the pavilion at Jacob's Well, Shultz Chapel, and Sarah Major Lodge. As of today, Shultz Chapel has a pretty metal brown roof on it, and Jacob's Well has a nice green metal roof. Our roofer just began removing the old roof on Sarah Major, and by the time you read this, it should have a roof to match the chapel. Together with the new Esther and John Hamer Health Center, we look pretty good. It is pretty amazing that in six months we have replaced close to \$50,000 worth of roofs. Thank you all for supporting that. To have a "sanctuary" experience, you must have a good roof over your head.

The solar panels are all in place and making electricity. It will be so good to see our NIPSCO bill with a nice large credit to offset the power we used!

We continue to put the finishing touches on the Hamer Health Center. This past weekend we had volunteers from Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren and N.A. We Grow With Love help with landscaping. In terms of volunteers, we had a large number come for the two sessions of Volunteer Work Days and on a couple of weekends. That was a giant leap forward in preparing for the summer. This place would be closed quickly if it were not for our volunteers. I am grateful for your friendship and hard work.

In closing, let me put out a plea for some help mowing this summer. It takes about four days to mow everything. If you would have some time and enjoy mowing, we could really use some help. Any amount of time would be appreciated. Thank you.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



## Be Our Guest

### “Mint” to Be



It's almost summer camp season here at Camp Mack! Before we get there, we have retreats to host this month, along with outdoor education groups, church worships, and staff training. Even though we can't fit much else into the summer calendar, now is a great time to look forward toward the fall and winter and plan your events! The fall is filling up very quickly.

The facility crew is awesome at setting up tables and chairs for events based on what a group's need is. We have different tables and chairs for each space, and if you tell us ahead of time what you'd like, we can set it for you. You can also adjust it as you need to.

The picture on the right is an adjusted setup for our spring quilters with extra tables for distancing on the main floor of Sarah Major.

The picture below is a small setup for a rental group's spiritual retreat on the main floor of Ulrich House.

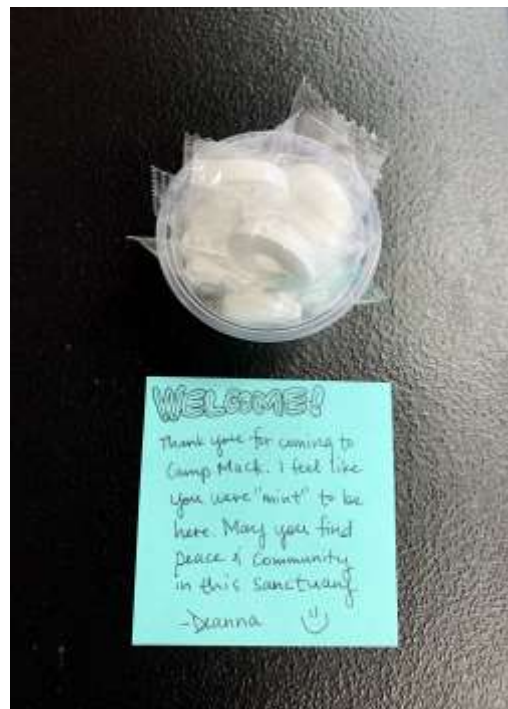


Both lodges also have meeting space in their basements along with game tables and other amenities.

To the right are some welcome mints. Whether you are a returning group who has enjoyed camp for years, a new group visiting Camp Mack for the first time, or somewhere in between, you are welcome at this sanctuary. You were “mint” to be a part of the Camp Mack community, and we're glad you're here. (It's cheesy and punny, but it's true. We appreciate your support and love of camp immensely.)

For questions on bookings, contact me at [deanna@campmack.org](mailto:deanna@campmack.org).

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



# **Another Way of Giving**

## **Camp Mack Festival Spring Update**

When the decision was made to cancel the in-person Camp Mack Festival (CMF) last year, we talked about making sure the festival came back bigger in 2021. Now that it is 2021, I get to fill you in on the exciting work the CMF Steering Committee has been up to.

The plan is to have an in-person festival this fall. We all know that many things can change between now and then, but we are planning for more social distancing and masks.

Last year we tried an online auction for the first time. While the auction had many fewer items than it usually did, financially it raised the same as an average auction over the last few years. With that knowledge in mind, we are planning an online auction with unique items and experiences again this year in place of a live auction. The flea market will expand to serve as a home for all of your donations.

During our survey last fall, many of you shared about the fellowship that was one of the key pillars of the Camp Mack Festival. With no auction to mark the end of the day, we will be keeping all activities, entertainment, and booths running until 4pm. This gives you more time to catch up with all your Camp Mack friends.

The demolition of the West side restrooms and construction of the Hamer Health Center has opened things up to create a better festival center. To connect more to this space, children's activities will move to the deck of John Kline and/or Dining Room C (depending on weather). This will help this festival feel more connected and put kids next to the colorful Arky Parky Animals.

To help the festival appeal to more ages and activities levels, we talked about many different activities. While some of these are still in the brainstorming phase, we are working to open the new high ropes course during the festival.



This all sounds really exciting, and trust me, the committee is excited as well. There are many ways to help make this festival a success. We need volunteers, church-sponsored booths, and people to come. This year we need something extra. We need you to get vaccinated. Vaccinations in Indiana are open to everyone 16 and older, and signing up for a shot is very easy. Thank you to all of you who have gotten vaccinated, and if you haven't, please get signed up soon! This is our shot to have a Camp Mack Festival on October 2nd!

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

## **Kitchen News**

### **Raspberry Lemon Muffins**

I love the contrast of colors during springtime, especially on a gloomy gray day! Grays, browns, and greens: the color combination is just so calming and relaxing. Throw some snow in there and you get a wonderful contrast of colors!

On gloomy days, I love baking. I decided to make some fresh blueberry muffins for our Volunteer Work Days at the beginning of April, and then realized, after I had put all the batter together, that I didn't have any blueberries to use! I quickly started searching Pinterest for a new idea of how to use the muffin batter and came across a recipe for raspberry lemon muffins. I had raspberries in the freezer, and lemon juice in the refrigerator - perfect! I was so pleased with the results, and glad I doubled the recipe because we had muffins for days!

#### **Ingredients:**

##### **Raspberry Muffin Batter**

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 Tablespoon baking powder  
pinch of salt (optional)  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup granulated sugar\*\*  
1 Tablespoon lemon zest  
2 large eggs, room temperature  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk, room temperature  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup unsalted butter, melted  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup fresh lemon juice  
1 and  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup raspberries fresh or frozen

##### **Streusel Topping**

6 Tablespoons all-purpose flour  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup and 1 tablespoon granulated sugar  
3 Tablespoons unsalted butter,  
melted or cold\*



#### **Instructions:**

##### **Streusel Topping**

Mix the flour and sugar in a small bowl. For tiny crumbles: Cut the cold butter into flour mixture with a fork or rub with your finger until they look like crumbs. For big crumbles: Pour the melted butter and slowly mix with a fork or a spoon. If it forms a dough, you can take big or small pieces from the dough.

##### **Raspberry Muffin Batter**

Preheat the oven to 375°. Line 12 non-stick standard paper liners into regular size 12 cup-cupcake/muffin pan and set aside.

Mix the flour, baking powder, and salt (if using) in a large bowl. Set aside.

Place the sugar and lemon zest in a medium bowl. Stir with a fork or rub with your fingers to bring the lemon flavor out. Add the egg and whisk for a minute until combined well. Mix in the melted butter, milk, and lemon juice.

Pour the wet ingredients (egg mixture) into the dry ingredients (flour mixture) and mix until just combined. Gently fold the raspberries in. Don't overmix the batter in order to have light muffins.

Fill 12 paper liners to the top with the batter. Sprinkle the streusel on the batter.

Bake for 22-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the muffins comes out clean and the top of the muffins are lightly golden brown. Baking time may change from oven to oven, so start to check the muffins after 18 minutes. Let the muffins cool in the pan for 10 minutes before transferring onto a wire rack to cool completely.

I made a lemon glaze to drizzle over the top, as well. It was just powdered sugar, vanilla, lemon juice, and a little bit of milk. I added more powdered sugar or milk depending on the consistency I was looking for. Enjoy!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

# Education Station

## Garden Club Off to a Great Start

This is the second year of the Garden Club at Creekside Church of the Brethren. We're so happy to have 30 kids taking part in the club this season! In March we started hundreds of seeds, and in April we were able to start our transplants. We learned about important topics like what plants need to grow, soil health, and how weather affects our plants. Despite a few plants drowning and growing mold (not quite what we were going for), we've already seen a lot of growth in the greenhouse in the first 6 weeks of the club.



*Plants are already growing (left) after starting seeds at the first two club meetings (right).*



*The club veterans show the newbies how the compost bin works (left). Our seed starting dirt was a mixture of last year's extra dirt with some compost from Camp Mack and Creekside (right)!*



*Noah has a huge stack of seedling pots (left) ready for transplants. The kids enjoy a bit of social time, like this simple but popular activity called "Run, Scream, Die" (right).*

## **Education Station, Continued**

Last week we discovered that a few lettuce seeds had gone rogue and were growing seedlings in the cracks between the paving stones. Olivia, a hilarious 8-year-old, decided that meant she had to eat them. She also discovered that a bin we hadn't cleaned out from last fall had carrots growing in it from last year's seeds and felt the need to eat one – green leaves and all. Looks like we're already harvesting some of what we're growing!

May for the Garden Club starts our season of learning about birds and appreciating the natural world. Every week we have "discovery" time where the kids can explore the garden and many of the kids are already learning how to identify new bugs, trees, frogs, and birds. Camp Mack's own Jessie K. is going to come and share her knowledge about birds this month and take the kids on a bird hike to see what we can find! We are so blessed at camp to have experts in so many areas!

Another great expert connected to camp, Ron Nicodemus, will be joining us in June to kick off our beekeeping season. The kids have been talking about and looking forward to beekeeping for months now! Ron, our resident beekeeper and bee educator, will teach the kids all about bees and take them out to the hives to get a taste of what beekeeping is like. He even got us all to get these super cool shirts that say, "BEE KIND" with a tagline, "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." from Ephesians 4:32. What a great reminder for all of us as we're getting back into living more social lives and remembering how to act around each other. If you need a reminder too, Creekside has some extra shirts for purchase! It really is great to see kids back to interacting, learning, and growing together.



In addition to Garden Club this month, we've got several school groups we'll be seeing in the next couple of weeks, and we're also excited to have new staff members joining us for staff training! May really is a good month for new connections, adventure, and personal growth, so I hope you all remember to BEE KIND as we all somewhat venture back into our normal lives this year.



Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator

## **Diversity Report**

So far we have not been successful in recruiting people of color for summer staff. In fact, we have not been successful in recruiting in general. There are still many positions to fill.

Our focus lately has been to make certain our employment and guest practices are inclusive. This will be included in the new employment manual we will use for training this year. We also have added conflict resolution, inclusion training, and discussions on developing empathy as part of our regular training program.

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



# 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](http://campmack.org) for monthly updates.

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