

# Camp Alexander Mack

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EXPERIENCING GOD, COMMUNITY, AND NATURE

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# MACKABILIA



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# **News from the Director**

## **Perfect Time for Thanksgiving**

November is a good time for reflection. The leaves are mostly down. In a normal year, the harvest is in. The weather and the shortening days limit the things we can do outside. The year is winding down before it accelerates to Christmas. It is a perfect time for Thanksgiving.

Here at Camp Mack we have so much to be thankful for:

- Those who give of their time, talents, and treasure to make our programs work
- A dedicated staff who work hard throughout the year to give every person a sanctuary experience
- An Indiana Camp Board that skillfully shepherds the vision of ministry
- Campers who bring joy and excitement
- Guests who provide opportunities to grow in faith and understanding
- Daily gifts from God that allow us to share Holy Hospitality

Our ministry is about giving. We facilitate giving through the gifts of our churches and community. We also want to give back. Beyond summer camps and special programs, we ask you, “How can we help?” Can we provide programs that meet your specific needs? Does your church need someone to preach in your pastor’s absence or help with a program? Would you be able to do a vacation Bible school if we were able to help you organize it? Is there a way we can help you with leadership training or teambuilding? Perhaps there is something we can do that no one has even thought of yet. Whatever it is, please ask. We want to be part of your faith journey. If you don’t know how we can help, at least stop by, walk around this beautiful space, and let’s talk about how to be involved.



As you reflect on the gifts you have received in this last year, we hope that Camp Mack has contributed to your joy in some way. Even if you haven’t been to camp in a while, I pray that, at some point, a memory or a conversation about camp provided some moment of delight for you.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



### **Advocating for the Voiceless**



Giving is an opportunity we have each day. We show support through financial gifts, education, fixing meals for others, time spent with those we love, by voting, encouraging, praying, etc... Each summer, campers are given the opportunity to give back in various areas. A service project such as brush trimming is one most campers participate in. They also have the chance to give a financial offering during the week. Each summer, I choose an organization or cause that often enhances the theme and rotate among global, state/U.S., and camp causes.

Peace Works was the theme for 2019 and centered around themes such as response to conflict, reconciliation, and putting our love into action through active peacemaking. March 3, I was invited by a friend to come to Goshen City COB to hear Samuel and Rebecca Dali speak. The Sunday School and worship hours offered some great insight, but it was when Samuel and Rebecca asked to join the table I was sitting at lunch, that the conversation opened up and I decided CCEPI was the organization I wanted to introduce campers to. Campers gave \$608.66 to CCEPI this summer.

CCEPI stands for the Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives. Their mission is “to alleviate suffering among vulnerable groups; promote human well-being and dignity, economic development, and peace; and to strengthen the capacity of individuals, families, and communities to achieve these goals.”

Nigeria, Chibok girls, and Boko Haram are all topics that we have heard covered in the news over the years. CCEPI works to access the basic needs of those affected. One of the services they provide is training that works towards self-reliance. Graduates are provided with sewing machines, computers, and other supplies based on their education. To hear more of their story and vision, check out [www.ccepiusa.org](http://www.ccepiusa.org). How will you give this year?

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



# **Sunny Camp Mack**

## **Late Fall Projects**

It is fall and time to finish those outside projects. We have a few more piers to bring in. Fortunately, they are the “stay out of the water” type and we won’t have to get wet. We have been working on the new soffit on the back side of Sarah Major. Jim Bates helped us a month ago, and Travis and I finished the long section. Now we want to finish a short section before it gets cold! The wind really clobbered the back side of Sarah Major last winter. Hopefully the repairs we have made will stand the test of winter winds.

We have over 100 benches that need to be stored away in Quinter Miller Auditorium and a lot of picnic tables to be put in the shelters for the winter. And of course, the leaves. With all the trees around here, we have a lot of leaves to deal with. Hugh Rettinger has been mowing all summer, and he will take a couple more shots at it this fall. We also had a volunteer a couple of years ago build a trailer with a fan on it that hooks to our lawn mower discharge chute. We pile these leaves down by the compost pile and add them to next year’s compost. We need to deal with all the leaves on the West side of Camp or they will wind up stacked against the John Kline Welcome Center deck. That makes for a real mess next spring.

We also finished the Ulrich siding project last week with the addition of three new storm doors on the front. As you may recall, we received a generous estate gift a few years ago and decided to invest that money in siding, windows, and new storm doors. Kevin Ramer came over last Friday and led the way in installing the new doors. They look great! This project has made such an improvement in the looks and condition of Ulrich House.

As always, we continue to attempt to keep this place in good repair because it is “... a Sanctuary where people connect with God.”

Galen Jay, Facility Director



# **Be Our Guest**

## **The Unseen Things**

Lonerwolf.com has an interesting list entitled, “12 Invisible Things We Can’t See That Incredibly Exist” (it’s a little redundant but intriguing all the same):

1. Radio Waves
2. Atoms
3. Dark Matter
4. Antimatter
5. Air/Oxygen
6. Ultraviolet Light
7. Gravity
8. Infrared
9. The Mind (thoughts)
10. Emotions
11. Quantum Particles
12. The Entire Universe

Many of these on the list can be observed, quantified, measured, or have effects that we can see. We have tools that help us view parts of them or discover what they can do. But, with the naked eye, we don’t see them. There are some other things that could be added to the list, like magnetism, the soul, or time. Magicians perform tricks that confuse our observations, sometimes performing disappearing acts. What we observe isn’t always accurate or fully true. Our minds and eyes can play tricks on us. When looking into a fish tank, our eyes believe a fish to be in a slightly different location because of the refraction of the water.



The unseen things in this world are some of the most essential. We’d have to be built differently to live without oxygen. And this world just wouldn’t be the same without gravity. There are movies and books that have depicted worlds where emotion is removed, and what a strange life that would be.

God may not be seen with human eyes, but God’s works can be observed and felt like (and unlike) many of these other unseen things. Miracles, acts of service, outreaches of love—all have incredible effects. We put our faith in gravity every day to keep us grounded. Many of us have faith that our minds will remember bits of information, will help us think and make decisions. We have faith that God is there with us along our journeys. Much importance lies in the unseen.

As I was pondering these unseen things recently, it also brought to mind some of the unseen works at camp. There may be times that you get glimpses of the facility staff setting up for an event, the kitchen staff busy cooking in the kitchen for the next meal, the program staff preparing for an activity, or the office staff handling a situation, but a lot of folks around camp are the unseen heroes behind the Camp Mack ministry. Those of you who have come to volunteer would fit into this, too. When guests come for an event, they may not know how much work went into planning for the day, the preparation that needed to happen, the hours that were spent in communication, or the heart that was put into making them feel welcome, and it’s not necessary for them to. As a staff, we often like when we are able to interact with our guests, but we realize that it’s not always our role. Sometimes our role is to be there and available if the guests need us, but to let events play out as planned, to watch the beauty of fellowship foster among the people enjoying it.

This November, I am especially thankful for the unseen things within me and around me.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



# Another Way of Giving

## Can I have some more?

During my time living in Colorado, I spent a large amount of time working retail. I started at the South Aurora Target as a Softlines (Clothing) Team Member and eventually ended up working as my store's Signing Specialist. I was in charge of the major signs and displays, ranging from giant overhead signs, to baby furniture displays, to light up cosmetics displays, to decorating Christmas trees. It was exciting when I received new or challenging signs to build, but there were three words that struck me with fear: *"Back to School"*.

I also spent about 6 months working at the retail stores at the Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs. A perk of working at Great Wolf was that we had more freedom to set up things in the way they would work best for us, rather than how the corporate office said they might. While I do not envision myself going back to retail, I still carry many of the ideas I gained from Target and Great Wolf.

With all the transition in the office over the last few years, our gift shoppe has been passed around between a number of us. I am excited to announce that Pam Hollenberg has taken over as our Gift Shoppe Volunteer Coordinator. She will be responsible for running the gift shoppe with guidance from myself, and will consult Deanna and I when choosing what to order. We have come up with three goals for the gift shoppe to fill your shopping needs.

### **More Product**

Historically, we have ordered product once a year, when the sales are cheapest. This really throws a wrench in your shopping if you come in during Labor Day Family Camp, Camp Mack Festival, or anytime after the summer. Our goal is to have more of the items you want, so you can buy any design in nearly any size at any time.

### **More Variety**

Seasoned Citizens shop differently than Samplers—simple as that. We should have a variety of products that fit everyone's wants. We are not a toy store, we are not a home decor store, and we are not an apparel shop. We need a variety of products that match the variety of people we serve.

### **More Camp Mack**

Part of the reason to have a gift shoppe is to get our name out there. It's great to have you here, but we also want you to remember Camp Mack when you drink your coffee in the morning, cuddle your favorite stuffed animal, or pick out a sweatshirt for a cool fall day. Why would you buy something here that you could find anywhere else? If you bought something here, we want you to remember where you bought it to conjure your memories of this special place.

These goals will take time, but stop by and see what more the Camp Mack Gift Shoppe has to offer! We will be open for all your Christmas shopping on **December 7th from 11 a.m.–1p.m.** Or call and see if you can drop by to see our changes and the wonderful memories of camp you can give.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



## **Kitchen News**

### **Volunteers Then and Now**

I like to think of November as Volunteer Appreciation Month. I don't know if that's really a thing, but I like the sound of it. We are starting our November at camp with a lot of volunteer-oriented activities. The last days of October are our volunteer work days where people can volunteer for a day or stay a few nights and volunteer for two or three days. Then the first Saturday of November is our Volunteer Banquet, where we have a nice dinner for all the people who have volunteered throughout the year. The next weekend there is a wedding at camp, and I have several amazing volunteers who will be coming in to help set up, serve, and clean up for the wedding reception. We will also be continuing to serve lunches to some of our weekly volunteers who help out on facility throughout the month.

November is, of course, Thanksgiving month, and the camp kitchen would not run without all the volunteers for whom we are thankful every day. There are so many amazing men and women who have volunteered their time and energy, making the camp kitchen the wonderful place that it is. So, if you are one of those people, be it kitchen, program, facility, or office work, thank you so much for all you do to make camp a sanctuary for our guests. You never know the impact you may be having on someone else's life.

I have spent the last few weeks, when I have a few spare minutes, looking through all of the Waubee Waves from my years as a camper at Camp Alexander Mack. I would like to personally thank all of the men and women who volunteered their time as my counselors for a few days to a week at camp. My grandparents brought me to Grand Camp for three years. I would go with one set of grandparents one year, then the next year the other set took me. It was such a blessing that my grandparents were all good friends because they often came to camp at the same time, so I was able to play with my cousins and go between both sides of the family. What a great way to start off my camper experience. My very first year as a non-Grand Camp camper, I had great counselors—one of whom was here at camp recently leading our Fall Quilt Retreat. Ruth Middleton and her daughter Christina were my very first camp counselors when I started Sampler Camp in 1996. In 1997, Debbie Luper, Larisa Hoke, and Lowell Shearer were my counselors. If I remember correctly, we stayed in the W cabins that used to be across the sidewalk from Sarah Major, close to where the center campfire circle is now. In 1998 Kathy Denney and Brandon Kauffman were my counselors. We were in the main W circle that year. I remember I accidentally left my bathing suit in our cabin, and Kathy mailed it to me at home. I was so excited to get my favorite suit back. In 1999, Danielle Wion, Sarah Miller, and Ben Barkey were my counselors. I think this was my first year staying in the East Cabin Circle. Suzie Wright, Jim Baker, and Mike Malooley were my counselors in 2000. In 2001, Jenny Lantz and Darin Wolf were my counselors. I remember becoming great friends with both of these counselors and still cherish their friendship 18 years later. In 2002 Miranda Miller and Nathan Wheeler were my counselors. I think having several counselors who were summer staff members started to plant a small seed in my brain about the possibility of how fun it would be to work at camp.

In 2003, Jenny Lantz and John Sievers were my last counselor family. It was nice to have a counselor I already knew for my last year as a camper before youth camp. I found out that John grew up in the Logansport Church of the Brethren, the same church as my parents, and had some great memories of coming to camp with several of my family members. 2004 was my first year at Youth Camp, and Kristi Haberzette was my counselor. 2005 was my last year as a Youth Camper, and Val Kline was my counselor. Thanks to Facebook I have been able to stay connected to several of my previous counselors.

You never know where the kids you spent a week with at summer camp will end up. So thank you volunteer counselors for the impact you have on your campers' lives!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



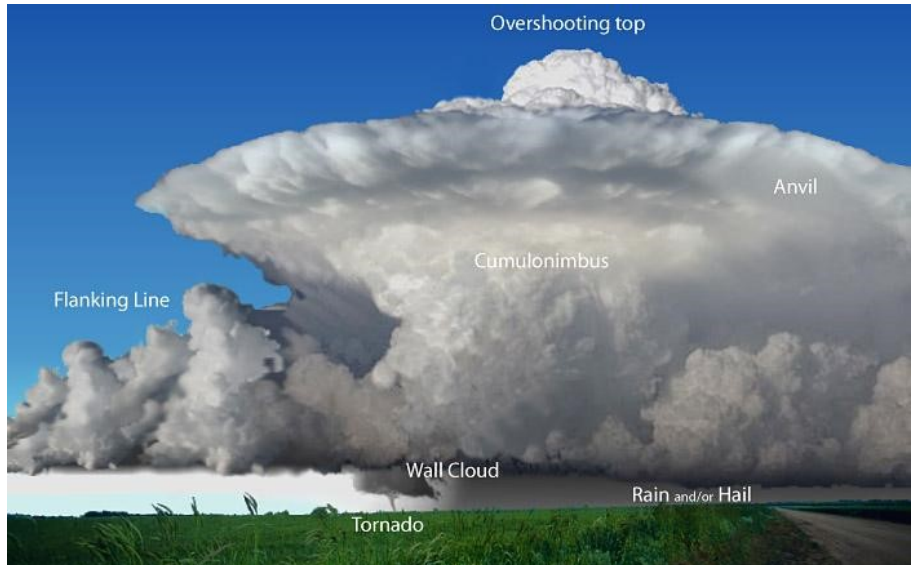
# Education Station Part I

## Shedding Light on Storm Science

Do you have astraphobia (fear of thunder and lightning) or lilapsophobia (fear of tornadoes)?

Most people probably know that we get a LOT of storms in the spring and early summer (especially those who are afraid of them!). However, many people don't realize that the most SEVERE storms and tornadoes in Northern Indiana actually occur in October and November.

Let's talk storm science. One of the strongest indicators of the possibility of a tornado is the formation of what is called a *wall cloud*. During a thunderstorm, wall clouds form beneath a *cumulonimbus* cloud (a dense, cauliflower like puffy cloud low to the ground which is full of moisture—this is where rain accumulates).



Wall clouds (named because they look like a dark gray wall) form when winds within a storm cause the air to rotate. Eventually, strong updrafts in the storm and powerful downdrafts behind the storm come together and produce a wall cloud, which often rotates on a vertical axis. When part of the wall cloud drops below the base of the cloud, it forms a funnel. If that funnel drops to touch the ground, we have a tornado.

A wall cloud is often confused for a shelf cloud—the difference is that wall clouds slope upward the further away it is from where rain is happening, and because of the updraft, they don't usually have rain falling directly beneath them. Wall clouds rotate on a vertical axis, while the more harmless shelf clouds rotate on a horizontal axis. Be on the lookout for those wall clouds as indicators of the possibility of a tornado!

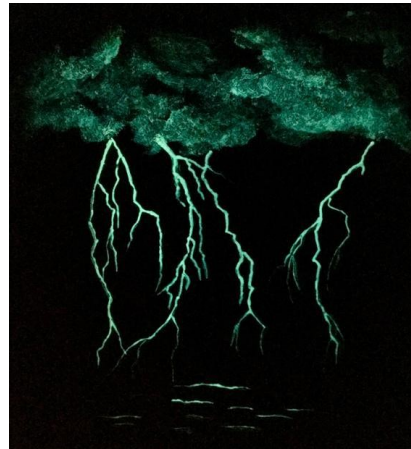




## **Education Station Part II**

When a school group is at camp and a storm hits, we don't stop learning and start stressing out about the storm; instead, we transition to our storm shelter and talk about the science behind storms and severe weather. We set up experiment stations and use fun gadgets like anemometers, hygrometers, and barometers to learn about the storm. Everyone has seen the tornado in a bottle experiment, so I wanted to give you other activities to try with the young ones in your life the next time a storm hits. Here are some things we might do during a storm:

- Make a storm cloud: Take an empty jar and fill it about 2/3 with water. Make a cloud by putting shaving cream on top of the water. Drop liquid food coloring into the shaving cream. As the "cloud" fills with rain, it gets too heavy to support the rain, so it falls.
- Paint some lightning: Paint a dark sky background with acrylic paint, using white to paint branches of lightning. While painting, talk to your kids about how lightning works. Add a layer or two of glow in the dark paint on top of the lightning branches and even a bit in the clouds and then watch your painting glow all night!



If you're afraid of storms, consider learning more about them. It's much more difficult to be afraid of something you understand.

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator

## **Opportunities for Spiritual Leaders**

Are you a pastor or other spiritual leader? There are events just for you at Camp Mack! Check out upcoming Pastor's Sabbaths (the next one is at the beginning of November and is filling up quickly).

Join in discussion and reflection time with Men Creating Community (the 2nd Wednesday of each month this fall and 4 months in the winter/spring) and Women Creating Community (the 3rd Wednesday of each month this fall and 4 months in the winter/spring).

Pastors, come for a spiritual retreat day(s) that you can schedule with camp. For more information on any upcoming events, please contact camp at 574-658-4831, or email at [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org). Let us help you in your ministry. Some events have CEU credit opportunities.

## Upcoming Events at Camp Mack

### Camp Mack Calendar

November 4-5	Pastor's Sabbath
December 7	Children's Christmas Party
Dec. 31–Jan 1	New Year's Eve Retreat
January 11	Camp Rep Meeting

Plan now for these upcoming events!  
For more information, check out the website or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831. Click "Register Online" at the top of the campmack.org website.

### Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

**\*Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1–2 weeks in advance—thank you!**

**November 16—Sandhill Cranes Trip** Travel to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area to see over 10,000 sandhill cranes along their migration route! Meet at John Kline Welcome Center, Saturday 2p–10p. Cost: \$20 (includes snacks and transportation). Bring binoculars. Dinner at Christos on the way back.



**December 7—Wreaths and Swags** Get started decorating for the Christmas season as you make a traditional Williamsburg Wreath, Christmas wreath, or a swag using fresh greens and fruit to grace your door. Be sure to bring gloves. Meet in Ulrich House Basement. Cost: \$30 (lunch and all materials included). Saturday 9a–3p.

**December 7—Christmas Ornaments** Gain new skills in the woodshop and watch sawdust fly as you make beautiful Christmas ornaments to grace your tree or give as gifts. Stain, paint, or wood burn your finished creation. Let your imagination be your guide. Cost: \$20 (lunch and all materials included). Saturday 9a–3p.



**December 7 and 8—Christmas Cookies** Fill your cookie jar for the holidays! Camp provides the ingredients and supplies. You mix the dough, sample cookies, and decorate to your heart's delight. Best of all, camp cleans up the mess! Choose 4 batches of cookies (each batch makes about three dozen cookies, so you'll go home with about 12 dozen cookies). Meet in the John Kline Welcome Center. Cost: \$45 (lunch and all baking materials included). Choice of 3 sessions: Saturday, December 7, 9a–1p; Saturday, December 7, 12p–4p; OR Sunday, December 8, 12p–4p.

Please bring an apron and containers to take home your cookies. Cookie choices include: chocolate chip, double chocolate chip, gingersnaps, sugar cookies, monster, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter, snickerdoodles, snowballs (a.k.a. Mexican wedding cookies), and butter cookies (this cookie will be pre-baked and ready for you to decorate!)

-For more info, check out [www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or email [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).



## **Upcoming Retreats and Special Event**

### **Pastor's Sabbath**

The Sabbath experience at Camp Mack is a time of reflection, fellowship, personal meditation, and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. There will be plenty of time for fellowship with a balance of structured and free time. Guest leadership is Scott Holland with sessions under the theme "Stories that Save Us and a Poetry of the Soul." November 4-5. Fee: \$20. Come for a few hours or both days. Encourage your pastoral leadership to attend. CEUs available.



### **Children's Christmas Party**

Join us this winter at Camp Mack for a Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7, from 11a-7p, for all your children ages 5-12. We will have a full day of fun activities with the kids while you relax, shop, or go on the date you have been waiting for. Camp will provide the activities, supervision, and yummy meals for your kids. Program is \$20 per child. Register today by calling the camp at 574-658-4831 or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org). There is limited space for this event.

### **New Year's Eve Retreat**

Returning this year is the New Year's Eve Retreat! The age range has been revised to grades 6-10. Great fun for youth, peace of mind for parents! Why bring in the New Year sitting at home when you can have a great time reuniting with friends from summer or introducing someone new to Camp Mack? This is the place to be counting down the minutes until the ball drops at our very own "Times Square" event. This overnight event is filled with awesome activities indoors and out, live DJs, dancing, Bible study, games, free time, and more. Cost: \$61 per person for early registration. \$71 after December 9. A \$10 campership is available only during early registration.



**Thank you to those who attended Gene's ordination service! Congratulations, Gene! Camp's Executive Director is now ordained and filled with further knowledge, ready to continue serving God.**

# **Camp Mack Festival**

## **21st Annual Camp Mack Festival**

Whether you served or participated (or a little bit of both), thank you for attending the 21st annual Camp Mack Festival!

We so enjoyed having you all here and we thank you for your continued support..

We raised over \$13,000 from food booths to children's activities to the flea market to the auction.

We hope you had fun, and we hope you return next year for new activities and old favorites. Bring a friend to enjoy it with you!

The family of God is certainly incredible. Blessings to you and yours.

