

Camp Alexander Mack

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MACKABILIA



Camp Alexander Mack
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- See page 13 for the summer camp schedule!

Registration is closed:

- **Grand Camp 2 July 31–August 2 FULL!**
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.
 - Age: Grandparents of all ages and grandchildren ages 5–10
 - Fee: \$160 per grandparent and \$110 per grandchild.



- See page 9 for fall retreats and events dates. Register now to reserve your spot!



Plan now for these upcoming events!

For more info, check out cammack.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 cammack.org.

GET-A-WAY DAYS & MORE

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days:

Join us in August for Prairie Walk (8/7), Sailing 101 (8/20), and Canoe and Kayak Skills (8/27)

Save the Date:

- **Colony Camp August 19–21** Fun and fellowship for the whole family! Colony Camp is a great opportunity to experience some summer fun with your family before everyone heads back to school. Enjoy the planned group activities along with boating and swimming, or simply relax and spend quality time with family and friends. Bring your RV, tent, or use one of the cabins. Bring your own food and bedding, and enjoy a weekend at Camp Mack!

- **Ages:** Families of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Fee:** \$92 per family. Camp lodging is available. No meals are provided by camp.
- **Times:** 6p Friday to 1p Sunday.



- **Summer Spiritual Retreat August 19–21**
Theme: Verdant Faith. Check out page 15 for details! Come and explore your faith and play in the beauty and sanctuary of Camp.

- **Fee:** \$160 per person for 2 nights and 5 meals.
- **Times:** 7:00p Friday to 1p Sunday.
- **Leaders:** Jonathan Stauffer and Randall Westfall



MILESTONE

A C K

In July of...

- 2021, Camp Mack hosted its first CIT Camp. Several 14 to 17-year-olds enjoyed the week learning, having fun, and praising God, preparing to be potential future counselors.



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.

News from the Director

Finding the Beauty

My granddaughter loves rocks! She has a box of them at home because ... she likes them. Some of the rocks are shiny or colorful, but many of them are just rocks to me. For most, there is nothing obvious that would cause me to pick them up.

When she was four years old, she attended our church's annual August worship at Camp Mack. During that morning, she found a rock on the gravel road and showed it to me. Her face was excited, and she said, "Grandpa, look at this one!" I don't remember what I said, but when I tried to give it back to her, she told me to keep it. "You can put it next to my picture on your window."

I have tried figuring out what is special about that rock. It doesn't change much when I wet it, and the shape is ordinary. The only thing I can think of is that it is special because someone I love sees it as special.



In a lifetime of working with children and the people who love them, I have found it important to find the beautiful. Children have a way of seeing past the ordinary to find the unique beauty in almost anything. I believe it is because they wonder.

When one wonders about something, it means they are taking time to consider it; to look for the value of it; to give it importance, even for a short time. Time away at Camp is time to wonder. Every summer we encourage children to look for God in everything they see; to wonder. They discover that when you begin wondering about God, you find God.

We all need to take that time. You can find God whenever and wherever you look, but our purpose here at Camp is to provide you an opportunity to wonder in a place of sanctuary.

As I look again at the rock on my windowsill, I wonder about where it has been; I wonder about how it got its shape; I wonder about what caused the pits in its surface. And all of that wondering makes me recognize the wonder of God.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



We need volunteer counselors and team leaders!

Here are the needs for July:

July 10–12, 3 Male Counselors, 1 Female Counselor for Samplers Camp

July 10–15, Team Leaders, 1 Male Counselor, 1 Female Counselor for Splash Camp

July 10–15, 3 Female Counselors for Finders 1 Camp

July 17–22, 1 Female Counselor for Eco-Adventure Camp

July 17–22, 1 Male Counselor, 1 Female Counselor for Seekers Camp

July 17–22, 1 Female Counselor for Culinary Camp

July 24–29, 1 Female Counselor for Finders 2 Camp

Contact jessk@campmack.org for more info.



PLANTING THE FUTURE

THE CAMP MACK CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

On **July 31st**, Camp Mack is encouraging churches to take up a **special offering** to support the final stage of Camp Mack's capital campaign. More information including videos, worship resources, and other information will be coming soon!

Nature Nut News

Preparing for Camp

A week of summer camp is an exciting time. It is time to imagine all the fun things to do as you pack your bags with your favorite tee shirts, swimsuit, playing cards, and all the extra hair ties for French braiding hair. Going to camp can also be a time of anxiety.

I will be the first to admit that sleeping is difficult when I go away from home, and by day two, I may be a bit tired and grumpy. I am a creature of habit and have a gel foam egg crate mattress topper, a fan for a consistent noise to drown out dogs barking and the horn from the train, blackout curtains, and a warm weighted blanket. So, put me in a cabin with other people, night lights, the sounds of nature, and warm nights that may not be great for a weighted blanket, and I might suddenly be feeling some anxiety as my sleep routine is thrown off. Keep reading for a few tips for preparing your camper for camp.

Homesickness happens on some level to almost everyone. Acknowledging that is the first step to preparing for a week of camp. We miss our routines, different foods, favorite pets, siblings that we play with daily, the taste of the drinking water we grew up with, and more.



Working with homesickness and anxiety begins before camp. Schedule a tour at camp to see the cabins your camper will be staying in. Write your camper a note for every day of camp. You can drop the notes off at registration and write the day of the week on the envelope of when you would like it delivered. Tuck a new stuffy in your child's duffle bag as a surprise. Send your camper with a new journal and pen to record their experience and share their stories when they return home from camp and/or send them with pre stamped, pre addressed envelopes to write letters to friends or family if they wish.

We look forward to seeing you at camp soon. Pack your bags, talk about ways to cope with homesickness like talking with an adult at camp. In reality, you may be homesick for your camper also. Get ready for sharing the stories, songs, and tales of adventure of camp. See you soon.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

FaithX Volunteers Worked Hard

I had the privilege of working with the Church of the Brethren Junior High FaithX (formerly Brethren Workcamps) this week. We had 16 campers and 8 adult advisors who came from Iowa, Virginia, Maryland, and Indiana. They arrived on Monday afternoon and did volunteer work with us on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then on Thursday they got to enjoy some camp activities.

We split them into three groups of eight, and the first group on Tuesday started by splitting some wood. We had recently cut some downed trees from the storm and needed to split that wood and let it dry for next year. The second group began to paint the outside of Letter Cabin I, which was in real need of a coat of paint. The third group spent part of the day picking up branches left over from the storm, and then moved into Quinter Miller Auditorium and worked at cleaning up our tables. We have a problem with spiders wanting to create a home under the tables, and this crew cleaned up all of them.

On Wednesday we used one group to help with housekeeping. We had one of our summer staff lead the crew, and they cleaned all the restrooms on camp that morning. This is a task we do every morning and this extra help really gave us a boost. The second group continued with painting Letter Cabin I and then moved onto E-7. I took the third group, and we laid about one hundred feet of 4" PVC pipe for a drain. One of my pictures shows the group at work. Some kids learned new skills such as holding the receiver end of the transit stick, and another couple learned how to glue connectors onto pipe and to use a Sawzall to cut it to length. We just had a good time working together. The first group finished the housekeeping shortly after lunch and finished the day by putting a fresh coat of paint on the Arky Parky animals.

I want to really thank FaithX for all their hard work. This really gave the facility crew a lift up and we are grateful. Their work also enhanced our "...sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Preparing for Fun and Safety

There are over 200 people at camp this week! Each week brings new smiling faces, program adventures, facility needs, and opportunities to have fun and praise God at camp.

While everyone has fun, we also want them to be safe. I give the emergency procedures speech to the rental camps we have at Camp Mack, while Jessie, Camp's program director, delivers it to most of our internal camps. I go over what to expect and what to do if there's a fire, a storm/tornado, a waterfront emergency, a missing camper, or an intruder. Surprisingly, the groups do quite well sitting and listening so that they are prepared in an emergency, and that's much appreciated.

Our full time staff and summer staff play a large role in keeping campers and guests safe. The camp staff runs drills during staff training, and each week in the summer we run fire drills for the groups that are onsite and staying longer than 48 hours. Staff and their backups are assigned to different roles, whether its ringing the bells, clearing buildings, meeting with group leadership, directing through the base radio, or other important roles. Practicing the drills helps to prepare everyone. Sometimes there are real emergencies, and it's easier going into them well-practiced. We continue to improve our communication and assess our responses so that we may do even better to prepare in the future.

We have basements to relocate to in case there is a tornado. We have systematic searches to run in case there's a missing person and meeting points to go to in case there's a threatening intruder. Part of knowing whether there is an intruder is knowing who is not. So, we impress upon our groups the need to wear nametags; that way the staff and other groups at camp know which group you belong with. Staff either wear nametags or have shirts with "STAFF" on the back. If you plan to visit camp in the summer, please schedule your visit with the camp office ahead of time (of course this is helpful other times of the year, as well, but it's especially important in the summer). We certainly love to have people enjoy camp and visit favorite places, but safety is a priority, so it's best to visit when there are no campers onsite (which is often Saturday afternoons and/or Sunday mornings). If you have a need to visit while there are campers around, a visitor's badge is given to you and a staff member must be with you. Camp Mack runs background checks on staff and counselors. Camp Mack is American Camping Association accredited, which directs many of our safety guidelines and keeps camp accountable.

Preparations can't always prepare you for everything, but they certainly help.

Here's to a fun and safe summer!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



2022 Retreats & Events

Colony Camp
Summer Spiritual Retreat
Labor Day Family Camp
Teen Leadership Wknd
Camp Mack Festival
Father Son Retreat
October Quilt Retreat
Scrapbook Retreat
Seasoned Citizens
Volunteer Work Days
Pastors Sabbath
Annual Dinner
Camp Rep Meeting

August 19–21
August 19–21
September 2–5
Sept. 30–Oct. 1
October 1
October 8–9
October 12–16
October 13–16
October 17–20
October 24–26
November 1–2
November 12
January 14, 2023





2022 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 2022. 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.

In Progress:

- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk

Needing Funds:

- Wampler HVAC Replacement
- Sarah Major Carpet
- Archery Backstop
- Sarah Major Kitchen Renovations
- East Stone Restroom Electrical

Completed:

- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge

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.



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

Another Way of Giving

Brethren and...



“Among the reasons why Camp Mack survived the Depression in a healthy way was the willingness of non-Brethren to use the facilities of Camp Mack.” (Roger Sappington, *The History of Camp Alexander Mack 1920-1979*, page 54)

95 years ago, Camp Mack welcomed their first non-Brethren group: The Young People's Congress of the Eel River Christian Church. In L. W. Shultz's description, not only did they have “a very satisfactory reception,” they planned to come back in 1928. This opened the doors to other groups like 4-H camps, Evangelical Reformed, and the Church of God (who is here at camp as I write this). Camp Mack even hosted a group of local mail carriers in those early years.

If you are around Camp Mack in the summer, you might hear us refer to the “Big 3” or pre-pandemic the “Medium 4”. The big 3 are our 3 largest current rental groups: the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, Church of God General Conference, and Indiana Deaf Camp. The medium 4 pre-pandemic were LaPorte Porter 4-H, Camp Del-Ja-Ri, Camp New Happenings, and Nappanee Missionary Church. But since the pandemic, we have had some groups leave (or change their camp format for now) and new groups begin, so we are not sure how many medium groups we have. For many of these groups, coming to Camp Mack isn't just a once a year trip. Camp Mack is their home, too.

Some of you may find this surprising, but no matter the groups we serve, Camp Mack is firmly rooted in the Church of the Brethren. Values like community and service ring true just as much in 2022 as they did in 1922. Serving Brethren and non-Brethren groups isn't an either/or question. It's yes/and. Camp Mack is big enough to serve the Church of the Brethren and anyone else seeking a sanctuary where they can connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

Kitchen News

Busy Summer with Appreciation for Volunteers

We are in the middle of summer camp, and our kitchen is incredibly busy preparing over 600 meals each day! So, this month's article has a ghost writer. Vanessa will be back in August.

Because we are so busy, we count on our volunteers in a big way. Every summer we have some volunteers for a day or two, and we have others who spend several weeks helping feed our hungry guests. Their help allows us to get tasty meals done on time.

Thanks go out to awesome returning volunteers Beth, Shirley, Donna, and Dorothy, and we want to highlight three other volunteers helping out during our biggest week and beyond.



Deb is a former office staff member who retired a couple of years ago. She has been truly faithful in helping wherever she is needed — always with a smile! She often brings her grandchildren to help, too.

David and Joyce joined us this year for the summer. They live at camp in their travel trailer and will return to Florida when the summer season is over. They pitch in with food prep and dishes, giving our staff time for breaks and days off.

Camp Mack's kitchen in the summer is a really busy place. But it is also a fun place filled with laughter between the set-up, cleanup, and dishes.

If you've got some time, stop by this summer and see what your gift of service can do in the lives of campers, leaders, and staff.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Summer Camp 2022

**Grades are grade completed at the time of camp*

Samplers	June 5—7	Samplers	July 10—12
<i>Grades 1—2</i>		<i>Grades 1—2</i>	
<i>***New grade range***</i>		Splash Camp	July 10—15
Archery Camp	June 5—9	<i>Grades 5—8</i>	
<i>Grades 6—9</i>		Finders Camp	July 10—15
Samplers	June 13—15	<i>Grades 5—6</i>	
<i>Grades 1—2</i>		Creative Arts	July 10—15
Grand Camp	June 16—18	<i>Grades 6—10</i>	
<i>Ages 5-10/Grandparents</i>		Survivor Camp	July 10—16
CIT CAMP	June 19—24	<i>Grades 6—9</i>	
<i>Ages 14—17</i>		Eco Adventure	July 17—22
Seekers	June 19—24	<i>Grades 5—6</i>	
<i>Grades 3—4</i>		Seekers Camp	July 17—22
Followers	June 26—July 1	<i>Grades 3—4</i>	
<i>Grades 7—9</i>		Culinary Camp	July 17—22
Youth Camp	July 3—9	<i>Grades 6—9</i>	
<i>Grades 9—12</i>		Finders Camp	July 24—29
Dadirri Camp	July 3—9	<i>Grades 5—6</i>	
<i>Grades 9—12</i>		Grand Camp	July 31—Aug 2
		<i>Ages 5-10/Grandparents</i>	

Exciting Opportunity!

We are entering the last phase of our capital campaign, and that is the renewal of Ulrich House. Volunteers are needed to complete this project. Steve Keim, a site supervisor with several years of experience through Brethren Disaster Ministries, will organize and train weekly crews to bring the electrical up to code, install an HVAC system, develop family bathrooms, and refresh the rooms to make Ulrich House a comfortable adult retreat center.

Each week, from Labor Day until mid-December, we will need from three to ten crew members to complete the work. Workers arrive on Sunday evening and stay through Friday noon most weeks; the week of Labor Day begins Monday evening. Meals and lodging are provided. A few congregations have already begun recruiting crews to develop work retreats. Other individuals have expressed their interest in coming to meet others and contribute to the future of Camp.

If you and/or your church group is interested in working for one or more weeks, please call 574-658-4831, contact us at info@campmack.org, or register online at <https://www.campmack.org/renovation/>. If you need a specific week, please register early to save your spot.

Your week will be an opportunity to participate in mission and fellowship. And, consider what pride you will take when you bring your children and grandchildren to camp and tell them you helped to build the new Ulrich House.

Please contact gene@campmack.org if you have any additional questions.



Current Small Room



Partially Remodeled Small Room

Summer Spiritual Retreat – Verdant Faith

One of the earliest directions from God is to care for creation. In this camp experience for adults, you will learn about finding the balance we need to be wholly present in the world around us. Leaders Jonathan Stauffer and Randall Westfall will take you on a journey of discovery as you also have opportunities to play at camp. Between sessions, you can participate in the same activities our youth campers enjoy all summer.

In this weekend retreat, you will recognize that ***something isn't quite right***. There's an innate sense that something's been lost. The pace of modern life is sapping the life from us. We live in the illusion that we're more connected than ever. Sadly, we are more *detached* than ever; from one another, from our food, from creation, from our Creator. ***As a result, life has become fragmented.***

Jesus provides us with a way from fragmentation to abundant life. His teachings often made a point by drawing on the *natural world* around him. He knew God's wisdom came from these encounters and sought them out intentionally. He sought the solace of the wilderness, the sea, the mountain, and the garden to *regenerate* his ministry and mission. ***Jesus was drawing on a blueprint as old as creation itself.***

We are beginning to understand how living *attuned* with God's creation is now *essential to our discipleship* in Jesus. It encompasses everything from our worship to our work.

This is the essence of eco-discipleship.

Our time together will provide a balance between head, heart, body and soul. You are invited to unplug, reawaken, reignite, and rediscover the eco-blueprint our Creator gave us. ***Join us, as we work to restore a VERDANT faith!***

Jonathan Stauffer is a high school science instructor and freelance eco-theologian. He has served as camp counselor and nature program leader at various Brethren camps for over a decade. Jonathan obtained a bachelor's in physics from Manchester University (IN) and is a recent graduate of Bethany Seminary, earning an MA in Theological Studies. He also has hands-on experience with wind and solar energy systems. Jonathan resides in Polo, Illinois.



Randall Westfall is a nature-based spiritual director, outdoor educator and a licensed minister in the Church of the Brethren. He has been practicing deep nature connection skills for over a decade. He studied Religion at Manchester University (IN); attended Tom Brown Jr's Tracker School and is a graduate of Wilderness Awareness School (WA) for their 9-month intensive Anake Program. Randall is the Director at Camp Brethren Heights in west-central Michigan, where he lives with his wife and two children.

August 19-21. Register at <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/> today!

