



# Hand in Hand

August 2024

## Seasons of Change

Labor Day weekend symbolizes the transition between summer and retreat season at Camp Mack. I get the question each year of “when do we close down camp for the season?” We don’t; camp is a year-round program. Often, September and October can feel a lot like summer with afterschool and homeschool programming starting up, retreats, and winterizing program areas.

This year, we also transition staffing in the role of the Outdoor Education Director as Hunter Jackson moves onto new adventures and we welcome Pieter Tramper into the role.

## Celebrating Hunter

I asked Hunter about his time here and his most memorable moments. He said, “doing high ropes with staff, lifeguard training, the rainy day large group, and Sunday campfires. My best memories of camp aren’t the things I was doing but the people I got to do things with. Whether it’s going through lifeguard training and building their confidence or opening up the high ropes course and letting the staff do laps around it until it was dark. I may forget the things we were doing, but I’ll always remember the people I did those things with.”

When asked about a favorite activity, his response was, “Uncle Dooger is always a good time and one of my favorite games. Kids get so excited trying to run across without getting tagged and feel so relieved when they get a free pass to cross the Wild Wild Whatnot.”



I can guarantee Uncle Dooger will live on in the afterschool programming as will singing, “I Just Want to be a Sheep” at campfires. I agree with Hunter that people, not things are at the center of camp. Hunter role modeled for me clear precise communication and how to respond with a calm presence in sometimes high pressure situations. Thank you Hunter for your time at Camp Mack.

**Welcome Pieter on the next page**

# Seasons of Change

## Seasons of Change cont.

### Welcoming Pieter

Join us in welcoming Pieter Tramper to Camp Mack in the role of Outdoor Education Director. He moved here recently with his wife and two year old twins from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia after working many years at Brethren Woods, a Brethren camp in Virginia.



Here are a few thoughts from Pieter on his first week at Camp Mack. "I am excited to start in my role here at Camp Mack. There's definitely more corn and fewer mountains here. My first week at camp has flown by. I got a couple days orientation and have spent the past two days in the lake and on the high ropes course. In my spare time, I like to hang out with my twins, walk the dog, or ride my bike. I am looking forward to continuing the good work done here in the past. I love challenging people to try new things, whether that is going down the zipline or taking them on a hike through the woods."



I have known Pieter for many years as we serve on the Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren board together and through many fall OMA retreats. I am excited for the Outdoor Education and Day Camp experience that he brings to camp. Contact him about all things Outdoor Education at [pieter@campmack.org](mailto:pieter@campmack.org)



Seasons of change brings new opportunities and experiences. I have learned so much from Hunter and look forward to learning new things from Pieter.

-Jessie K, Program Director



# Fast Forward to Fall



## **HOMESCHOOL DAYS RETURN!**

**Ages 7—14, \$25 per day**

**10a-5p**

Sept 16 (FULL)/18 Let's Explore!

Oct. 7 (FULL)/9 Can You Dig It?

Nov. 11/13 Out of this World!

Dec. 9/11 Awesome Adaptations!

## **FALL BREAK DAY CAMP– 2 CHOICES**

**Kindergarten—5th Grade**

October 14—18

October 21—25

## **FAMILY EVENTS**

Camp Mack Festival– October 5

Father Son Weekend: October 12—13

Watch for more information on the Camp Alexander Mack Outdoor Education and Camp Mack Facebook pages and at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) .

Sign up for camps today at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) .

# Nature Moments

## Explore Fall

The beginning of the “Ber” months (September, October, November, December) means different things this everyone. For some, you can have your Christmas tree up when the “Ber” months begin. For others is it PSL (Pumpkin Spice Latte) season or Spooky Season as they look forward to Halloween. There is something about the smell and crunch of fall leaves, football games, corn mazes, pumpkin carving, and flannel season that allows us to begin relaxing after a full summer and a changing of seasons.

Fall is one of my favorite seasons to get out and explore. There are so many fascinating shapes and colors of fungus. The elderberries are finishing, the wild grapes are ripening, and paw paws are waiting to be harvested. The Warblers migrate back through in their confusing plumage of fall. Rain begins to fall again and puddles are inviting us to jump in them. And the Orb Weaver spiders leave us beautiful displays every morning.

### Experience Fall as a Family

- Make a nature mandala with leaves or nuts
- Hike at a local nature preserve or park
- Jump in a giant pile of leaves you have raked
- Go camping (no mosquitos!)
- Make a leaf crown
- Try out a new recipe with local flavors
- Take a barefoot walk
- Observe animal behavior
- Stargaze
- Sip cider around a bonfire



## CONNECT AT CAMP

|             |                         |            |                      |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Sept. 16/18 | Homeschool Day          | Oct. 21—25 | Fall Break Day Camp  |
| Oct. 5      | Camp Mack Festival      | Oct. 24—27 | Scrap/Craft Retreat  |
| Oct. 7/9    | Homeschool Day          | Oct. 26    | Knit/Crochet Day     |
| Oct. 12—13  | Father Son Weekend      | Oct. 26    | Scrap/Craft Day      |
| Oct 14—18   | Fall Break Day Camp     | Oct. 27    | Tree/Nut ID Walk     |
| Oct. 19     | Prairie Restoration Day | Nov. 23    | Sandhill Cranes Trip |

***Please register 2 weeks in advance for events at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)***