

CAMP MACK CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter

News from the Director

Camp Changes, God is Constant

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all.
-James 1:17 (CEB)

Our faith reminds us that our Creator God does not change. We can always count on God's love, God's grace, and God's goodness. However, **everything** else changes.

As we are entering our second century, we are experiencing great change here at Camp Mack. Since the beginning of this year, our staff has changed as Galen Jay and David Beck retired and Todd Eastis and Hal Browning left to pursue new opportunities. After several years of declining registration for our program camps, we recognize the need to think about new ways to meet our mission. New generations have different expectations about their needs.

So, we reorganize to meet our personnel needs; we develop new plans for improving our operational income and increasing our reach in the community; we adapt our facilities, programs, and communications.

Deanna Beckner has taken on a different role as she will do more outreach to all our Camp Mack family, as well as to new communities who will be part of our new future. Cory Charwood moved up from his role as the assistant facility director to become the new director after two years of learning from Galen. Chris Power joined us to take over guest services; Daylin Chappell is our new kitchen supervisor; and Nolan Myrvold is our new cleaning and maintenance supervisor.

Since the pandemic, there have been fewer registrations for summer camps and our regular events. This means that a greater portion of our income has come from outside groups, outdoor education, and partner camps. It also means we have relied more on donations than we should. For that reason, we are developing a new business plan that will optimize and expand income from a wider range of constituents and free up more of your gifts...



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...for supporting campers and developing new ministries.

All of us are aware of the incredible technological and social changes over the last couple of decades. Each new generation grows up in a completely different environment than their parents. This kind of rapid change means that we must adapt and meet people where they are. So, we are doing more to improve the overall infrastructure of Camp, exploring new ways of supporting youth and young families, and communicating effectively.

Change is inevitable, and many times uncomfortable. It means thinking differently and being willing to let go of some familiar traditions. Yet we promise to continue faithfully following our mission to provide people sanctuary, to connect them with God, to give them experiences with nature, and to foster Christian community. And, we remember that all this is possible because of the never-changing goodness of God.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

“...We are doing more to improve the overall infrastructure of Camp, exploring new ways of supporting youth and young families, and communicating effectively.”





Kitchen News

100 Years of Meals

“We are looking forward to another 100 years of serving you!”

Our Centennial Celebration on August 10th was an amazing day of celebration and reconnection. With over 600 people attending, the energy at camp was indescribable. There were people gathering all over the grounds, catching up with friends, looking through Waubee Waves, attending meet ups with fellow campers, singing campfire songs, playing 4-square and 9 Square in the Air, taking pictures, and of course eating a meal together! The dining hall and picnic tables were overflowing with people enjoying community through food and fellowship. The camp kitchen staff and volunteers had a great time serving and catching up with friends and families as they came through the canoe meal line. It was such a great tradition to enjoy together.

As Fall continues and we get closer to the end of the year, we are excited to still have one last 100th anniversary events to host. On November 1st, we are hosting our Annual Dinner at Camp. This is always a fun night of gathering and one of my favorite events of the year. Deanna Beckner and I are working together this year to create the program and menu! It will be a great ending to an amazingly eventful year. Thank you to everyone who has helped us celebrate 100 years of Sanctuary. We are looking forward to another 100 years of serving you!

**Vanessa Bohannon,
Food Services
Director**





Sunny Camp Mack

Get to Know Cory

1. What was your connection to Camp Mack before you became a member of the permanent staff?
 - a. I was a camper for 8 years. I was a summer staffer in '91 and '92. I was also a volunteer a few times throughout the years.
2. What did you do before you joined the permanent staff?
 - a. Most of my adult work career was spent in RVs. I have 22 years between Coachmen and Thor. My last 7 years were spent as a supervisor with up to 45 employees working under me.
3. What do you like best about your job?
 - a. I really enjoy using the skills I have acquired throughout the years to better a place I truly care about. Helping to create a sanctuary for campers and retreat guests to enjoy.
4. As the new Facility Director, what are some of your priorities?
 - a. As Facility Director, one of my main goals is cleanliness. I want to reclaim some green space and help make our facilities look as good as the view of Lake Waubee.
5. What would you say to someone if they were considering a career as a camp professional?
 - a. I've learned it's not about the money. I've learned that creating a space that will hold a spot in someone's heart is much more fulfilling. Being a camp professional for the last 3 years truly has been the most meaningful of my life. Find a job that you love getting up for and you'll be happier.

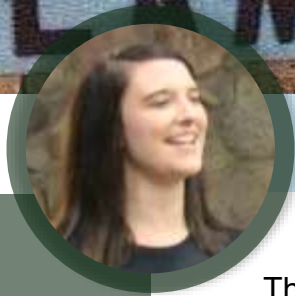
Bonus Question: Anything else you would like to add?

Every day I learn something new. I have a feeling I will never stop learning here. I feel like I may never be the correct person for this job, but I'm honored to have this chance. Thank you to all the people that have already shared their time and resources and energy to succeed. It is much appreciated!

Cory Charlwood, Facility Director

“Being a camp professional for the last 3 years truly has been the most meaningful of my life.”





With Gratitude

Amidst the Busyness

“...I saw a shooting star!”

The past handful of months have been very busy for me, and this last week was no different. But, during a late night at camp, I walked outside and was greeted by so many bright stars in the sky. As I stood and admired them for a moment, I saw a shooting star! It was pretty awesome as it was one of the clearest I've seen. I appreciated seeing something fun at the end of a very long day. Recent months have been filled with training Chris, prepping for Centennial events, welcoming guest groups, and much more. During the last weekend of September, we had over 650 people onsite. It was exciting to have them all at camp! I look forward to the upcoming Annual Dinner with Ted Swartz and over 150 guests. I continue to figure out and grow in my new role. Amidst the busy times, I hope you have moments of fun and amazement. God's blessings to you!

With gratitude,
Deanna Beckner, Director of Advancement



CAMP MACK

Be Our Guest

Hi, I'm Chris!

Hello! I'm Chris Power, the Guest Services Coordinator at Camp Alexander Mack. Although I started in this role on August 11th, Camp Mack has been an important part of my life for much longer.

I grew up attending Camp Pine Lake, which is Camp Mack's sister camp in Iowa. There, I formed lasting friendships and deepened my faith. While I was in college at Manchester University, I celebrated "Camp Mack Day" each year by biking from North Manchester to camp with a group of friends. Yes, each year, a group of us would bike from Manchester to Camp Mack!

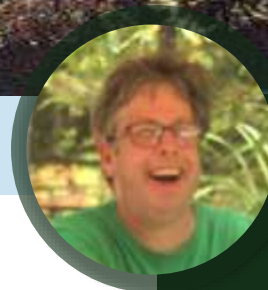
In 2021, while working in the school system, I became a paid cabin counselor at Camp Mack. This experience allowed me to immerse myself in camp life and help children build community and grow in their faith. Since then, I have returned every summer, as well as during Winter and Spring Break Day Camps, to help create a welcoming environment for everyone.

For over 100 years, Camp Mack has transformed from a cornfield into a place where people can strengthen friendships, grow in faith, and connect with nature. We welcome individuals of all ages and backgrounds, including congregations from the Church of the Brethren, as well as groups like Milford Chapel and Community Grace Brethren, who recently held their campout and retreat with us. We also host schools and school groups, from elementary to college. Recently, we welcomed students from Manchester and Taylor Universities, and our after-school programs have also resumed. Many participants return for events such as women's retreats, weddings, and receptions.

Each year, people come back to reconnect, recharge, and deepen their relationships—with one another and with creation. We host a variety of events, camps, retreats, and celebrations, including our recent Centennial events, which culminated in our August 10th Centennial Celebration. Hundreds of people returned to Camp to reconnect with those who first brought them here. They made name tags, participated in crafts, thumbed through Waubee Waves, sang songs by the campfire, enjoyed kettle popcorn, had a canoe meal, explored the camp, and concluded the evening with a worship service in Quinter-Miller Auditorium.

Join us for upcoming events!

Chris Power, Guest Services Coordinator



“This experience allowed me to immerse myself in camp life and help children build community and grow in their faith.”





UPCOMING EVENTS

Sandhill Cranes Get-A-Way Day



Travel with us to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area and other hotspots in the area. Observe thousands of cranes as they migrate through the region. Open to ages 10 and older. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: November 22, 1-9 pm

Find out more and register at campmack.org

Christmas Cookies Get-A-Way Day

Bake up batches of cookies to take home- and the best part is we clean up the mess! Bake solo or bring friends or family.

December 6 or 7



WREATHS & SWAGS GET-A-WAY DAY

Harness your creativity and learn how to make a beautiful wreath or swag.

DECEMBER 6

**CAMP
MACK**

WINTER BREAK DAY CAMP

**DEC 29-
JAN 2**

8:30 AM-3:30 PM

- \$150/Week
- Before & after care available at additional cost
- Scholarships available

REGISTRATION
IS NOW
OPEN

ACTIVITIES

GAMES, OUTDOOR
ADVENTURES, CRAFTS
STEM ACTIVITIES

**GRADES
K-5**

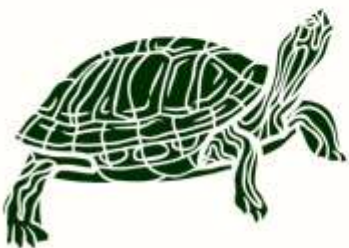
CAMPmack.org/daycamps/



CAMP MACK



COME TO CAMP MACK
NEXT SUMMER!



Visit us online
at
campmack.org



SUMMER 2026

(TENTATIVE DATES)

Date	Camp	Grade Completed
June 28-July 4	Youth Camp	9 th - 12 th
July 5-7	Samplers 1	1 st or 2 nd
July 5-10	Seekers 1	3 rd or 4 th
July 5-10	Finders 1	5 th or 6 th
July 5-10	Creative Arts	6 th - 10 th
July 5-10	Target Sports	6 th - 9 th
July 5-10	Eco-Adventure	5 th or 6 th
July 5-10	Followers	7 th - 9 th
July 8-10	Samplers 2	1 st or 2 nd
July 12-17	Seekers 2	3 rd or 4 th
July 12-17	Finders 2	5 th or 6 th
July 12-17	Culinary	6 th - 9 th
July 12-17	Splash	5 th - 8 th
July 12-18	Survivor	6 th - 9 th