

THE CARSON CONNECTION

Welcome Home to YMCA Camp Carson



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POLAR PLUNGE 2025!

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We had a great turnout for our Sixth Polar Plunge! This year, the lake was completely FROZEN over, but we still had 35 Plungers run into the lake and raise \$25,000 for camper scholarships. Ryan Meeks won the Top Plunger award - he raised more than \$3300 for campers. We are also especially thankful for the Gibson Co. CEO class for Plunging with us again this year, raising almost \$2k!

We truly appreciate this great community of people and organizations who Sponsored, Plunged, Volunteered, and supported the Plunge! Your support helps make camp accessible for even more campers.

As always, a big thank you to Patoka Township Fire & Rescue for keeping us safe! And this year, THANK YOU for cutting through the ice on the lake so we could go in!

Thank you, 2025 Sponsors!

Indiana Members Credit Union, Liberty Federal Credit Union, Oakland City University, Springs Valley Bank & Trust, Donut Bank, and Bauerhaus.



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Current Volunteer Needs

- Web Development
- Gardening
- Landscaping
- Trail clearing
- Small construction



Camp Carson is fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled group of volunteers who spend time keeping Camp in great shape throughout the year. This year, we extend big thanks to the following volunteers:

- Tim Burris
- Duke Energy
- Earl and Emma Griswold
- BreeAna Kempf
- Knights of Columbus
- Beth Martin
- North Gibson Archery Club
- The Peddie Family
- Prince Lodge F&AM #231
- Princeton Community High School
- Raymond James- Fenneman Moore Financial Group
- Buddy Rogers
- Rick Sims
- Sportsmen for Youth
- Sgt. Peppers Fireworks!
- The Arc Indiana
- United Way Week of Caring
- United Way Youth Day of Caring
- Mary & Brian Williams

Our next Volunteer Work Day is Saturday, April 26th!

We will be doing a variety of projects around Camp to prepare for Summer. Please RSVP here if you would like to join us! [Volunteer Work Day Sign-Up](#)

GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When you make a donation to YMCA Camp Carson, you are helping turn dreams into adventures for young people. The adventures of camp create a lasting impact on kids by developing confidence and helping them find ways to make a positive difference in the world.

A week of camp allows kids to try new activities, enjoy nature, grow, learn, make friends, and create wonderful memories. Your kind donation helps every child, regardless of their background, have a great summer camp experience.

Your donation reaches campers in these ways:

- Camper scholarships & subsidies for young people who may not be able to afford camp.
- Lower camp fees for our Operation Military Support summer camp program.
- Supports a matching grant of \$7,500 for our Military Family Weekends.
- Improved programs and facilities, to keep Camp Carson a safe and positive space for campers.

We are also grateful for donations of gently used items, or you can check our [Amazon Wishlist](#).

We welcome your donations online at www.campcarson.org/giving

or mail to: YMCA Camp Carson, 2034 Outer Lake Rd, Princeton, IN, 47670

TURN DREAMS INTO ADVENTURES

YMCA Camp Carson 2025 Annual Campaign



Become a Bridge Builder

YMCA Camp Carson Bridge Builders are a dedicated group of donors who are committed to ensuring that Camp continues to serve campers and carry on the traditions and positive impact of summer camp.

Please contact Heather to learn more about becoming a Bridge Builder: 812-385-3597 or hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org.



JUNIOR BOARD CAMPER CLOSET



The new YMCA Camp Carson Junior Board has been busy over the last few months, and is launching a Junior Board Camper Closet Campaign for Camp! This volunteer group of 20 campers is collecting items and raising funds to build and fully stock a Camper Closet at YMCA Camp Carson. We have also secured a small grant to assist in the construction of this space.

We know how important it is for a camper to feel at home and comfortable at Camp Carson, and part of that is having the right supplies. This project is intended to provide supplies to scholarship campers who may not have all items for Camp - or for campers who simply forget to bring something. Campers will keep all of these items when they leave Camp.

The Camper Closet will include everything from bedding and pillows to socks and toothbrushes, so Camp staff can get anything a camper might need. We will also pre-pack some bags for scholarship campers who have let us know they are lacking some items.

If you would like to support the Junior Board's Campaign, you can make a monetary donation here:

[Junior Board Camper Closet Campaign](#)

CAMPCARSONALUMNI.ORG

Have you visited our new Camp Carson Alumni site yet? It is a fantastic collection of photos, songs, and stories. Connect with Alumni from around the world and across generations! Please take a minute to register, browse through photos, and engage with other Alumni.

Please visit Camp when you are in the area! We love to take a tour with Alumni and hear your stories. Our Alumni room is full of photos, news clippings, and memorabilia from every generation, and it's a great trip down memory lane.



JOIN US FOR EVENTS AT CAMP!



NASP Archery Tournament April 12

In collaboration with North Gibson Archery Club, Camp Carson is hosting the Outdoor NASP National Archery in Schools Program on Saturday, April 12. This event includes an Outdoor Bullseye NASP-style tournament, attracting archers from all over the state. Princeton High School Band will be selling food, and local vendors will have booths. This community event is made possible by North Gibson Archery Club, YMCA Camp Carson, Knights of Columbus Council #1131, Prince Lodge F&AM #231, and Sportsmen for Youth.

Proceeds go to scholarships for local youth to attend a week of overnight summer camp.

Cars & Camping May 10, 9am - 3pm

Bring your cool car to Camp Carson and spend a day at Camp with camp friends. Donations are welcome in lieu of a entry fee, with all funds going to scholarships for campers to attend Camp Carson.

Contact Matt Schooler with questions: 812-403-3249



IT'S CAMP CARSON'S 85th BIRTHDAY!

For 85 years, YMCA Camp Carson has become HOME for more than 70,000 campers and staff. This means 12k meals, 37k songs, 765 Hootenannies, and decades of memories. For some campers, camp may only last one week, but it is a week that stays with them forever.

Please make plans to celebrate with us on Sunday, August 31st for a fun afternoon of waterfront activities, cookout dinner, and stay for a very nostalgic Hootenanny with other alumni and our Family Camp families. More details will be shared via email and our Facebook page.



WHAT'S NEW AT CAMP CARSON?

Camp never sleeps. In the days after our last Summer Campers leave, our team starts work on our next projects to help Camp continue to grow and be a safe, inviting, and meaningful space for kids.

This year, we have made a series of moves to help expand several of our most popular Summer programs. Our goal is to make the most of our existing spaces, improve programs for Campers, while minimizing construction costs. Below are just a few of the moves and new spaces we are creating this year.

We are very grateful for the generous donors who make these program expansions and improvements possible.

NEW Rifle Range!

Thanks to a very kind donor and a grant, we built a new range for campers to safely learn riflery. The new space includes more teaching space, extra safety measures, and is conveniently located next to the Archery range.



NEW Creative Arts Space!

Thousands (maybe millions?) of friendship bracelets – and millions of other crafts have been made at Camp Carson over the years. Arts & Crafts, Pottery, and Woodworking are some of our camper's favorite camp activities, and this We are refurbishing our former maintenance building and moving all of our Creative Arts programs to this larger, more creative space. So much room for activities!

COMING SOON – NEW Music Studio!

Songs and music have been a core of Camp memories for all campers since 1940. Thank you to an incredibly generous donor, we are SO excited to bring back MUSIC as a Camp program. We have also received grant funding to purchase music and recording equipment for this program. We are renovating the old rifle range to create this space, complete with an amphitheatre-like performance stage. Stay tuned for more highlights from this program!



SUMMER 2025 REGISTRATION



HURRY – Summer 2025 is almost FULL! If you haven't registered your camper yet, please hurry! As of April 15th, we have a FEW openings in these programs:

- Overnight Camp Session 9
- Operation Military Support
- 1st Year Dirt Bike – weeks 2, 6, 9
- Wrangler weeks – week 9
- Wrangler in Training (WIT)
- Counselor in Training (CIT) BOYS limited availability, GIRLS week 6/7
- Leader in Training (LIT) BOYS week 6/7

Register online today at campcarson.org. You can also click the registration link to get on the waitlist, in case we have a spot open up.

Click here for [Financial Assistance & Foster Care scholarships!](#)



Operation Military Support – June 1–6

1 Week, Ages 7–16

This special week of camp is offered to children of Military families. Kind Camp Carson supporters allow us to offer this program to families for just \$200 – 400 per camper.

Scholarships are also available – [CLICK HERE!](#)

To register or get more info, please go to campcarson.org/military-camps.

Please share with other Military families!

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CAMP STORE!



campcarsonalumni.org
click on Camp Store

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE AT YMCA CAMP CARSON

RENTALS



Looking for a unique location for a weekend away, group retreat, reunion, company meeting, or team-building event? Camp Carson offers small and large spaces, indoor and outdoor – practical spaces with a warm Camp atmosphere.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Bring your classroom to Camp Carson! We offer unique Outdoor Education programs for local schools, combining outdoor adventures with learning. We can customize the day(s) based on your school's preferences.

WEDDINGS



What could be more beautiful than a wedding at Camp Carson? We offer options for indoor or outdoor weddings, including a lakefront amphitheatre, chapel, gazebo, and suspension bridges. We also offer a service kitchen in the lodge, changing rooms, restrooms, and parking.

*Photo courtesy of Kendalyn Nicole Photography


To book an event or request a quote, go to campcarson.org/events or contact Ryan Meeks at 812-385-3597 or rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org

Connect with Camp!



It's easy to join our mailing list!

Just send your email address
BY TEXT MESSAGE:

Text 
CAMPCARSON
to 42828

The Carson Connection is our digital newsletter, our Camp newspaper, and a way of sharing updates with Camp Alumni, Families, and Friends. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or campcarson.org for more updates and opportunities to connect.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2034 Outer Lake Road
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