

# YMCA CAMP CARSON

Spring 2019  
Volume 13, Issue 1

## CAMP'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES STAY WITH ME

By Dr. Pamela Sontz

Memories of camp and the guiding principles I learned there have remained with me throughout the years and go far beyond words. My first summer as a camper was about the year 1995. The camp director at the time, Denise, was extremely welcoming and reassured my parents that the camp experience would be a positive one. I remember many things about that first summer: counselors, cabin mates, songs, campfires, but most of all I remember how inclusive camp was. By the end of the week, I felt connected to the spirit of camp. From then on, I came back each summer as an LIT, CIT, counselor, and summer program coordinator. Each experience provided a different perspective, allowing me to grow and learn how to acclimate quickly.

Camp was not only about the activities and conversations but also the unspoken feelings, gestures, and peaceful environment. As a staff member, I remember how much we wanted to listen to the campers, pay the experiences forward, give them opportunities to be creative, be curious and not be afraid of making mistakes. We gave all of our energy each week to be sure the campers at the end of the summer had just as much fun as the campers at the start. There was also the sense of pride and commitment, knowing that the integrity, honesty, and excitement should be displayed not just in the summer but also during the rest of the year.

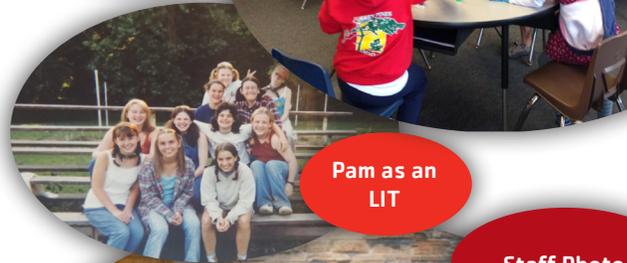
Camp has influenced both my career and life. After graduating from Indiana University, I went on to pursue and complete my doctorate in Chemistry at Caltech. My passion for chemistry brought me to San Diego to do postdoctoral research, and I now work as a Ph.D. scientist in Product Development at Illumina, Inc. Each step along my path has reflected camp lessons: being respectful of others, staying dedicated, and finding your passion while never forgetting the beauty in nature and importance of listening and spending time with yourself. I am so very grateful for YMCA Camp Carson and will always be thankful for the opportunity my parents provided for me to attend camp.



2012 Caltech graduation ceremony where Pam earned her doctorate degree in Chemistry



Volunteering at schools to do chemistry demonstrations



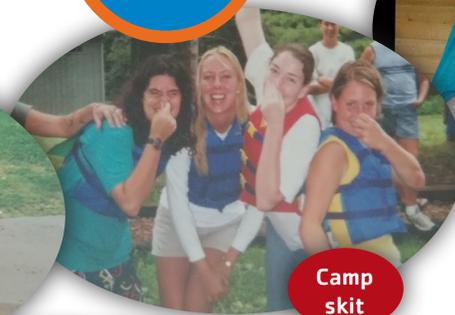
Pam as an LIT



Staff Photo



Pam and Mark Scoular, Exec. Director



Camp skit



First year on staff



Program Coordinator summer with her friend Bucky Beaver

In 2002, Pam (along with fellow staff member, Matt Cross) was the recipient of the first Kniese Scholarship award - nominated by her peers as the staff member who most exemplified the core values of the YMCA - Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith!

# PARENT PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson

Summer camp is only a few months away and our son, Michael, is already counting the days until it starts. He will be attending Camp Carson for his 4th year. My husband, Brian, and I still remember the anxiety we felt as parents when we first sent him to camp. He was ten years old at that time and had never been away from mom and dad before. So, what made us decide to send our only son away for a week of summer camp knowing that we would worry a lot and miss him even more? We wanted to give him the opportunity to build his character, gain resilience, independence and have fun in a caring environment. We also wanted him to appreciate the wonders of nature and build his faith in Christian fellowship with others.

That first camp experience became unforgettable. Michael made friends and tried new things every day that challenged him to develop new skills. Most importantly, he was able to be in a family-like environment created by his counselors and all the staff members from the directors of the camp, to the nurse, cafeteria and cleaning staff. From one year to another, we added one extra week of camp and weekends in between, as these weekends became truly special because of all the fun that happens with a much smaller group of friends going to Holiday World. For us, as parents, it meant that we could stop worrying about Michael being homesick, although he still expected us to write him a message almost every day and receive a care package during his stay there.

Given that our family is very small and all our relatives live in Europe, summer vacations to grandma and grandpa's house happen only every 3-4 years. Camp Carson quickly became our extended family. We felt that way from the first year our son attended camp because he was always happy there, and always excited to go back one summer after another. At the end of each summer camp, when Michael comes home, he is so much more mature, responsible, empathetic and confident. His eyes are sparkling with happiness and his heart is so much bigger because of this unique experience. And yes, he also appreciates his parents more. We always look forward to him coming back because of the abundant hugs he gives us, and that first thing he always says when he gets home – "I missed you, guys, so much, but thank you for giving me such a beautiful summer!". And that means the world to us.



Brian,  
Michael and  
Gabriela on a family  
vacation

**"Michael made friends and tried new things every day that challenged him to develop new skills."**



**CAMP  
MATTERS**



# FAMILY CAMP – 6 YEARS & GOING STRONG

By Dr. Mark Razor – Representing the Razor and Arruffat Families

In 2013, Shirley Arruffat asked if we'd like to go to Family Camp together. Neither of our families had ever been to Camp Carson, but we figured, "What the heck?". Right off the bat, we fell in love with the whole environment of Family Camp, and now, after 6 years in a row, there's never any doubt about how we're spending Labor Day weekend.

The kids love all the camp activities and getting to develop new skills. Each year, they've tried at least one new activity and reached some new milestone. There's a real culture at camp of encouraging other kids when they're trying something new. It's been a source of pride to watch our own kids accept more responsibility for continuing this culture as they get older and work to encourage the younger and newer kids.

The parents love unplugging for a few days and letting the kids explore a bit on their own in such a safe environment. Not only is it nice to let someone else cook and do dishes for the weekend, but the food is EXCELLENT! We all had concerns about "roughing it," but have always found the accommodations comfortable while still being close to nature. We always find ourselves worn out, in the best way, at the end of each day, and refreshed and ready to go each morning.

The camp staff are terrific. Most of the counselors helping out at Family Camp worked at Camp Carson all summer and are now in college, but return for the Labor Day weekend to share their expertise and love for all that camp can offer. They really keep everything running smoothly and safely for maximum fun!

We also enjoy the multi-generational aspect at Family Camp with grandparents and other extended family members attending camp together. While we're many years away from the grandparent stage, it's great to know that we will never be too old to attend Family Camp! Each year we look forward to reuniting with other Family Camp families we met in previous years. For these and many other reasons, the Razor and Arruffat families look forward to keeping this tradition in place for years to come.



Mark and Karla Razor with their boys Max and Sam



Arruffat Family Santiago, Shirley, Cobes, Santiago and Shirley's Mom, Romanita

**CAMP MATTERS**



Mark and Santiago hanging out with the kids

Shirley and Karla - their families come to Family Camp together every year



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2018 GIFTS

A huge thank you to the following individuals, families, foundations and businesses who have invested in the lives of 100's of young people through their gifts to the Annual Fund Campaign, the Continuing the Legacy Campaign\* and other program needs.

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Charlie the service dog  
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YMCA of the USA's  
Strategic Initiatives Fund  
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**CAMP MATTERS**

**THANK YOU to Craig Fenneman** for purchasing a brand new 2018 Toyota Sienna van for camp! We are on the road a lot and this vehicle is a life saver year round.



# 80th REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

We're expecting a big crowd. **Please help us plan well by sending in your registration form by May 24.**

**RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

2034 Outer Lake Road • Princeton, IN 47670 or email to [80thReunion@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:80thReunion@ymcacampcarson.org)

**\_\_\_ YES! I will be there June 1.**



Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print Clearly)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Including me**, there will be \_\_\_\_\_ people in my group. Please PRINT First & Last names and ages below.

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**See reverse side to make a reservation for meals and accommodations at camp during the Reunion!**



## ALUMNI INFO Even if you think we have it, please take a moment to fill in years below, it helps us to connect the dots within the camp family!

\_\_\_ I was a camper from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Example: 1975 -1978 If you don't know, ball park it!

\_\_\_ I was on staff from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Example: 1986 -1988 If you don't know, ball park it!

If your children attended camp – please include their history here as well. \_\_\_\_\_

For the married ladies – Last Name when you were at camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list positions you held as a staff member: \_\_\_\_\_

My Camp Director was: \_\_\_\_\_ My Camp Cook(s) were: \_\_\_\_\_

My Camp Nurse was: \_\_\_\_\_ My Waterfront Director was: \_\_\_\_\_

I met my spouse at camp: \_\_\_\_\_

# ACCOMMODATIONS

\* Please note all times are Central Time \*

**With the exception of meals, there is no charge for accommodations. Thank you for understanding that due to limited space, we will be operating on a "first registered, first served" basis.**

- OPTION A \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Nights!** Friday (Check in 7:00 -10:00 pm) through Sunday (Check out 10:00 am)  
Includes Complimentary Continental Breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning.  
**Lunch and Dinner on Saturday are \$7.50 each - please fill out meal reservation below.**
- OPTION B \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Night!** Friday (Check in 7:00 -10:00 pm) through Saturday  
Includes Complimentary Continental Breakfast Saturday morning.  
**Lunch and Dinner on Saturday are \$7.50 each - please fill out meal reservation below.**
- OPTION C \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Night!** Saturday (Check in 9:00 am - all day) through Sunday (Check out 10:00 am)  
Includes Complimentary Continental Breakfast Sunday morning.  
**Lunch and Dinner on Saturday are \$7.50 each - please fill out meal reservation below.**
- OPTION D \_\_\_\_\_ No Overnight!** **Lunch and Dinner on Saturday are \$7.50 each - please fill out meal reservation below.**

**Friday and Saturday night accommodations are available for up to 120 people in the 12 new cabins! We thank you in advance for understanding that we can only accommodate all of our guests by offering boy cabins and girl cabins. Please list NON-FAMILY cabin mate requests below – male and female family members will be placed together in male and female cabins unless otherwise noted below.**

Cabin assignments will be given at check in.

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday night \_\_\_\_\_ # Boys \_\_\_\_\_ # Girls Cabin Mate Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday night \_\_\_\_\_ # Boys \_\_\_\_\_ # Girls Cabin Mate Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEALS – To ensure we have enough food prepared, please complete below.

**LUNCH** YES Please! \_\_\_\_\_ Members of my group will participate in the lunch meal in the Dining Hall.  
I am enclosing \$7.50/person.

No Thank You! \_\_\_\_\_ We will not be at camp for lunch.

**DINNER** YES Please! \_\_\_\_\_ Members of my group will participate in the dinner meal at camp.  
I am enclosing \$7.50/person.

No Thank You! \_\_\_\_\_ We will not be at camp for dinner.

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check made payable to YMCA Camp Carson OR please charge my

Visa/Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN – GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF CAMP

The Annual Campaign benefits EVERY family who enters our gates and helps make camp accessible to ALL families and kids who desire a week at Camp Carson. Literally hundreds of families receive help through our many scholarship opportunities.



financial assistance to families who qualify

our funding responsibility for 2 camp programs for kids from military families

financial assistance available to ALL families through our 3 rate pricing

helps underwrite Safety Patrol Camp

helps us conduct our dirt bike outreach programs (NYPUM) for kids who need help year round

helps offset program and facility operational costs which helps us keep all camper fee increases under control which benefits everyone

Let's work together to help build up and prepare more kids for life.

## WISH LIST & WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer to help with the Annual Fund Campaign which helps us extend our outreach to kids for traditional, military, and Safety Patrol camps as well as NYPUM and other camp programs.
- Volunteer to help organize two annual workdays at camp (Spring and Fall).
- Volunteer to be a Host Family for a 2020 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp.
- Sponsor the NYPUM program (National Youth Project Using Mini-bikes).
- Volunteer to help maintain landscaping around camp.
- Write to your local newspaper about the benefits of a summer camp experience.
- Ask your PTA to have us come and speak to students/parents about camp.
- Invite us to speak to your local civic organizations about camp's work in the community.

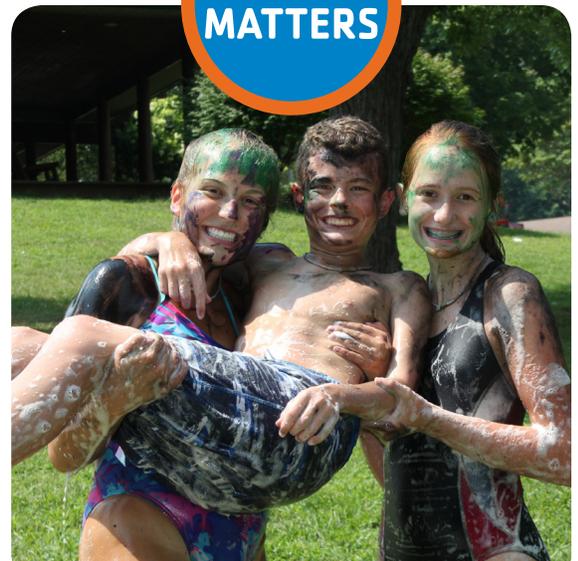
### You can Sponsor...

- 13 Paddleboards \*\*
- Ammunition for riflery (CC1 .22 Quiet)
- Potters Wheels\*\*
- 4'x8' Sheets of 1/2" ACX plywood for woodworking (it's a soft wood with no veneer)
- Overhead projection unit and screen \*\*
- Ford F250 truck for our NYPUM program.
- New Cheetah Mowing Deck \*\*
- Yamaha Viking V1 IPS Ranch Edition (6 seater ATV)
- Student Life Application Bibles. It is our desire to make a Bible available to any camper upon request.
- GPS Cross Country orienteering program
- Digital Photography and Video Program
- Tree House or Tree House Village
- Adirondack Shelter as part of our Eagles Ridge (Camp Out) Village
- New cabin at camp
- Precision Air Pellet Rifles
- Costumes, props, dress up clothes for skits

\*\* Contact Camp for model specifics



CAMP MATTERS



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Mr. Mark Scoular

**Mom & Dad,  
Have campers moved on? Please email camp with their new address!**



# 80<sup>th</sup> SUMMER REUNION

## Saturday, June 1, 2019



**80<sup>th</sup> Summer Reunion  
Registration  
details inside!**



The YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc., following the example of Jesus Christ, responds to community needs by serving all people, especially youth, through relationships and activities that promote healthy spirit, mind, and body.

**CONNECT OR RECONNECT WITH CAMP**

Links available via our website gateway page.

