



Fall 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 2



# YMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

## ALUMNI VISITS - MINI REUNIONS 70th ANNIVERSARY REUNION



*1970's Alumni Reunion*

*Front Row L-R: Debbie (Wade) Gable, Matt Nance,  
Steve Minor, Sherry DeMuth, Porky Nau  
Back Row L-R: Brian Fenneman, Terry Yunker, Tom Elsner,  
Steve Fritz, Bruce Moreland, Beth Skeels, Craig Fenneman*

This year we were blessed by several visits by our alumni, some who have not been here for 30 years or more. What a pleasure it has been to walk through camp with them and hear their memories. To see the twinkle in their eye and to share in their obvious fondness for camp is a privilege and often a moving experience. One of our visitors this summer was Marcia Martin. After her visit she sent us a lovely email and *we have included her comments in the online edition of this newsletter. Click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org).* She shared her experience with her sister Judy, also an alum, who also contacted us with her memories. Both have enthusiastically agreed to pass along names of camp friends remembered so that we can reconnect them with camp.

In preparation for next year's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, we were also pleased to host two mini reunions. Two of our Alumni Development Committee members were able to put together a little gathering for their "decade". Brian Fenneman took on the 70's and Aaron Kendall and Denise Peyronnin coordinated the 90's. Both groups made a visit to camp in July.

A portion of time during both July mini reunions was spent brainstorming names of alums who need to be informed about the 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion next summer. We don't want anyone left out, so please forward your friends from

camp to our office. We are striving to become more and more savvy with our website and our ability to connect you and other alums with camp and each other.

You can email camp at [campinfo@ymca.evansville.net](mailto:campinfo@ymca.evansville.net). Please tag your email with "Alumni Update" and provide as much information as you can on your contacts, i.e. name, maiden name, address, email, phone numbers and the years they were at camp (For Example: Camper 1978-82, Staff 1983 – 1985). This helps us link folks together and enables us to identify those that may already be in our database.

To sum up this alumni update, I must say that for those of us who are relatively new to camp, it is a bit awe inspiring to see that the camp magic we hold dear is truly timeless. It will be exciting to see all that camp will become over the next 70 years and beyond! We look forward to many more visits in the upcoming months. When you are in our area, please be sure to include us on your agenda!

Debra Scouler, Alumni Development

### Comments from Alumni Attending 70's Mini Reunion

Wow...thank goodness some things don't change. It was a great walk back into time. I still enjoy (after 34 years) the drive to Princeton and Camp Carson to revisit the property and more importantly, to reminisce with old friends, and meet new folks that you have never met, but feel like you have because of the common ground we have by working at Carson and knowing the tradition of the Camp and what it stands for. What a fantastic evening it was. And to do so during an active camp week night really made it special...seeing the camp alive with kids and counselors. *Click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) for more comments and photos!*



*1990's Fall Reunion*

*Standing L-R: Aaron Kendall, Lisa (Winchell) Wilkerson, Travis Wolfe, Kara (Lindeman) Giese, Katie (Vote) Thomas, Heather Reding, Drew Peyronnin  
Kneeling L-R: Mitch Wilkerson, Denise (Turney) Peyronnin, Matt Nance  
Sitting: Corey Fritz*

## Scrapbook Camp



Fall Retreat a Success!  
 Watch for Spring Scrapbook  
 Retreat April 2009.  
 Visit our website to see  
 more photos, info  
 and comments.

## Toyota Tundra Donation



Kelly Dillon and Susie Schuble hand over the keys.  
 Thanks to Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana for their donation of this retired test vehicle for use on our camp premises.

## YMCA Camp Carson Board of Managers

Mr. Craig Fenneman  
 Mr. Gene Dawson  
 Mr. Steve Fritz  
 Mr. Jeff Johnson  
 Mr. Steve Keck  
 Mr. Leonard Schlamp  
 Dr. William Wooten  
 Ms. Jayne Bierhaus Young

## Executive Director

Mark Scoular

## 2008 Kniest Scholarship

Established by camp alum, August Neal, in memory of Mark Kniest and his incredible passion for kids and life, the Mark Kniest Memorial Scholarship is a \$4000.00 academic scholarship awarded to one Camp Carson staff member each summer. Our summer counselors are asked to nominate one of their peers who most exemplifies the core values of the YMCA – Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith.



L to R: Jeff Kniest, Skip Kniest, Jennifer Smith, August Neal, Norman Kniest

We are pleased to announce this year's recipient, Jennifer Smith of Murray, Kentucky. Jennifer was a fantastic cabin counselor whose caring leadership made such a positive impact on so many of our campers and staff this summer. She began the summer by successfully helping us establish our new drumming program. She then moved over to the Alpine Tower where her encouragement and patience helped many campers overcome their fears and achieve their climbing goals. Jennifer is currently beginning her graduate program at Murray State University where she completed her undergraduate degree in Human Leadership and Development this past May. We once again offer our congratulations to this deserving member of our staff. *Learn more about Mark Kniest and the Mark Kniest Scholarship. Click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org).*

## Volunteer Work Days

Many thanks to our volunteers! We would have a hard time keeping up with the huge volume of maintenance at camp if it were not for the gracious participation of volunteers. This year it's been all about the paint brush.

In the spring, Toyota employees spent two evenings with us painting the interior walls of our bathhouse with splendid results! During our annual May Work Day at camp, we were able to tackle some landscaping projects as well as begin the much needed exterior painting of the cabins. Our thanks to many of the YMCA staff from the Downtown Branch and the Dunigan Branch who contributed a morning of their time to this effort. To round off this project, our summer staff gave up some of their evenings, pitched in and completed the task just in time for the campers to arrive.

The United Way of Southwestern Indiana and the United Way of Gibson County both included us in their Day of Caring. Two great teams of volunteers took on yet more painting and staining of our many decks, covered wagon cabins, porches and buildings. And finally, the 90's reunion of the summer multiplied for another small reunion this fall and asked to be put on a volunteer project during their stay. You guessed it. More staining! They took on the Dining Hall deck. Thanks to all of you. The contribution of your valuable time is greatly appreciated!!

If you, your family, your church group, aspiring Eagle Scout or business are interested in helping with future projects here at camp, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

## More Ways You Can Help

- Volunteers to help organize two annual workdays at camp (Spring/Fall)
- Volunteer to be a Host Family for a 2009 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp
- Team Leaders for our 2009 Annual Fund Campaign
- Used Station Wagon or Mini Van
- Sponsor the implementation of a Mountain Bike Program at Camp.
- Sponsor a GPS cross country orienteering program
- Covered trailer to transport dirt bikes to inner city program sites

**TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER NEEDS  
 AND DREAMS – CLICK ON THE NEWS TAB ON THE  
 WELCOME PAGE AT [WWW.CAMPCARSON.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPCARSON.ORG)**



United Way Volunteers

## Investing in Camp and the Life of a Child

This summer close to a 1000 children were able to experience the magic of camp through our traditional camp programs, Safety Patrol Camps and Operation Purple Camp. With children from right here in Princeton, Indiana to cities from a total of 25 states all the way from Montana over to North Carolina and Connecticut down to Florida and staff from all over the world - Columbia, Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland and the U.S.A- it truly was a cross-cultural experience.

The memories and stories shared by so many alumni continue to expand as new campers join their ranks. As I'm sure you know, the impact of the camp experience is so much more than a vacation. The enormous strides that our campers make over the course of a week as they grow in confidence, overcome fears, set goals and take on new challenges is inspiring. One of our campers this past summer finally made it to the top of the Alpine Tower, the significance of this achievement being that it was three summers in the making. The excitement and enthusiasm could be heard all over camp as this young man ran to let his friends, counselors and other camp staff know "I did it!" all 55 feet! *To see some of our favorite shots of the fun action from the summer, click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org).*

While many families are able to afford camp, we recognize that there are also those who need our assistance. Our commitment has always been to make camp as accessible to as many as possible. Your gift matters. Snippets from a camper mom's heartfelt email tell the story.

- ~ I had to apply for financial aid in order for my son to be able to attend camp. How excited we were when we received the call to let us know he had been granted a scholarship.
- ~ Your staff counselors were the cream of the crop: so wholesome and energetic.
- ~ Mark, what leadership you show at the camp!!!! The grounds are meticulous and the cabins were very well maintained and clean. The staff reflects your character.
- ~ Isn't God good!!!

This year over \$50,000 was awarded in full and partial summer scholarships. With program and extended season support, the need totaled \$75,000. This level of support would not be possible without the generosity of so many. Thanks for those of you who have already given support to our Annual Campaign. However, we are still \$30,000 shy in raising the funds to cover those awards. If you were on our mailing list as of July, you received our annual campaign case statement. As we finish up that campaign, I'd like to encourage you to consider a year end tax deductible contribution. The magic and experiences that you help create, through this investment in a child, truly do last a lifetime!

Thanks in advance for your support of our programs.

Mark Scouler, Executive Director



We'd like to encourage you to consider a year end tax deductible contribution to help us finish up our 2008 Annual Fund Campaign.

## Camp Families Give Us Top Scores!

This year we again took part in the national YMCA summer camp evaluation process. Thanks to all those families who were able to get their evaluations back in to us or were able to complete them online. As promised, for those who were able to get them in by the August 20th deadline their names were entered into a drawing for 50% off a week of camp in 2009. This year's winner was Jackson Smith of Wheatland, Indiana.

We are able to let you know how we scored internally and on a national level. The great news was that in several categories we had the highest national rating.

\*\* Highest National Rating

Here is a quick summary of how we did in some key areas:	Camp Carson	National Average
Would you recommend camp to a friend?	99%	97.6%
As a parent how would you rate camp overall on a scale of 1-10 (10 being highest)	9.3 **	8.8
What do you think about camp activities?	3.8 **	3.6
How did you feel about your camp counselor?	3.8	3.7
Camp helped me make new friends	3.7	3.6
How did you feel about the camp food? (Good/Great – 94%)	3.6 **	3.2
The people at camp helped me feel good about myself	3.6	3.5
At camp, I did things that I was afraid to do at first.	3.3 **	3.1



## American Camp Association Re-Accredits Camp for the 2009 Season

To learn about accreditation standards Click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org).

# YMCA Camp Carson

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**Expanded Newsletter Content**

at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org)

Click on the News tab on the Welcome page.



## Operation Purple Camp Experience

YMCA Camp Carson was honored to be granted the opportunity to host an Operation Purple Camp, a free one-week summer camp opportunity coordinated by the National Military Family Association (NMFA). OPC aims to help military kids experience carefree fun while also learning coping skills to deal with war related stress and fostering relationships with others who know what they are going through.

We as a Camp Carson staff were touched by these special troopers as they shared their hearts with us and each other during journal and discussion sessions set aside for this purpose. Early in the week the campers made cabin banners

and also introduced us to their parents by making their own wall of honor. All week long they had fun trying all the traditional activities at camp. Wednesday was a unique day for campers to participate in a mock deployment which was made possible by the extensive support of local military installations. We even had a Black-Hawk helicopter land at camp.

Click on the News tab on the Welcome page at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) for more comments and photos!



Young Black Hawk Pilot

## Please Let Us Hear From You

- To Update Our Alumni Database
- To Volunteer Your Time
- To Donate Financial Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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