

THE CARSON CONNECTION

Welcome Home to YMCA Camp Carson



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SUMMER CAMP 2022

How I spent my Summer vacation...



Summer 2022 campers embraced every moment at Camp, and many campers returned for a second week.

YMCA Camp Carson served 1318 campers from 22 states, through eight weeks of summer camp, including a week dedicated to campers from Military families. 234 campers received scholarships or financial assistance, and almost 300 chose our subsidized Rate B or Rate C pricing. We were fortunate to receive funding for a new Foster Care Scholarship program, and quickly exceeded our goal of 26 campers.

Staff came from seven countries this Summer, and 11 former Military campers were on staff this year.

Thank you to our campers and their families, for spending time with us this summer. Thank you to our summer staff who gave our Camp Carson campers an amazing experience this summer. And a huge thank you to our donors, who make all of this magic possible.



2022 CARSON ROCKERS

We had SO MANY campers working hard to achieve their Rockers at Camp Carson this summer! The Carson Rocker award takes a lot of commitment. To earn this distinction, campers must:

- earn all 5 levels at an activity area
- teach a counselor all 5 levels at that activity
- teach a new camper all 5 levels of that activity

Congratulations to these campers!

Alpine Tower

Kiley Hamby
Cameron Hawkins
Lorelei Taylor

Archery

Bryce Daley
Chloe Epperson
Joshua Robbins

Basketball

Kennedy Daley

Boating

Molly Kate Cook
Brooke Hawkins
Cameron Hawkins
Lucy Monarch
Garrett Motz

Cash Northington

Alex Patterson
Sophia Redella
Jacob Wilson

Fishing

Avery Teague

Mountain Bikes

Garrett Motz

Pottery

Delaney Blankenbuehler-Lee
Dani Emge
Graci Gossard
Zachary Rumjahn

Riflery

Peter Overstreet

Woodworking

LuLu Harvey
Elliott Redella

Wrangler

Evie Striegel

AWESOME!!



2022 MARK KNIESE SCHOLARSHIP

The Mark Kniese Scholarship was created in 2002 by YMCA Camp Carson alum August Neal, in memory of former counselor Mark Kniese. With this year's scholarship, the Foundation has exceeded \$50,000 in awarded scholarships since 2002. Thank you, August, for this incredible program.



Noemi Cerritos-Gatto



Being a camp counselor was something I wanted to do since my first week at summer camp. I thought wow, these people are so cool, I want to be like them. I saw their willingness to be silly, their joy, and their passion as something I wanted to be a part of. So when I completed my first year of college I decided to work at a summer camp. Working at summer camps, and Camp Carson specifically, has taught me so much about myself. I learned I could be confident and silly, and help kids to enjoy their summer like I enjoyed mine. Camp Carson taught me that I am capable of what I set my mind to and that I am an empowering leader.

I feel extremely honored to receive the Mark Kniese scholarship. I am honored my peers felt I was deserving of this award. This scholarship will help me pay for my graduate degree. Which, due to camp and my love of the outdoors is in International Environmental Policy. I aim to honor Mark Kniese by sharing the love of camp by sharing my experience and how much camp has impacted my life.

CAMP BIRTHDAY PARTY & STAFF AUCTION

This Summer, we started a new tradition at Camp Carson. We kicked off the Summer with some of our favorite Alumni at Camp's Birthday Party (formerly Strawberries & Cream), and added a Staff Auction to the celebration.

Staff & alumni sat amongst streamers with messages from former scholarship campers, as a reminder of the importance of philanthropy. They donated gifts to be auctioned, including homemade crafts & food, camp memorabilia, international souvenirs, and unique experiences. The highest bid was \$150 for a special art package created by Kristy Hamilton, our Program Coordinator.

Eli Royal was a perfect Auctioneer, generating plenty of healthy competition between bidders.

The Staff Auction raised \$1,729 for Camper Scholarships, and we are so excited to see this event grow next year.

We hope you'll join us on June 3, 2023!

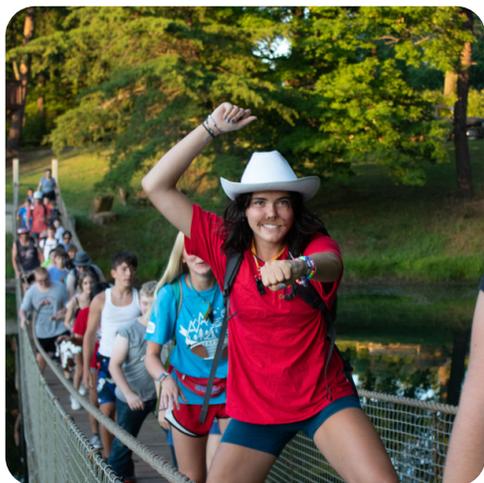


2022 LLOYD OUTSTANDING COUNSELORS

This award was created by Dr. Thomas Lloyd, a YMCA Camp Carson Alum & Bridge Builder, who established a named Endowment Fund within the Camp Carson General Endowment. We are very excited to announce that Dr. Lloyd has expanded this program to include an award for Outstanding Staff Member. Thank you, Dr. Lloyd, for your commitment to Camp Carson and support of our staff!

Riley Oakes

Prior to this summer, I've had little to no experience with camps. I always dreamed of going as a kid, but it never seemed to work out. I knew being a camp counselor would allow me to see what I missed out on and I thought about it for a long time, but I was scared because I felt like a stranger to camp. I decided to take a leap of faith and apply to be a counselor about 2 weeks before camp started. That was hands down the best decision I've ever made because it led me to so many amazing new friends and memories I would've never experienced. I immediately felt accepted for who I am, and I knew I would have no problem calling camp home for the next 10 weeks.



I regret not coming as a camper because I've seen the magic it's worked in all of my fellow counselors lives, but I'm grateful for the experience now and I think it has made me appreciate my time at camp more. This summer meant

a lot to me, as I was going through personal struggles last spring, because of this I grew so much as a person and I look forward to new growth in the coming summers. In my opinion, it's the campers and staff that makes camp so magical and worthwhile not all the exciting activities, even though that certainly helps!

Until next summer, I am studying at the University of Southern Indiana with a double major in Psychology and World Languages & Cultures with a concentration in Spanish. On campus I am a student ambassador, lifeguard, and Resident Assistant for Housing and Residence Life!



Mitchell Knipstein



This was my 11th summer at camp, but my first year on staff. I enjoyed getting to know all of the campers and staff, and sharing my love of Gaga, sailing and cookouts with campers this summer! I am currently studying elementary education at Butler University, and look forward to returning to camp next summer.



CAMP CARSON HALL OF FAME & BRIDGE BUILDERS DINNER



The Bridge Builders dinner is a time for us to thank our Bridge Builders – a dedicated group of donors who make a significant impact at Camp, helping us continue the legacy and mission, while growing and serving more campers.



This year's Bridge Builders event included a very special celebration, with Reno "Duke" DeMuth inducted into the YMCA Camp Carson Hall of Fame. Duke's Camp story started with his job as a dishwasher in 1947, then Mess Hall Superintendent and Camp Counselor. Duke served as the Director of Camp Carson in 1968 and 1969. He and his wife, Florence, were lifelong supporters and visitors at Camp. Terry Yunker presented the award to Florence and their three daughters.

We held the event during our Operation Military Support week, giving our donors the opportunity to see camp bustling and hear the laughter.

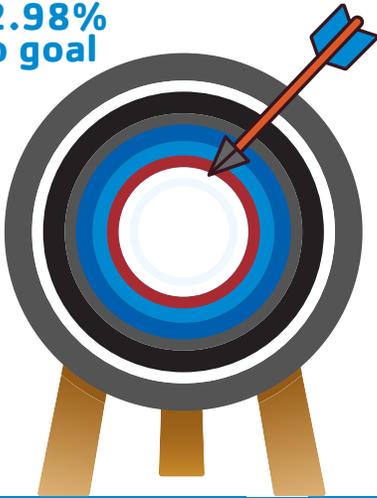
We also heard about the impact of Camp from the Cerritos-Gatto family. Mateo is currently a camper, and Noemi, Rafael, Pilar, were a big part of Summer staff this year. They each shared their experience from our Military programs, and how they are using those experiences now as Camp staff, and in other aspects of their lives.

Please contact Heather at 812-385-3597 or hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org to find out how you can become a Bridge Builder.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

82.98%
to goal



As a nonprofit organization, the support we receive from our donors is the only way we are able to provide these fun, challenging, outdoor, relationship-building experiences for our campers. The impact of Camp Carson doesn't end when our campers go home, it stays with them through the year and becomes a part of their character. Your donation reaches campers in these ways:

- Provides camper scholarships to reach more young people
- Supports funding for our two camp Summer Military camp programs
- Subsidizes the tiered pricing to make Camp accessible for all families
- Helps us achieve a matching grant of \$7,500 for our Military Family Weekends

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

YOU MAKE AN IMPACT

YMCA CAMP CARSON
2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



THE EVOLUTION OF A DINING HALL

The Dining Hall at YMCA Camp Carson is a core part of the summer camp experience. It's the place for campers to share meals with their cabins, sing songs with ALL of camp, and make countless memories.

We are nearing completion on the expansion of the current Dining Hall that was built in 1982. We outgrew the space in 2020, and started having camper meals in two shifts. This new space will allow all of Camp to again come together for meals.

The updated Dining Hall will also be available for local groups and organizations to rent for events, meetings, & banquets.



A MESSAGE FROM JIM

Greetings from Camp,

The Carson Spirit is alive and well thanks to our families, volunteers, donors, and amazing staff. This past summer marked our 82nd year and our 83rd summer serving kids of all ages.

We are excited to announce that the Dining Hall expansion is well underway. With this addition, we will be able to serve our community even better.

Also, this summer marked the return of epic canoe trips on the White River. For our Alumni that would love to see us on the Patoka, please reach out to us and we'll plan a scouting trip. I would love to hear the stories as well.

Speaking of scouting, please jump on our Family Trip program. Imagine hiking and camping as a family - our Camp Carson team has an adventure for you! Watch our website for more details coming soon, at campcarson.org/events



P.S. In this photo, campers were helping me pick potatoes for dinner from our new garden! With a special grant from the Gibson Co. Community Foundation, we started a garden for campers to learn, grow, and enjoy some fresh vegetables.

Welcome, New Board Members!

Camp Carson is so fortunate to have the support of a passionate Board of Advisors. This Spring, we added four new members with varying backgrounds and histories with Camp. We are grateful for their commitment and interest in our mission. Please join me in welcoming these new members of our YMCA Camp Carson Board of Advisors.



Lance Morton
Former Camper & Counselor
Strategic Advisor,
Ground Operations
Southwest Airlines



Paige Walling
Southwest Indiana STEM
Lending Services Supervisor
University of Southern Indiana



August Neal
Former Camper & Asst Director
Retired International Banker
President of the Alhambra
Orchestra & Cellist, Miami



Mark Razor
Advisor, Liberal Arts
University of Southern Indiana

YMCA Camp Carson Board of Advisors: Steve Witting, Chairperson • Tom Elsner • Bob Fenneman
Craig Fenneman • Steve Fritz • Dr. Spencer Goodson • Dr. Steve Graham • Jay Kasey • Lance Morton
August Neal • Denise Peyronnin • Denny Quinn • Dr. Mark Razor • Dr. Dana Savidge • Bill Schirmer
Paige Walling • Dr. William Wooten • Greg Wright • Terry Yunker

FALL AT YMCA CAMP CARSON



People often ask "what do you do after Camp?" or "Is it quiet now?" In reality, Camp Carson has created a bustling Fall season filled with Outdoor Education groups, youth organizations, Family Camp, Military Family Weekends, Camp Corral Family Weekend, Fall Camp, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, group rentals, conferences, retreats, and two beautiful weddings.

Since the end of Summer Camp, we have hosted more than 2300 people at Camp!

This is the time of year where we also start planning for next Summer. We've already been working on some adventures, programs, and themes for 2023, and will start **HIRING STAFF** very soon. We are also attending conferences and learning more about trends in camp, to ensure that we continue to create the most safe and rewarding experience for our campers.

We are always looking forward to Summer, but this is a wonderful time to be at Camp & we're thankful for the opportunities to serve the community year-round. We would love to have you come visit & take a walk with us!

*If you would like to book Camp Carson for a group event or weekend away, please call Ryan at 812-385-3597.



Registration is OPEN - Summer 2023!

Summer is filling up quickly, go to campcarson.org/summer-camp to reserve your camper's spot today! Scholarship applications are also available on our website.



Best
SUMMER
Ever!



Join us for the 4th Annual Polar Plunge!

The Polar Plunge is a Camp Carson event that raises money for camper scholarships, to make camp available to more kids. Join Alumni, Donors, Camp Families, and our Community to raise money as you take an icy leap into the lake! It's easy to sign up and share your Polar Plunge page to invite others to donate toward your Plunge.

Go Jump in the Lake!



POLAR PLUNGE 2023
JANUARY 28TH

CALLING ALL AMAZING ALUMNI

If you follow Camp's Facebook page or Alumni group on Facebook, you may have seen our new series highlighting some of our Amazing Alumni. (See examples below) We love the opportunity to talk with Alumni, hear their stories, see their favorite photos, and SHARE that with our camp community!

If you (or someone you know) would like to share your Camp Carson story and tell others about the good you're doing out in the world, please contact Heather at hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org or 812-385-3597. Or better yet, COME VISIT and take a hike with us!



BECOME AN AMAZING ALUMNI TODAY!

AMAZING ALUMNI

DR. THOMAS LLOYD

Dr. Lloyd is not only a loyal Camp Carson Alumni & Bridge Builder donor. He is also an Eagle Scout, an author, and a Philanthropist! He is a retired Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Penn State College of Medicine.

Dr. Lloyd established the Lloyd Outstanding Boys and Outstanding Girls Award Endowment for the purpose of recognizing the outstanding Camp Carson counselors each summer. This year, he added an award for Outstanding Staff Member, to include other Camp staff.

His philanthropic work extends well beyond Camp, with several other scholarship programs established at Penn State, Penn State College of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Harvard Graduate School, Frontier Community College, University of Evansville School of Nursing, and Berea College Department of Nursing.

His book, "Just Plain Lucky" is a wonderful collection of stories, including one about Camp Carson. We have a copy of the book on display in our Alumni Room at Camp.

AMAZING ALUMNI

BRYAN SMITH

Bryan Smith's Camp Carson story began in 1980, as a young camper assigned to Herb Foster's cabin (pictured above). Bryan is the middle camper! He continued as a camper through the 80s, then spent five years on Summer staff in the 90s before graduating from college at Indiana University.

Bryan and his wife Sarah have also become Camp Parents, as their four daughters are starting their fourth Summer at Camp Carson this year (left and top in bottom photo).

Camp Carson staff recently met with Bryan at Hard Truth Distillery, where he is the Master Distiller. His love of Camp shows when he starts sharing his camp stories. Bryan says "Camp is like Advanced Ninja Training in communication, cooperation, and problem solving", and credits Camp with helping him learn to work through new experiences and challenges with all sorts of personalities.

AMAZING ALUMNI

ROGER BLACKWOOD

Charles Roger Blackwood (2nd from right) was a camper at YMCA Camp Carson in 1945 and 1946. Roger encountered many trials during his young life, and became very strong and independent.

Roger is proud that he has been a member of the Y for 85 years. From age 5 to 18, he was on scholarship. He is a testament to the YMCA and its impact on young people. The YMCA building pictured above is the Robertson County YMCA, which he built and was the major contributor for.

Roger recently gifted Camp Carson his hand-earned camp ribbons and patches, now proudly displayed in our Alumni room. When Jan thanked him for thinking of us, he told me "Not to worry, I have been thinking about YMCA Camp Carson for 75 years."

Get Away, in our own backyard at YMCA Camp Carson



YMCA Camp Carson is a perfect spot for:

Cabin Rentals • Tent Camping
Field Trips • Group Rentals
Reunions • Weddings • Events
Corporate Retreats • Church Picnics

Activities:

Enjoy the following Camp activities at your own pace, or spend quiet time on your porch.

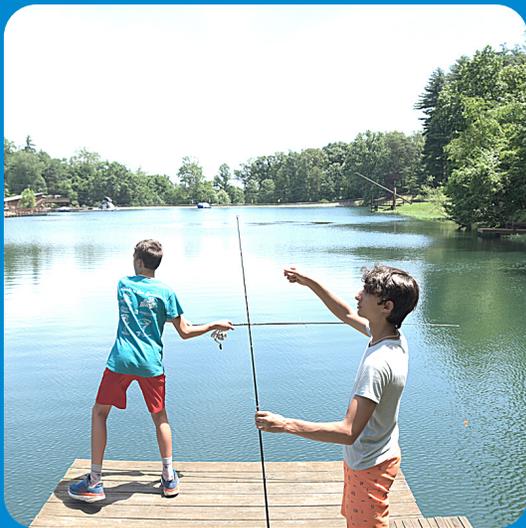
Hiking (trail maps available)
Fishing (bring your own bait & gear)
Soccer
Basketball
Tether Ball
Sand Volleyball



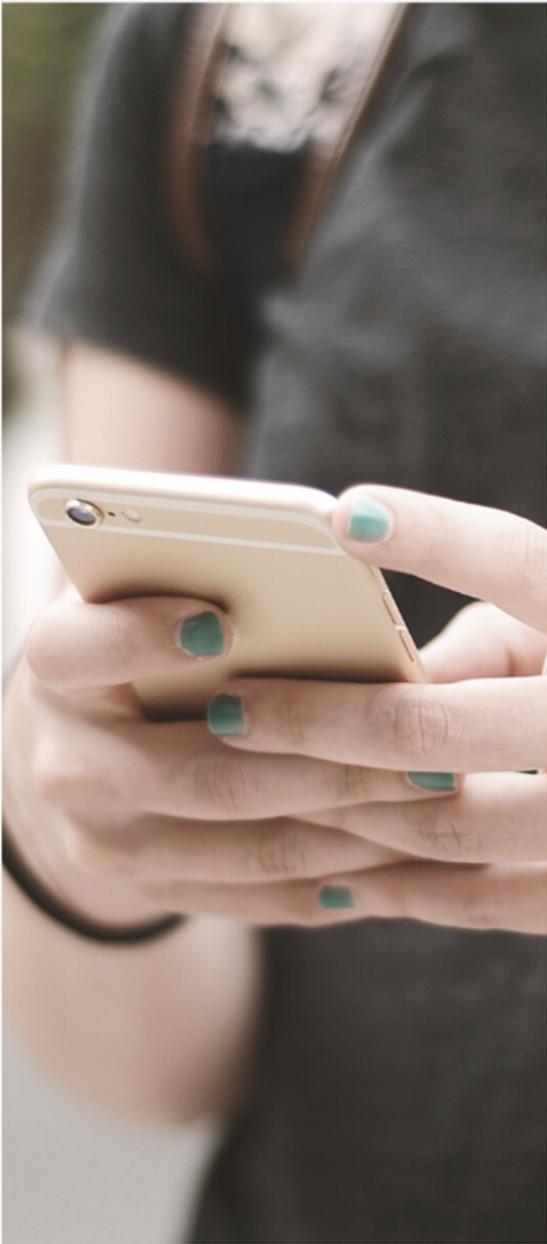
YMCA Camp Carson is a beautiful place to get away as a family. We have select cabins available for rent in the non-summer months. Take advantage of the natural beauty of Camp for a family adventure or relaxing weekend.

Rental Rates

Grandview Cabins:	\$250 per night (up to 28 people)
Otto Cabin:	\$100 per night (up to 6 people)
Kickapoo Cabin:	\$100 per night (up to 4 people)



www.campcarson.org/events • 812-385-3597



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, designed to share updates with Alumni, Donors, Camper families, and our local Community. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or campcarson.org for more updates and opportunities to CONNECT.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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