

# THE CARSON CONNECTION

Welcome Home to YMCA Camp Carson



Camp Carson is  
busy in the  
offseason  
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Gibson Co. YMCA  
We're Hiring!  
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# EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

A NEW CAMP CARSON OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM,  
DESIGNED & DELIVERED TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU



YMCA Camp Carson's Experiential Education Days are designed to provide a safe, fun, and unique education experience for students of Southwestern Indiana. Each school has the opportunity to customize their day(s) of Camp Carson facilitated activities that focus on Teambuilding, Outdoor Education, and Recreation.

Activity and Lesson options include:

Animal Poetry • Climbing Wall • The Incredible Journey  
• Archery • Estimating Heights & Geometric Shapes •  
Quick-Frozen Critters • Candle Making • Virtual Water  
• Portable Slingshot Range • Friendship Bracelets •  
Scroll Saws • Teambuilding Challenges • Air Dry Clay  
Projects • Map Challenge • Oversized Spikeball



To learn more about this  
unique experience, or to  
consider a program at your  
school or organization,  
please contact Ryan Meeks  
[rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org)  
812-385-3597



# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Camp Carson will soon kick off our annual fundraising campaign, our largest fundraising activity of the year. As a nonprofit organization, the support we receive from generous donors, alumni and community is the only way we are able to provide life changing, outdoor, challenging, relationship-building experiences for our campers.

The young people in our communities endured great challenges in 2020, and more than ever, feel the need to get outside, explore, connect, learn, and grow. We are working hard to ensure that YMCA Camp Carson is a welcoming space for everyone, with safety and health as a priority.

We are blessed to be able to serve camp families in this beautiful space, to bring laughter and joy back to Camp Carson, and to share joy and friendship with new and returning campers. Please join us as we continue to find new ways to make an impact with young people and their families.

## MAKING IMPACT

### YMCA Camp Carson 2021 Annual Campaign

We currently have a match challenge from a kind donor, to match up to \$7,500 for our Military Family Weekends. Please contact Heather if you would like to help us achieve that match. [hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org)



### How your investment impacts campers

- Supports our funding and partnership with 2 camp programs for kids from military families.
- Subsidizes our 3-tier pricing, to make Camp more accessible for all families.
- Specific financial assistance for families who qualify.
- Funds our new Military Family Weekends.
- Helps underwrite Safety Patrol Camp.
- Helps us offer dirt bike outreach programs (NYPUM) for youth who benefit from a year round program.
- Offsets program and facility operational costs to help keep camper fee increases under control, to ensure camp is accessible to everyone.

We welcome your online donations [www.campcarson.org/giving](http://www.campcarson.org/giving)



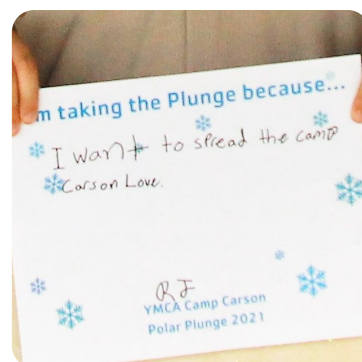
# 2ND ANNUAL POLAR PLUNGE

The Polar Plunge may have been in March this year, but the water was still quite cold. We had a great crowd of plungers, volunteers, fans, and Alumni participating in this event. Andrea Sutton was our top fundraiser this year, raising over \$2,000. We are thankful to the Princeton Fire Department, Donut Bank, Bauerhaus Catering, and the Camp Carson Board of Advisors for contributing to the success of this event. Mark your calendars to join us next year, January 29, 2022!



**\$14,954 raised**  
**20 Plungers**  
**230 donors**  
**75 attendees**

Polar Plunge 2021



**Thank you Thank you!**



## CAMP CARSON ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

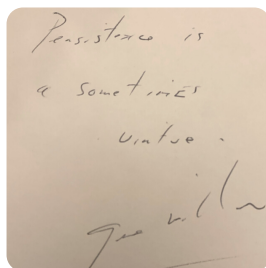
# GENE MILLER



Gene Miller is a Camp Carson Hall of Fame member. He was one of our first campers, attending Camp Carson in 1940, and later joined the Camp Carson staff.

Gene was an Evansville native and Indiana University graduate, also receiving an honorary LL.D. from Indiana University in 1976. He became a reporter for Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette, Wall Street Journal, Richmond (Va.) News Leader, and Miami Herald.

As an investigative reporter in Miami, he won two Pulitzer Prizes for reporting that saved four innocent people wrongly convicted in Florida for murder. His 1975 book "An Invitation to a Lynching" was the result of eight years of active research, writing, and activism in support of two innocent men. Gene sent galley copies of the book to the Florida Attorney General and Florida Governor, prompting the Governor to grant the men clemency.



Editor's note: in my search for a copy of "An Invitation to a Lynching", I ordered from a used bookstore, and received a copy that was signed by the author. "Persistence is a sometimes Virtue" -Gene Miller

Gene Miller's reporting included the JFK assassination • Watergate • Chillingsworth murder trial • Yarmouth Castle fire • Martin Luther King • Bluebelle • The Beatles • Mackle kidnapping • Apollo • Three Mile Island • Chappaquiddick • Kent State • Patty Hearst • My Lai and Lt. Calley • Elvis • Ted Bundy • Gary Gilmore • Guyana suicides • Sunshine Skyway bridge • George Wallace

## Welcome New Board Members

Please join me in welcoming these new members to our YMCA Camp Carson Board of Advisors. We are honored by their commitment to Camp Carson and our mission. We're excited to have their expertise and diverse backgrounds to add to our talented and dedicated Board.

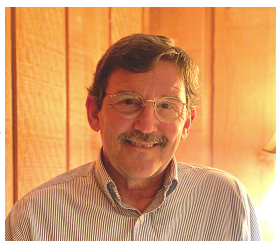
Jay Kasey  
Senior Vice President of  
Administration & Planning at The  
Ohio State University



Dana (Lee) Savidge  
Associate Professor, Skidaway  
Institute of Oceanography



Dr. Steve Graham  
DDS, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery



Greg Wright  
Mayor of Princeton, IN



Camp Carson Board of Advisors: Dr. Spencer Goodson, Chairperson • Tom Elsner • Bob Fenneman • Craig Fenneman • Steve Fritz • Dr. Steve Graham • Jay Kasey • Aaron Kendall • Denise Peyronnin • Denny Quinn • Dana Savidge • Bill Schirmer • Steve Witting • Dr. William Wooten • Greg Wright • Terry Yunker



# YMCA 2021 Annual Meeting

## Award Recipients from Camp Carson



### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR STEVE FRITZ

At the Annual Meeting, Steve Fritz was awarded the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana Volunteer of the Year Award.

Steve has been promoting the need for a Princeton/Gibson County YMCA for over 20 years and has been an integral part of the meetings and progress. We are excited about this new YMCA and what it will mean for Camp Carson and our Association.

Steve and Suzette have been an integral part of Camp Carson for more than 60 years, and we are grateful for their support.

### CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT SPENCER GOODSON

Spencer Goodson, our current Board Chairperson was awarded the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana Character Development Award for his tremendous attitude and willingness to share his talents. His leadership was invaluable during the recent camp leadership transition and the adversity of the pandemic.

Spencer was a camper and counselor at Camp Carson, joining the Camp Carson Board of Advisors in 2011. Spencer, his wife, Mary, and their family, have attended Family Camp for many years. Thank you so much Spencer, for making a difference.





# Spring Cleaning at Camp Carson



## Volunteer Work Day April 24, 2021

This is a great day to help get Camp Carson ready for summer! We'll have a variety of outdoor and indoor projects, something for everyone. If you can't join us for a scheduled day, we would love to see you anytime!

Please call 812-385-3597 or email [hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org) to sign up!

## Volunteers make the Difference!

### Camp Open House – May 1, 2021

Bring the whole family for a fun day exploring and learning about Camp Carson. Join us for an in-depth facilities tour, meet the Directors, try camp activities, and ask questions.

Call for more information 812-385-3597



## Summer 2021 Registration

Did you know we also have Dirt Bike, White Water Rafting, and Boys & Girls Outdoor Leadership Development (BOLD/GOLD) Camps? Go to [campcarson.org/summer-camp](http://campcarson.org/summer-camp) to secure your spot for the best summer ever!





# A New YMCA for Gibson County

Toyota Indiana recently announced a \$1 million donation to the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, for a new Toyota Indiana YMCA in Gibson County. The North Gibson School Corp. recently donated the former Lowell Elementary School property to the YMCA for this facility.

The new YMCA will offer a place for members of the community to gather, learn, participate in activities and classes. The planned space will include a STEM lab, wellness center, teaching kitchen, childcare area, and many other programs.

We are very excited to have the new Toyota Indiana YMCA become our Gibson County neighbor and partner for the future. We are thankful for the support from our community and Toyota Indiana.



Are you looking for something exciting to do this summer, that will allow you to impact the lives of children, build your resume, and enjoy the outdoors? YMCA Camp Carson is a great opportunity! As a summer resident camp, we offer week-long sessions for 160 campers each week through June and July.

We are looking for Male Cabin Leaders, Photographer, Waterfront Director, Wrangler Director, Adventure Tripping Director, & Age-Group Coordinators. If you would love to spend a summer at Camp Carson, start an application at [campcarson.org](http://campcarson.org) & click the "Employment" tab or contact Ryan Meeks at [rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org)




# Let's be Friends!



It's easy to join our mailing list!

Just send your email address  
**BY TEXT MESSAGE:**

**Text**   
**CAMPCARSON**  
**to 42828**

Or go to [campcarson.org](http://campcarson.org) and click the  
"Sign Up" box at the top of the page!

The Carson Connection is our new digital newsletter, our Camp newspaper, and our online Camper & Alumni forum. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or [campcarson.org](http://campcarson.org) for more updates and opportunities to CONNECT.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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**YMCA CAMP CARSON**