



Spring 2017
Volume 11, Issue 1

CYMCA CAMP CARSON



THE CAMP CARSON NATION



We love the international aspect of Camp Carson. It's a big world out there and these days, more than ever, we are all interconnected. This summer there will be 8 countries represented on staff: England, Scotland, Brazil, Columbia, Germany, France, Paraguay and the United States. The Dining Hall reflects this diversity with all the flags displayed to recognize all the international staff who have joined us over the last 20 years or so.

We intentionally bring in this global staff team to help our campers realize they are part of a bigger world. For a large portion of our campers, these international counselors will be the only person they have ever met from another country. It is very rewarding to see the campers' interest in other cultures and to hear the interesting questions they ask. Our favorite camper quote is "Did you know in Africa they go to the zoo to see a giraffe?" This camper assumed that if you lived in Africa, you just step out the back door and see giraffes walk by. While this was a harmless assumption, many times our assumptions about other countries are not.

We have asked two of our former international staff to share their Camp Carson experiences. It is heartwarming to see the common thread of acceptance and lifetime friendships; something all of us who belong to the Camp Carson Nation understand!



Henk Beerten
Netherlands



1973 Staff

Left: Henk during his 2012 visit to camp and his cabin.

Skip Loge, who now lives in CA, visited camp with Henk. They worked together for one summer and have remained friends ever since.

By Henk Beerten

It was the summer of 1973 when I came to Camp Carson. The fact that I am still connected to Camp Carson already proves that once connected it lasts a lifetime. I visited Princeton again in 2012 together with Steve Fritz and Skip Loge and immediately I felt the positive atmosphere in Camp Carson again.

I was pleased to see the old cabins as they were when I last saw them, although I know that by now they have been replaced. Nostalgia only lasts so many years. My first time at Camp Carson was an overwhelming experience for me. I was 20 years old, just finished my training to be a teacher. Traveling from the Netherlands to the US was unusual for most people in those days. It was an adventure. I remember I felt small traveling many hours on the bus from New York

Continued on page 2



Craig Atkins
Scotland

2016 Staff
2017 Staff

Right: Craig (on the left) at his activity area, riflery, with his activity-co, Michael.

When not at camp, Craig is in Scotland studying for his Master's Degree in Astrophysics!

By Craig Atkins

I can't describe the magic that camp has sometimes. As a counselor I spent my summer playing games, singing songs and dancing with the kids something I never thought I would be doing, let alone missing. I was so nervous going into my counselor training week at camp. I was in a foreign country surrounded by strangers with no clue how to look after children. However, I still remember one of the first things they said at camp and that was to remember why we were here, For the Kids. We spent the entire week talking about A.C.E and how to make the kids feel accepted challenged and empowered. It is something we strive for every week and at the end of every week at camp we shared those moments with each other. Our job as counselors is to help the kids to thrive and we did that using A.C.E something we always had in the back of our minds throughout summer.

Continued on page 2

THE CAMP CARSON NATION cont.



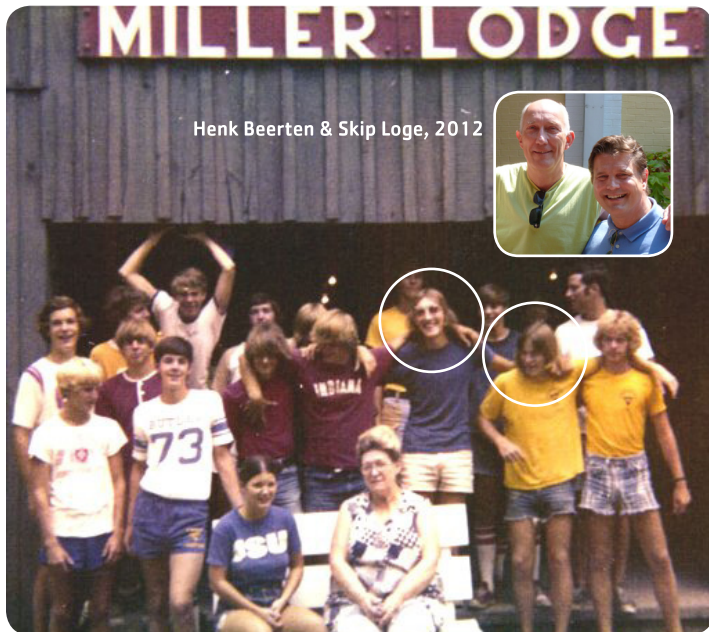
Henk Beerten continued

to a tiny bus stop in Princeton, waiting for Steve Fritz to pick me up.

I had a fantastic time at Camp Carson. After a couple of days of adjusting, getting over my uneasiness of speaking English, I felt accepted by the counselors. The open mentality, friendliness, comradeship, everything helped me to feel comfortable.

Working with the children was wonderful. Being a teacher the work was not too difficult, but what I found so inspiring that we managed to teach children how to swim in one week, how to overcome fear in climbing the big tree, daring to ride the donkeys Sears and Robuck. All wonderful experiences that gave the children confidence in themselves and in each other. A fantastic experience for all of us.

It was great when I came back in 2012 and I felt the same vibe was still there, after 40 years. The commitment of the counselors, the children. Very optimistic in every sense of the word. I think Camp Carson is a fantastic place for children to spend the summer. I find it special to see the international perspective with which you work. All those flags in the mess hall are a symbol of this. It is very important that children learn that all over the world children and adults are more the same than that they are different. We have skills, expectations, fears and aspirations that we share. At Camp Carson you can learn this from each other. An experience that will last a lifetime.



Two years ago my brother Andre was cycling in the US and was passing by Princeton. I told him all about Camp Carson, of course, and he paid a visit. He was as impressed as I am about the positive atmosphere.

I intend to visit Camp Carson again sometime in the future, because there was one thing I missed in the mess hall. That's the Dutch flag. I will bring one with me and hope to put it with all the others.



Craig Atkins continued

One thing I am absolutely sure of is that I would not be able to do this job without the fantastic team at Camp Carson. Those strangers that I met on that first day were my friends by the second. The support and friendship that everyone at camp offers keeps me going throughout the summer and it's something I can't wait to come back to. They always told us that part of the camp magic was being able to make these friendships. I feel closer to some of my camp friends than I do with people I've known my whole life. Sharing these moments and weeks with the other counselors makes you a better team and better friends. I can't wait to see everyone again. They've become a second family to me.



I didn't think camp would affect me when I went and it's something I am thankful for. To anyone who is thinking about working at a summer camp (or has children who are) but is worried an internship would be more beneficial, you can forget about that. That was my initial thought but I underestimated the skills and experience I could gain from working as a counselor. It gave me the confidence to walk into a room and feel that I could be friends with everyone in there. Personally, I gained so many soft skills from my time with the kids. Camp is the main thing I talk about in any interview I do because I can show them my best self and what I can do when I love where I am. On another level, camp provided me with the opportunity to forget about university and just be myself again which is something I would struggle to put a value on.

Every week we see these kids grow in confidence and abilities by being around camp and it happens in different ways for each of the kids. Some of them start off quiet and at the end of the week will be the most talkative person I have ever met, others just like to tell me what they've accomplished in their week. It is always a great part of my job talking with the kids about what they have and want to do that week or later in life. I try my best to be the best role model for these kids and help them grow. I love seeing these kids try, more than anything else that is all I can ask from them. Even sometimes if they don't reach their goal I can always see them grow on the inside. Something inside them seems to register - I tried my best and that's what I need to do next time. We do our best to help them recognize that no matter what they've done, there is always something to be proud of.

WHAT'S NEW FOR SUMMER 2017

BACKYARD ADVENTURES

A Week of On Site Camp Outs

Ages 10-12

Space is limited:
Offered Shoshone 4 only

This program is designed to give our pre-teens a taste of living on the trail as they explore the forests in our own 300 acre "backyard" right here at camp. Campers will experience shelter building, tent camping, campfire cooking as they camp out at a different spot each night including our new Hammock Village. Our goal is to prepare our campers to move into the more challenging off site BOLD GOLD trips as they enter their teen years.



CAMP CARSON RADIO



It's been a few years but our camper driven radio broadcasting program is back! We can't wait to see our campers shine as they "run the show".

WOOD WORKING



We're bringing back our wood working program to give our campers another way to create and learn. Squirrel cafés, bird feeders and other projects will be on the woodworking menu.

BACK FOR THE 2ND SUMMER!

BOLD GOLD

Boys/Girls Outdoor Leadership Development

A Backcountry Camping Trip – Teens Ages 13-16

This off site program launched last summer with a GOLD trip (all girls) and a BOLD GOLD trip (coed). This summer we are headed back to the Red River Gorge in Kentucky and expanding to 3 trips by adding a BOLD trip (all boys).



ROBOTICS

Rising 7th grade
& up

Space is limited.

Offered Shoshone 3
only.



ONLINE REGISTRATION
for summer camp
is available 24/7 at
campcarson.org

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 DONORS

Take a look at just a few of the things you made possible with your investment in the lives of the campers we serve.

Partners \$1-99

Gene & Julie Cobbs
David & Amanda Fitzgerald
Jeff & Sarah Gershon
Jennifer Green
Skip & Donna Kniese
Jane Lau
Brock & Wendy Meyer
Matt & Marci Moore
Jeffrey Omohundro
Daniel & Dottie Pauli
Hayden Ponsar
Niles & Suzanne Rosenquist
Courtney Stephenson



Kids earning their white swim bands and gaining confidence.

Leah Miller
Michael Mitchell
Pat Mitchell
Jeff & Sue Moore
Harold & Carolyn Nix
Ole Olsen Jr.
Lewis & Jeanette Plane
George & Bonnie Rehnquist
Karsten & Carol Rilying
Allen Schlamp
Barbara Shaw
Tracy Stanfield
Tom & Susanne Stein
Bob & Laura Stephenson
Tri-State Women Veterans, Inc.
Tom & Barb Williams



Friendships - new, old, for life.

Supporters \$100-249

Jim & Karla Atkins
Henk Beerten
Charlotte Bently
Andrew Boyd-Goodrich
Stephen Carey
Dan & Erin Diehl
Tom & Pauletta Harris
Wayne & Jewell Henning
Clarine Heseman
Eric & Margaret King
Robert & Misty LeBlanc
Skip Loge
Julie Lovins
Fred & Rebecca Malotte



Kids learning riding skills and horse care responsibilities.

Patrons \$250-499

Allison Bailey
Marylee Barnard
Bob & Vicki Blemker
Clarence Doninger
K.C. & Teresa Green
Zach & Sarah Hooper
Scott & Andi Johnson
Norman Kniese
Barbara Lacy
Clovis & Ledia Manley
Rhys & Laura Rudolph
Sue Schelosky



Kids from military families with other kids who understand the lifestyle stresses. And, a chance to just be a kid.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing
Indiana
David & Becky Whipple
Zipathon 2016
Anonymous



Kids learning gun safety and target shooting skills.

Sponsors \$500-999

Bob & Tammy Burns
Jerry & Linda Dennis
Kenneth Doerner
Margaret Drury
Bob & Phyllis Fenneman
Steve & Suzette Fritz
Keith Knipstein & Stephanie Hulett
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Ladies Auxillary VFW 1114
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Kent & Betty Meyer
Lance & Lani Morton
Mark & Renee Peterson
Raymond James Financial, Inc.
Sons of the American Legion
Levi Stahl & Stacey Shintani
Tri-State Bearing Company, Inc



Kids experiencing unique activities like pottery.

Bronze Champions

\$1,000-2,499

Mike & Marcia Bussey
William & Carmen Carson
Gene & Angie Dawson
Reno & Florence DeMuth
Tom & Jackie Elsner
Tobie & Kate Escher

Steve & Laura Graham
James King
Dan & Diane Krupp
Mark & Debra Scoular
Tom & Greta Smythe
The Answer Auto Repair East Inc.
Terry & Linda Yunker



Teens learning about leadership, cooperation and collaboration.

Silver Champions

\$2,500-4,999

David & Sharilyn Baugh
Optimist Club of
Evansville-Downtown, Inc.
Bill & Mona Wooten

Gold Champions

\$5,000-9,999

Charley & Pookie Storms



Face to face conversation over a snack from Canteen.

Platinum

\$10,000+

Craig & Mary Fenneman
Courtney & Jo Carson
Jay Cutler Foundation
William E. Schmidt Foundation, Inc.

Thank You to those who made matching gifts for some of our donors

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Raymond James Financial, Inc.
Soros Fund Charitable Foundation

THANK YOU

for your commitments to the Continuing the Legacy Campaign

\$500 & under

Karen Bradshaw
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Mary Hubert
Abigail Johnson
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Jeffrey & Amelia Schultz
Ron Smith
Joseph Whitehead

\$1,000 - 2,499

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Scott & Leigh Schroeder
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Bill & Diane Van Deest
Bill & Mona Wooten

\$5,000 - 9,999

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Mark & Debra Scoular
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The Hollander Group
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\$10,000 - 14,999

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Crescent, Cresline,
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\$20,000 - 29,999

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Preston Foundation
United Companies

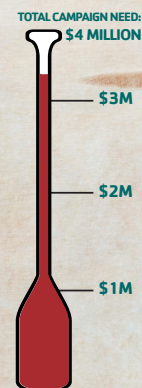
\$3,387,570 towards \$4,000,000 Goal

EMPOWER THE FUTURE OF CAMP



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabin Replacement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suspension Bridges
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterfront renovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campfire Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Wellness Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land acquisition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Generator
<input type="checkbox"/> Adventure Village	<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1M Cash

✓ = Fully Funded



\$30,000 - 59,999

Spencer & Mary Goodson
Charlie & Pookie Storms
Vectren Foundation

\$60,000 - 99,999

Brent & Cindi Beeler
Alan & Sharon Braun
Greg & JoAnna Faith
German American Bank
Independent Insurance Agents, Inc.
Optimists Club of Evansville
Downtown, Inc.
Mark & Carla Smythe

\$100,000 - 149,999

Holiday Management Foundation
Koch Foundation
YMCA of the USA's Strategic
Initiatives Fund

\$150,000 - 249,999

Old National Bank
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana

\$250,000 - 350,000

Courtney & Jo Carson
Leonard Schlamp

\$1,250,000+

Craig & Mary Fenneman

Thank You to those who made matching gifts for some of our donors

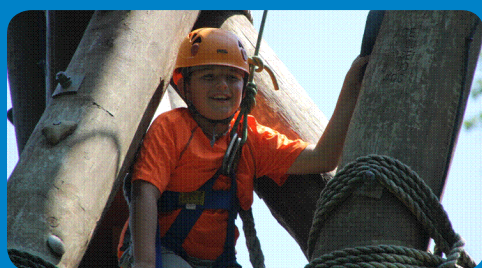
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Raymond James Financial, Inc.
Soros Fund Charitable Foundation Matching Gifts Program



Camp Mom shares what Camp has done for her children.

"They have developed strong interpersonal skills such as communicating, empathy, understanding as well as motivating others. They also know how to take challenges that are hard and persevere through them when they are ready. The camp has been a pivotal, life changing experience for my kids. (I can hardly get them to come home!)"

Share your love for the life change that happens at camp by giving to the Annual Fund today!



2017 ANNUAL FUND 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.
- Financial Support which is available to all families through our 3 rate pricing
- Helps provide 3 camp programs for kids from military families.
- Helps us conduct our dirt bike outreach programs like NYPUM for kids who need help year round.
- Helps underwrite the Safety Patrol Camp.
- By helping offset program and facility operational costs which helps us keep all camper fee increases under control.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

An alum favorite are the suspension bridges that were here at camp for several decades until the 1990's when they had to be taken down. As part of the **Continuing the Legacy Campaign**, two suspension bridges will be part of camp again.



1940's Bridge at the Camp entrance. The trees were a bit smaller then!



One of the new bridges will go here, in the same location as the 1940's bridge, from the bank by the zip line tower across to the path which leads to the Tom Sawyer Swing and opening campfire.



THANK YOU!

Our thanks to camp alum, **Spencer Goodson** and his wife, **Mary**, for sponsoring the camp entrance suspension bridge.

Spencer spent many summers at camp as a camper and staff member and is thrilled to bring back this camp icon.



This suspension bridge rendering will span the gully between the Ridge Top cabins and the main part of camp.

This bridge has not yet been sponsored.

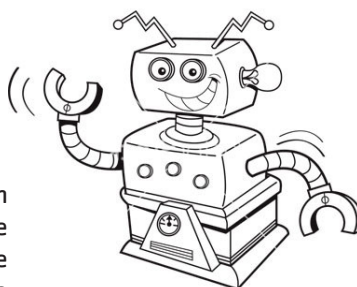
MEET EDGAR!

Your Gifts Will Help Us Get Edgar to Camp!

During any given week at camp in the summer, up to 200 people are housed at our facility! Should the power go out as a result of the storms we have at camp, or for any other reason, a **generator** would allow us to:

- Keep the kitchen/dishwasher running
- Keep food coolers and freezers running
- Keep sewer system/pump station going
- Keep the office computers/phone system going

Edgar the Generator is also a project of the Continuing the Legacy Campaign.



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 2017 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp.
- Donate a used **Station Wagon** or Mini Van.
- Sponsor a **Student Life Application Bible(s)**. It is our desire to make a Bible available to any camper upon request.
- Sponsor the **NYPUM program (North American Youth Project Using Mini-bikes)**.
- Volunteer to help maintain plants and shrubs 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.
- **Share your IT skills** to develop camp wide internet access.

You can Sponsor...

- **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**
- **A Suspension Bridge** at camp
- **2 Tee Pees** by Nomadic TeePee Makers for Cabin Campouts
- **Mini Glass/Jewelry kiln** for Creative Arts
- **Precision Air Pellet Rifles**
- **Ammunition** for riflery (.22 LR)
- **Costumes, props, dress up clothes** for skits



SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE!

OPERATION CAMP BLITZ

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



It's time to get camp ready to go!

Alums – give your camp friends a shout out and create your own dream team.

Camp families – round up the kids and spend a great morning at camp together.

PROJECTS

Paul Bunyan Brigade:

Tom Sawyer Project:

Gardening Club:

Spit Shine Crew:

Hobart Hustle:

Goin' to the Chapel:

Challenge Beaters:

Clearing forest trails

Staining decks

Landscaping TLC

Windows washing, bunk dusting etc.

Sanitizing dishes through the Hobart

Clearing leaves and power washing

Sprucing up our activity areas

SATURDAY, April 29

9:00 am – 1:00 pm CST

Lunch is provided.

Please help us plan well.

RSVP 812-385-3597

OPEN HOUSE FOR 2017 CAMP FAMILIES



Join us for this annual event which offers our camp families an opportunity to visit camp. The tour

includes 4 stations which covers everything from the waterfront, the cabins, camp activities, the health center and the dining hall. Camp directors will lead each section of the tour offering lots of great information and answering all your questions.

For the kids, we will also have archery, the climbing wall, Ga-Ga and volleyball open!

SUNDAY, April 30

1:00 – 4:00 pm CST

Please help us plan well.

RSVP 812-385-3597

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM ALUMNI EVENT



Calling all Camp Carson alumni to join us for our **First Annual Strawberries and Cream Alumni Event**. Join us for the evening.

- Eat Dinner and Strawberries and Ice Cream
- Meet and encourage the 2017 Summer staff
- Catch up with your camp friends from all decades
- See what's new at camp
- Hear about what's coming up at camp

SATURDAY, June 3

5:00 – 8:00 pm CST

5:00 Camp Tours/Fellowship

5:30 Dinner

6:15 Alum Shout Outs

6:45 – 8:00 Strawberries

& Ice Cream and Fellowship

Please help us plan well.

RSVP 812-385-3597

BRIDGE BUILDERS DINNER

TUESDAY, July 11

4:00 pm Camp Tours & Fellowship

5:00 pm Dinner – Program –

Bridge Builder Recognition

6:30 pm More Fellowship

RSVP 812-385-3597

This will be our 7th Annual Bridge Builders Dinner to thank and recognize our Endowment Donors who have become members of the Bridge Builders Club.

CONGRATULATIONS

to these members who joined the **BRIDGE BUILDERS CLUB** in 2016!

Kay Cox

Denise Turney Peyronnin

Steve & Laurie Witting

Terry & Linda Yunker

Bridge Builder's have contributed a minimum of \$1000 to the Endowment Fund and/or have named YMCA Camp Carson as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

the YMCA CAMP CARSON

2034 Outer Lake Road • Princeton IN 47670

A Branch of the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc. • 222 NW 6th Street - Evansville IN 47708
812-385-3597 • campinfo@ymcacampcarson.org • www.campcarson.org

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Dr. William Wooten
Mr. Terry Yunker
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Mr. Mark Scoular

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

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 IN-KIND DONORS

Berry's Produce & Country Market
James & Heather Cullen
First Place Trophies
Gem Chemical Co Inc
Golden Corral

Randy Haaff
Jim Hipp Nursery
Kwik Kopy Business Center
Morley & Associates
Rowland Peddie

Sgt. Pepper's Fireworks
Kyle Smith
Gayle Sprinkle & Charlie
the service dog

Bonita Stewart
Straeffer Pump & Supply, Inc.
Vicki VanDenburgh & Andy
the service dog

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES!

**Our second
year to
be voted
Best
Overnight
Summer
Camp!**



Dedicated to the 100's of lost socks encountered over the last 76 summers. Thank you Nurse Heather for rescuing this pair!

Black Socks Camp Song

Black socks they never get dirty,
The longer you wear them the blacker they get,
Sometimes I think I should wash them,
But something inside me keeps saying not yet,
Not yet, not yet.
Repeat. Louder and louder, of course.



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.

