

THE CARSON CONNECTION

Welcome Home to YMCA Camp Carson



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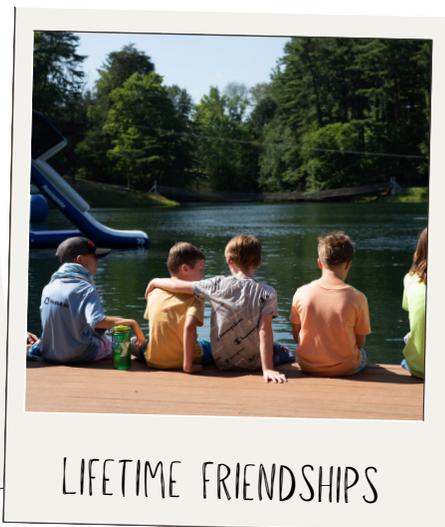
SUMMER CAMP 2023

This Summer was OUT OF THIS WORLD! The theme this Summer was Conquering the Unknown - engaging campers with fun skits and stories from outer space.

We served 1335 campers through eight weeks of summer camp. We hosted two weeks of camps exclusively for campers from Military families, at reduced or no cost. Nearly 40% of our campers received some level of scholarship or subsidy to help with the cost of camp.

Staff came from nine countries and eight states this Summer, and each of them gave everything to make this an incredible Summer for our campers.

Every Summer brings special memories and opportunities, and we are extremely grateful for all of the donors who help make YMCA Camp Carson a magical place.



Below is a quote from a parent survey:

“From the bottom of our hearts, we want to extend our sincerest thank you to all of the counselors, life guards, volunteers, food service, grounds crew, nursing staff, directors - the entire team at Camp Carson. Thank you for keeping our first-time camper safe, making him feel loved, and giving him the best week of his life.”

2023 CARSON ROCKERS

We are so proud of all of the campers who learned new skills and achieved new goals this year. The following campers achieved 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!

Archery	Pottery	Boating	Fishing	Soccer	Sailing
Sidney Hamby	Kaleigh Collazo	Silas Chenoweth	Nick Lewis	Amit Gat	Joseph Faulkner
Dylan Miller	Avery Hawkins	Emma Kichler	Tyler Marchisin	Charlotte Seale	Blake Metzger
Lucy Monarch	Brooke Hawkins	Anna Weisenbarger	Mason Ulrich		James Wannemuehler
Matthew Willming	Jaclyn Hunter		Rylee Yoder	Mountain Bikes	
	Baylee Lankford	Rifles		Zack Breckenridge	Basketball
Woodworking	Gabby Lannan	Tristan French	Athletics	Mateo Cerritos	Ollie Dunne Gillies
Mateo Cerritos	Ben Phillips	Arianna Wilson	Jack Sorrels	Sophia Redella	
Mae Emerson	Leah Rosen	Rylee Yoder			

2023 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. Thank you, August, for your commitment to this incredible program.

This year's Mark Kniese Scholarship award was a TIE, so both Bre Bailey and Clark Fehrenbacher were awarded a scholarship! In addition to August Neal joining our awards banquet via zoom, we were honored to have Jeff and Skip Kniese join us for the event!



Clark Fehrenbacher & Bre Bailey



Bre is studying Biology at University of Southern Indiana, and believes "without Camp, I wouldn't be the person I am today. There are so many things I've learned, people I've met, and camper's lives I've made an impact on without even knowing."

Clark is a member of the Army National Guard, attending Indiana University for human biology. He shared "If you focus on making everything you do a good deed, if you try to follow a path of perfection, and hold yourself at a high bar, and continue to raise that bar and better yourself, you will embody those values and become the best that you can be."

2023 LLOYD OUTSTANDING COUNSELORS & STAFF MEMBER(S)

This award was created by Dr. Thomas Lloyd, a YMCA Camp Carson Alum & Bridge Builder, who established a named Endowment Fund with the purpose of awarding scholarships each year for the Outstanding Boys and Girls Counselors. Beginning with Summer 2023 awards, Dr. Lloyd expanded this program to include an award for Outstanding Staff Member. In its inaugural year, this Outstanding Staff Member awarded was a TIE between Riley Oakes and Riley Weber! We are so grateful for Dr. Lloyd's belief in Camp Carson and supporting our staff!



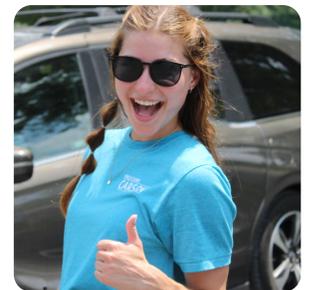
Outstanding Boys Counselor
Sean Finn
University of Nebraska-Omaha



Outstanding Girls Counselor
Mia Klohr
Georgia Tech



Outstanding Staff Member
Riley Oakes
University of Southern Indiana



Outstanding Staff Member
Riley Weber
Southern Illinois University

20 YEARS AT YMCA CAMP CARSON

We are always proud to see returning campers, and families who trust us with their kids for many years.

One of our favorite camper stories is Kim, who celebrated her **20th Summer at Camp** this year! She spends 1-2 weeks each Summer in Shawnee cabin, and makes new friends every year. Kim has Downs Syndrome, and makes the most of her time at Camp.

Kim's favorite activities at Camp are fishing, swimming, and tie-dying.

Her counselors and cabin-mates look forward to seeing her each Summer, and her infectious happiness brings a smile to all of Camp.

We are so grateful to Kim for her engagement at Camp, and to her family for allowing Kim to join us every Summer.



CAMP BIRTHDAY PARTY & STAFF AUCTION



The new Dining Hall was a festive space for our Camp Birthday Party and Auction. Each table include notes and drawings from former campers, as a reminder of the importance of philanthropy. One hundred Alumni, Staff, and Community members donated 45 items to be auctioned, including homemade crafts & food, camp memorabilia, international souvenirs, and unique experiences. The highest bids (tied) were \$205 for a Camp Counselor Survival Kit donated by Kacey Titzer, and a Cat Shirt donated by Meagan Spicer Big thanks to our auctioneers Alexis Griffin and Sophie Ice, who helped make this a fun and successful event!

The Auction raised \$3,419 for Camper Scholarships, almost **DOUBLE** last year's total!

Mark your calendars to join us on June 1, 2024!

CAMP CARSON AMAZING ALUMNI

HOLLY JALESKI

Holly Jaleski was a camper and counselor at Camp Carson in the 80s. THANK YOU, Holly, for sharing your story and memories with us!

I was introduced to Camp Carson by Erich Neal, a friend of my brother's. From the moment I heard about it, I knew that I wanted to attend. Fortunately, my mom was able to arrange for me to go that summer.

My first week at Camp Carson was difficult. I was assigned to a counselor's cabin, and everyone thought I was homesick and wouldn't make it through the week. But then August Neal, who was a nurse at the camp at the time, shared some compassion and understanding which gave me the courage to keep going.

The following year, I asked to go back to Camp Carson. This time, I was assigned to Dana Lee's cabin and met Chris Knapp, who became a fast friend. The two of us

learned about the CIT (counselor in training) program that was coming up, and we both jumped at the opportunity. Again, the first week was tough, and no one thought I would make it through the second week. But I had learned a valuable lesson from my mom at an early age: once I start something, I have to see it through. That lesson has come in handy many times in my life, particularly as an entrepreneur.

I grew up in Owensboro, KY, but Camp Carson gave me the chance to get away and meet a whole new group of people. It fueled my desire to see the world and learn how other people live. I worked on staff at Camp Carson for a few years, teaching sailing, canoeing, and dance classes. I also learned leadership skills and how to manage time by making sure kids made it to class and the dining room on time. Looking back, that experience probably solidified my belief that I wasn't mom material.

Camp Carson gave me a sense of independence and adventure that I craved. It built my confidence in my ability to do anything I set my mind to, and to make it through challenges and keep going.

I had always been an outdoor girl, thanks to my parents, but now I knew that I could do things without their help. That sense of independence led me to travel all over the planet in my 20s and do two trips around the US, living out of my little Toyota Tercel. It also gave me the confidence to take my first job out of college as an employee recreation manager in Yosemite National Park. Without all the teaching skills I learned at Camp Carson, I'm not sure I would've had the confidence to do that. Today, I'm an inventor with products in REI and other national retailers. I've run four businesses and lived all over the West.

My husband and I call Flagstaff, AZ, home, where he runs a company that makes airplane parts. We are avid backpackers and go on trips once a month. I'm also a writer, and my first novel came out in 2022 after I spent three months living out of my Jeep, visiting the places where it took place. My second novel will be out in 2023.



In addition to my businesses and writing, I'm passionate about protecting animals, particularly wildlife, and the habitats they share with us. This passion came from my years as a wildlife rehabilitator. I'm the director of a non-profit Rescue Ranch.

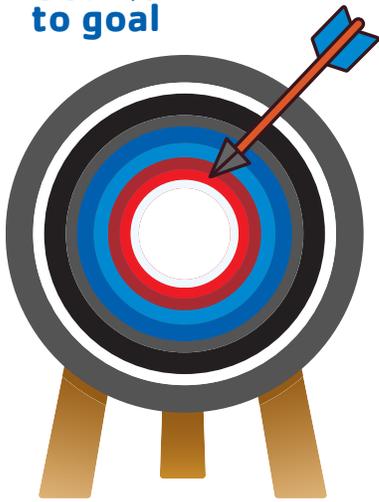


Camp Carson gave me a glimpse of what was possible, and I kept the ball rolling. I've had an amazingly blessed life full of adventure, good friends, and fun.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

86.7%
to goal



We are so honored to be able to offer fun, challenging, outdoor, relationship -building experiences for young people. We often hear about the impact of Camp Carson from our Alumni - this experience stays with them throughout their life, and helps them in many future endeavors.

Your generosity allows YMCA Camp Carson, as a nonprofit organization, to offer a camp experience that builds a foundation for growth, confidence, and responsibility. Your donation helps campers in these ways:

- Funds camper scholarships for young people who may not otherwise be able to attend camp.
- Reduces camp fees for our Operation Military Support summer camp program.
- Subsidizes the tiered pricing to make camp accessible for all families.

We welcome your donations online at www.campcarson.org/giving or mail to: YMCA Camp Carson, 2034 Outer Lake Rd, Princeton, IN, 47670

We are also grateful for “in kind” donations - items that you would like to give to Camp. Currently on our wishlist: Landscape gravel, plants for landscaping, golf cart, lumber, picnic tables, ice machine.

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



YMCA CAMP CARSON BRIDGE BUILDERS

This Summer, we invited our Bridge Builders to join us for special meals at Camp. We hosted eight of these Bridge Builder meals throughout Summer in our new dining hall filled with Campers! Thirty Bridge Builders joined us from almost every decade of Camp, sharing stories and enjoying tours of Camp.

The Bridge Builders at YMCA Camp Carson are 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.

Here are some ways you can become a Bridge Builder:

- Designate YMCA Camp Carson, a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, or life insurance policy.
- Make a tax-deductible cash, or stock contribution of \$1,000 or more to the YMCA Camp Carson Endowment Fund.
- Make a gift of real estate or personal property to YMCA Camp Carson.
- Lifetime contributions to YMCA Camp Carson of \$5,000 or more.

Please contact Heather at 812-385-3597 or hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM JIM

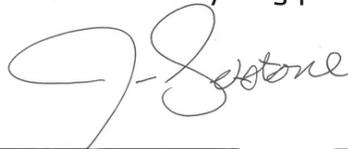
Hello from Camp Carson!

We've already had a remarkable year - from the Spring Archery tournament to Summer camp to Fall Military Family Weekends. We have so many things to be thankful for.

One of the highlights of this Summer has to be our newly-expanded and renovated Dining Hall. We are incredibly grateful for the special donors who made this expansion possible. It is a beautiful space that our campers enjoyed all Summer.

We are well into our Fall Season now, and should finish the year with more than 3000 people served through non-Summer events and activities. We would love to host your event - our new Dining Hall is available to rent, and we would love to share this space with your group!

Our team has some exciting opportunities on the horizon, as we continue to find ways to grow our presence within the community and serve more young people. Please come visit at your convenience; I would love to show you around!



Wayne Kinney
Chairman & Founder of
Innovative Consulting Group



De Sullivan
Former Camper & Counselor
Community Learning Center
Coordinator at EVSC

Welcome, Board Members!

YMCA Camp Carson is assisted by a Board of Advisors who volunteer their time and expertise. This Spring, we added two new members with unique backgrounds who will have a tremendous impact at Camp. We appreciate their commitment and interest in our mission. Please help us welcome these new members of our YMCA Camp Carson Board of Advisors.

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 • Wayne Kinney
Lance Morton • August Neal • Denise Peyronnin • Denny Quinn • Dr. Mark Razor • Dr. Dana Savidge
• Bill Schirmer • De Sullivan • Paige Walling • Dr. William Wooten • Greg Wright • Terry Yunker

FALL AT YMCA CAMP CARSON



Fall at YMCA Camp Carson is not only beautiful and filled with Fall colors, it's also filled with people. Just days after our Summer campers leave, we start hosting youth organizations, Outdoor Education groups, church events, Family Camp, Military Family Weekends, Camp Corral Family Weekend, Fall Camp, cabin rentals, Scouts, retreats, conferences, rentals, and weddings!

With the expanded and updated Dining Hall, we have even more capacity for group events - the new Dining Hall is a wonderful space for events and banquets, for up to 250 people.

To request a quote for a special event or group rental, please go to campcarson.org/events.

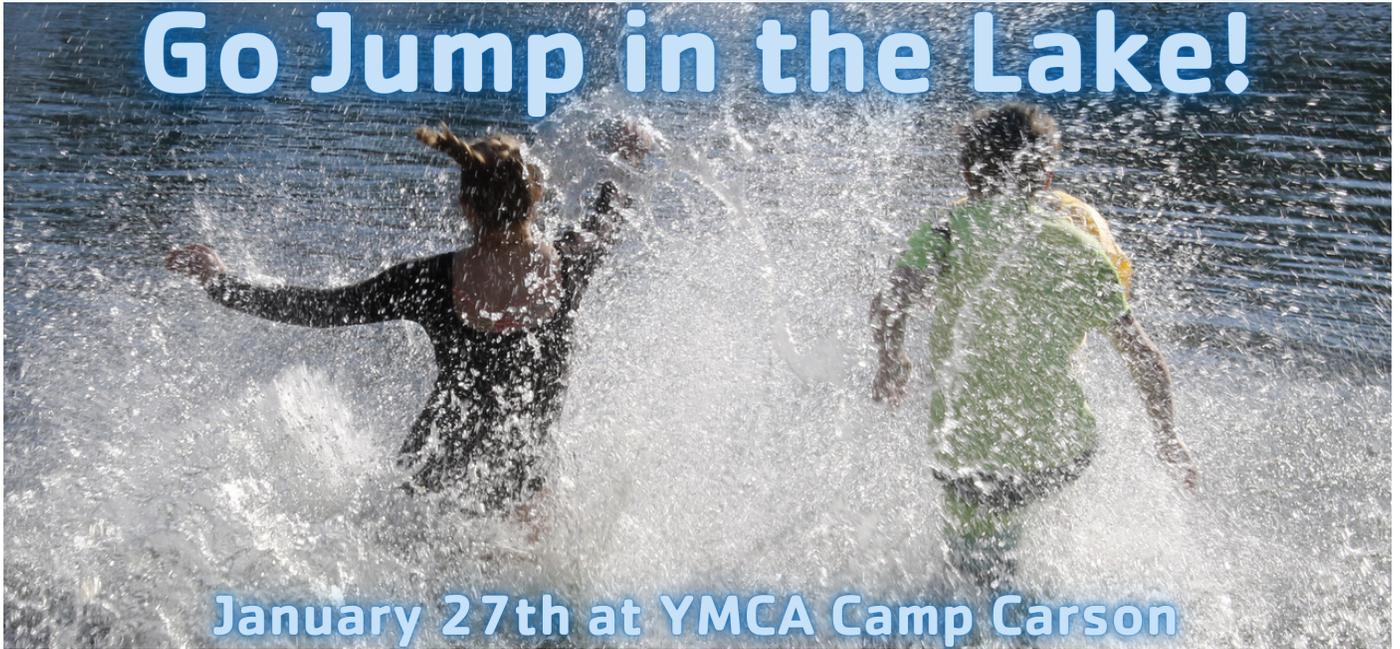


In between groups and events, we never stop thinking about Summer. We are busy making plans and starting to hire Summer staff. Our team also spends time in the Winter attending conferences, to make sure our Summer program is a safe, innovative, and exciting space FOR ALL campers.

We welcome visitors, especially Alumni - please come home and experience the beauty of Fall at Camp!

The 5th Annual Polar Plunge!

We're doing it again! Jumping into a cold lake to raise money for camper scholarships and reach more kids through Camp! Please make plans to join Alumni, Donors, Camp Families, and members of our Community for a fun event for a great cause. Go to campcarson.org/events to sign up today!



Total Eclipse at Camp! Monday, April 8th

Join us for a special Alumni Event during the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse! YMCA Camp Carson and Gibson County will be in the path of totality. Register today at [Solar Eclipse Alumni Day!](#)

- Grilling
- Camp Activities
- Games
- Friends
- Eclipse viewing!



Registration is OPEN for Summer 2024!

Summer 2024 is filling up already! Please don't delay - last year, camp filled up with waitlists by March. Go to campcarson.org to register today!

Financial Assistance is available, and a generous donor has funded our Foster Care camper scholarship for another year! Applications are on our website.

Join the
Adventure
Today!

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CAMP STORE!

ACCESSORIES, STICKERS
Bubble-free stickers

ACCESSORIES, DRINKWARE
Enamel Mug

ACCESSORIES, DRINKWARE
Mug with Color Inside

CLOTHING, SHIRTS
Unisex Hoodie

CLOTHING, SHIRTS

ACCESSORIES, FLAGS
Flag (Classic Camp)

ACCESSORIES, DRINKWARE
Stainless steel tumbler

ACCESSORIES, DRINKWARE
Stainless Steel Water Bottle

campcarsonalumni.org
click on Camp Store

EXPLORE MORE AT YMCA CAMP CARSON

RENTALS



YMCA Camp Carson is ideal for a retreat, reunion, company meeting, or team-building event. We offer small and large spaces, indoor and outdoor - practical conveniences with a warm Camp atmosphere.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



YMCA Camp Carson has created two unique Outdoor Education programs for local schools and youth programs - either on site at Camp Carson, or at your school. We can customize the day(s) based on your school's preferences.

WEDDINGS



YMCA Camp Carson has beautiful options for indoor or outdoor weddings, including a lakefront amphitheatre, chapel, gazebo, and suspension bridges. We also offer a service kitchen in the lodge, changing rooms, restrooms, and parking.

*Photo courtesy of Kendalyn Nicole Photography

To book an event or request a quote, go to campcarson.org/events or contact Ryan Meeks at 812-385-3597 or rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org

Own a piece of YMCA Camp Carson History

Adam Fakult is a Camp Carson alum & one of our Camp photographers for the last 3 summers. He created this photo book to share his passion for camp. It truly captures the spirit of camp, and is a trip down memory lane for all of us (from any generation) who have been a part of camp.

We are grateful to Adam for sharing his love of camp, and highlighting the magic of Camp in this way.



You can order your copy
TODAY at
adamfakult.com/book

A portion of the proceeds will be
donated toward camper scholarships.

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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