

YMCA CAMP CARSON



Spring 2020
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JAY KASEY'S CAMP CARSON STORY

Jay Kasey's Camp Carson story began with Safety Patrol and Steve Fritz—another distinguished Alumni. After 8th grade, Steve asked Jay to join Camp Carson as a Counselor-in-Training (CIT). Then in the summer of 1971 Jay took a Junior Staff role. In 1975 he was asked to be a Cabin Coordinator.

Jay and his wife, Susan, have been involved with Camp for many years, and sent all three of their children to Camp. In 1996, Jay engaged resources to design and build a new maintenance shed and complete a much needed renovation of the infirmary at Camp.

Jay was inducted into the YMCA Camp Carson Hall of Fame in November 2019 at the Bridge Builders dinner. Jay's family is at the heart of everything he does. During the Hall of Fame dinner, his sons read touching tributes to Jay. It was clear how much they admired him.

Steve Fritz said "I learned that Jay was a cut above the average—a hard worker, trustworthy, a person of character, honesty and integrity; well-liked and respected by his peers with excellent leadership ability."

Jay earned three advanced degrees—a BA in Economics from Wabash College, a Masters in Health Admin. from Washington University in St. Louis and a Masters of Business Operational Excellence from The Ohio State University. **Jay says the lessons he learned at Camp Carson were the foundation of his management and personal career.** Jay is currently the Senior Vice President for Administration & Planning at The Ohio State University.



*"When much is given,
much is expected"*

~ Jay Kasey, Camp Carson Hall of Fame 2019



2019 Bridge Builders dinner

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



A MESSAGE FROM CAMP CARSON'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are thrilled to announce that Jim Sexstone has accepted the position of Executive Director of YMCA Camp Carson. Jim will officially join us in August, as he finishes out this season at his current camp.

Hi Everyone,

We are very excited to be part of the YMCA Camp Carson family. Growing up and working at camps has taught me that great camps make a difference in people's lives. By getting to know a few current camp families and speaking with alumni, I found out fast that Camp Carson delivers on that promise. In today's world, we need places like YMCA Camp Carson where we all feel Accepted, Challenged and Empowered. We are up for the adventure.

I have been attending or working at camps since I was six years old. When my brother became a camp director, he convinced my parents that camp would benefit me and them as well. Camp has always been my second home. My best friends today are the people I met at camp so many moons ago. I look forward to helping create those same experiences for you and your family.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me through a call or text at 513-383-0204. Also, please let me know how Camp Carson has made a difference to you or your family. I would love to hear from you.

See you at camp soon,

Jenni, Jordan, Josie, and Jim Sexstone



WELCOME TO CAMP CARSON

We are pleased to introduce Heather Pierce as our new Director of Engagement & Development. Heather has been a part of our Camp Carson family for 40 years—as a camper, counselor, camp parent and board member. She joins us after 25 years with Kimball International, successfully leading their internal operations, government and customer service departments.

In this role, Heather's passion for Camp Carson will help us to further expand our Alumni activities and engagement, create fundraising and marketing activities that resonate with our camp families and community supporters. Her ultimate goal is to ensure that Camp Carson continues to be a treasured and valuable resource for youth, for her great-great-grandchildren. We would love your feedback! Please reach out to Heather with any suggestions for future events or programs for alumni and camp families.



FAREWELL FROM MARK AND DEBRA SCULAR

As many of you may be aware, after 19 incredible years at Carson, Debra and I made the tough decision to leave in response to God's calling in our lives. We raised our boys at Camp and partnered with many families over the years to help create the powerful life experiences and friendships that can only be found through Camp. I was blessed to have the opportunity to lead staff, alumni, volunteers and donors who all helped us grow the programs, improve and expand the facilities, and establish a solid camp endowment. We knew that Carson was in a good place, with a strong foundation and had a healthy waiting list by the turn of the year. So in February, we had the pleasure in joining the ranks of passionate Camp Carson alumni as we headed to our new roles as Executive Director and Engagement & Development Director for the Flat Rock River YMCA Camp in St Paul, Indiana.

Debra and I look forward to visiting with you at Alumni events in the years to come. I know you'll also join me in giving a warm welcome to the incoming Camp Executive Director, Jim Sextone. He is a dear friend and Y camp colleague of many years. Like you, I am excited to see where he leads Camp and the team.





IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, CAMP CARSON IS STILL HERE



Dear Camp Family,

Born into a world that was quite different than today, YMCA Camp Carson has endured many seasons of change during its 80-year journey. It has seen wars, social unrest, economic disasters and today, a pandemic that many are considering unprecedented. Just as it peeks through the early morning fog, Camp Carson peers through yet another time of change ready to serve the next round of memories for a new generation of campers. Since the onset of the COVID-19 virus we've wondered if Camp might look different this year; a shorter season, implementing distancing requirements, or what none of us wants to experience—the absence of laughter, energy and joy, due to a canceled season.

We continue to monitor developments daily and try to make the best decisions guided by the most recent information available to us. We're not sure what the experience will look like this year but what we want to be sure about is Camp's future. A significant amount of our focus has been to look beyond this summer to ensure that Camp Carson remains as strong and as available for seasons of campers to come as it has been for you. Camp Carson is still here, and it needs you now—more than ever.

Simply put, a shortened or canceled season would have a significant economic impact on Camp, limiting its capacity for scholarships and requiring subsidies to meet personnel and occupancy costs through the year. Camp is essential to our communities, and we are in a unique position to ensure that it continues to be. With such a robust network of nearly 10,000 alumni. Camp Carson's impact is far and wide. Now we lean on that equity and ask you to consider, if you can, a gift towards the viability of Camp Carson in this uncertain time. In past years we'd be reaching out for you to help give the gift of camp to a deserving child. This year, the ask is much broader. Consider making a gift at our website below (gifts range between \$25 and \$2,500). Help Camp Carson serve with certainty through an uncertain time.

For the first time ever, Camp was full by February. At this stage an additional 97 children are on a wait list, 72% of registered campers are returnees and 50% of the states have representation in our camper mix. As you can imagine, we are just as eager to serve children at Camp this summer as we have ever been. Whether now or next season, we know it will be an exciting time, filled with celebration and relief. Until then, we will ensure that camp is ready. We need your help to do so. Join us!

Sincerely,

Johnathan Pope
President/CEO



Thank you

for helping Camp Carson continue to be a spark in a child's life, for another 80+ years.

We welcome your online donation at
www.campcarson.org/giving.

2020 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

You make a difference when you invest in young people through the Annual Campaign.



Provides our funding responsibility for 2 camp programs for kids from military families

Helps underwrite Safety Patrol Camp

Financial assistance for families who qualify

Financial assistance available to ALL families through our 3 rate pricing

CAMP MATTERS



Helps offset program and facility operational costs to help keep camper fee increases under control, to benefit everyone

Helps us conduct dirt bike outreach programs (NYPUM) for kids who need help year round



Camp Carson Alumni Challenge

We've been reminiscing during this quarantine... Do you recognize any of the alumni in these photos? Send us an email with your guesses for a chance to win Camp Carson gear! We'll draw a winner from all guesses sent by June 30th. And feel free to share some of your own photos in your email.

Email: hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org



FAMILY CAMP ~ SEPTEMBER 2019

A very special weekend to celebrate family and Camp Carson.



Registration is now open for

Family Camp 2020!

Join us by signing up at

www.campcarson.org/family-camp

INAUGURAL YMCA CAMP CARSON POLAR PLUNGE • January 4, 2020

Nearly \$18,000 raised for future campers!





YMCA CAMP CARSON

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Mr. Terry Yunker

Executive Director
Mr. Jim Sextone

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



Check out **The Carson Connection**—our new online resource for campers. We created this site to keep our campers engaged with Camp Carson while they are schooling at home. You can see in the web image below, we have developed some fun virtual activities, a resource page, and other ways to stay in touch during this time. Many donors, alumni, and parents, have enjoyed these activities as well—including our **Camp Carson Virtual Campfire!**

Go to www.campcarson.org/carsonconnection to join us!

Virtual Activities



Join some of our Camp Carson Team as we lead various activities virtually through Zoom. To join these virtual activities, click on the zoom link in the schedule below and email Sarah or Ryan for the password. To see a list of the weekly activities, check the schedule below!

Resources



Check out this page of fun and educational resources for a listing of activities that you can do at home! Find activities that are appropriately aged for Elementary, Middle, and High School students!

Stay in Touch



We want to stay in touch with you and see how you have been! Come say hi to us during our virtual activities and keep up with what we are doing at camp by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! You can also click on the picture above and fill out a form letting us know how you enjoy The Carson Connection!

