



Fall 2014  
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# YMCA CAMP CARSON

## CAMP CARSON EXPERIENCE – A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE by Dr. Spencer Goodson

You don't return 12 summer seasons of the most impressionable part of your life without having Camp Carson inscribe upon your being an indelible stripe. I cannot smell the first sweet smells of summer – of cut grass, or pine woods, or wood smoke, without my most primal self retreating for a brief second to the memories of walking to Chapel on a cool, misty morning, or to Indian camp-fire on a soft, red evening. I never hear the incessant crickets without momentarily feeling the alone-ness I did on that first night at camp, removed from the support systems and familiarity of my safe home-life and thrust into a group that, whether campers or counselors, I quickly grew to feel safe and happy with. These things are the little, nearly reflexive, joys that Camp Carson gave me.

But Camp Carson gave me more. On a larger scale, camp gave me a concept of personhood, even a construct, or foundation for adulthood. I have spent many years struggling with where and how we all fit into this often wonderful, sometimes hostile world. And perhaps *because* those things learned earliest, the simplest and purest things, make for us the most powerful truths, I walk away from this struggle, time and again, comfortable with a few simple maxims of Camp Carson, like:



1. I would be true, for there are those that trust me, or
2. I . . . am third, or,
3. Take care of body, mind, and spirit.

You may laugh when you hear me say, even now in my 40's, that the voices of my conscience are truly those of favorite counselors I had at camp -- that my role models for manhood began there and have withstood the tests of time, over and over. The Eddie Edwards, Steve Fritzes, Terry Yunkers, Bugsy Oschners, Steve Grahams, Steve Minors, *even* the Richard (Porky) Naus, have been offered up to my children time and again as examples of what I believe is worthy in the world. When I go looking for truth in this world, I, like Kant, find it residing – *simply and inevitably* – “in the starry heavens above and the moral laws within” where it all first came to me, within – now beyond – the gates of YMCA Camp Carson.

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I wrote that in 1994, almost 20 years ago, when my family and I visited camp at a reunion and I was asked to say a few words at chapel. Since then, I have become re-involved with camp by serving on its board of managers. Let me just say -- no let me shout, “*Camp's glory days are not gone, it is better than ever!*” It has been a privilege to participate, to give back a little of the huge amount I took with me into my world. More than that, I am dazzled at what camp has become under the leadership of Mark Scoular and his staff. Truly, I have never seen the facility look as good as it does today. Twelve beautiful new cabins stand in place of those wonderful old 1940's – vintage clapboard huts we all found so rustic and (*strangely*) appealing. As hard as it was to let the old cabins go, these new cabins – because of the vision of the staff and board – have retained all of the charm of the old (bunk beds, slamming screen doors, humming fans, loud raindrops on metal roofs, etc.) but added everything moms want for their modern campers (in-cabin rest-rooms, more spacious beds, personal space and storage.)

New cabins are not the only way in which camp has stayed relevant -- there are rope-climb challenge courses, rock-wall climbing, “Ga-Ga” (you just have to see it), horse-back riding (and an *equestrian program* believe it or not – RIP Sears and Roebuck), trail-biking, and motorcycle (mini-ones) trail-riding. That is all **on top of** all the old activities we all remember teaching (with little or no idea what we were doing) like riflery (a new facility!) archery, crafts, nature, etc. And the waterfront still has **THE RINGS** and trapeze off the main dock, multiple inflatables (big ones) and the ZIP-LINE across the lake. If my camp lore hasn't failed me, it runs roughly the same course *Johnny Weissmuller – aka, Tarzan – swam underwater. . . from the old tower to the old sailboat docks*. And, yes, there are still canoes and even kayaks, sail-boats (and the “keys” to the oar-locks and the old glass magnet I can only presume, still hang in the boat-house.)

I am not alone in saying how wonderful it is to see Camp Carson thriving in 2014 in ways I could not have even imagined. But all of the things above do not make camp what it truly is. A group of former counselors and directors got together for a staff reunion this last year and to a letter, all of them came away with the same



Mary, Spencer (Camper 1961-1967, CIT 1968, Staff 1969-1973), Caitlin, Grandchildren, Lily & Spencer





feeling I did. Camp Carson – with all of its natural beauty, with all of its wonderful new (and old) facilities, has kept *the* thing that matters most. Its tradition of doing everything it does *for and about kids*.

In the end, campers come home *changed*. Sure, great resources make for comfort and fun, but it is *leadership* that changes kids. Camp's recent counselors and program staff have been stellar. They have bought fully into the Camp Carson tradition of challenging young people to recognize their comfort zones and grow beyond them – whether in their aptitudes and abilities, or in relationships with peers or adults. Most importantly, campers are challenged to grow in their understanding of who they have thus far understood themselves to *be* in their young lives. A staff like that does not just show up every summer ready to make magic. It takes careful selection and, once chosen, careful nurturing to develop.

It is no secret how fortunate we are to have the talent, vision, and dedication of Mark (and Debra) Scoular directing the camp in these critical last several years. The camp stays relevant and the long and cherished traditions of Camp Carson only go on because of these key people, like Rich Wertin, the assistant director, Lyn DeLozier, the (magic-maker) maintenance supervisor, Kyle Smith and Sarah Hooper, program leaders. (Not being a great multi-tasker myself, I am humbled before them!) I need to say before I close, that all of us who love Camp Carson, owe this dedicated team our unending admiration and thanks.

## CELEBRATING 75 SUMMERS, CHANGE AND WHAT'S IMPORTANT

From the Director, Mark Scoular

I suspect that for all those returning campers and alum, coming into the summer and the reunion brought a certain level of angst mixed in with the excitement. "The old cabins will be gone . . . will I still feel at home?"

For so many of us, "change" can be fearful! A journey down the path of the unknown: "What if . . .", "It won't be the same", "It doesn't look like . . ." For others, change can be exciting: "A fresh start", "a spark to that pioneer/adventurous spirit". For others still, change challenges perspective: "a simple reminder of what's important to them", "an opportunity to make sure that certain values/mores are on target", "a guided reflection towards forward momentum." But isn't all of this part of what camp should be about? While camp is all inclusive and traditions are incredibly important, camp is also a safe place to help children and young adults challenge themselves and their thinking. That doesn't necessarily mean a change of mind but it does offer time to carefully consider changes they may wish to make personally as well as in their relationships with others and their community.

Our 75<sup>th</sup> summer saw YMCA Camp Carson as bright and vibrant as ever with record breaking growth (25%) and wait lists in some programs and sessions. Over 1250 campers came through camp over the 9 weeks. We are extremely grateful for our board of managers and the donors who helped make some significant facility changes possible; changes that truly helped draw new and revised attention to camp and improve the quality of the camp experience.

Watching the families and campers arrive each week and walk into the new cabins was powerful. There was an obvious excitement and anticipation with positive vibe and chatter during the reconnection of friendships and the beginning of new ones. Families were no longer squashed in the tiny, very warm little buildings hurrying to get campers moved in so they could step out for space and fresh, cooler air. Instead families were able to slow down, enjoy time in the cabin with their children, have a leisurely chat with counselors and connect with other families. A welcome change.

During the camp week, the new cabins helped foster friendship and relationship building by offering a more comfortable atmosphere. They also helped campers quickly feel comfortable being away from home and not dwell on all the things left behind such as iPhones, iPads, the assortment of smart-phones and all the various game apps, the X-box, or Playstation, the . . . you get the idea. For this one week, they actually looked up! They didn't have time to miss those electronic things as they engaged and learned and grew in so many different ways.

As we've alluded to over the past few years, it's the stuff that happens in and around the buildings not the buildings themselves that really make camp. The right building can help facilitate some of that magic. All these changes from old cabins to new cabins, from home with Mom and Dad to a different kind of home at camp, are a positive aspect of camp life and one we are truly honored to be a part of at this exciting 75 year mark. Thanks to all of you who have joined us on this journey of positive change!

Mark Scoular





## Jamelyn Wheeler

### 2014 Kniese Scholarship Winner AND Girls Counselor of the Year

Please join us in congratulating Jamelyn Wheeler who was both the recipient of the Kniese Scholarship and was elected the Girls Counselor of the Year. The Mark Kniese Scholarship was established in 2002 by camp alum, August Neal, in memory of Mark Kniese and his incredible passion for kids and life. This scholarship is awarded to one Camp Carson staff member



each summer. Our summer counselors are asked to nominate a peer who most exemplifies the core values of the YMCA – Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. This year the scholarship award totaled \$4060.00.

Jamelyn is obviously a super star. She was also chosen by the staff as the Girls Counselor of the Year. As you read her thoughts on the summer, it's easy to see why the staff admired her. "My favorite thing about camp was being able to work with the youngest age group. Though it can be a challenge, seeing them grow as people, make new friends, and try new activities is rewarding in itself. I have had teaching internships, but camp allowed me to know my kids better and see them on a different level. I taught pottery this summer and enjoyed it because it is an activity that many schools are doing away with. Helping the kids be creative and do an activity they have little opportunity to do was great. Camp helped me become a better and more outgoing person. I am usually shy around large groups of people, but if the counselors aren't excited, the campers won't be either. Camp made me come out of my shell and test my own limits."

The staff leadership team confirmed these latter thoughts. They shared that Jamelyn had "one of the greatest transformations from staff training to the end of the summer and really stepped out of her shell. She has the ability to connect with even the shyest of campers. She seeks the loners and draws them in." Away from camp, Jamelyn attends the University of Evansville and is majoring in English Education with minors in Spanish and ENL (English as a New Language). She would like to teach English in a Spanish-speaking country. We wish her all the best and know she will be great in that setting!

## Zac Crabtree

### Boys Counselor of the Year

Congratulations are in order for Zac Crabtree who was elected the Boys Counselor of the Year. The leadership staff describe Zac as "always 100% engaged, has strong work ethic and is willing to take on a new task even on the spur of the moment, always 100% dedicated to ensure everyone around is having a good time, considered to be one of the 'go to' people..." We asked Zac to share about his camp experience from his perspective. "My favorite thing about camp is being able to be yourself while meeting new people. I loved singing silly camp songs and participating in the evening program with the whole camp. Another thing I love about camp is at the beginning of the week nobody knowing anyone and by the end of the week everyone is best friends.



This year I spent the beginning of the summer teaching dirt bikes and the end of the summer teaching fishing. I enjoyed working dirt bikes because it was great seeing the 180 degree change in the campers from the beginning to the end of the week. At first they would be nervous and scared to ride the bikes and by the end of the week they would be riding fast in the trails. I enjoyed working fishing because fishing is something I have done my whole life and it is awesome teaching kids how to fish. I loved seeing the excitement in the kids after they catch a fish or turtle.

Camp has a great impact on me. I've been going to camps since I was 7 and I have always loved it. Camp is my second home and I met many of my best friends at camp. As a camper, I always wanted to be a counselor. As a counselor I love being able to interact with kids and try to positively impact their lives."

Hats off to Zac who is currently a freshman at Indiana University studying Biology and German. We love highlighting our great staff and hope you'll join us in wishing him all the best!

## Thank You Craig & Mary Fenneman



A special thanks to **Craig and Mary Fenneman**, sponsor of the Apache ridge top cabin and provider of funds to get the last 8 new half moon cabins built until sponsors could be secured. (Cabins yet to be sponsored are Sioux, Mohawk, Pawnee and Seminole.) We are so very grateful for Craig's passion for camp. He has spurred us on in so many ways and there is no doubt that without his leadership, camp would not be moving forward at its current pace!



L to R: Craig, Brian, Bob and Scott Fenneman  
who all spent many, many summers at camp.



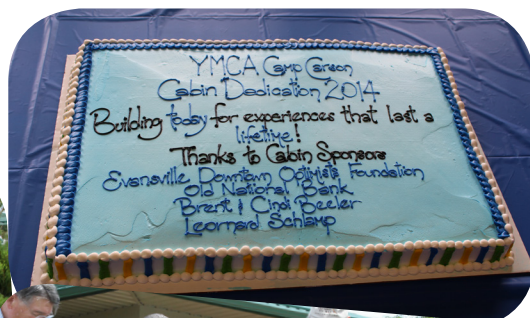
## 75th SUMMER REUNION AND CABIN DEDICATION – JUNE 7, 2014

What a great reunion we had as we celebrated the start of our 75<sup>th</sup> summer! Alums and their families enjoyed participating in traditional camp activities as well as browsing through several tables of memorabilia. There were lots of smiles and laughter as alums reconnected with each other and shared camp memories and pranks – enhanced and embellished we're sure – and enjoyed seeing camp still in action and going strong.

**We were also pleased to dedicate the 8 new "half moon" cabins and recognize the donors of the four cabins that have been sponsored so far.**

As part of the cabin dedication, four trees were planted to symbolize the beginning of the next "75 years" of camp and camper growth and development.

Current and former Camp Directors with Leonard. L to R: Mark Scoular, Reno DeMuth, Denise Peyronnin, Terry Yunker, Leonard Schlamp and Steve Fritz.



L to R: Cabin sponsors Ken Olson of the Downtown Optimists, Brian Hancock of Old National Bank, Leonard Schlamp and Craig Fenneman. It was a special moment to see Leonard take part in this tree planting – he was here planting our first trees way back in 1940 and is truly leaving a legacy.



Above: Alum, Leonard Schlamp (with niece Barb Shaw – also alum) sponsor of Shawnee Cabin.



Brian Hancock attended the dedication to represent Old National Bank who sponsored Cheyenne cabin through the 100 Men Who Cook Event.



Left: Donors for one of the original cabins built in 1941, The Optimists of Downtown Evansville continued their tradition of support for camp through their sponsorship of the new Aztec cabin.



Camp alum, Brent Beeler and wife, Cindi, sponsors of Cherokee Cabin.

## Some of our alums who visited



Alum Charley Storms with fellow alum Bill Van Deest (wife Diane). Bill's family donated the original Miller Lodge! (Site where Eddie Edwards Lodge now sits.)



Steve and Suzette Fritz – Former staff member and Camp Director who had a great family turn out to relive memories from many summers spent at camp.



Bill Kanowsky and Bob Kerney – campers in the 50's and on staff in the 60's





**1940's**



**1950's**



**1960's**



**1970's**



**1980's**

## 75th REUNION – CELEBRATING MEMORIES MADE ON EVERY INCH OF CAMP

by Natalie Lentz Skeels – Alum

Something that I have always known, but never tire of seeing is that everyone has their own personal connection with Camp Carson. For me, camp has always been my home away from home. There is a sense of belonging I feel as soon as I pass under that canoe. Anyone with a connection to camp knows the feeling I am talking about. The "Camp Magic" comes from the abundance of memories made on each inch of that property. One of the neatest things I have ever witnessed was hearing just a portion of the stories about those memories at the 75th Reunion.

So many generations were able to come together with one thing in common: Camp. I felt an unspoken bond with complete strangers, just because they shared a love for something so dear to me. It was incredible to hear the outpouring of love and support for the future of our camp. I think the 75th Reunion not only acted as a celebration for Camp's past, present, and future, but it also gave many of us closure on our beloved old cabins. Nostalgia gets the best of us sometimes, but we have to remember that new campers will make camp memories in the new cabins, just as we did in the old. Camp's future is so bright, and I feel honored to be a part of it.

My husband, Jon, and I will use any excuse we can to come back. Family Camp is such an amazing opportunity for the whole family to experience camp together. I have been so excited to include my son, Jack, in all things camp as soon as he was born. I want him to have this positive influence in his life, just as I had. The confidence he will gain and skills he will learn at camp are priceless. I started coming to camp when I was ten years old, and for me to be able to continue making camp memories with my husband and child makes it that much more special.



Jack & Jon Skeels



Lentz/Skeels family at Family Camp



**1990's**



**2000's**



**2010's**



## THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THE REUNION A SUCCESS

Please join us for a big shout out to our **75<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee** members who met with us several times to help plan the day, dig through memorabilia etc. etc. – **Jerry Dennis, Reno & Florence DeMuth, Denise Peyronnin, Jeff May and Heather Pierce.**

Special thanks to **Denise** for assistance in combing through the archives and helping identify “stuff” and to **Heather** for that last huge push to get the massive amount of archival material finalized into a nice display. To **Terry and Linda Yunker** who also helped sort the memorabilia and who manned the Lodge welcome table for hours during the reunion. To **August Neal** who moved heaven and earth to fly in a day early to help us get ready!

To **Jerri Vanpatten** for helping get the food organized and also to **Joyce Saunders and Loretta Knowles** who volunteered hours in the kitchen to help keep the buffet full!

And of course, to our terrific **summer staff** who ran all the activities – you were great!



Additional thanks to **Jerry Dennis** (wife Linda) who volunteered for about 2 weeks at camp doing everything from landscaping work to staining to picking up our dedication trees and helping get them planted, and to putting up our reunion tent. He even helped with the dutch oven cookout night during staff training. It was so much fun having him here!



Terry and Linda Yunker  
– Former staff member and Camp Director



Reno and Florence DeMuth – Former Director

## FAMILY CAMP 2014

Take a look at a few photos from Family Camp – there several hundred more photos on Facebook. We had a great time with the safari theme as we biked, climbed, swam and everything else waterfront and land, ate great food, went to cookouts, bonfires, nickel bingo and a whole lot more. The weather even cooperated so we could hold our first Family Camp Triathlon this year!

**SAVE THE DATE and plan to join us in 2015  
Labor Day Weekend,  
Saturday, September 5 – Monday, September 7!**



### 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 2015 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp.
- Provide 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 **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**
- Purchase of new **Western Saddles**
- **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
- **Mini Glass/Jewelry kiln** for Creative Arts
- **Precision Air Pellet Rifles**
- **Slingshot Program**
- **YURT**
- Replacement **Kayaks**
- **Ammunition** for riflery (.22 LR)
- **Costumes, props, dress up clothes** for skits



## 2014 BRIDGE BUILDERS

Congratulations to these donors who were inducted into the Bridge Builder's Club at the Bridge Builder's Annual Dinner November 2, 2014. Club members have contributed \$1000 or more to the camp endowment fund and/or have included Camp Carson in their estate plans. We also recognized our Endowment Supporters who have contributed to the Endowment Fund but have not yet reached Bridge Builder level.

Earnings from the Camp Carson Endowment Fund help underwrite things like camper scholarships, camp's programs and the operating costs of our facility rather than passing these costs on to families through camper fees. If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, please do not hesitate to contact Mark or Debra at 812-385-3597.



Back Row L to R: Tom Elsner (wife Jackie), Bob Farney, Tobie Escher, Bob & Phyllis Fenneman, Florence & Reno DeMuth  
Front Row L to R: Bill Kanowsky (End. Supporter), Suzanne Farney, Kate Longest Escher, Heather Stahl Pierce (husband Glen)

## FALL CAMP – 2nd ANNUAL PUMPKIN TRIBAL CHALLENGE

What a great weekend we had with 70+ Fall Campers divided into "tribes" for some fun, fall competition! Highlights include launching pumpkins from the trebuchet and guessing which would fly the farthest, cookie decorating and eating, of course, archery and riflery pumpkin target shooting, hikes, bonfires, games, GAGA, climbing tower, pumpkin carving and the Pumpkin Parade to show them off all lit up on the lodge porch, and the Grand Finale – the Pumpkin Derby (including one watermelon). The kids had a great time working together on their Pumpkin Derby "Car" and all were excited to see the races on Sunday. Thanks to all the parents for the pumpkin desserts brought in; they were a delicious addition to the weekend!



## FALL BONFIRE 2014

Our annual bonfire was held the first Saturday in November with added fun of a Director's Chili Cookoff. Congratulations to Program Director, Kyle Smith and Program Specialist, Sarah Hooper, who tied for first place!



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# YMCA CAMP CARSON

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Mr. Aaron Kendall  
Ms. Heather Pierce

Mr. Denny Quinn  
Mr. Leonard Schlamp  
Mr. Steve Witting  
Dr. William Wooten  
Mr. Terry Yunker

**Executive Director**  
Mr. Mark Scoular

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

## YEAR END TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIVING

First of all, we'd like to say **THANK YOU** to all who have invested in the lives of young people through our **2014 Annual Fund Campaign** and our **Military Camp Campaign** this year. Again, we are so close to reaching our **\$130,400**. Just under **\$4000** to go! If you are in a position to partner with us in our youth work, we invite you to consider a **year end tax deductible gift**.

**2014  
Annual Fund  
Campaign and  
our Military Camp  
Campaign Goal  
\$130,400**



## GIVE THE GIFT THAT LASTS!

Many gifts wear out or lose their charm.

A week of camp offers **An Experience That Lasts a Lifetime!**

We're not kidding. Where else can a kid gain the confidence to jump off a blob tower, add on some independence and decision making skills away from Mom and Dad in a safe, nurturing, FUN environment and make tons of new friends in just a week? Our campers of 70, 60, 50 years ago, on down to last summer, are still talking about it! **Seriously.**



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.

