

# THE CARSON CONNECTION

Welcome Home to YMCA Camp Carson



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# CAMP IS BACK!

The bright smiles on campers faces, new challenges, squeals of laughter, great achievements, and instant friendships. The impact of camp stays long after the laughter subsides, carrying lessons and confidence through the year. We are so grateful to our generous donors who helped keep us going through 2020, so we could continue to serve young people and make a difference in the community this summer.

We served more than 1200 campers through eight weeks of regular summer camp programs, including a week dedicated to campers from Military families. 179 campers received scholarships or financial assistance, and 350 chose our subsidized Rate B or Rate C pricing. Summer camp 2021 involved more than 20,000 meals, 68,000 camp songs, 1,200 swim tests, 130 Hootenanny skits, and countless friendships.

We are also thankful to our camp families who shared their kids with us this summer, and our summer staff who worked hard to ensure that campers had a fun, safe, and memorable week of camp.



## 2021 CARSON ROCKERS

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 on a job well done!

**Alpine Tower**  
Peter Overstreet

**Boating**  
Peter Overstreet

**Fishing**  
Wyatt Teague

**Pottery**  
Chloe Epperson

**Riflery**  
Seth Donea

**Sailing**  
Ally Fulcher  
Abigail Grudzinski  
Sadie Metzger  
Aleea Smith

**Woodworking**  
Autumn Dobslaw  
Seth Donea  
Emma Duell





# 2021 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. This year, August joined us via video call to present the award to Erin Kresse.



## Erin Kresse



This was my first summer at YMCA Camp Carson. Going in, I didn't know what to expect. I had no idea that the next eleven weeks would be some of the most challenging and rewarding weeks of my life.

As a Ridgetop counselor, I got to campout every Wednesday with my campers. It was my favorite part of the week, and it was so fun to show campers how fun camping could be. From Taylor Swift dance parties around the fire, to going to Butterfly Fields to see the stars, campout was an amazing place where I got to see campers absolutely love camp. I also spent a lot of time on Lake Seminole as a boating and sailing instructor. It was so fun to get to go out on a canoe with campers that had never been on a boat before and show them how fun it was. It was amazing to see campers try something for the first time and watch their faces light up. I am going into my junior year at the University of Iowa studying Public Health. After graduation, I plan to go to graduate school to get my Master's in Public Health in the hopes of becoming an epidemiologist. Camp has taught me the importance and the rewards of hard work. I strive to make people around me feel accepted, challenged, and empowered in daily life, just like YMCA Camp Carson made hundreds of campers, and myself, feel this summer. I cannot explain how important this past summer was to me, and I'm so thankful for every staff member and camper that made my summer so amazing.

# 2021 LLOYD OUTSTANDING COUNSELORS AWARD

## Harrison Whitney

I have never been to camp in my life so when I showed up to YMCA Camp Carson for the first time I did not know what to expect. It only took one day of camp to realize that it was so much more than a job. Being new to Camp I was so fortunate to meet and work with so many amazing people this summer. I realized at the end of the summer how lucky I was for everything I got to do this summer from being a counselor for 4th and 5th graders all the way up to the LIT male counselors for two weeks and just about everywhere in between.



This award was created by Dr. Thomas Lloyd, a YMCA Camp Carson Alum & Bridge Builder, who established a named Endowment Fund within the YMCA Camp Carson General Endowment.

But no doubt my favorite part of the summer was being at the waterfront with Erin, Riley, Kadian, Charlotte, and Charlie. I did Sailing most days with Charlotte and one of my favorite memories from this summer was making really dumb jokes about the parts of the sail boat so kids would remember. One of the best parts of the job was watching someone who knew nothing about sailing have it become their most favorite thing at camp. This past summer was a great experience of seeing how much YMCA Camp Carson means to everyone and being a part of creating that.

## Charlotte Reinhold

Camp has always been home for me. Feeling out of place in the "real world" while growing up, I always knew camp would make me feel like I belonged. This summer I wanted to give back all that camp has given to me. Not only did I fall back in love with camp all over again, I was able to work on new skills for myself that have continued to help me in the outside world. Camp has brought me endless friendships, new responsibilities, and most importantly, a place that will always accept me for me.

I was able to work sailing all summer with Harrison and got to feed off the amazing energy he gave which continued to push me to be the best version of myself. This summer is one I will never forget. I am currently a sophomore at Indiana State University studying recreation management and non profit youth leadership, my goal is to one day become a program director for the Y.



# DONOR & ALUMNI SUMMER EVENTS

## BRIDGE BUILDERS DINNER



YMCA Camp Carson hosted a celebration of our special Bridge Builders on a very rainy Saturday in July. This dedicated group of donors has made a significant impact on our success at Camp, allowing us to continue the legacy and mission, while growing and serving more campers.

Please contact Heather at 812-385-3597 or [hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org) to find out how you can become a Bridge Builder.



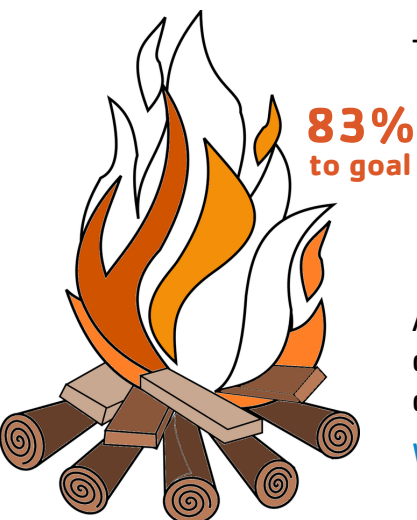
## STRAWBERRIES & ICE CREAM ALUMNI EVENT

Several of our Alumni joined our incoming Summer staff for a fun cookout in June to share stories, offer encouragement, and of course - SING CAMP SONGS.





# ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The YMCA Camp Carson Annual Campaign is our primary fundraiser, supporting:

- Funding and partnership for two camp programs for Military campers
- Camper scholarships to reach more young people
- Subsidize our 3-tier pricing, to make Camp more accessible for all families
- Match grant funds for our Military Family Weekends
- Dirt bike outreach (NYPUM) for youth who benefit from a year round program

As a nonprofit organization, the support we receive from our donors, alumni and community is the only way we are able to provide these life-changing, outdoor, challenging, relationship-building experiences for our campers.

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

Please note: Legislation has extended additional deductibility of qualified charitable contributions through 2021. Taxpayers that take the standard deduction are able to receive an additional tax deduction, up to \$300 (\$600 for joint filers), for charitable contributions made in 2021. For those taxpayers and organizations that itemize deductions, the maximum deduction limits have been significantly increased for 2021.

Please consult your qualified tax professional to identify the impact of this deduction to your specific tax situation.

## MAKING IMPACT

YMCA Camp Carson 2021 Annual Campaign



## Time, Talent, Treasure

Giving to Camp means more than **TREASURE**.

Many donors and alumni give **TIME** by:

- talking to friends and potential donors about Camp
- volunteering hours or days of service during the year
- inviting us to speak at local civic organizations

Some have **TALENTS** that would benefit Camp:

- horticulture - help Camp start a gardening program
- creativity - web development, photography
- historical research, organize alumni photos & news

Please contact Heather at 812-385-3597 or [hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org](mailto:hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org) to find your own ways to connect with YMCA Camp Carson!



# A MESSAGE FROM JIM

Greetings from Camp,

First of all, I just wanted to say thanks to our families, volunteers, sponsors and our amazing staff. I have really enjoyed my first year at camp and have fallen in love with the Carson spirit.

Thank you, families for the warm welcome and support. I look forward to getting to know everyone better through the years to come.

Our volunteers are second to none and such good stewards of YMCA Camp Carson. We are looking forward to all of the amazing projects on the horizon. With your guidance, we will continue to create timeless Carson memories.

Also, our sponsors make so many wonderful programs happen here at Camp. I believe I can speak for all of the staff on this one, we are humbled to be able to deliver programs that make a difference.

To our staff, thank you so much for your time and talent. There is nothing better than seeing you all in action and working together. As a friendly reminder, Staff Applications are now available and we look forward to speaking with you soon.



## YMCA Camp Carson Board Updates

As a nonprofit organization, YMCA Camp Carson is advised by a board of volunteers - many alumni, local community leaders, and business professionals. These volunteers are dedicated to the mission of Camp and the YMCA. They assist us with dreaming, building, fundraising, and ultimately supporting our campers and camp families.

Steve Witting has been appointed chairperson for our Camp Board of Advisors. Spencer Goodson is passing the torch after six years as chairperson, but will remain on the board. We are grateful for the support and guidance Spencer has provided. We are honored that Steve has agreed to take on the chairperson role.



### Thank you Steve & Spencer!

Left: Spencer Goodson refurbishes Camp signs at a volunteer day.

Right: Steve Witting speaks to a group at a Camp event.



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 • Denise Peyronnin  
Denny Quinn • Dana Savidge • Bill Schirmer • Dr. William Wooten • Greg Wright • Terry Yunker



# FALL AT YMCA CAMP CARSON



# FAMILY CAMP

# Labor Day Weekend

Family Camp is a long tradition at YMCA Camp Carson, welcoming both new and long-time camp families to spend a weekend away. This is a great time for parents to be like campers for a weekend.

## MILITARY FAMILY CAMPS

## October weekends

We were privileged to host Military Family Weekends in October. Military Families spend a weekend in one of our cabins enjoying Camp activities and adventures, family time, good food, and campfires.

Thank you to the families who joined us for our 2nd year, and a very special thank you to the donors who allow us to serve these important families.



# FALL CAMP

# October 8-10

Fall Camp is a perfect combination of pumpkin and fall festivities, plus all of the Camp fun our campers love. This year we were back to a full Fall Camp, and made a lot of great memories with our campers.



# Registration is OPEN – Summer 2022!

Some weeks are filling up quickly, go to [campcarson.org/summer-camp](http://campcarson.org/summer-camp) to reserve your camper's spot today!



## Join us for the 3rd Annual Polar Plunge!

Make plans to take a cold leap into the lake with us & raise money for YMCA Camp Carson! It's a fun day with some of your favorite Camp Alumni, Staff, and Volunteers. Go to [campcarson.org/events](http://campcarson.org/events) for more details and to SIGN UP to take the plunge with us!





# Get Away, in our own backyard

at YMCA Camp Carson



YMCA Camp Carson is a perfect spot for:

Cabin Rentals • Tent Camping  
Field Trips • Group Rentals  
Reunions • Weddings • Events  
Corporate Retreats • Church Picnics

## Activities:

Enjoy the following Camp activities at your own pace, or spend quiet time on your porch.

Hiking (trail maps available)  
Fishing (bring your own bait & gear)  
Soccer  
Basketball  
Tether Ball  
Sand Volleyball



YMCA Camp Carson is a beautiful place to get away as a family. We have select cabins available for rent in the non-summer months. Take advantage of the natural beauty of Camp for a family adventure or relaxing weekend.

## Rental Rates

Grandview Cabins:	\$250 per night (up to 28 people)
Otto Cabin:	\$100 per night (up to 6 people)
Kickapoo Cabin:	\$100 per night (up to 4 people)








It's easy to join our  
mailing list!

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

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

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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