

THE CARSON CONNECTION

Welcome Home to YMCA Camp Carson



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Polar Plunge 2024!

We had a great turnout for our FIFTH Polar Plunge! This year, we had **FIFTY** Plungers take a cold dip & raise almost \$21,000 for camper scholarships. Katie Healy won the Top Plunger award, raising almost \$2,200 for campers. Katie also won the Katie Healy B.E.A.R. (Bravery, Engagement, and Resilience) Award for the most donors! We are also especially thankful for the Gibson Co. CEO class for Plunging with us this year!



Thank you, 2024 Sponsors!

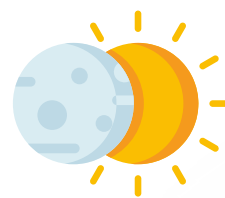
Indiana Members Credit Union, Liberty Federal Credit Union, Oakland City University, Springs Valley Bank & Trust, Donut Bank



We are excited to see this event grow, and are grateful for the hundreds of people and organizations who Sponsored, Plunged, Volunteered, and supported the Plunge! Your kindness helps make camp accessible for even more campers.

As always, a big thank you to the Patoka Township Fire & Rescue for keeping us safe!

HERE COMES THE SUN



How do you organize a solar eclipse party? You planet.

For those of you who followed the jokes on our [Camp Facebook page](#), you'll have to wait another 20 years for more jokes. In all seriousness, the 2024 Solar Eclipse was an event to remember! We had a full weekend of Eclipse Family Camp with 70 people, plus a day of camp & Eclipse activities on Monday with 200 attendees. We had Camp Alumni from each decade from the 1950s to 2010s, and were excited to have several families travel from California, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Chicago to witness this historic event with us!

Thank you to the Gibson County Visitors & Tourism for supporting our Monday activities and providing Eclipse glasses.



Thank you VOLUNTEERS!



AmeriCorps at Camp



Camp Carson had the honor of hosting a team of AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers this Spring. Their primary projects included rebuilding creek bridges on our trails, rebuilding the zipline stairs & deck, building new woodsheds, fire pits, and a new Gaga pit.

This is our third year hosting an AmeriCorps NCCC team, and we are grateful for their support, hard work, and commitment to our community.

The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. To learn more, go to americorps.gov.

Camp Carson is lucky to have many committed and talented volunteers who help keep Camp looking great year-round. We are especially thankful for these volunteers this year:

- Duke Energy
- Earl and Emma Griswold
- Knights of Columbus Council #1131
- North Gibson Archery Club
- Rick Ott
- Rowland Peddie
- Glen Pierce
- Prince Lodge F&AM #231
- Princeton Community High School
- Buddy & Puff Rogers
- Samantha Scott
- Sportsmen for Youth
- The Arc Indiana
- United Way Week of Caring
- United Way Youth Day of Caring
- Mary & Brian Williams



If you would like to share your skills and spend a day (or a few hours) volunteering at Camp, please call us at 812-385-3597 or email hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org.

GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As campers set sail on their camp journey – for the first or the tenth time – they are charting a course for their future. The adventures of camp help campers build friendships, learn new skills, and find ways to make a positive difference in the world.

By sending more kids to camp, you are helping create memorable experiences, fostering personal growth, and ensuring that every child, regardless of their socio-economic background, has the chance to enjoy a fulfilling summer. 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 currently have a match challenge from a kind donor, to match up to \$7,500 for Military Family Weekends. Please contact Heather if you would like to help us achieve that match. hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org.

We are also grateful for donations of gently used items, or you can check our [Amazon Wishlist](#).

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

CHARTING NEW ADVENTURES

YMCA Camp Carson 2024 Annual Campaign



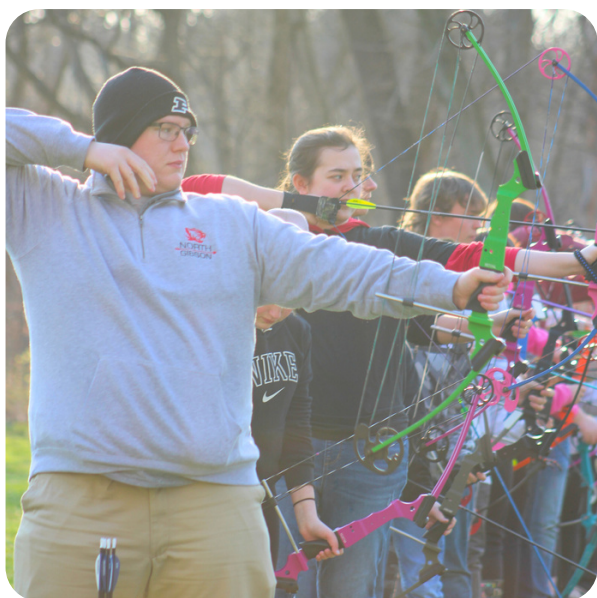
Become a Bridge Builder

YMCA Camp Carson Bridge Builders are a dedicated group of donors who are committed to ensuring that Camp continues to serve campers and carry on the traditions and positive impact of summer camp.

Please contact Heather to learn more about becoming a Bridge Builder: 812-385-3597 or hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org.



JOIN US FOR EVENTS AT CAMP!



NASP Archery Tournament April 20-21

Camp Carson is again hosting the Outdoor NASP National Archery in Schools Program April 20-21. This weekend includes an Outdoor Bullseye NASP-style tournament, Outdoor Novelty 3D tournament, and a pancake breakfast, attracting archers from all over the state. This community event is made possible by North Gibson Archery Club, YMCA Camp Carson, Knights of Columbus Council #1131, Prince Lodge F&AM #231, and Sportsmen for Youth.

Proceeds go to scholarships for local youth to attend a week of overnight summer camp.

Cars & Camping May 11, 9am - 3pm

Join us for cool cars, fun for the whole family, and support an important cause. No entry fee is required, but donations are welcome, with all funds going to scholarships for campers to attend YMCA Camp Carson.

Contact Matt Schooler with questions:
mschooler@ymcacampcarson.org or
812-403-3249



Camp Birthday Party & Auction June 1st, 5 - 8pm

ALUMNI & friends - Please join us for one of our favorite events! Celebrate the start of summer, enjoy a meal, meet our 2024 summer staff, connect with other alumni, AND stay for our Auction!

Bid on Camp Memorabilia, fun activities, international souvenirs, & homemade food.

Our 2023 staff auction raised almost \$3500 for camper scholarships! If you have something you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Heather at hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org.



SUMMER 2024 REGISTRATION UPDATE



Summer 2024 is almost FULL! If you haven't registered your camper yet, please hurry! As of April 15th, we have a FEW openings in these programs:

- Overnight Camp Session 1 & 7
- 1st Year Dirt Bike
- Wrangler
- Operation Military Support
- Wrangler in Training
- Counselor in Training (CIT) weeks 6/7
- Leader in Training (LIT) weeks 1/2 or 3/4

[Register online today at campcarson.org](https://campcarson.org). You can also click the registration link to get on the waitlist, in case we have a spot open up. We also have [Financial Assistance & Foster Care scholarships](#) available!



Operation Military Support – July 28 – Aug 2, 2024

1 Week, Ages 7-16

This special week of camp is offered to children of Military families. Kind Camp Carson supporters allow us to offer this program to families for just \$200 – 400 per camper. Scholarships are also available.

To register or get more info, please go to campcarson.org/military-camps. **Please share with any Military families you know, who may not be familiar with Camp.**

ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are inviting Alumni & Volunteers to join us at Camp during the week of May 13th. This is our "Work Week" for Summer Staff, and will be a great combination of camp clean-up projects and bonding with staff. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for a volunteer day!

If you cannot join us that week but would like to volunteer another day, please contact Heather at 812-385-3597 or hpierce@ymcacampcarson.org. There is never a shortage of projects and work to be done, and we would love to have you visit camp!



CAMPCARSONALUMNI.ORG

Have you visited our new Camp Carson Alumni site yet? It is a treasure trove of photos, songs, and stories. Connect with Alumni from around the world and across generations! Please take a minute to register, browse through photos, and engage with other Alumni.

Please visit Camp anytime you are in the area! We love to walk around with Alumni and hear your stories. Our Alumni room is full of photos, news clippings, and memorabilia from every generation, and it's a great trip down memory lane.



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 a beautiful space for a weekend away, group retreat, reunion, company meeting, or team-building event. We offer small and large spaces, indoor and outdoor - practical spaces with a warm Camp atmosphere.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



YMCA Camp Carson has created unique Outdoor Education programs for local schools and youth programs. 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

Connect with Camp!



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 for more updates and opportunities to CONNECT.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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campcarson.org

