



YMCA CAMP CARSON

Fall 2018
Volume 12, Issue 2

MORE THAN A BRIDGE

By Mark Scoular, Executive Director

A bridge. It bonds, ties, links, connects, channels, provides passage, joins, crosses over and spans. It's a nice image to have in mind when you think of what camp is and does. And while we have always considered camp to be a bridge of sorts, with our new suspension bridge, we now connect the literal and symbolic in a powerful way.

It starts on the very first night at camp when the air is electric with the energy and excitement of campers ready for a week of adventure. We very intentionally launch the evening with every camper rocking, bouncing and swaying their way across the suspension bridge at the lake. There's lots of laughter and squeals of excitement while they hang on to the ropes and each other and try to stay on their feet. It's just the right jumble of "fun and scary" with "we're all in this together, every step, 'til we get to the other side."

Fast forward to the last night when we push the pause button and every camper is now walking back over that same bridge from the opposite direction. This time, the crossing is quiet and reflective. Sure, that bridge still rocks, sways and challenges much like the bumps of life. But again, here's our message: "We cross it together. We know that part of the influence and power of the week was our individual commitment to a greater cause. To make life better! As we leave the Spirit campfire, let's think about what our personal pledge will be to make the world a better place outside the camp gates." It is my desire that every camper truly connect with the knowledge that they can do more than sit on the sidelines and watch life and the world go by. They can become the best version of themselves and make a difference by lifting each other up, encouraging one another, working together and looking out for everyone. They can build bridges.

For all of us, every time we look across the lake and see that bridge, my hope is that we see so much more than a physical bridge. And as you read through this newsletter, I hope it is easy to visualize not only the bridges our counselors build with and between our campers but also the bridges we are teaching our campers and staff to build when the camp gates are in their rearview mirror. I hope that bridge reminds us to take a moment to think about so many past and present bridge builders who, through their vision and financial investment, make it possible for us to connect with hundreds of kids every summer. Kids who will think back to that dark walk back across that shifting bridge, with the moonlight reflecting on the water below, and realize it all really did have meaning and those small goals have become, in many tiny ways, part of their life mission.

Mark Scoular



SUSPENSION BRIDGE DEDICATION - September 1, 2018

In honor of donors Spencer and Mary Goodson



Dedication Ceremony



Spencer and Mary have attended Family Camp for several years with their children and grandchildren which presented the perfect time to dedicate the bridge they sponsored. Family in attendance: Spencer with his wife, Nicole, and children Spencer III and Lily. Emily with husband, Gabe, and children Rock and Bea. Mamie with husband, Luke, and children Rose and Max. Caitlin, who has attended Family Camp the past several years, and husband, Alberto, were unable to attend but were here in spirit!

A few years ago, as we went through the master site plan process and subsequently launched the Continuing the Legacy Campaign, it became clear that it was important to our alumni that one of the projects include replacement of the historical suspension bridge at the front entrance.

Spencer spent many summers at camp as a camper and staff member and so it is easy to understand that the original suspension bridge held a significant place in his camp memories. He was delighted to take on this Continuing the Legacy endeavor insuring that memories continue to be made at this location for generations to come.

It has been heartwarming to see this venture come to fruition and witness the joy Spencer and his wife, Mary, have experienced in bringing back this camp icon. We are truly grateful for their generosity and vision.

We were also pleased to induct Spencer and Mary into the Bridge Builders Club during the dedication!



Grandsons Spencer III and Max posed for a photo with the bridge marker while ceremony guests took a trip across the bridge.

BRIDGE BUILDERS CLUB



Pat Mitchell
and **Walt & Selma Lewis**

These endowment supporters were inducted at our Bridge Builders Dinner on July 10, 2018.

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.



HAT'S OFF to our 2018 Carson Rockers!

The Carson Rocker award signifies quite an accomplishment. To earn this distinction, campers must earn all 5 levels at an activity area, teach a counselor all 5 levels at that same activity and then teach another camper, who is new to the activity, all 5 levels of that activity! **Congrats to these campers for a job well done!**



Joe Hansen Nature



Owen Metzger Sailing



Jacob Davis Basketball
Lou Lou Forster Pottery



Kameron Kreinbrook
Alpine Tower
Nolan Buckenmeyer
Archery
Ian Hammond
Boating



Graham Miller Riflery • Ella Martin Pottery
Audrey Knipstein Sailing
Lucy Dobslaw and Allana Davidson Swim Games



Braeden Fitzsimmons
Riflery



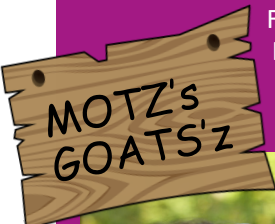
Eliza Warren and
Lucy Dobslaw
Swim Games



Max Nicholson and Caroline Palmer Sailing
Nolan Buckenmeyer Archery

Thank you to the Motz Family for loaning their 3 Nigerian Dwarf goats (L to R: Milo, Jack and Otis) to camp for the summer. The campers loved interacting with the goats and taking them for walks. Definitely a great addition to our program.

For the past 11 years, EMT Greg (also a LTC in the Army National Guard and a Sergeant with the Evansville Police Department) and Nurse Nikki Motz have volunteered two weeks each summer to provide medical care for our campers during military weeks. Their daughter, Kennedy, (pictured right) won a bet with her Mom by scoring 2 soccer goals in the last 8 minutes of a game with the reward being Kennedy got her longed for goats. Yeah, Mom lost that bet. Way to go Kennedy and thank you for sharing!



Health Center





THE LLOYD AWARD for COUNSELORS of the YEAR

Please join us in congratulating our 2018 recipients of this award. We are so proud of these two outstanding staff members. Their heart for kids and camp is evident in their comments below.

This award was created and is funded by Dr. Tom Lloyd, a Bridge Builder who established a named Endowment Fund within the Camp Carson General Endowment. We were excited that Dr. Lloyd was able to travel all the way from Pennsylvania this year to personally present these awards at the staff banquet!

RHIANA JONES

My favorite thing about working with kids at camp is helping them face challenges and achieve goals they hadn't thought possible. There's nothing more rewarding than helping someone face their fear of heights by guiding them up the alpine tower or teaching someone a new skill like riding a bike. I genuinely think that the best parts of this summer for me were the times when I saw campers with the "yeah, I just did that" grin because they were able to accomplish something they could be proud of.

For the majority of this summer I worked at the mountain bike activity area, though for three weeks I was able to help out with the BOLD/GOLD program. I had a really great time working with campers at both of these, though they were quite different. The weeks I was working at mountain bikes, I always enjoyed when I'd get one or a handful of campers who were really passionate about riding tough trails, learning about some more in-depth concepts, and mastering their skills. The weeks when I was on BOLD/GOLD backpacking trips, I really enjoyed teaching campers, at all different skill levels, how to conduct themselves and prosper in wilderness settings.

I spent the summer, for the most part, living in the Ridge Tops, but when I wasn't in Chippewa cabin I was hiking and camping in the wilderness on BOLD/GOLD trips. Working with teens this summer was initially somewhat intimidating for me because I had only worked with younger kids before. However, I was excited about the chance to be able to give them a little bit more independence and to plan some more complicated and involved cabin activities. I was especially excited to work with campers in the BOLD/GOLD program, hoping to inspire a love for the outdoors or at least pass along some valuable knowledge to them while having a fun week in the beautiful Red River Gorge.



Camp has had a huge impact on me throughout my life; from the first time I drove through the gates as an 8 year old camper I could tell there was something special about this place. The memories and the friends I made in all of my summers spent there have been some of the closest and most

SEBASTIAN STURGEON

My favorite thing about working with children at camp is showing children it's okay to be whoever you want to be. I love wearing wonky clothing and yelling songs. The only thing that makes it better is when they sing the songs back at me as loud as they can. The camp culture allows people to be themselves no matter how wonky they may be. Nothing made me happier than to see them laughing so hard that they couldn't get another word out.

My activity was woodworking. It was really cool to see a kid walk in on Monday and use a scroll saw to cut out a turtle figure. Then to see them come running up to me at the end of the week with excitement in their eyes because they want to show me a bag of cut-outs they made throughout the week was just amazing. I was immensely proud anytime I got to approach Ryan to ask him to print off more complex designs because a kid had excelled beyond anything we already had in the woodshop. One of my campers named Austin became so passionate in the art that he made something so complicated that I would have difficulty in cutting it out! He learned all about machine maintenance and how to replace the blades and he is only 9 years old!



Austin with his final masterpiece.

I had the youngest group which means that my co-counselor, Anas, and I were these kids' first camp counselors. We made their first impression to the beauty of summer camp so everything was a fresh and exciting new experience to them! My favorite part is that they were so young that I could make everything a game for them! During galaxy week, Anas and I were taking them to the dining hall for dinner and we decided to take a detour through the lodge. I told them it was an ancient alien temple and that we had to be really sneaky going through it. As we went through we were rolling on the ground and hiding against walls. Then the land director walked in and I yelled "ALIEN! RUN!". They all sprinted as fast as they could for the dining hall while laughing and screaming. It's harder to get the older children to play pretend like that. Even while typing out that



RHIANA JONES cont.

treasured in all of my life. It was through my experiences at camp that I discovered my passion for backpacking and mountain biking. I'm so thankful camp introduced those opportunities to me because I would never have even thought to try those activities on my own. Growing up, camp always offered a welcoming, encouraging and enjoyable environment in which to challenge myself. To this day I still consider it my second home. This summer was an amazing chance for me to be able to finally step into the role of a counselor and give campers the same amazing experiences that I had year after year. I'm so thankful to have been given that chance.

Currently, I am at University of Southern Indiana studying biochemistry. After undergrad here, I plan on attending medical school at Indiana University to become an emergency physician with a focus on wilderness medicine.

SEBASTIAN STURGEON cont.

memory I couldn't help but grin ear to ear.

I can, without a doubt, say that the three months I spent as a camp counselor was the most beautiful time of my life. Every time I talk to someone about camp, the friends I made, and the kids I met, I honestly have to hold back tears of joy. I don't have the most sound family structure, but I truly feel like I found a family working at camp. When I see children, my heart is warmed by the potential I see in them. Children are our future and I didn't see it that way before camp. Camp brought out a side of myself that I didn't know I had. I can never say thank you enough to the people who made this summer possible.

I'm back at the University of Southern Indiana in my senior year where I major in Communication Studies and minor in Business Administration and Management. I'm a Senior Resident Assistant, member of Student Government Association, and proud brother of the fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha. I'm also applying to graduate programs for Higher Education Administration and hope to take up the role of a University President in the future. If possible, I would love to return to camp for another summer, but if that doesn't work out, I still plan to stay involved with camp when the opportunities present themselves.



L to R:

Tom Elsner who made the presentation for August Neal, Kiersten and Mark Scoular, Exec. Director

KNIESE SCHOLARSHIP - Kiersten Brittingham

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.

My favorite thing about working with children at camp is getting to watch them make memories and enjoy themselves. It was also great watching kids step out of their comfort zones to try new things and learn more about themselves. I really enjoyed getting to take kids out on nature hikes. It provided a great opportunity for them to share stories while being encompassed by nature. These hikes were very relaxing and slower than the fast pace agenda of camp life. I felt that they helped me to connect with kids I didn't get a chance to engage with otherwise.

I think camp really allowed me to further develop a heart that yearns for servitude. After all, camp is about the impact and influence you make on others. Getting to serve as a cabin counselor at this camp allowed me to love others through service, and that is something I want to keep doing for the rest of my life. I wanted to ensure

that the girls in my cabin had the best week possible and that they got the most out of their camp experience. For that reason, I tried to make the devotionals that I led more personal. Devotionals were one of my favorite parts of the cabin experience because it allowed time for reflection and for the campers to connect with each other which is always great to see.

I am currently a senior at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN where I am working towards obtaining a degree in exercise science through the Department of Kinesiology at the School of Public Health. After graduating in the spring, I plan to attend graduate school and receive a master's degree in public health or a related field.



HUGE CONGRATS to our 2018 Honor Campers

**CAMP
MATTERS**

Each week our honor campers are selected by their cabin counselors in recognition of living out the YMCA's core values of honesty, caring, respect, responsibility and faith, in cabin life. Each camper is awarded a certificate and Honor Camper dog tag at the closing program on Friday evenings.



Week 7 Honor Campers



Alyssa Adams
Stacy Adams
Kate Amos
Addie Arnett
Mattilynn Ashley
Hamilton Atkins
Shelby Aughe
Anya Beatty
Landon Begle
Brady Billman
McKenna Blake
Georgia Bott
Beau Bourgeois
Christopher Boxley
Nolan Buckenmeyer
Braxton Burghy
Abbie Burklow
Deklin Caban
James Cannon
Mia Cooper
Nate Deken
Shane Denham
Greta Diehl
Jaxon Dykes
Tivarius Edwards
Ada Emerson
Isabella Faggioli
Braeden Fitzsimmons

Aidan Fleming
Izzy Forster
Olivia Fowler
Zoie Franklin
Caroline Fritts
Ally Fulcher
Tristan Gentry
Olivia George
Averi Goebel
Elliana Grayson
Abby Greenwell
Michael Greif
Mikey Gurrero
Blake Hafley
Chloe Hall
CJ Hamilton
Ian Hammond
Joe Hansen
Jacob Haynes
Eliza Hensley
Garrett Herbaugh
Regan Hopper
Abby Houchins
Luca Hubert
Patrick Huckelby
Duke Hudson
Olivia Hudson
Kayle Hughes

Mya Johnson
Carter Kaiser
Evan Kaiser
Abby Kent
Tanner Kissam
Brady Klohr
Audrey Knipstein
Sean Lally
Ava Lenfant
Nicole Lenfant
Gracie Limbach
Luke Lorey
Gunnar Lund
Gage Maglis
Owen Meier
Sadie Metzger
Evan Meyer
Allison Miles
Lindy Miller
Grayson Moore
Wesley Norman
Cade Ott
Peter Overstreet
Eva Pflugradt
Ben Philips
Garrett Quick
Isaac Ragan
Anushka Rathee

Maggie Reagan
Elliott Redella
Kathleen Reisert
Cailyn Reser
Dallas Reutepohler
Leah Rosen
Scott Russell
Rainer Schefer-Huff
Rhodes Scherer
Emma Shaw
Sam Sheffer
Ely Silva
Philip Smith
Peyton Snyder
Lindsey Spalding
Alex Stange
Colt Stevens
Kami Stevens
Bradley Thomas
JoAle Thomas
Cole Thompson
Oliver Trotter
Emma Twitty
Zoie Warner
Lotte Kate Warren
Alexa Weyer
Kayelee Wilson



THANK YOU DAN AND DIANE KRUPP



We'd like to thank this fantastic couple for their gifts of time, talent and treasure for our wood working program.

We knew Dan and Diane did some wood working and so in our efforts to ramp up our wood working program, we asked if they could give us some pointers. Boy did they ever. First, they came up to camp during the pre-season and worked with Ryan, our Program Assistant, to show him some great curriculum to consider. Second, they made a \$2,500 donation so we could secure some additional equipment. Third, for 2-3 mornings a week, they were present in our wood shop to help teach our campers. Dan was the scroll saw expert and Diane introduced our campers to wood burning!



GIVING TUESDAY & YEAR END GIVING

As you make your year end giving plans, we invite you to consider including YMCA Camp Carson. You may also enjoy participating in the national day of giving on GIVING TUESDAY, November 27, the Tuesday just after Black Friday. This is a day many give to the charity that means the most to them.

As you have read throughout this newsletter, Camp Carson is blessed to make a huge impact on over 1300 campers each summer.



Your gifts make a difference at Camp Carson.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Mail – envelopes are tucked into this newsletter
- Online at campcarson.org/giving
- Call Camp at 812-385-3597

All gifts are tax deductible.



SAVE THE DATE!
80th
REUNION
Summer
Saturday, June 1, 2019

ALUMNI REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

If you would like to serve on the alumni reunion committee, please email Debra.
dscoular@ymcacampcarson.org

- Alumni roundup
- Planning reunion events
- Archive preparation
- Helping run events during the reunion



NEW CONSTRUCTION!

Keep a close watch on the official YMCA Camp Carson Facebook page to follow progress on the **new Opening Campfire Amphitheatre**. The site prep is well under way and the project is scheduled for completion by December 31, 2018! Depending on your era at camp, you will remember this location as either the historical boxing ring or as the opening campfire spot.

This project is sponsored by the Koch Foundation as part of the Continuing the Legacy Campaign.



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Executive Director
Mr. Mark Scoular

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

HIGHLIGHTS of SUMMER and other exciting news inside!

*Message from Mark
Suspension Bridge Dedication
Bridge Builders Club
Carson Rockers
Motz's Goats'z
Counselors of the Year
Honor Campers
Woodworking Champs
Kniese Scholarship
80th Summer Reunion – June 2019
Year End Giving and Giving Tuesday
New Construction*



REGISTER TODAY for SUMMER 2019!

We are excited to report that we are already 62% full for next summer!



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.

