

# YMCA Camp Carson

Jan. 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1



## Living The Memories

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## *A word from the Chairman of the Camp Board*

Dear Camp Alums:

I am happy to report to you that Camp Carson is alive and well! I think it is important to know that the places and people we knew and loved in the past are still doing the good things we remember about them. You will see in this newsletter that Camp Carson is still a wonderful place. While delivering great times and great values to kids from Southern Indiana and beyond, Camp has not done such a good job in keeping in touch with its former campers, staff, parents, and friends. We are going to change that!

This newsletter is our first step in reestablishing communications with our

entire Camp Carson family. The last Camp reunion held in July 2003, had more than 300 attendees representing all generations of campers and staff. The enthusiasm around what camp was to all those folks was heartwarming. We want to give all of you a great chance to share your enthusiasm for camp with others and to get your support for the continuing success of camp. Whether it is advice, skills, money, or good thoughts that you are able to share with camp, we want you to be a part of our program.

The newly established Alumni Relations Committee is looking for ways to keep all of us in better touch. If you have thoughts or concerns about

camp, please give Mark or me a call. Thank you for your interest and support.

Craig E. Fenneman  
President  
Camp Carson Board



## *Mark Kniese - Staff Scholarship*

Mark Kniese was more than an incredible athlete or student he was a young man whose very presence inspired and touched so many people at camp. When he died in the plane crash of 1977 along with the other players that made up the University of Evansville basketball team his influence and memory stilled lived on in the hearts of many of his camp peers.

In 2001 camp alumnus, August Neal, established the Mark Kniese Memorial Scholarship to recognize outstanding camp counselors. This is not a recognition of their athleticism, nor their academic prowess. It is to recognize those qualities of Character, that like Mark, make them the positive role models for the youth of our day. The scholarship goes towards that counselor's schooling cost for the Fall Semester.

After submitting their applications the winning recipient is selected by their peers.

The 2005 & 2006 Mark Kniese Scholarship recipient went to Rodney Federick.

Previous Kniese Scholarship Winners

- Pam Sontz
- Matt Cross
- Lindsay Marshall
- Amber Hoefling



*Making the memories  
A Hike they'll never forget!*



## The Staff that Make Camp Happen

Flying down the Water Zipline or Black-hole, scoring bull's-eye at archery, climbing to the top of the Alpine Tower, learning to ride a horse or dirt-bike, turning your first pot on the wheel, all make for an exciting time at camp and the list of activities goes on. But as we are all aware the activities at camp are only a portion of what makes camp so much fun.

Every year Alumni come back to camp to visit and share some of their memories. As they walk around and remember familiar sites and sounds inevitably two things are mentioned the powerful influence the camp experience had in their life, and almost without exception a camp

counselor is also mentioned *by name*, for the significant role they played in that individual's time at camp. Even if it was just three days at Patrol camp in 1970 or a week of camp in 1945.

Every year I have the pleasure of reading e-mails/letters from families thanking us for providing such a wonderful experience for their children, even today the children are realizing that a huge part of the experience is a result of the efforts extended by their counselor. The following is just one such note:

*"Mark and Staff,  
I just had to let you all know that Ian and Grant had an absolutely wonderful time last week at camp.*

*In fact, they were not ready to leave on Friday. They both enjoyed all of the activities -- especially the archery, rifle range, sailing and boating. But mostly they have talked about the fellowship with new friends and counselors. Yesterday they were talking about how much fun it would be to be able to live there year around. But Ian was quick to point out that the land is only the land and **what made Camp Carson so great was the staff.** Thank you so much. You have made quite an impression on my campers.*

*See you next year!  
Patti Nickens"*

### Camp Carson Hall of Fame

Is there someone you would like to nominate to be accepted into the YMCA Camp Carson Hall of Fame?

Established in June 2004, the hall serves to recognize and honor former campers and staff who are worthy of such recognition.

There is a large plaque in the Eddie Edwards Lodge that reads

(at this point enter the exact inscription from the plaque).

The first two persons to be so recognized were Gene Miller and Gary Burton. Gene was an investigative reporter for the Miami Herald and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. He was a camper and staff member in the early 1940s. Sadly, Gene died June 17, 2005.

Gary is an internationally known musician and educator. Gary was a camper and staff member in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Although neither was able to attend the ceremony of their recognition, Warren Miller, Gene's brother, and Mrs. Bernice Burton, Gary's mother, were there to accept plaques on their behalf.

If you know of someone you feel worthy of such recognition, please contact the camp office or Leonard Schlamp, 2911 Rugby Ave., Evansville, IN 47711,

(812) 437-9485, and ask for a nomination form.

## Camp Families Give Us Top Scores

At the conclusion of each summer season we ask our camp families for feedback on all aspects of camp from administration through programs and facilities. We thought you may be interested in some of the responses:

Of the families who responded: 98 % would describe the camp facilities as good to excellent.

100% described the cleanliness of camp as good to excellent  
87% would describe the camp cabins as good to excellent  
100% of the families felt the value of this camping experience was worth the registration fee paid?  
97% of the families said their child will attend YMCA Camp Carson in 2007.

Some of the ways the campers described their counselors:

They were extremely nice, fun and hilarious, nice and funny, GREAT! Excellent, Cool, Polite, very friendly, a lot of fun, make me feel part of the group, a good friend, Hilarious, crazy, helpful, awesome! They were all very nice, fun and caring, awesome! Good; supportive, nice!

Some of the responses parents gave to the question:

***"Did your child behave or act any differently after their camp experience?"***

She was an excellent kid before camp but now she is more independent and outgoing

Very enthusiastic, talkative, Grown up with a more positive outlook, more confident

Both very proud of

accomplishing 1st sleep away camp experience

Always more confident and mature, Wanted to go back soon

More polite to me, always loves camp – more animated

She was very happy! Wanted to go next year for two weeks

She was very excited about her experience, Proud of accomplishments, More independent.



*Thanks to the carpentry skills of our Property Manager—Lyn DeLozier and some donated "Crating" material, we now have beautiful new Adirondack Chairs around the Lodge*

## Top Scores Continued:

**We asked families to share in a handful of words why they value this camp experience for their child/children:**

Positive summer fun  
My daughter had so much fun with the horses and she loved here counselors.  
Positive socialization experience Safe and fun.  
He's making friends, having fun, learning independence and self worth  
He loves it and comes home so confident  
It's a great camp. Highly recommended by our

pediatrician.  
They have so much fun that they love telling you stories when they come home.

Smaller size was very comfortable for my kids; camper to counselor ratio was fantastic – both factors made it easier for me to drive away and feel confident that the kids would be safe and well cared for.

Teaches cooperation, teamwork. He has LOTS of fun.  
Allows him to try new and different activities. Gained confidence, new friends, independence, responsibility

Life time experience, My children are already looking forward to next year

It is an awesome experience, you learn to much because you interact with all kinds of people. A good chance to be with other kids. It was great to know she could spend a week with children and counselors she didn't know and make new friends.

Helps him meet new challenges; increased his desire to try new things – face the unknown.

## Thanks to our Donors

We are grateful to all those who have chosen to support camp's outreach over the past eighteen months through their financial contributions. This investment in the lives of the children we serve has a huge impact both on the child and their families. There are so many powerful stories of how your investment truly changes lives. Thanks to the following donors:

Ronald McDonald House Charities

Craig Fenneman  
Leonard Schlamp  
Bierhaus Foundation Inc.  
Evansville Downtown Optimists  
Dr. William Wooten  
Pete Sabella  
Steve & Suzette Fritz  
Greg Faith  
Mark & Debra Scoular  
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Ben Redden  
Dave E Clark  
Richard Lamb  
Barb R. Shaw

Martin & Lori McClelland  
Ron Boren  
Danny Garness  
2006 L.I.T's  
James E. Blythe  
Mark Isaac  
Raymond W Hill  
Kiana Smith  
August Neal  
Bank of America Foundation  
Scott Fenneman  
Close-Up Video  
Mrs. Annabell Campbell  
Travis Wolfe  
Aaron Kendall  
Mr.& Mrs. Warren Miller  
Taco Bell, Princeton  
Big 4 Cycle

### You Can Help:

#### Volunteer Needs /Camp Wish List

**Volunteers to help organize two annual workdays at camp (Spring/Fall)**

**Host Families for "Camp Nights" help spread the word.**

**Team Leaders for our Annual Parteners with Youth Campaign**

**Station Wagon**

**Portable Air-conditioners**

## Coming Soon Alumni Connections - Our New Web-Site

Watch our web-site [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) in the up coming months for some great new ways to find and connect with Camp Alums. Some of you may be aware that during the summer months we run a daily photo page with occasional news updates. This year we plan on turning this into a complete daily newspaper giving families an insight to the happenings at camp.

The company who provides this service will be assisting us in developing a whole Alumni Connection site with newsletters, photos, e-mail blasts, and much more. Once we're set up you'll be able to register for an account and stay connected or reconnect to the camp family.

## Where Are Our Campers Coming From?

Over the years as word has spread about this great little camp in southwestern Indiana. We're finding our campers are traveling greater and greater distances to spend some time in our little neck of the woods. Some are coming back to follow a family tradition, others find us on the internet, at regional fairs, or a friend passes on our brochure or Informational DVD.

This past summer we had campers attend from the following states: IN, IL, KY, TN, MO, OH, MI, MN, NJ, NY, CT, FL, GA, MS, OK, TX, HI and staff from - USA, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Russia, Scotland



# YMCA Camp Carson

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*An Experience That Lasts a Lifetime!*



## Meet our Senior Program Director & Program Director

Jennifer has worked full-time for the YMCA since 1995. She started her career at the Vincennes YMCA, where she worked as the Aquatic Director/YMCA Swim Coach. Over the course of her eleven year stay at the Vincennes YMCA, Jennifer was the program director for Afterschool Care, Day Camp, Teen Camp, Childhood

fitness, and Outreach/Drug Prevention.

In 2001, Jennifer completed the YMCA Executive Development Program and became Associate Director of the Teen and Family Programs at the Vincennes YMCA. During this time, she served as the Indiana YMCA Youth and Government State Director.

Jennifer came to work at the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana Business Office in September 2005 as Assistant Controller. In December of 2006, Jennifer accepted the position of Senior Program Director of Camp Carson.

When Jennifer is not working at the YMCA, she is caring for her three children, Benjamin (11), William (9), and Elizabeth (8) and her husband, Bryan.

Ashley Brown (same last name but not related) has worked for the YMCA since 2002. She graduated from Kentucky Christian University in December of 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Counseling Psychology. She has worked with various summer camps since 1998 including Camp Koch in Tell City, IN, and she spent the summer of 2005 in North Carolina at S.O.A.R. Ashley moved to full-time with the YMCA in February of 2006 when she was hired as Program Director responsible for our Educational and Outreach Programs.



**Ashley Brown**



**Jennifer Brown**