



Kern Family News

SUMMER, 2019

IN THIS EDITION:

- Serving our community
- Camp Updates
- Capital Projects
- Technology at Camp
- History Corner
- Alumni Spotlight
- Staff Spotlight
- In loving memory
- Kern Events

Serving Our Community

Our intentional focus on partnerships and community building continues to bear fruit. During Summer Camp 2019, we will be providing more scholarship assistance to more families than ever before. This has been a trend since 2014, and our belief that every child deserves a summer camp experience will forever be a cornerstone of our mission. A lot of hard work goes into creating these partnerships and funding our Scholarship Program, but Camp Kern is blessed with a dedicated group of staff and volunteers that make this happen each year. For the 2019 season, more than \$98,000 was raised to provide scholarship assistance. Partnerships have been formed with Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Cincinnati Children's



Hospital, Joshua's Place and Princeton City's School District to identify families who need some help in providing a meaningful camp experience for their kids. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to do so much to help those in need, and we look forward to expanding this program year after year. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, donors and partners that make this possible.

Camp Updates

Camp has a long and varied history and nowhere is that so true as in our facilities! We have new villages such as Wilderness Village built in 2012; cabins, lodges and a swimming pool dating back to the 1970's...and everything in between! As stewards of this magical place, it is our responsibility to ensure we are providing the best possible experience for our guests, but also protecting the infrastructure of Camp. To that end, we have recently been focusing on the following; renovation of the Moore Building bathrooms; fixes to our water lines and sewage pipes; new roofs for staff housing, Boda Building and the barn; swimming pool updates and renovations and cabin updates.



Moving Camp Into The Digital Age

The camping industry has always had a reputation for being innovative and creative, but sometimes we are guilty of ignoring technology in an effort to keep the guest experience 'outdoor' focused. While that is certainly true to our mission, we also need to be aware of technology that can improve our efficiency and the guest experience. Enter, 'CampMinder,' a cloud based registration system for our entire Summer Camp Program, which will dramatically improve the experience for our families registering their campers, as well as improving efficiency and data analytics internally. This new system will allow us to move away from the majority of our paperwork, will keep more accurate and detailed records of our campers from year to year, and will allow greater flexibility for payments and camp document storage. A lot of hours went into setting up the new system and we are excited to see the results!

CampMinder

2019 Capital

Projects:

- Horse & Tack Purchases
- Boda Roof
- Duplex Roof
- Driveway Fix
- Barn Electrical Repairs
- New Camp Vehicles
- Lake Algae Treatment
- Barn Drainage
- Main Cabin Porchs & Doors
- Optimist Pond Aerator
- Hay Feeders
- Elk Lodge Mattresses
- Pool Upgrades

History Corner - 1918 Summer Camp Guide

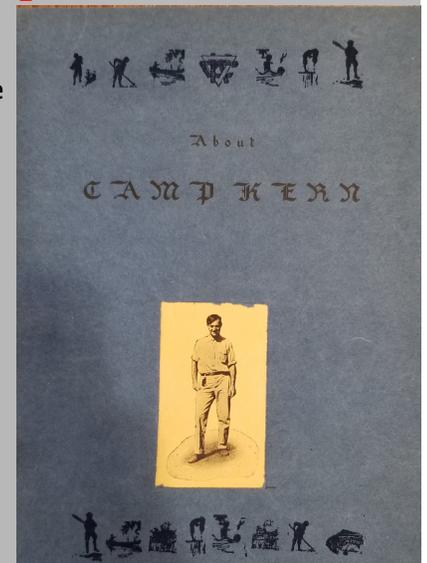
After some much needed organization and discovery, Camp is now in the possession of some amazing 'artifacts' from years gone by! Each newsletter we will be highlighting one of these Kern artifacts to get a window into the past. For this issue we are looking at the Summer Camp Guide from 1918.

The guide includes a schedule (washing in the river, tent inspection, Bible study and chores); details of the 6 mile hike from Lebanon train station where boys were dropped off; explanation of the large ice house with "ice cut last winter"; and an introduction to the staff.

The cost of a 10-day camp in 1918 was \$7, and camp could accommodate just 40 boys per session.

Although much has changed since 1918, the essence of camp has not, as seen in this quote from the guide, "The boys have a large section of God's out-of-doors...there are none of the distracting influences of the usual summer resort."

More pictures of the guide can be found at our website, in the 'Our History' section.



WHAT TO TAKE

Two heavy, dark, double blankets, an old comfortable and a small pillow; roll these all in one bundle with a rubber poncho or a piece of table oilcloth two yards long, on the outside (the poncho or rubber blanket is very important.) Wear old clothes, a khaki uniform if possible. Each boy will provide and take care of his own dishes. *Bring tin or enamel plate, cup, saucer and bowl, knife and fork, tea and tablespoons.* Make a small bag with a draw-string to contain the mess kit.

The following may be packed in an old suitcase or a small box with a hinged lid and padlock: Bathing suit, two or more bath towels, *dish towels* and soap, tooth brush, comb and brush, night shirt or pajamas, change of clothing (entire), gym shoes, paper and pencil to write home, Bible, fishing tackle,

Alumni Spotlight - Jim Zappe

I recently had the opportunity to talk to Jim Zappe about his memories of Camp Kern. Jim is 80 years old and joined the West Carrollton YMCA this year and volunteered to help out at the Camp Kern Golf Outing. That experience reminded him of his great times at Camp Kern in the 1940's.

Jim first went to Camp Kern around 1948. He lived in Kettering and his father owned a grocery store and his mother didn't drive. He and his brother went to the YMCA and saw signs about Camp Kern and his parents agreed that it would be a great experience for him and his brother.

Jim remembers riding an old school bus from the downtown Dayton YMCA on Monument street. He still remembers the large, winding hill at Kern and wondering how the bus was going to make the hill. At that time, the cabins were at the bottom of the hill and the campers had to walk up the hill on the side of the road to get to the main part of the camp for activities and swimming. Jim was around 8 years old back then and walking the steep hill wasn't a problem back then. He also remembers going to Fort Ancient.

His favorite memory is making lanyards for his Mom in the craft area. Jim went to camp a few years with his brother and still remembers how much fun he had being outside and the friends that he made.

It was many years before Jim went back to Kern; he went with his son for the YMCA Indian Guides Program in 1968. By then all of Kern had moved to the top of the hill where it is now. He remembers that some of the boys in Indian Guides did not have fathers and so he sponsored a boy for the camping trips and they all had a great time.

Jim is so glad that he joined the YMCA again. He volunteered at the golf outing and was stationed at one of the holes to judge a hole in one contest. No one made a hole in one but there were a couple of close calls. Jim was happy to be involved with Camp Kern again and saw a few friends at the same time. He is looking forward to visiting Camp for the first time in over 40 years when he joins us for Strawberries this year. Just talking about his time there brought back more memories of his times at camp.

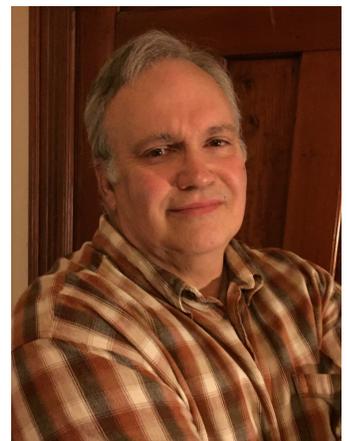


Staff Spotlight - Dan Lyon

Dan Lyon joined the Camp Kern team in January as our new Property Director. His eclectic background includes old home renovations, running a boy scout camp, banking, and anthropology. In addition to a passion for fixing and building, Dan is a keen cribbage player, and a lacrosse referee, and most importantly, a husband to Yolanda and father to 18 year old triplets and a 20 year old son.

What brought you to Camp Kern?

I grew up in camps. I worked my summers in high school and college at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico as well as a local Boy Scout camp in northern Ohio. After college I went to work for the Boy Scouts and wanted to do camp maintenance, but they had me raising money and recruiting kids. Eventually I got the position of Camping Director, but once again, I was steered away to do fundraising. Over the years, while engaging in sales and marketing in both small and large businesses I kept performing maintenance work on the side. During my last (and I hope it is my last) job search, I noticed this position available and applied. I had been to Camp Kern many times with my kids in Adventure Guides and loved the place. **Continued on page 4**



Staff Spotlight Continued...

How do you describe the job of Property Director?

My job is to oversee the maintenance and construction projects in the almost 100 buildings and 480 acres. It is always a matter of balancing the priorities within the budget. I have a list of over 50 repairs and improvements needed, but every day, something new comes up. I work with an outstanding, dedicated, and passionate crew. This is the best job I have ever had.

Tell us something about your personal life you would never want to see in print.

Okay. My true longing in life is to be a rock and roll drummer. I actually play and, when younger, I performed in a number of bands. I once opened a concert for blues great, Muddy Waters. Unfortunately, it is a rare occurrence when I get to play these days.

What is your favorite thing about Camp, so far?

My favorite thing is the challenge of trying to figure out solutions to problems. As an example, the water system at Camp has given me a lot of problems to solve!

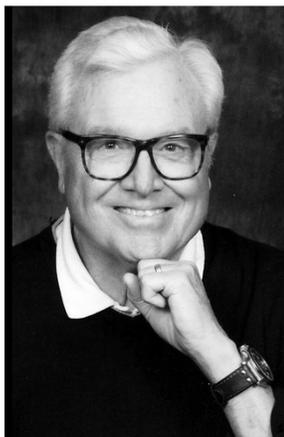
Upcoming Kern Events

2019 Events:

- June 3rd - Camp Kern Golf Outing Honoring Bob Barr
- June 13th - Strawberries & Ice Cream Alumni Dinner
- June 16th - Summer Camp begins!
- August 30th - Labor Day Family Camp
- October 11th / 12th - Zipping From Zombies
- November 24th - Pre-Thanksgiving Feast
- December 7th - Arctic Dash



In Loving Memory - Marty Erbaugh



It is with great sadness that Camp learned of the passing of J. Martin 'Marty' Erbaugh on May 12th, 2019 aged 70, after a long illness. Born in Dayton in 1948, Marty was an advocate, donor and most importantly, a friend of Camp Kern. His family's involvement with Kern is generations long, generously contributing to Camp in many ways, including; the Brisben Tree House Village, camp signage and staff recognition. Marty will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him and he will fondly be remembered for his passion, generosity and his warm smile.

Kern Family Committee

Kara Barton
Erin Crosby
Traci Hale Brown
Andrea Kaercher
Michele King
Natalie Schiavone
Curtis Wright
Chris Addison (Kern Staff)
Dave Moran (Kern Staff)
Devin Carr (Kern Staff)

Volunteers Needed:

In an effort to build a strong committee, we are seeking additional volunteers to help us with our various positions. If you are interested in joining the committee, volunteering at events, assisting with the newsletter, donating, or anything else, please contact us at:

campkernalumni@gmail.com