



Kern Family News

SPRING, 2022

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REBOUNDED WITH GUSTO!

Spring has sprung and we are busier than ever at Camp! We are serving Outdoor Education groups, preparing for summer camp, hosting Y-Guides, schools and colleges in Group Rentals, re-launching Ozone on May 1st, and of course, Circle K Ranch is taking care of the herd, running trail rides and providing riding lessons. The staff are working incredibly hard to get caught up on maintenance and cleaning projects, while still serving the guests on site. Although no-one could have predicted the impact of the pandemic, Camp has weathered the storm as well as any organization, and barring any further outbreaks we anticipate being fully back to pre-covid levels in every department heading in to the new year.

A real highlight of the Spring has been our Summer Camp registrations. We are on track to serve more than 2,500 campers this summer, which will be another record broken, further highlighting the relevance of a meaningful camp experience.

Like most organizations, we are striving to fill many full-time, part-time and seasonal positions. If you are interested in working at Camp, please go to our website to learn more and get started.

Better days are back at Camp and we could not be happier to get back to something like normal!

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

After 17 years at camp and 8 as Executive Director, I have made the difficult decision to move on from Camp at the end of April. We are thrilled to announce that Todd Brinkman has been appointed as the new Executive Director for Camp and with his knowledge and experience, Camp is in excellent hands for the future; good luck Todd!

From my first summer as a camp counselor in 2005 until my last day at Kern, this wonderful place has given me so much joy, countless amazing memories, numerous beautiful friendships and, most importantly, a real sense of purpose to impact the community, campers, guests and staff that make Camp the magical place it is.

Thank you to all the staff who had a genuine desire to make a positive impact. Thank you to the Dayton Y and the Camp Kern Board for their support and for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Lastly, thank you to my family and friends for their support on this incredible adventure.

I am not going far and hope to stay connected to Kern in some way. Kern blood is a real thing and I could not be more proud of what we have all achieved during my time at Camp.

See you around the campfire!

Chris Addison



YMCA Camp Kern Board Members:

- John Baker – Board Chair
- Andrea Kaercher – Vice Chair
- Erin Crosby
- Julie Hengle
- Tom Hughes
- Michele King
- Steve Pasch
- Matt Suellentrop
- Megan Trowbridge
- Tom Young
- Mike Zeh

Thank you for your support and guidance.

If you are interested in joining the YMCA Camp Kern Board or a Committee please get in touch with Todd Brinkman, Executive Director at 513-932-3756.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – P.R. FRANK



10 year old P.R. Frank was bundled off to Camp Kern in the early 1980's to give his parents some space as they navigated a divorce. The car ride to Kern involved lots of tears from a boy who hated the idea of going to camp for a week. After being dropped off outside Cabin 4, a well trained counselor (Mike Dailey) made P.R. feel a little more at home with a (presumably) well-rehearsed handshake / suitcase grabbing mix-up, intended to get campers comfortable and smiling. Mike followed this up with a genuine interest in P.R.'s well being and that first week at camp, filled with midnight treasure hunts, hikes to the valley and all things 'above & beyond' cemented P.R.'s love of camp so that the car ride home was also filled with tears!

P.R. returned every summer as a camper until 1988 when he became a CIT aged 17, before working as a counselor until 1993 while attending University of Cincinnati as an Education major. His Mother described the change in P.R. during that CIT summer..."a different person came back from camp" and the additional responsibility, leadership opportunities and requirement to build rapport with people of all ages sent P.R. to his future career as a teacher.

P.R. also credits his time at Lakefront (ranging from canoeing to algae clearing with Brian Hroch) for inspiring his lifelong love of all things boating and water sports, while his time at the riflery range, shooting 22's for hours on end, means he "still loves the smell of gunpowder."

A teacher for the last 28 years, he frequently uses his 'knowledge' of campfire songs and skits to bring energy and passion to his high school classroom and to the stage when producing and performing his live science stage show, "Science Saturdays" in Dayton.

P.R. returned most recently to Camp to produce and perform in a virtual campfire, keeping us connected with campers and families during the pandemic.

P.R.'s time at Kern has given him friends across the world, a career, and an ability to stay young at heart, "Every single time I pull into that Camp driveway my heart gets a beat quicker."



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN – RECORD ACHIEVEMENT

Part of our mission at Kern is to ensure that meaningful camp experiences are available to all. One way we fulfill this mission is through our fundraising efforts and the Annual Campaign. Our 2022 goal was \$98,000 but with the help of the community, alumni, local businesses, foundations and grant opportunities we exceeded our goal and set a record for our Annual Campaign with a total of \$120,855! Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign and to the Committee and Staff that led our efforts!

Just as important as the actual fundraising, is reaching those campers and families who aren't aware of Camp or, for financial and other reasons, don't see Camp as viable for them. To help with this, we work with some amazing youth serving organizations such as Centerville School District, Seven Stars Foundation, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Joshua's Place, Bonnie's Hope and Mom's Hope. These partners help us build relationships as part of our goal to be inclusive, equitable and welcoming to all campers. This year will see more than 300 campers receive some kind of financial assistance (another record!). If you know of an organization that might be able to help us fulfill our mission, please contact Loretta at ldeters@daytonymca.org.

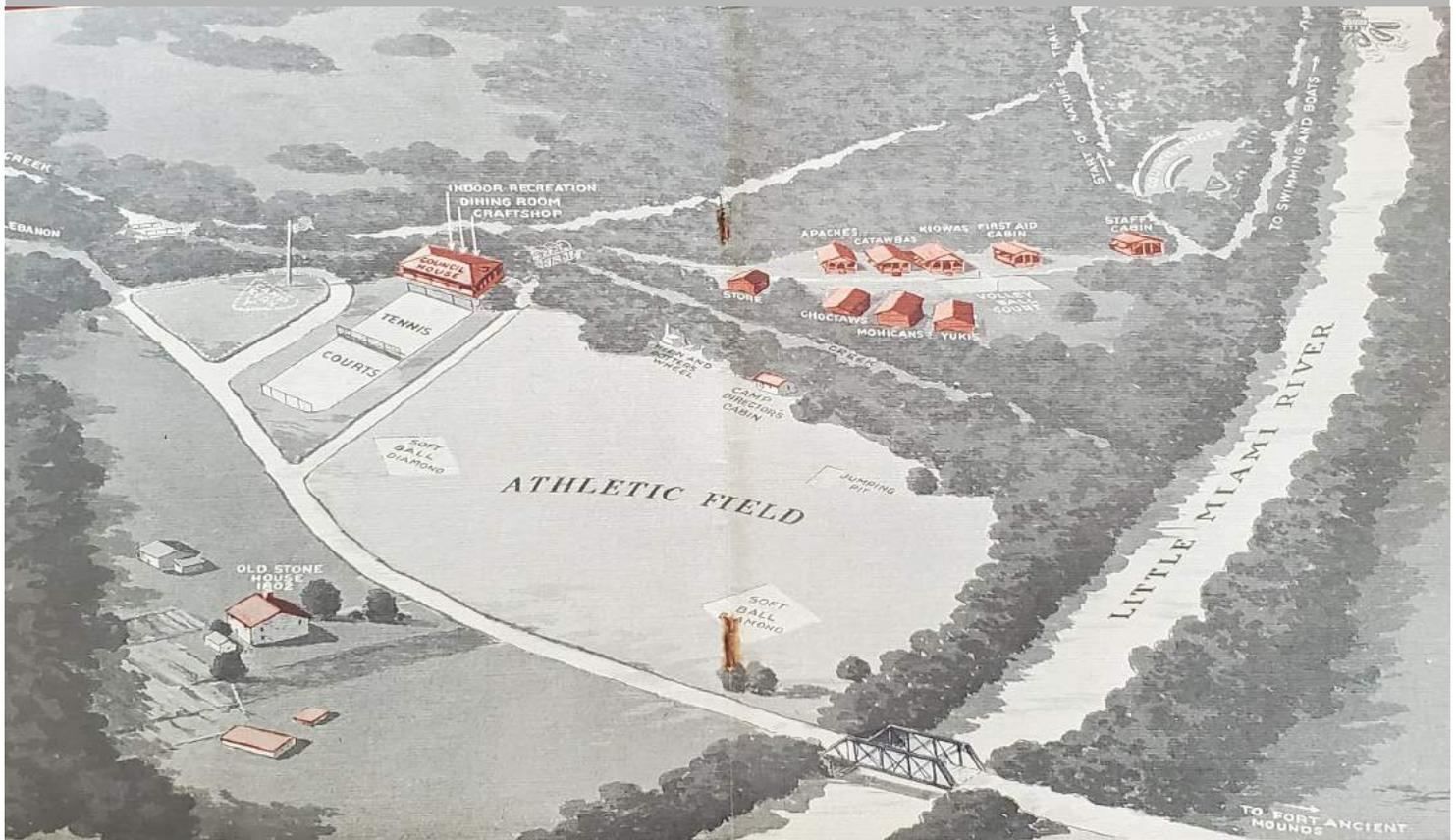
HISTORY CORNER – YMCA CAMP KERN, THE 1936 VERSION

As most of you know, Camp Kern was founded as 'Camp Ozone' in 1910, before being renamed in honor of Carl B Kern. Camp was originally located in the river valley until the late 1940's and this map in a summer camp brochure from 1936 shows the development of the camp in the valley between 1910 and 1936.

You can see the six cabins (named to spell YMCA CK), staff housing, main lodge, sports fields, camp store, potters wheel / kiln, council circle (sections of which are still visible today on the trail) and the boat dock.

The camp at the time was for boys only, and the brochure advocated a camp experience for boys who are, "tired of the restrictions of city life and of wearing city clothing...He needs the freedom and vigorous activities that a summer camp provides." Some things have not changed that much in 86 years!

We are fortunate that Camp still owns this beautiful piece of land and although the buildings are gone, the area is well used by our guests, campers and students for hiking, river studies, rafting, fossil hunting, field games and much more. We wonder what it will look like in another 86 years...in 2108?!



VOLUNTEER DAY – SUNDAY MAY 22ND: 9am – 3pm

Grab your gloves, shovels and paint brushes and join us for a day (or part of it) to help get Camp ready for Summer! All are welcome, a picnic lunch will be provided and we will have all the projects ready to go when you arrive. Projects include painting, trail maintenance, gardening and landscaping, spring cleaning and more. RSVP's are appreciated so we can make sure we have enough tools and supplies for the day. This is a great way to give back to Camp and will make a big difference as we prepare for what promises to be a VERY busy summer! More details and RSVP here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4aaea729a1f58-ymca>



UPCOMING KERN PAGE 4 EVENTS

**DAYTON Y ANNUAL MEETING:
THURSDAY MAY 19TH
REGISTER AT:
DAYTONYMCA2022.GIVSMART.COM**

**PRE-SUMMER WORKDAY -
SUNDAY MAY 22ND**

**STRAWBERRIES & ICE CREAM -
THURSDAY JUNE 2ND**

**SUMMER ALUMNI POOL PARTY -
SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH**

**CAMP KERN GOLF OUTING -
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH**

**PRE-THANKSGIVING DINNER -
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20TH**

**ARCTIC DASH -
SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD**



OZONE ZIPLINE RELAUNCH!

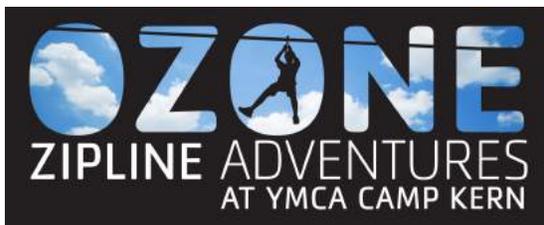
IT'S BACK! May 1st brings the return of our Ozone Zipline Adventures! Shut down for repairs, then limited because of the pandemic, we are thrilled to be relaunching this program with a focus on the best experience possible, utilizing six of our longest, highest, fastest lines! You will zip across the Fossil Ravine (twice!) at heights of more than 100ft, before ascending to the very top of Ozone Tower to launch yourself across the Little Miami River to Ft. Ancient (and back!), enjoying the most spectacular views from of the River and the Valley from 200ft. A short stroll through the beautiful woods leads you to our final two lines (and our longest at over 1000ft!!). This really is a one of a kind experience!

Reservations are required and can be made online at www.ozonezips.org.

Our highly trained, professional guides will take care of all your needs, and our course is inspected regularly to ensure everything is in great shape. All you have to do is show up and enjoy the amazing experience!

Open to the public, 7 days a week, Ozone is a great place for thrill seekers and nature enthusiasts, family and friends, celebrations and events, and is open to anyone aged 10 and over.

We are hiring! If you feel like getting paid to zipline then apply online at www.campkern.org.



Kern Alumni & Volunteer Committee

Andrea Kaercher
Megan Trowbridge
Curtis Wright
Emily Tittle
Mary Baker
Traci Hale Brown
Gus Noriega (Kern Staff)
Loretta Deters-Bailey (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 or gnoriega@daytonymca.org