

YMCA Camp Potawotami Alumni - September 2023 Newsletter

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To: Karen Kasprzak <Karen_Kasprzak@fwymca.org>



Recapping Summer 2023

Let's take a look at Summer 2023 by the numbers:

37 summer camp counselors served **735** campers. **12** of them were international staff! Camp had **282** first time campers and **182** campers received financial assistance. Campers visited the new High Ropes Course **820** times and the waterfront **3530** times. **662** campers said they made at least one new friend!

Percy Jackson camp kicked off for the first time in 2023, introducing a new program based on the book series by Rick Riordan for **16** campers.

A new wampum bead was also introduced: **Gratitude**

Gratitude is what we have for you, our campers and the parents who trusted them in our care.

Registration is already open for Summer 2024!

Secure your camper's spot and save \$50 on each registration when you register before Nov 1st. [Financial Assistance](#) is available.

[Register Now](#)

Camp Alumni Spotlight: Angie Miesle



Name: Angie Miesle

Years at Camp: 1996 - 1998, then Family Camper

Positions: Voyager Counselor 1996, Art Barn & Voyager Counselor 1997, Program Director 1998

Favorite Memory: I loved opening campfires and kicking off the week with a ton of energy and spirit! I also remember bringing my daughter Della (a 2023 summer staff member) to Family Camp where she "assisted" me in the Art Barn from her pack-and-play at the age of 1.

Lesson Learned at Camp: Cherish your time with friends, old and new, whether that time is one day, one week, or a lifetime!

What do you hope for Camp's future?

I hope that Camp continues to build on its traditions and that kids and families take the opportunity to learn and grow through its programs.

Fun Stuff!

From the Art Barn to Japan

After Jenny Herbe took the Art Barn to new heights in 1996, I got to lead the skills classes and free time activities there in 1997. We did everything from paper mache and tile painting to basket making and attempting to carve out a canoe from a fallen tree. I loved experimenting with not only the art but also the science of materials (gotta love humidity slowing down the plaster-drying process, defending your yarn from mice, or rain on your tie-dye t-shirts!)

One of my favorite crafts was making hand-made paper with wood pulp and then adding special ingredients like mulberries and flowers. I still experiment in this medium and recently took a trip to Japan where I was able to work with two different papermakers who apply traditional techniques in their studios. It was awesome seeing how some of the activities that we did at Camp have a long-standing global tradition, and how our creativity with the materials we had (and didn't have) in the Art Barn led us to some of the same innovations they are making on the other side of the world!

World Camp 1998

World Camp was an amazing experience, bringing together staff and adults from across the country and around the world for one week in August 1998! We spent over a year planning activities and sessions that helped staff to share their experiences at camp and develop new ideas, skills, and friendships! I got to lead a session in the Art Barn called "Camp Crafts on a Shoestring Budget" and we discussed ways to help other camps grow their art programs by connecting with donations and tying their projects into other areas of camp like nature study.

Where is Angie Now?

After living in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Florida, I have finally settled down in Northwest Ohio and teach studio art, art history, and art technology at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School. I also work with the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia and consult with a number of museums to develop programs that help engage people with world cultures through art.

I am excited to serve on Camp's Alumni Committee and was thrilled to see my daughter become a staff member this year and to watch her develop some of the knowledge and skills that you can only learn at camp!

Thank you, Angie!

Angie not only serves on the Alumni Committee, but is also a camp donor! She gives of her time, talent and treasures! Most recently Angie has created beautiful art pieces out of the poles from the old high ropes course and also rallied camp alumni to raise funds for the purchase and set up of our new High Ropes Course Shed. Thank you for investing in camp's future!

Say Hello To Angie!

If you shared a memory or moment with Angie, she invites you to reach out stokesam@hotmail.com.

Fall Family Fun Day Special Alumni Meeting



Come hang out with us!

Sunday, October 15, 2023

\$15 per person, *includes lunch and activities.*

12:00 - 4:00pm

[Learn More and Register](#)

Camp Alumni: join us for a special Camp Alumni meeting at 3:30 pm in Sharples. You might just run into an old friend!

Camp Potawotami Alumni Reconnecting



In June 2023, a group of former counselors reunited in Fort Wayne. The 2012-2013 alumni group gathered from Fort Wayne and Indianapolis to visit with a friend visiting the area from Scotland! Memories were shared and recounted, recalling the summers they all worked together and updating each other on where everyone is currently in life, 10 years later. Alex also had the chance to catch up with some alumni from Florida and Alabama as well!

Reconnect with Camp Join us on Facebook!

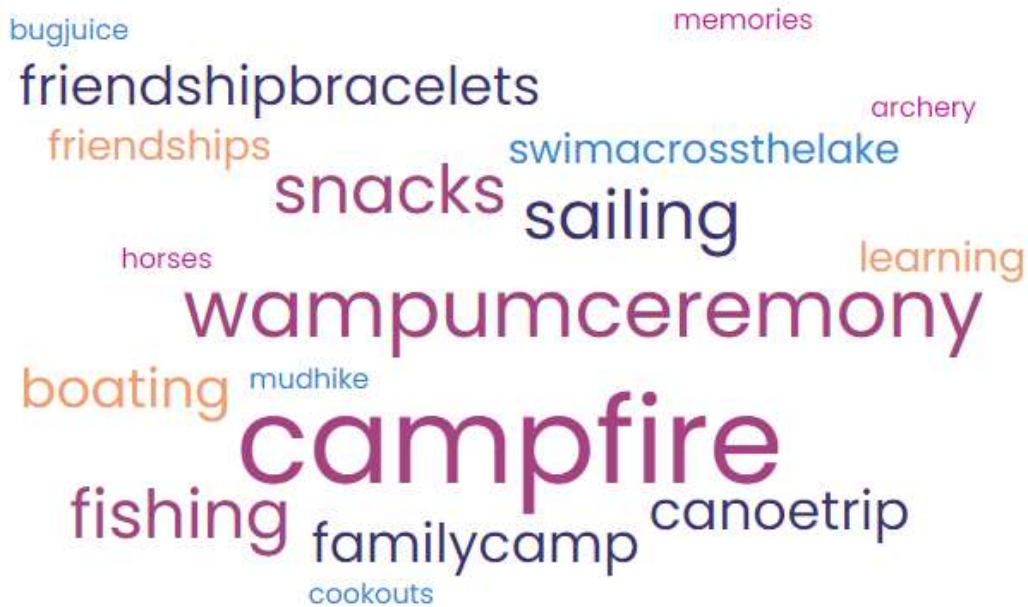


The Alumni Committee is coming up with new and exciting ways to reconnect with you and reignite your camp memories. Let's celebrate the adventure and fun we had together at camp!

Use the button below to share your contact information and let us know about your camp experience. This form can be used multiple times so you can add yourself and also friends from camp.

We also have an active group of [alumni on Facebook](#). Join the fun to see camp updates in real time, reconnect with past friends and enjoy an uplifting space online.

Alumni's Favorite Camp Activities!



Our Contact Information

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Camp's Contact Information

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