

Kern Family News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER, 2014

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New facilities take shape
- Send a Kid to Camp!
- Meet the new Equestrian and Summer Directors
- Summer Camp Re-Cap
- Outdoor Ed Re-Cap
- Photo Challenge

New Facilities Take Shape

Remember the days of working out of the program office...or perhaps the trailer next to it? While those thoughts bring back many memories, there have been a few updates to Kern throughout the summer and fall. Snyder Hall has been completed and a few program offices were installed by the Kern maintenance team. These offices will accommodate the growth the staff has experienced over the years. In addition, an amphitheater



was completed on the north side of Snyder Hall com-



plete with a large stage and seating for two hundred. This is going to provide a wonderful venue for campfires, vespers, and talent shows for many years to come!

Any Survivor alumni out there? This program has always been near and dear to my heart. I remember the first summer as we prepared the Adirondacks for campers. These cabins hadn't been touched in over a decade! The picturesque view of the value, the community like feel away from the hustle and bustle of main camp,

it's a memorable place! Unfortunately, time has not been a friend to the Adirondacks. Due to the state of disrepair, a new Adirondack village was founded.

The village has been relocated and built to match the same feel of the old Adirondacks. Four new open faced Adirondacks will house our survivors for many years to come. Oh, if you're wondering, I've purposely not mentioned where the new village is. It's a Survivor thing, sorry!



Send a Kid to Camp!

The Kern Family is sponsoring a long-sleeve t-shirt sale. This one of a kind shirt will not be available anywhere else. As YMCA Camp Kern continues to provide amazing opportunities for youth every summer. Sadly, not all kids and families can afford a week at camp or an outdoor education experience. The proceeds from our booster will go directly to helping youth and families expe-

rience the wonder of summer camp and outdoor education at YMCA Camp Kern. Please consider purchasing a shirt for yourself or as a gift for someone else.

Visit www.booster.com/supportymcacampkern to get yours today!



Kern Family Pool Party & 500 Repair



Wayne McDermott carrying buckets of gravel to repair 500.

With summer winding down, Kern hosted one last chance for campers and families to enjoy the water slides! The rain held off just long enough for a large group of families and campers to enjoy swimming, a hike to Pete's Tower, and a delightful camp picnic. We were excited to see many familiar faces join us for this event.

Thanks to everyone who participated in **The 500 Challenge** on August 16th. Many calories were burned spreading gravel and repairing/building steps on the 500 Trail. Since then many hundreds of feet have had a safer trip up and down the trail. Fortunately for those of you keen on getting involved, more work is needed. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities.

Upcoming Kern Events

T-Shirt Sale
Now-Dec. 9

Arctic Dash
Dec. 6th

Winter Camp
Dec. 12-14

Kids Night Out
Dec. 31

*"The first horse I fell in love with was named Alazon...He had a kind demeanor."
~Amanda Neal*

Welcome Amanda-New Ranch Director

On a warm sunny day during summer camp, our lovable escape artist Molli, took a time out from her travels around camp and beyond to have some personal time with Amanda Neal, the fearless director of the Equestrian Program. In between the munching on grass and sipping of bug juice this is what she learned.

Q. Do you remember the name of your first horse and what was so special about them?

A. The first horse that I fell in love with was named Alazon. He was a Chestnut Quarter Horse with a blaze. I probably fell in love with his size; he was over 16 hands, and I was a very small 10 year-old! He also had a kind demeanor,



and loved to have his face brushed.

The first horse I owned was named Pecos, after the tall tale of "Pecos Bill." He was a Black and White Paint-Warmblood cross who loved to move---fast! I think he was named after the tornado that Pecos Bill was famed to have ridden. J

Q. What is your favorite riding style?

A. I love Western for the comfort of riding, and English for thrill of jumping.

Q. Name something on your horse bucket list.

A. Own and train a nurse-mare foal to be a therapy horse for children and teens.

Q. What do you like to do in your free time at camp?

A. Hang out and play with my three beautiful boys and husband in one of the most beautiful places on earth!

Q. What is your go to campfire song?

A. The Moose Song

Q. Where are you from?

A. Canton, Ohio (known for the Pro Football Hall of Fame)

Q. What quote inspires you?

A. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

A Summer to Remember...



Opening campfire at Elk Lake.

We defeated the aliens, conquered dark wizards, and saved Camp Kern from certain peril, all while singing songs, making friends, and laughing until our sides hurt.

Summer Camp has once again come and gone and the summer of 2014 was better than ever. We hosted over 1,800 Campers, lucked into 3 months of beautiful weather, and successfully ran nearly 20 separate programs. We had campers come from all the way across the globe, including Spain, China, and Mexico as well as hosted Counselors from Europe, Australia, and New Zealand!

We've continued to develop our Literary Camps and had huge suc-

cesses with programs such as Harry Potter, Star Wars, Rangers Apprentice, and Percy Jackson. Things went so well that we've expanded to include themes such as "The Hobbit", "Medieval", and "Comic Book Heroes" for 2015.

The 2014 Summer also marked the end of the Survivor Program in the Old Adirondacks. After spending 10 very successful years living in the most rustic conditions on camp, the Survivor program is getting moved to a new home. We're proud to announce that in 2015 we will be unveiling a new an improved Survivor Village. Far off the beaten bath, the new Survivor Village will boast 4 new Adirondack cabins and Tribal Council Area. Don't worry though; these new cabins are still going to test the gumption of any Camper who registers.

Summer Camp at YMCA Camp

Kern is continuing to grow and we couldn't be more excited. We were even recently named the "Best Sleep Away Camp" in Cincinnati by Cincinnati Family Magazine, as voted by their readers.

All in all, the summer flew by way too fast. The campers might as gone home and the campfire may have gone out for 2014, but the memories will last forever. Thanks for a great summer!

"Summer Camp at YMCA Camp Kern is continuing to grow and we couldn't be more excited."



Outdoor Education

Our Outdoor Education fall season is drawing to a chilly end. The first school arrived in the heat of late August and the last will depart the Friday before Christmas break. In between hundreds of fifth and sixth graders enjoyed three days of hiking, pioneer history, nature classes, campfires, and more. The OE crew included a

few returners, some fantastic summer staff, and a couple of new faces. Thanks to Anthony Gramaglia, Carol Foell, Josh Fries, Margo Khalili, Myles Corcoran, Shayne Hays, and Phil Kennard for a great season. Hopefully all will be back with us in the spring. We said goodbye this month to a couple vet-

eran Kern staff, Carolyn Blaine has moved on to be summer camp director at Camp Wilson and Dave Brown moved back to England, his visa having run out. A huge thank you to both of them for their great contributions to Kern.



OE students playing human clue.

Incredible Perspective-Dare to Take a Guess?

Test your knowledge of the details of Kern. Each of these photos was snapped at YMCA Camp Kern; however, the perspective is incredibly zoomed in. If you believe your Kern blood runs deep and you have a keen attention to detail, take a guess at the location of each of these pictures. You can email your guesses to campkernfamily@gmail.com for a chance to win a Kern t-shirt!

Mystery Photo #1



Mystery Photo #2



Mystery Photo #3



Sean Kline...from camper to summer director

We are proud to welcome long time “Kernie,” Sean Kline as the new summer director for Kern. Sean is an old face around camp. He first arrived in 1994 as a camper and after coming up through the CIT program became a counselor in 2004. After 7 years working in a variety of positions, including two summers as Assistant Summer Camp Director, Sean took a brief hiatus only to return to working with the Leadership and Conferencing Department in 2013. After bouncing around departments for a while, Sean took over as Adventure Coordinator, working with Teen and Family programming, for a brief stint before being promoted to Summer Camp Director.

Sean noted that, “Taking over as Summer Camp Director is more or less just completing the circle for me. It’s where I started, it’s where I grew up,

and it’s what I believe is truly the heart and soul of Camp Kern. I give credit to growing up as a Camp Kern camper for making me who I am today, and I feel like I’m now in the perfect position to give back to the place that has already given me so much.”

Moving forward, Sean’s vision includes developing identities and leadership opportunities for each program. “Camp Kern has done a wonderful job at expanding and growing over the past ten years. Now I want to bring the focus back to the specifics of programming. I want every program we run to have an identity with a more intentional purpose. My vision is for Camp Kern to be the camp people think of when they talk about leadership development amongst teens and campers, and I want to develop a summer camp that gives

each camper a tangible life lesson to take home.”

We look forward to watching Sean flourish as summer director!



Kern Family Committee

Kara Barton
Erin Crosby
Craig Jolley
Andrea Kaercher
Michele King
Natalie Schiavone
Megan Trowbridge
Dave Moran (Kern Staff)

Volunteers Needed:

In an effort to build a strong committee, we are seeking additional volunteers to help us with are 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:
campkernfamily@gmail.com