

YMCA CAMP KERN
OREGONIA, OHIO

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Learn about the **NEW** Kern Family Committee
- Meet the new Executive Director
- Alumni Work Day a **HUGE** Success
- The 500 Needs Your Help!
- Horse News

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Kern Family News

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Kern Family Committee Takes Shape

You can't ride in my little red wagon! Boom-chik-a-boom. Pete's Tower. A canoe ride across Elk Lake turns into an afternoon swim, following an untimely toppling of the canoe. Candle light Vespers at the Chapel. Gold Rush. Under Siege.

These memories are shared by thousands of campers, staff, and guests, embedded into our souls since 1910 at YMCA Camp Kern. If any of these sound familiar to you, then you must be a part of the Kern Family! Whether you have visited Kern with a school group, attended a family camp, spent your summer in a Main Camp cabin,

cooked over a campfire, or worked as staff, we consider you part of the family—YMCA Camp Kern Family.

The same memories you hold near and dear to your heart are still being shared and created each day at YMCA Camp Kern. Over the years, camp has become a multi-generational experience with alumni from across the world passing on the traditions to their children and friends. It is with great pride and excitement that we would like to share with you our new Kern Family Committee. With so much history and tradition, we have set out to provide a media for you to stay con-

nected with the current happenings at Kern, pass on traditions and memories from your time, and reconnect with cabin mates and friends from summers and years past.

Through the Kern Family Committee we hope to provide you with opportunities to reconnect with camp and friends, provide alumni events and opportunities for you to visit Kern, develop a quarterly newsletter with current events and memories from the past, and support the rich history of YMCA Camp Kern.

This summer marks the 104th summer for YMCA
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Sweatshirt Success—\$1455 donated

The first annual Kern Family Committee Sweatshirt Sale was a huge success! The committee set a goal to sell 100 sweatshirts with all proceeds going to the YMCA Camp Kern scholarship campaign—which helps send children to camp. After three

weeks, 105 sweatshirts were sold to families with a grand total of \$1455 raised. The Kern Family Committee presented YMCA Camp Kern with a check in April. Thank you to everyone who assisted and purchased a sweatshirt. Keep your eyes peeled for

our next campaign...we are currently designing a t-shirt entitled, "Kern Blood Runs Deep."

**We are always looking for design help! If you have any graphic design experience, we'd love some assistance!

Kern Family Work Day



Seitz Family with Craig, Kern Staff, constructing fire pits.

With over 400 acres, maintaining camp is a HUGE responsibility. On Sunday, May 18th, thirty volunteers set out to assist Kern staff with numerous projects around camp. Projects included staining and replanting the flower boxes outside of Singerman, painting the outside of Singerman lodge, mulching and landscaping across camp, building three large fire pits in main camp, power washing main camp cabin decks, clearing the tree line on the main road, and

painting the outdoor arena fence at the ranch.

Volunteers traveled from as far away as Columbus to join in the fun. Susan Seitz and her family (Memorial Day Family Campers) spent the afternoon

constructing new permanent fire rings throughout main camp. Susan stated, "Our kids loved building and working outdoors. The day was well organized and the staff was awesome to work with. We will be back!"



"I hope to introduce the magic and life changing nature of YMCA Camp Kern to more and more guests every year."

~Chris Addison

From Counselor to Executive Director

Each summer, a handful of international staff are selected from hundreds of applications and given the opportunity to join the Kern Summer Staff. The summer of 2005 marked the selection of someone who has become an integral part of Kern. Chris Addison was all of twenty when he departed Newcastle, England and stepped foot in Oregonia, Ohio, where he worked as a main camp counselor.

As happens to many of us, one summer was just not enough. Chris returned for a second summer in 2006, followed by an 18 month stay working Outdoor Education, Summer Camp, and Leadership & Conferencing.

In 2009, the construction of the Ozone Zipline marked a pivotal decision for Kern, who would guide such a ground breaking activity. Chris was selected to lead this new department and over the past five years, has grown the operation into a great asset for Kern. Upon the departure of longtime Executive Director, Jeff Merhige, Kern was fortunate enough to have a passionate and dedicated internal candidate.

Chris Addison began his new position in mid-January. Chris's goals are, "To introduce the magic and life changing nature of YMCA Camp Kern to more and more guests every year." Chris stated, "I wish to build a stronger Alumni base, expand our participation in

programs and continue to be a leader in the camping industry for innovative and unique programming." He also wanted to express, "a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their support, generosity and words of encouragement leading up to, and since, accepting my new position. I feel privileged to have a job that I never consider work, to feel connected with so many wonderful guests and to work with such dedicated people. If more of the world was like camp... the world would be a better place."

Welcome Chris! We are looking forward to watching Kern flourish under your leadership!



The Roaming Pony—Fences are not for me!



Molly enjoying the “greener” grass outside of the fence.

It’s a fine line between free ranged and feral, and Molly, the esteemed escape artist, has crossed it. For many years, Molly has captured the hearts of ranchers and strange looks from guests as she prefers to be on the outside of the fence. Some may say, the grass is not always greener on the other side, but to this determined equine, the grass is definitely tastier.

Ignoring the conventional bounds of pasture and paddock, Molly slips the restrictive confines of fence and gate. This equine menace ranges camp with the same liberated notions of a cat or an alumni. A healthy herd of about 65 look on in jealous admiration at this free spirit..The horses are ready for another season of ranch campers and trail riders.

As for Molly, she occasionally shows up for weekend work on the pony trail, allowing a young camper the chance to ride a legend.

“It’s a fine line between free ranged and feral...”

Skip the Gym—The 500 Needs You!

Many of us have hiked up and down the 500 throughout our days at Kern. Have you ever stopped to wonder if there are really 500 steps? Due to the thousands of school children and guests that have had the opportunity to hike this path, the 500 is in dire need of trail maintenance. Outdoor Education Director, Dave Moran, said, “The 500 provides a beautiful de-

cent of two hundred feet to the valley below for school children to hike to the valley and Ft. Ancient. The 500 is in need of constant maintenance in order to provide kids and guests with a safe and scenic hike.”

The Kern Family Committee is proud to sponsor the Kern Family Work Day to help with much needed trail maintenance. Mark

your calendars, as we will need lots of help to haul loads of gravel to eroded portions of the trail. The event will take place on Sunday, July 13th from 11:00-4:00pm. Please keep your eyes open for more details and sign up information. (Just think, if you join us for this event, perhaps at the end you will know just how many steps there really are!)

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



Kern Family Committee

Erin Crosby
Craig Jolley
Andrea Kaercher
Michele King
Megan Trowbridge
Dave Moran (Kern Staff)
Carl Wargo (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

Kern Family Committee Takes Shape *Con't*

Camp Kern. Over the course of Kern's history, hundreds of thousands for campers, staff, and guests have enjoyed the programs and lands of YMCA Camp Kern. As former guests and staff, we feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful tradition. As history continues to be made each day at Kern, we feel it is important that we not forget the past. The past is where the traditions began.

"Kern is such a magical experience that holds a special place in everyone's heart. Camp is something that every child and adult should have the opportunity to experience," stated committee member, Andrea Kaer-

cher. "I am looking forward to helping Kern continue to build and share traditions for many years to come."

As a committee, we look forward to reconnecting with each of you. If you have questions or would like to get involved with the Kern Family Committee, please contact us at campkernfamily@gmail.com.

