



Timely News for Members of the Friends of Camp Mack

Winter 2024 Issue

Friends of Camp Mack Board Members

Eric Shea - President
Ben Wohlberg - Vice President
Derrick Bransby - Treasurer
Jim Castanzo - Secretary
Glenn Achey
Bob Chaballa
Gary Guare
Connie Guare
Jayme Shea
Logan Startoni
Jonathan Weiss

REMINDER!
If you paid your 2023 dues before November of last year, your 2024 dues are due now!

See page 5 for instructions on how to pay your 2024 dues.

Thank you for becoming a Friend of Camp Mack. Your membership fee supports our ongoing efforts to maintain, sustain, preserve, and promote Camp Mack. Thank you for being a Friend of Camp Mack!

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

As we look back at this past year, we reflect on what we have accomplished, what our plans are for 2024 and to thank our members, donors, and especially those who helped on our Camp Mack projects this past year.

Membership

We've had a great third year as an organization. To all of our members and donors, we say, Thank you! And welcome to all of our new members! We are looking forward to working with you all to help make Camp Mack a great place for youth in the Scouting program to experience the great outdoors, make

lifelong friendships and have fun! We are always looking to recruit more members, so if you know of anyone you think shares the same passion for helping to preserve and promote Camp Mack, feel free to share this newsletter. A link to our membership form is included at the end of this newsletter.

Financial Position

For an organization only in our third year of operation, we are in good shape to accomplish our immediate goals. However, we need to look long-term at those more significant and extensive projects. To accomplish those goals, we'll need more members and, more income. Like any non-profit, we rely on our volunteer's time, and outside contributions, and donations of materials. We have been very fortunate to have friends in the business community who have made material and financial contributions. We can only rely on their generosity to a point before

we will need to tap into our funds to purchase materials needed to complete our projects.

One of the Board's goals for the Friends of Camp Mack is to be open with how we use our funds to better Camp Mack. You will always see a summarized statement of financial position in our newsletter.

We also want to thank all our 2023 donors for your contributions throughout the year. Thank you to our Bronze, Silver, and Gold donors for your extra contributions, and a special thank you to our corporate donors for your extra support this year.

2024 Events

We're very pleased to announce our 2024 Events Schedule! We'll be hosting three awesome events throughout 2024— we hope you can join us!

**Spring Service Day –
Saturday, May 4, 2024**

**Summer Camp Staff Service Day –
Sunday, June 9, 2024**

**Summer Camp Staff Ice Cream Night –
Friday, June 28, 2024**

**Fall Service Day –
Saturday,
October 5, 2024**

More information about these events can be found on page 5 of this newsletter!





Give the Gift of Membership

Are you looking for a gift
that keeps on giving?

Why not give a gift membership
in the Friends of Camp Mack?

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Treasurer's Report

It is a pleasure to provide a Treasurer's report annually to all Friends of Camp Mack. Since our founding, the Board of Directors has made financial transparency a priority in all we do. We hope that this brief report will reinforce that commitment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact myself or another member of the Board.

I am happy to report that FOCM remains on solid financial footing. Thanks to the generosity of our membership and donors, total revenues exceeded \$17,285 in 2023. Total

expenses were \$8,574; \$7,105 of our expenses were material donations to Camp Mack, including tractor implements, paddleboats, a power washer, and miscellaneous supplies. We closed the year with total cash balance of \$25,455 – a year-over-year increase of \$8,712. Our strong financial position will allow us to do great things at Camp Mack in 2024.

Submitted by

Derrick Bransby
Treasurer

Summary of Financial Activities as of 12/31/2023

Revenues

Member Dues	\$1,525.00
Donations	\$11,670.00
Merchandise	\$1,170.00
Other	\$2,921.16
Total Revenues	\$17,286.16

Expenses

Support to Camp Mack	\$7,105.03
Event Expenses	\$355.31
Merchandise	\$812.00
Printing, Postage & Supplies	\$168.67
Other	\$132.77

Total Expenses	\$8,573.78
Total Change in Net Assets	\$8,712.38

2023 Donations to Camp Mack

One of the key goals of our organization has always been to support Camp Mack anyway we can. Throughout the year, the Friends of Camp Mack donated various items to help support and improve Camp Mack. In 2023, we helped to purchase six new paddleboats for use at summer camp,

a new high-powered pressure washer, and four new tractor implements, including a new bucket, brush hog, auger and attachments, and a grapple bucket. We also purchased and donated enough ice cream from our friends at Fox Meadows Creamery to last all summer for members of the camp staff.



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2023 Completed Projects & Events

Summer Camp Set-Up and Registration Assistance

Every summer, just before summer camp begins at Camp Mack, approximately 30 students from a local school come to camp to preform service. Their work includes getting camp set up for the summer camp season. This past summer, the school cancelled their plans. If you recall, the local air was filled with thick smoke blowing down from Canadian wildfires. Local health officials suggested limiting outdoor exposure to the smoke and the school felt it was in the best interest of the student's health to cancel. Camp was still on schedule and help was needed. Over the period of a few days in early June, Friends of Camp Mack and other volunteers jumped into action and completed the work the students were unable to do this year. We want to thank everyone who pitched in to get the camp ready for the Cub Scouts!

The second session of Cub Camp was a complete sell-out. In fact, camp was over booked with over 300 Cub Scouts, parents, and leaders registered to

attend camp. Registering that number of camp participants, helping move gear to camp sites, and the sheer number of people would have easily overtaxed the summer camp staff. Again, volunteers from the Friends of camp Mack showed up to help the staff on this incredibly busy day. Again, we want to thank all those who came out to help the Cub Scouts successfully kick-off their week at camp.

Summer Camp Staff Ice Cream Social

Our support of Camp Mack doesn't stop with our work on camp facilities and grounds. We want to show our appreciation to the young men and women who serve on our Cub Scout Summer Camp staff too. So, on Sunday, June 11, just prior to the start of our Cub Camp sessions, several Friends of Camp Mack Board members provided an ice cream social for our summer camp staff. We provided the ice cream and served our deserving youth staff members. We think the effort was genuinely appreciated by our staff and look forward to continuing the tradition in 2024!



*Old Health Lodge
interior demolition*



Friends of Camp Mack Winter 2024



2023 Completed Projects & Events (continued)

Fall Workday and Membership Meeting

On Saturday, October 7, over 20 Friends of Camp Mack members gathered at camp for day of needed work. Members, many sporting their Friends of Camp Mack apparel, tackled our one big fall project – gutting the old Health Lodge.

Since the new Health Lodge was relocated to the Camp Office this building has been sitting vacant. The structure was sound but the inside was worn and unusable. The Friends of Camp Mack and the Council thought it would be gut the building to get a sense on its soundness so we could evaluate the building's structure.

The demolition included removing the old bathroom and shower, kitchen, walls, floor tiles, and two layers of ceiling and insulation. We filled a large dumpster with the debris. Everyone was surprised by the overall good condition of the structure. The Friends

of Camp Mack had a few ideas on how this building could be repurposed. We presented the idea of converting this unused structure into a new S.T.E.M. Lab for the summer camp staff to use to enhance the existing program offerings. While we're still in negotiations with the PA Dutch Council over the use of the building, we're optimistic we'll be able to work on the project in the coming year.

Our members worked until noon and then stopped for a hearty lunch prepared by our catering team. After lunch, we held our annual membership meeting and generated some great ideas for our upcoming projects. We all had great satisfaction knowing we put a real dent in a much-needed project. After lunch, most members went back to work to complete the work on the old Health Lodge.

We would like to thank Logan Startoni and Don Numer for preparing a delicious lunch for the participants.

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Old Health Lodge interior demolition



Friends of Camp Mack Winter 2024

Spring Service Day - Saturday, May 4

We hope you'll join us for a day of service at Camp Mack early this spring to help get camp ready for events throughout May and June. On Saturday May 4th, we'll be working on campsite repairs and improvements, powerwashing, and doing some general

cleanup around camp. As always, we'll provide lunch for those that come out to help for the day! To register for this free event - please email Eric Shea (eric Shea@friendsofcampmack.org) by April 26th!

Summer Camp Staff Service Day - Sunday, June 9

Plan to join us for a day of service at Camp Mack to help prepare camp for summer. On Sunday June 9th, we'll be cleaning up camp from various spring events and helping the camp staff move in for the summer. We'll also be doing

some landscaping and clean up work in the campsites to help get ready for Summer Camp programs! To register for this free event - please email Eric Shea (eric Shea@friendsofcampmack.org) by May 31st!



Ice Cream Social with the Staff - Friday, June 28

Come join us for our annual Camp Ice Cream Social with the Staff at Camp Mack on Friday, June 28, 2024. It's a great way to help, meet the young men and women serving the

cub scout campers, and enjoy some awesome Fox Meadows Creamery ice cream! To register for this free event - please email Eric Shea (eric Shea@friendsofcampmack.org) by June 21st!

Annual Member Meeting and Fall Service Day - Saturday, October 5

Join us for our third annual member meeting and service day, to be held on Saturday, October 5 starting at 8:30 AM. We'll be performing fall service projects around Camp in the morning and enjoying lunch during our annual

member meeting. Although the morning service projects wrap up at noon, members are welcome to remain after the meeting to wrap up the service projects we started in the morning. Stay tuned for more details!

To join and pay your dues by mail download the PDF of the membership form found [HERE](#):

Complete the form and mail along with your membership payment to:

Friends of Camp Mack, Inc
P.O. Box 56
Landisville, PA 17538
Make checks payable to:
Friends of Camp Mack, Inc

Annual dues cover the period from January 1 through December 31.





In Memory of Michael “MJ” Stanilla Jr.

In late November 2023, the Scouting community mourned the loss of Michael “MJ” Stanilla Jr., who tragically passed away due to health complications at the age of 23. His family generously donated memorial funds to the Friends of Camp Mack to be used in his honor. In early 2024, the Friends of Camp Mack will construct a pavilion located in the Staff Site in MJ’s honor using the funds donated by many individuals and companies in his honor, along with a large donation from the Archers for Scouts, a matching grant from a local donor, and our own funds. The MJ Pavilion, as we

have been calling it, will provide the summer camp staff a great place to hold meetings or wind down after a long, hot summer camp day, and can be used year-round by the Boy Scouts, Archers, and our own members. While MJ’s time to be physically at home at Camp Mack was too short, his legacy of leadership and service at Camp Mack will live on through this pavilion built in his memory. If you’re interested in contributing a donation towards the construction of the MJ Pavilion, please email Eric Shea (eric Shea@friendsofcampmack.org).



Ranger Gary Guare Retirement Celebration

At the end of May 2024, in just a few short months, our beloved Ranger, Gary Guare, will retire after 39 years of dedicated service to Camp Mack. Please plan to join the Friends of Camp Mack and the Pennsylvania Dutch Council, as we celebrate Gary Guare’s career and life at Camp Mack on Sunday April 28th at Camp Mack, starting at 12:30 PM. We will be honoring both Gary and

Connie Guare’s service to the Scouting movement at Camp Mack, will enjoy a short program and light refreshments, and opportunity to talk to our favorite ranger as heads off to retirement. If you are interested in contributing to a retirement gift for Gary, please follow this link to make a donation: <https://padutch.tentaroo.com/guare>



Looking for a unique gift
for someone special?
Why not consider something
from the Friends of Camp Mack
merchandise collection.

Merchandise

We encourage all members to purchase some of our great looking merchandise so you can show your support of our organization and our beloved Camp Mack. We currently have a great selection with more items being considered. Sales of our Friends of Camp Mack merchandise have been robust. The Pennsylvania Dutch Council has been gracious in allowing us to sell our

merchandise at the Camp Mack Trading Post and their Pennsylvania Dutch Council Scout Store. Be sure to visit the merchandise section of our website to see what is available and to purchase for yourself or as a gift. If you order merchandise online, you'll be able to pick it up at any Friends of Camp Mack event! To place a merchandise order, click [HERE](#).



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Summer Camp Staff Update

Hi Friends!

Camp Mack had another fantastic summer season in 2023! It took us some time, but we're finally back at some pre-covid numbers in terms of attendance. This year we had 428 youth campers, up from 248 in 2022. The last time we had this many scouts with us was in 2019, which was 439 youth campers. While most of our campers are from Lancaster and Lebanon counties, we are starting to see an increase in out of council packs joining us as other areas are no longer offering Cub Scout resident camps.

I need to give a huge THANK YOU to the Friends for your help this summer. First, the Friends helped get new paddle boats for our campers to use at the lake. While they can seem like a silly piece of equipment, they are the only boats that some of our campers can use due to safety guidelines. Your support has helped all of our campers participate in program, and maybe even create an

interest in boating. I also need to thank the volunteers who helped our staff set up camp and with our crazy first check in day (we had over 300 our first week!). I have no idea how we would have gotten through that first day without your help.

As we look forward to the 2024 season, we are always looking for people to join our camp staff. If you happen to know a person you think would be a great staff member, don't hesitate to get in contact with me at campdirector@campmack524.org. We can only continue to offer a great program a Camp Mack when we have great staff members.

Whether you've joined us set up camp, gut an old building, serve the staff ice cream, or just simply paid your dues, I want to thank you for your support of Camp Mack. I hope to see you at camp!

– Ben Wohlberg, Summer Camp Director



Help Us Continue the Legacy of Camp Mack

As our organization grows in support of Camp Mack, our need for financial assistance will also increase. With our goal of preserving and promoting both the property and programs at Camp Mack, the Friends of Camp Mack will seek to continually

increase our level of support over time. In order to prepare for the future needs of Camp Mack, we plan to establish a restricted endowment fund to help produce earned income each year through managed investments. The income earned each year will help to fund

our projects at Camp Mack, while the fund principal will remain in perpetuity. If you are interested in helping to jump start our efforts to create an endowment fund, please contact endowment@friendsofcampmack.org.