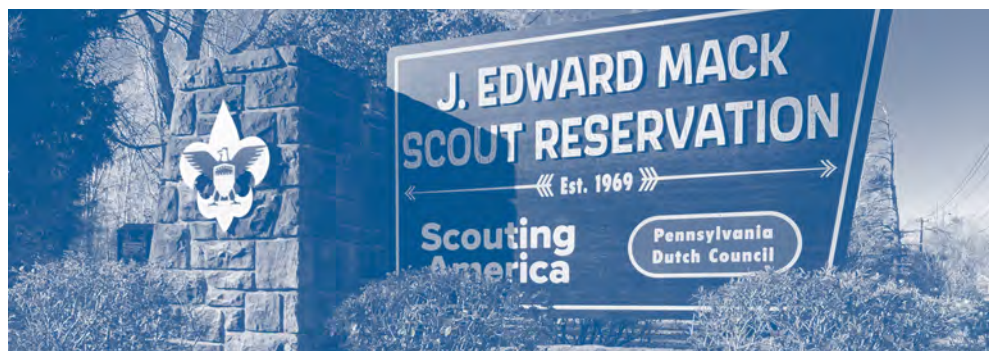




Timely News for Members of the Friends of Camp Mack

Winter 2025 Issue

Friends of Camp Mack Board Members

Eric Shea – President
Ben Wohlberg – Vice President
Derrick Bransby – Treasurer
Jim Castanzo – Secretary
Avery Ford – Camp Mack Ranger
Glenn Achey
Bob Chaballa
Jason Davis
Gary Guare
Connie Guare
Jayme Shea
Logan Startoni
Jonathan Weiss

REMINDER!
Your 2025 dues are due now!

See page 6 for instructions on how to pay your 2025 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

2024 was our busiest and most productive year as an organization yet! As a group, we can reflect on our many accomplishments in 2024, our plans for 2025, and to thank our members, donors, and especially those who helped on our Camp Mack projects this past year.

Membership

We've had a tremendous fourth year as an organization. To all our members and donors, we say, THANK YOU!! And welcome to all 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 fourth full year of operations, we remain in a strong financial position. 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 significant material and financial contributions over the past four years. 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 this newsletter. We also want to thank all our 2024 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.

2025 Events

We're very pleased to announce our 2025 Events Schedule! We'll be hosting many awesome events throughout 2025– we hope you can join us!

Spring Service Day – Saturday, April 5

PA Bowhunters Festival – Friday April 11 thru Sunday April 13

Summer Camp Staff Service Day – Saturday, June 14

Summer Camp Staff Ice Cream Night – Friday, June 27

Fall Service Day – Saturday, August 23
FOCM Fridays – 10 Friday Service Days throughout the year!

More information about these events can be found on pages 5 and 6 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?

REMINDER!
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dues are
due now!

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on how to pay your 2025 dues.

Treasurer's Report

Financial transparency is a priority for the Friends of Camp Mack, as we strongly believe our members should know where our money goes each year. 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 \$32,189 in 2024. Total

expenses were \$30,835; \$22,326 of our expenses were mainly material donations to Camp Mack, including the new Camp Mack entrance sign, the MJ Stanilla Pavilion, tractor implements, contribution to the renovated bathrooms, folding tables, and miscellaneous tools and supplies. We also contributed just over \$2,200 in cash to the Pennsylvania Dutch Council for programs at Camp Mack.

Submitted by

Derrick Bransby
Treasurer

Summary of Financial Activities as of 11/30/2024

Revenues

Member Dues	\$1,625.00
Donations	\$29,590.39
Interest Income	\$4.63
Merchandise Sales	\$969.00
Total Revenues	\$32,189.02

Expenses

Donations & Sponsorships	\$4,018.66
Service Project expenses	\$22,326.61
Event Expenses	\$2,005.78
Merchandise	\$815.50
Printing, Postage & Supplies	\$1,262.68
Other	\$406.58

Total Expenses	\$30,835.81
Total Change in Net Assets	\$1,353.21

2024 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 2024, we helped purchase new Camp Mack entrance sign, constructed the MJ Stanilla Pavilion, contributed

cash towards the remodeled restrooms near the main pavilion, and purchased tractor implements and miscellaneous tools and supplies. We also once again purchased and donated enough ice cream from our friends at Fox Meadows Creamery to last all summer for members of the camp staff.



2024 Completed Projects & Events



New MJ Stanilla Pavilion

MJ Pavilion – In early spring, we completed the construction of the Michael “MJ” Stanilla Jr. Pavilion, who tragically passed away due to health complications in November 2023. The MJ Pavilion is located behind the Staff Site and was constructed using the foundation from the old Staff Shower House that had sat empty for almost 30 years. This pavilion is available year round, but also provides the summer camp staff with a great place to hold meetings or training out of the weather.



Archers for Scouts Participant

Archers for Scouts – The Friends of Camp Mack assisted the Archers for Scouts group at the Annual PA Spring Bowhunters Festival in early April by helping with food service and preparing for the weekend. We served up two days of made to order breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals for the archers at the Festival. In mid-2024, the Archers for Scouts group became part of FOCM, and we’re super excited to carry on their 25+ years of service to the Spring Bowhunters Festival!

Metal Roofs on Hyman and Swarr – With funds provided by the PA Dutch Council, members of FOCM, the Boy Scouts, the Hammer Creek Hunt Club, and local businesses all worked at replacing the roofs on Hyman Pavilion and Swarr Lodge. Over the period of four days, we removed the shingle roofs and replaced them with new, shiny green metal roofs. Our hope is to continue the roof replacements around camp until everything is under a green metal roof in the future! Thanks to everyone that pitched in for these labor intensive roof replacement projects!



New Metal Roof on Swarr Lodge

Gary Guare Retirement Celebration – At the end of May 2024, our beloved Ranger, Gary Guare, retired after 39 years of dedicated service to Camp Mack and the PA Dutch Council. With over 200 people in attendance, FOCM and the PA Dutch Council hosted a great afternoon of laughs, tears, and a ton of gratitude for our retiring super ranger in late April. We were able to provide Gary and Connie with a few gifts for their journey as they travel around the country in their RV, enjoying a much deserved retirement! Congratulations Gary and Connie!

Spring Service Day – In early June, we hosted our spring service day which helps the staff get ready for their first days of staff week each summer. This year was no different, as 25 of our members spent the day cleaning up from spring events at Camp Mack, fixing campsite issues, and preparing camp for the summer months.



New Metal Roof on Hyman Pavillion

Bathrooms at Main Pavilion – We were happy to contribute to the PA Dutch Council’s bathroom renovation project just in time for summer camp. The new bathrooms are bright, private, and ADA compliant. Thanks to our friends at the Council and Spadaro Contracting LLC, who completed the project, for a much-needed renovation to these bathrooms!

Staff Ice Cream Night – At our now-traditional ice cream night, we once again hosted the staff for a fun night of hanging out in the dining hall and plentiful buffet of ice cream from Fox Meadows. We made sure to leave plenty of extra ice cream in the freezer so the staff could enjoy it throughout the rest of the summer!

(Continued on next page.)



2024 Completed Projects & Events (continued)



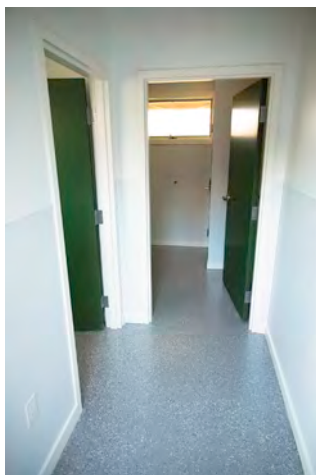
Demolition of the old Camp Mack sign

Fall Service Day – At our Fall Service Day in October, we had 14 people in attendance working on lots of different projects around camp. We completed some landscaping projects at the Training Center, front entrance, ranges and maintenance area; painted trim at the Training Center and Campmaster Cabin; completed electrical work at the Campmaster Cabin; pressure-washed the backdrop at the Campfire Circle; and prepped for future wood splitting parties. We also held our annual member meeting and enjoyed a great lunch from our catering team!

Camp Entrance Sign – In early November, we orchestrated the replacement of the front entrance sign with a brand new, beautiful sign from our friends at Stoner Graphix in Hummelstown. The original camp sign was deteriorating very quickly and has desperately needed attention for a long time. We'll also be replacing the landscaping in the spring to really bring this area of camp to life! We hope you love the new sign as much as we do!



The brand new Camp Mack entrance sign



Renovated restrooms near the main pavilion.



Gary Guare Retirement Celebration





2025 Project Plans



Campsite Pavilions –There is a strong need for a pavilion in each campsite. The smaller, individual tarps are not adequate especially on rainy days. Our hope is to construct a medium sized pavilion, similar to the MJ Pavilion (see page 3), in each site in the coming years. Therefore, we'll look at the campsites that are used the most and prioritize completing campsite pavilions as funds become available.



Campsite Platform Reconfigurations – For the past few years, we have been patching and reconfiguring platforms in virtually every campsite. Many platforms are in desperate needed of repair with many beyond repair. Because of the slope in several sites, and for safety reasons, we need to reconfigure many of the platforms. We will be working with Avery, our Camp Ranger, to determine next steps and funding.

Front Entrance Sign Landscaping – To go along with the beautiful new camp sign, we'll be working on replacing and updating the landscaping around the sign in the spring. We really want the new sign and stonework to look great when you arrive at Camp Mack! If you have experience with landscape design or are interested in helping with this landscaping project, please email Eric Shea (eric Shea@friendsofcampmack.org).



Fundraiser Letter Campaign – In 2023 the Friends of Camp Mack sent out request for donations letters to 78 letters to various organizations. This letter campaign netted us \$12,000 in donations. This year we sent out approximately 700 letters. The letters were mailed in early November. We are hoping for a good return on the investment of time, printing, and postage.

We prepared a flyer describing all the projects we completed in 2024. That flyer is being sent to all of the organizations who have previously given in the past to show how we have invested their contributions. As donations come in, this same flyer will be sent to all new organizations along with a thank you letter.

Planned Service Days



Cub Scout Open House & Spring Service Day - April 5, 2025 – 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 April and May. On Saturday April 5th, we'll be working on campsite repairs and improvements, general cleanup around camp, and preparation for the Bowhunters Festival. We'll also be working with the Susquehanna District from the Pennsylvania Dutch Council, as they will be hosting an open house day at camp at the same time. 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 28th!



30th Annual PA Spring 3D Bowhunters Festival - April 12-13, 2025 – Friends of Camp Mack is taking on the responsibility of running the food service aspect of this annual event at Camp Mack, and will be helping Ranger Avery Ford with the maintenance aspect of the event. We will be recruiting volunteers to help set up and stage this event, check in, meal prep, and clean up when the festival concludes. We will need a significant amount of manpower to assist with this event. More information and a request for volunteers will be coming within the next few weeks.

(More Planned Service Days on the next page.)

Summer Camp Staff Service Day – Sunday, June 14, 2025 – We hope you'll join us for a day of service at Camp Mack early this spring to help get camp ready for summer camp and the hot summer months. We'll be working on finishing setting up canvas tents and cots, getting campsites ready for campers, power washing, 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 June 6th.



Summer Camp Staff Ice Cream Night - Friday June 27, 2025 – Come join us for our annual Camp Ice Cream Social with the Staff at Camp Mack on Friday, June 27. 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 (ericshea@friendsofcampmack.org) by June 20th!



Fall Service Day - Saturday August 23, 2025 – We hope you'll join us for a day of service at Camp Mack late summer to help get camp ready for fall events. On Saturday, August 23rd, we'll be working on cleaning up from summer camp, preparing for fall events, and completing some maintenance projects 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 August 15th!



FOCM Friday Service Days – This past fall, Friends of Camp Mack volunteers began to meet regularly on selected Fridays of each month at camp to perform various service projects.

We have decided to make the FOCM Friday Service Days an official, monthly event on the following Fridays:

January 3, 2025	April 4, 2025	September 5, 2024	December 5, 2025
February 7, 2025	May 9, 2025	October 3, 2024	
March 7, 2025	August 1, 2025	November 7, 2024	

We'll spend these FOCM Fridays helping Ranger Avery Ford with projects around camp from 8 AM to 3 PM. Lunch will be provided. To register for these FOCM Fridays - please email Eric Shea (eric Shea@friendsofcampmack.org) a week or more before each work day!

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.

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Planned Service Days



As we approach the end of the year, many of you may be looking for a way to spread some holiday cheer through a charitable contribution before we start 2025. If that's the case, we can certainly use the help at Camp Mack this winter! Below is a list of several projects and estimated material costs we'd like to tackle at camp in the near future! If you'd like to sponsor anything on the list below or even a portion of an item below, or on the linked Amazon Wish List, please let us know by replying to this email! Your donation to the Friends of Camp Mack is a fully deductible charitable contribution, and we accept cash, check, or credit card payments.

FOCM Project List and Estimated Costs



Exterior Lights at Dellinger Lodge	\$100.00
Exterior Lights at Esbensshade Lodge	\$100.00
Exterior Lights at Blair Lodge	\$100.00
Composite Boards to make new campsite signs	\$100.00
Bathroom Vent Fans at the Training Center	\$175.00
Gutterguards for the Training Center	\$250.00
AED Replacement battery	\$275.00
Split Rail Fencing at the Training Center's Upper Lot	\$300.00
Split Rail Fencing at the Training Center's Lower Lot	\$300.00
Materials for repairs to Human Foosball Court	\$325.00
Picnic Table metal frame and materials	\$350.00
Replace two windows at Esbensshade Lodge	\$550.00
Replace doors at Esbensshade Lodge	\$750.00
Stain and supplies to stain/seal Dellinger Lodge exterior	\$750.00
Exterior Staff Lounge Siding Repairs	\$1,000.00
Replace doors at the Maintenance Building	\$1,250.00
Replace circulator pump on booster heater at the Kitchen	\$2,700.00





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!

As this year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to all of our Friends for their incredible support. Your continued donations of gifts and time have made this summer camp a memorable experience for all our campers.

Thanks to your generosity, we provided our campers with essential resources, equipment, and exciting activities, making this year's camp a resounding success. This summer, 449 Scouts joined us for fun and adventure at Camp Mack, up from 428 the previous year. We are continuing to see more interest from packs outside of our council, and the ones who joined us had nothing but great things to say about our beautiful camp.



Now is when the fun begins planning our 2025 season. As usual, we are looking for staff to join us. If you know anyone you think would be a good fit for camp staff, please have them fill out an application at <https://padutch.tentaroo.com/campstaffapplication>. If they have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the email address below.

Again, thank you for helping make camp possible. We hope you can join us for the Camp Mack Mysteries in 2025!

Yours in Scouting,
Ben "Barney" Wohlberg

Summer Camp Director
J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation
campdirector@campmack524.org



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.