

# Camp Wyandot, Inc

# Alumni News

Spring 2017

## Camp Wyandot, Inc Over a Century of Pride and Participation

Our Alumni includes past generations of club members, volunteers, campers, and staff. And by past, we mean as recently as 2016 or as long ago as 1913 when the Ohio nonprofit organization was founded as the Columbus & Franklin County Council of Camp Fire Girls. Camp Wyandot was purchased in 1928. Imagine the number of campers that have hiked those hills or sat by Lake Atagahi. All of us talk about how meaningful those memories are-whenver we talk with alumni the first thing they recount is a shared experience with a friend they made at camp.

Almost four years ago, the organization became Camp Wyandot, Inc., an independent nonprofit, and created a mission statement. Our Mission: *Camp Wyandot provides an inclusive nurturing environment for youth to have fun, make friends and explore the great outdoors.*

Your board has been working on a strategic plan. They discussed whether the mission was relevant today. Are we making a difference in the lives of today's children? They decided it was and not to make a change. The board is committed to the organization and give their time, talents and money. They willingly represent us to the community and funding organizations, and reach out to friends and colleagues who can provide their expertise.

Through our camp programs, Explorer Clubs and special events, youth learn critical life skills that equip them to deal with an increasingly complex world. Our programs continue to allow children safe places to experience the outdoors, connect with others and have the downtime that is so important today, and it allows them to discover what their unique gifts are. These group experiences are a microcosm for the rest of the world.

In 2016 Camp Wyandot marked 88 years of continuous operation as an overnight camp. Camp continues to meet the American Camp Association standards as an accredited camp. Last summer day camp and six weeks of overnight camp were held at Camp Wyandot. The number of campers has been growing for the last five years. Last year 521 campers attended camp and 41 camperships were provided. This shows our commitment to helping children experience camp that would not ordinarily be able to attend.

This summer a new Camp Otonwe day camp will be held at John Beltz Retreat Center near Hoover Dam. Be sure to read about it on our website and help promote to your friends and family on the North side of Columbus.

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## In Memoriam 2016-2017

**William Houston**, husband of former Camp Fire employee, Terri Maloney-Houston. Terri was our office manager and to this day helps with our Staff & CIT mugs every summer.

**Bette Jenks**, became a Camp Fire girl in the early 1930's and remained an ardent supporter of this youth serving agency throughout her life. Spanning 2 generations as a leader for both of her daughters' groups. She also served several terms on the Board of Directors.

**Louise Swartz**, a Camp Fire mom before becoming a Unicef volunteer. We will never forget what our leaders, counselors, and volunteers have done for us & our organization.

**Randall Wilson**, as life partner of our alum, Marie Trudeau, Randy attended several of our Camp Wyandot events over the years.



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### **Rekindling Old Friendships**

Camp Wyandot also gives Alumni opportunities to reconnect. Over 160 people attended our annual luncheon and shared their stories. They heard testimonials from today's campers, CITs, staff, and other Alumni reflecting on what Camp Wyandot has meant to them. Approximately 80 Alumni participated in the Alumni Weekend and others made visits to camp. The dates for Alumni Weekend in 2017 are August 18-20. Don't miss the fun! See other special opportunities later in this newsletter or on our website.

Whether you are an Alum just getting started on life's trail or have years of accomplishing amazing things across the world and in local communities, we remain connected by common experiences and memories.

### **Addressing Future Growth**

With growing pains, aging facilities, and new regulations, we continue to have challenges. However, with designated grants, donations, and some volunteer labor we were able to complete a number of projects in 2016.

A garage/workshop was built outside the pool room in the fall with volunteer labor and donations. It includes a second floor for staff housing and off season use. The finishing touches will be completed before this summer.

After years of planning the board agreed to replace the much needed Egypt bathhouse in phases. The first phase was the completion of the boy's addition in time for use last summer. The biggest project in 2017 is the completion of the girl's side of the bathhouse. Although it has been started, to date we have raised enough money to complete the boy's side but still need about \$20,000 to complete the girl's side before the summer. We are close, but the last is the hardest. **Your help is still needed.**

A Welcome Center will be completed this Spring with volunteer labor and restricted donations. This will be a shelter to greet parents and guests as they check into camp.

These are all major improvements and evidence of our pride in Camp Wyandot. We are growing, stable and achieving goals that continue to enrich the lives of today's youth and our community. These achievements are not just ours, they are yours. We are grateful for the contributions of our donors, volunteers, and supporters.

It is important that you stay connected, engaged and enriched no matter how many years or miles may separate you from Camp Wyandot.

Thank you.

*Connie Coutellier, Executive Director*

## **Camp Wyandot Bequests**

A bequest is one of the easiest charitable gifts to make. You can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to Camp Wyandot, Inc as part of your estate plan, or you can make a bequest using a beneficiary designation on your IRA, 401(k) savings plan or pension plan.

If you have already made a bequest to Camp Fire of Central Ohio, discuss with your legal advisor if it is clear in the document that Camp Wyandot Inc will be the beneficiary. In 2013 we changed our name and affiliation from Camp Fire to Camp Wyandot but we remained the same corporation as registered with the State of Ohio. If you still chose to give to us, avoid any confusion and make sure the appropriate beneficiary designation of Camp Wyandot, Inc has been made. Please contact us with any questions.

Let's help Camp Wyandot outlive us all!

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## **Update Your Contact Info with Camp Wyandot, Inc**

Help us update our Alumni Database! Please visit our website and re-register as an Alumni with all your current information!

If you are unable to access our website, please send an email to [info@campwyandot.org](mailto:info@campwyandot.org) with your contact information or send it to us through "snail mail"! Thank you!

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## **Camp Wyandot Wish List**

As we prepare for the upcoming camp season, we have a number of items on our wish list.

Please visit our website for a full list of our desired items or to make a donation!

[www.campwyandot.org](http://www.campwyandot.org)

# National Volunteer Week: April 23-29, 2017

Kick off National Volunteer Week by attending our Spring Work Weekend at Camp Wyandot, April 21-23! Visit camp for the weekend at no cost and help us work to prepare for the summer season! Registration is open on the website!

Camp Wyandot, Inc would like to thank our volunteer Board of Directors and all of our volunteers who have given their precious time to help at or promote our programs and events, our day and overnight camps, or the office.

A special thanks to our Wyandot Explorer Leaders: Ingrid Biery, Emily & Joe Bruskotter, Missy Donovan, Alice Foeller, Connie Warren, and Tammy Chabria.

Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers for your passion and dedication to our organization!

Contact the office today to see how you can make a difference! You can also sign up on our website as a volunteer! For more information on our volunteer opportunities, please contact us at 614.481.8227 or [info@campwyandot.org](mailto:info@campwyandot.org)

## 2017 Board of Directors

Nichole Braun  
**Board Chair**

Jessica Pierfelice  
**Vice Chair**

Deborah Weber  
**Secretary**

Kathy Petrucci  
**Treasurer**

Alice Foeller  
Rick Grawemeyer  
Sue Lavitchka  
Allen Singer  
Victoria Stephenson  
Lina Taylor  
Susan Tilgner

## Ways to Give Back to Camp Wyandot

Camp Wyandot, Inc is a part of both **Kroger Community Rewards** and **Amazon Smile**. If you designate us as your charitable organization, we receive rewards every time you shop!

**Amazon Smile** is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you! When you shop at **[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)**, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus of Amazon donating a portion of the purchase to your designated charitable organization!

With **Kroger Community Rewards** you can help fundraise with the swipe of a card! Each time you shop at Kroger, you can earn Camp Wyandot, Inc money through this program. Simply log in to your Kroger Plus Card account, under "Account Settings" scroll down and click "Community Rewards", enter "83511" for our organization and click "Save". Then just use your Kroger Plus Card as normal while shopping!

Spread the word! Let's earn some money for Camp Wyandot!

## Upcoming Camp Wyandot Events

### Spring Work Weekend

April 21-23

### Outdoor Skills Day

April 29

### Camp Wyandot Open House

April 30

### Camp Otonwe Open House

May 7

### Family Camping Weekend

May 19-21

### Alumni Weekend

August 18-20

### Fall Work Weekend

September 22-24

### Halloween in the Hills

October 14

### 13th Annual Luncheon

November 11

## Visit Camp Wyandot

Our beautiful camp in the Hocking Hills is available for rent! Water is available from April thru October and our specialty cabins have electricity and heat if you are interested in winter camping!

We can provide meals and programming for groups as well!

Contact the office for rates or to make your reservation today!

### Camp Wyandot, Inc

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## Weekends at Wyandot!

### Spring Work Weekend: April 21-23

We are starting to prepare for another busy camp season, so bring your family and friends to the Hocking Hills for a weekend full of Camp Wyandot community and restoration projects! There is no cost to attend, but you will be working! Please register online today!

### Family Camping Weekend: May 19-21

Reconnect with your family through this shared and unique experience! Lodging will be in cabins and all meals provided in the Dining Hall. We will have a variety of activities available to offer you including canoeing/kayaking, archery, and nature activities or you can do your own thing! Registration is available on our website!

### Alumni Weekend: August 18-20

Join us for Alumni Weekend at Camp Wyandot! Enjoy sharing old memories and creating new ones with family and friends while you visit camp, reunite with Alumni and extend your network as we embrace the Camp Wyandot community.

## 13th Annual Camp Wyandot Luncheon

Saturday, November 11, 2017

11:00am-2:00pm

Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center  
1630 Schrock Rd, Columbus, Oh 43229

Come early to socialize, see memorabilia, and make your bids for the silent auction. Lunch is from Noon-1:00pm. Cost? You decide. There is not preset cost for the luncheon. If after the program about Camp Wyandot you wish to nurture our growth and support our programs with an additional donation, we would be very grateful!

### Camp Wyandot, Inc Staff

Connie Coutellier  
Executive Director/  
Wyandot Camp Director

Sara Schaefer Graves  
Program Coordinator/  
Office Manager

Charles Woodrum, Jr  
Facilities Manager