



**CAMP
WYANDOT**

Annual Report

2024

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4400 N High St. #413

Columbus, OH 43214



Our Mission



Camp Wyandot provides an inclusive nurturing environment for youth to have fun, make friends and explore the great outdoors.



We are thrilled to officially welcome **April Hoy** as the new Executive Director of Camp Wyandot! April has served as our Camp Director and Interim Executive Director throughout 2024, demonstrating exceptional leadership, dedication and a deep commitment to our mission.

With 18 years of experience in camp and outdoor programming, April brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to her role. Her work with Leave No Child Inside Board of Directors highlights her dedication to connecting youth with nature, a value that resonates deeply with Camp Wyandot's mission.

In December, we were delighted to offer April the position of Executive Director, and we could not be more excited for what lies ahead under her leadership. Her Vision and expertise will undoubtedly guide us toward a bright and impactful future.



Kit Goodwin serves as our dedicated Office Manager, Overseeing record-keeping, managing website updates, and handling donations. She is also the friendly voice assisting campers during the registration process for both camps.

Chuck Woodruff fulfills the role of Site Manager, tackling the challenges of full summer operations, security, weather related issues, and infrastructure management. He collaborates closely with the facilities committee to ensure the safety and upkeep of the site for year-round use.

Colleen George is an invaluable part-time bookkeeper who generously donates her time to work weekends and special events, such as the luncheon.



Staff Spotlight

Amber Root and her husband Brandon live in Logan with their three children Autumn (Turtle), Oakley and Brooks. Amber (Whisper) started as the Camp Nurse during the summer of 2024. Whisper has both the professional skills and experience coupled with a nurturing heart and sense of adventure that has made her the perfect fit as the Camp Wyandot Nurse. Whisper will hike any hill and cross any creek to meet her young patient where they are, which makes us all feel safe and cared for while in camp or on a campout!



We have 39 seasonal staff between both Wyandot and Otonwe. We are also thankful to have a great Counselor In Training program at Wyandot where we had 24 CIT's and we hope to bring the program to Camp Otonwe in 2025.

Camp Wyandot, Inc. Staff

April Hoy, Executive Director
Kit Goodwin, Office Manager
Chuck Woodrum Jr. Facilities Manager
Deb Zawacki, Otonwe Day Camp Director



2024: 97 years of Growth, Progress, and Challenges

Camp Wyandot had an incredible year, welcoming a total of 642 campers to our overnight Camp in the beautiful Hocking Hills and 257 campers to our Otonwe Day camp near the Hoover Reservoir.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to provide 28 camperships, ensuring that even more children experienced the magic of camp.



Otonwe



A big thank you to **Deb "Wizard" Zawacki**, under Deb's leadership the past 6 years Camp Otonwe has grown from just 15 campers the first year to the blooming program that it is now. In 2024 Camp Otonwe served kids aged 5-12, teen helpers and a junior leadership program.

Wyandot

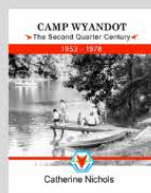
Camp Wyandot in 2024 had another great summer of hiking, environmental education, outdoor living skills, boating, archery and most importantly making friends. Thank you to all of our campers, parents, staff and donors for making the 97th year magical.





We are excited to announce that Camp Wyandot has successfully renewed our ACA (American Camp Association) accreditation for another five years! This achievement reflects our commitment to providing a safe, high-quality camp experience for all. A heartfelt thank you to Margie Dooley (Doc) for her dedication and expertise throughout the renewal process—her hard work made this possible. We are proud to continue meeting the highest standards in camping and look forward to many more years.

Thank you to **Catherine Nichols** the second book in our History of Camp Wyandot series "Camp Wyandot, The Second Quarter Century, 1983-1978" was released.



In November we hosted the 20th annual luncheon, The call of The Fire. With over 150 people in attendance it made a beautiful day for old and new friends of Camp Wyandot.



Thank you to the volunteers who helped install a native pollinator garden this spring. We are excited to share the benefits of native plants for pollinators supporting biodiversity and the relationship between plants and insects.



Facility Improvements



Camp Wyandot received **\$100,000** for the State of Ohio through a one time strategic capital grant fund. These funds will be used to rehabilitate cabins on cabin row and advanced hill units. After meeting with contractors and an architect we made the decision to start with Wasp and Lion cabin, replacing the foundation, porches, floors and roofs as needed. The kitchen tebin's foundation in Shawnee will be reinforced, new weather canopies to both Shawnee and Sioux tebins, and needed repairs to the tree houses, specifically the roofs to prevent water run off.

If you would like to contribute to this project or to another facility it would be greatly appreciated!



Letter from the Board of Directors

Camp Wyandot Members,

The Camp Wyandot Board of Directors are eight volunteers who are responsible for making sure that Camp Wyandot has adequate resources to advance its mission. We have had a very busy year in 2024.

Much of our work is done through Board of Directors Committees – Facilities, Luncheon/Fundraising/Marketing, HR/Organizational, Nominating, Inclusion, and Conservation Easement Committees. Committee memberships is a combination of Camp Wyandot members and Board members. The Conservation Easement also has a Metro Parks member. Let's review committee accomplishments for 2024.

Facilities Committee: The Committee Chair is Rob Graham. Camp Wyandot was awarded a \$100,000 grant to repair our historic cabins on Cabin Row. We have hired Hocking County Services, LLC, a construction company experienced in restoration of rustic buildings. They are currently repairing the damage done to the roof of the Welcome Center done by a fallen tree, and will begin the initial phase of the cabin restoration project, starting with Wasp and Lion cabins. We also had a \$15,000 grant that was used to construct new porches on Porcupine and Bear cabins. Chuck will be installing wall-mounted heating and cooling units in Cook's Cabin and Lookout. We also had to replace the waste station pump for the septic system.

Conservation Easement Committee: The Committee Chair is Jessica Pierfelice. This committee was formed to review all projects at Camp that are governed by our Conservation Easement with Metro Parks. The committee has reviewed and approved projects for the new porches on Porcupine and Bear cabins, and mitigation of hazardous trees by Jacob Sauer's arborist company. In January, the committee will review Tim Ascher's Restoration/Rehabilitation plan for the tree removal areas from October 2023. Mr. Ascher's plan involves four steps:

1. GPS mapping of Camp Wyandot's property using Avenza, a mobile application. This is in progress now. We will overlap the property lines on Mr. Ascher's GPS survey of the 41 tree removal sites that require mitigation. This will give us a good picture of the scope of our Rehabilitation/Restoration Plan.
2. Debris Removal in the timbered areas, hanging limbs and treetops on the forest floor will be removed this winter. This is to make the site safe for Camp Wyandot campers and staff.
3. Of the 41 removal sites identified by Mr. Ascher, he has selected 10 sites for restoration in Spring 2025. The first is invasive mitigation by spot treatment with herbicides by a Commercial Pesticide Application Licensed professional. This step will require approval by the CEC and Metro Parks. There will also be mechanical removal of invasive plants by Camp Wyandot volunteers.
4. Mr. Ascher has also selected 2 sites for replanting in Spring 2025. This will require 40 bare root trees for one site, and 30 bare root trees for the second site. He estimates 10 to 15 volunteers can do the replanting in 10 hours – a weekend project at Camp.

Luncheon/Fundraising/Marketing Committee: Camp Wyandot again partnered with Kiwanis Club of Columbus to sell tickets for the Buckeye Football Ticket Raffle. The raffle was for 2 tickets to the 2024 OSU home football games. The tickets were \$5 each. Camp Wyandot kept \$3/raffle ticket and The Columbus Kiwanis Foundation kept \$2/raffle ticket. Board members were the ticket sellers and we sold 545 tickets, raising \$1635 for camperships for this summer. This is a 44% increase over last year's sales.

The Camp Wyandot Luncheon was again held at the Aladdin Shrine Event Center. The Luncheon net revenue of just over \$18,000. This is a decrease in revenue from the previous year. However, during the 2024 Luncheon we hosted more attendees (over 150), many of whom are new to Camp Wyandot. Many, many thanks to Brynn Schaefer and the Luncheon Committee members for their hard work.

HR/Organizational Committee: New hires for Camp Wyandot include a full time Wyandot Executive Director – April Hoy; and part-time help for Kit related to camp registration. The committee is also updating all the Camp Wyandot job descriptions.

Nominating Committee: Camp Wyandot members will be voting on 5 new Board of Directors members at the Annual Meeting. A big "Thank you" to Joel Schaefer and the committee members for their recruiting and interviewing for new Board members.

Inclusion Committee: The Inclusion committee read and analyzed *Playing Indian* by Phillip J. Deloria. The book examines the historical record of adoption of indigenous peoples' culture by immigrants to the Americas, mostly European settlers. The committee initiated the renaming for the Sioux Tebins to Maple, Ash, Dogwood, Buckeye, and the kitchen tebin named MADBUCK. These names reference the acronym MADBUCK used to identify native Ohio trees with opposite branching. The committee has examined how Camp Wyandot is using tribal names and symbols. Additionally, the committee is working with the indigenous community to determine correct use of indigenous peoples' culture at Camp Wyandot.

In recognition of the significant committee work this year, I would like to say a special "Thank you" to all committee members. Without their expertise and dedication, we would not have achieved these excellent results.

Beverly Gish, Camp Wyandot Board of Directors Chair

2024 Board of Directors

Beverly Gish, Chair
Joel Schaefer, Vice Chair
Lisa Graham, Secretary
Fran Gish, Financial Advisor
Lance Ginn
David Klinge
Buddy Harris
Alyson McIntire
Matthew Smith

Thank You's



As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who made this year so special. To our volunteers, donors, members, and all those who supported Camp Wyandot in countless ways—thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your dedication and generosity have allowed us to create another year of unforgettable experiences for campers and families. From helping us maintain our facilities, to supporting programs that connect young people with nature, to simply believing in the power of camp—you've made it all possible. Together, we've continued the tradition of fostering lifelong friendships, nurturing confidence, and building a deep appreciation for the natural world. Camp Wyandot wouldn't be the same without your unwavering support. Thank you for being a vital part of our camp family. Here's to many more Great Years ahead.



THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION



Remembering Nikki Spretnak



It is with great sadness that we remember Nikki Spretnak, a lifelong supporter of Camp Wyandot, who passed away at 73. A trailblazer, Nikki spent her childhood summers at Camp Wyandot, later becoming a key advocate and leader. As Camp Wyandot's president from 2011 to 2015, she played a pivotal role in establishing its independence as a non-profit organization. Nikki also brought her CPA expertise to the camp's administration and was a generous donor, ensuring the camp's legacy endured. Her passion and dedication to Camp Wyandot and her community will be deeply missed.

Volunteer Spotlight



Rob Graham's journey with Camp Wyandot began 17 years ago when he joined Lisa Graham's Camp Fire Club with his son Marcus, who was just five at the time. It didn't take long for Rob to develop a deep love for the camp and its mission. Over the years, his dedication grew, and today he plays a vital role as a leader of the Facilities Committee. Rob's passion lies in helping to maintain and enhance the camp, ensuring future generations can experience the magic of Wyandot. His commitment embodies the spirit of giving back and keeping the Wyandot legacy alive.

See you in 2025

Annual Meeting: 1/23

Wyandot Workday: 4/26

Native Hills are Calling: 4/19

Wyandot Open House: 5/3

Otonwe Day Camp Begins: 6/9

Wyandot Overnight Camp Begins: 6/15

Family Camp: 8/6

Alumni Weekend: 8/8

Wyandot Workday: 9/20

Halloween In the Hills: 10/18

Annual Luceon: 11/8

