
YMCA Camp Potawotami Alumni - October 2024 Newsletter

From Topher Schlatter <YMCAofGreaterFortWayne@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com>

Date Wed 10/2/2024 12:12 PM

To Karen Kasprzak <Karen_Kasprzak@fwymca.org>



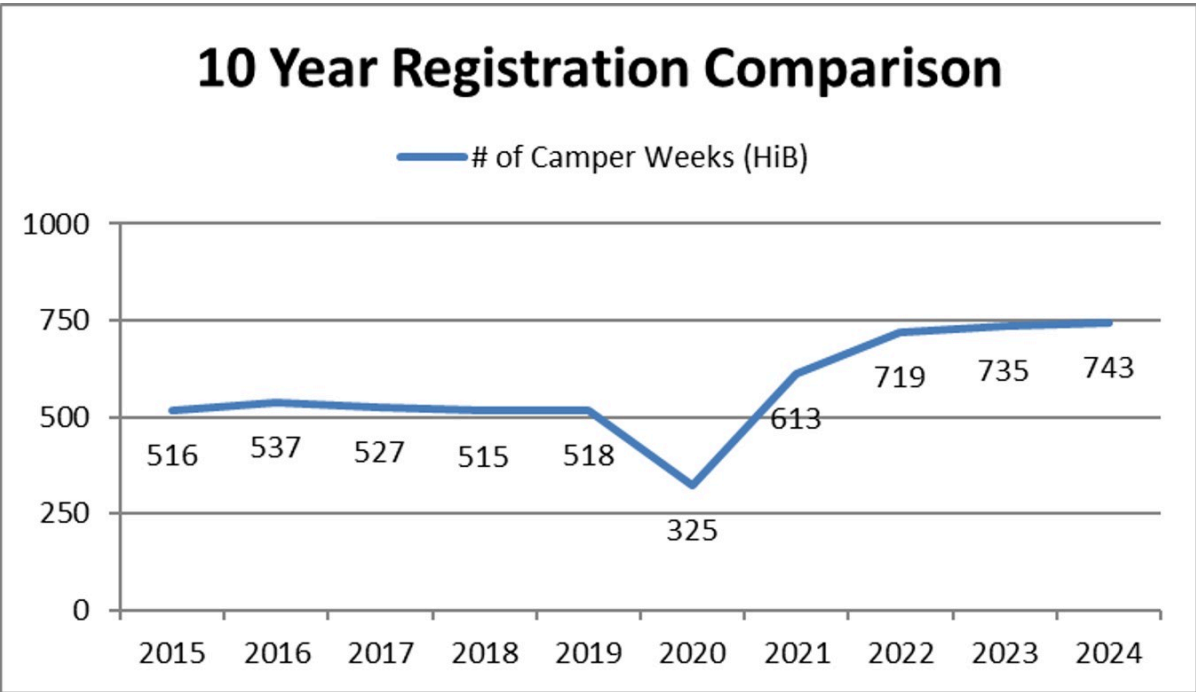
Summer 2024 Highlights



Summer 2024 was one of our largest summers so far! We served 743 campers during our 7 weeks of overnight Camp. Check out the chart below to compare how this number has grown over the last 10 years!

What's even more impressive is how camper retention has increased over the past few years, jumping from 59% in 2023 to 72% in 2024! It is wonderful to know that Camp makes such a great impact on the lives of campers that they want to return summer after summer.

Breaking Down Barriers! Did you know? A transportation offering was implemented in 2023, to and from Camp with the goal to increase access to Camp. Transportation was offered on check in and out days to and from the Renaissance Pointe YMCA and the Jackson Lehman YMCA in Fort Wayne. In 2023 Camp served 35 riders. In 2024, a total of 95 campers took advantage of this opportunity!



Annual Campaign - Thank You!

We believe everyone deserves an opportunity to attend Camp!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Annual Campaign!

27% of our campers attend on scholarship and we gave away over \$92,000 in financial assistance.

Each year we have more and more families in need of help with Camp tuition. Our goal is to say "YES!" to everyone who is in need of assistance. We believe every child deserves and opportunity to attend Camp. Thank you for helping us say "YES!" to so many camper families in 2024!

Learn More about the [Annual Campaign](#).

What is NEW at Camp?

The Time Has Come! Sun shades were added to the waterfront, high ropes course and the ranch. Anyone who has attended or worked at Camp knows how important and necessary this addition as been for these sunny and hot areas of camp! Campers appreciated the relief from the sun.

Teen Project: Throughout the summer our Maintenance Director, Micky, guided teen campers in building permanent benches for the campfire area. Each summer, Micky takes the time to teach the teen campers new skills while also helping improve an area of camp! Thank you teen campers and Micky!

Coming Soon! What's next on the camp activity improvement list? Camp is partnering with Carroll High School's Construction and Trades Program to enhance the slingshot range. This partnership will not only benefit Camp, but will also meet curriculum needs for the construction crew! The new slingshot range will look like an 1800s old west style general store with plenty of new challenges and targets.



You Are Invited



Fall Family Fun Day

October 13th from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

\$15 a person (lunch is included)

Special Alumni Meeting at the Art Barn at 3:30pm.

[Learn More](#)
[Register](#)



105 Year Celebration & Family Camp Weekend

Labor Day Weekend 2025 (Aug 29 - Sept 3, 2025)

Enjoy the weekend at Camp reliving your camp memories and making some new ones with your family.

[Learn More](#)
[Register](#)

Camp Alumni Spotlight: Melany Morris



Years at Camp:

I started coming to camp when I was 8 years old and returned every summer until I was too old. It was my favorite week of the summer. I spent 1 summer as a CIT and then came back as a Counselor in 2018. I was a counselor/support staff member for 4 summers. In total Melany spent 15 summers at Camp!

Favorite Memory:

Closing night campfire and having wampum on the beach in Michigan my last summer as a camper.

Camp Favorites:

Meal: Grilled cheese and tomato soup.

Fun fact: Melany wrote a hit camp song about her favorite meal: Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup!

Lesson Learned at Camp

So many! But probably confidence in myself and my abilities. Camp is great at pushing people out of their comfort zones in the best way.

What do you hope for Camp's future?

I hope that camp continues to grow, I think every kid should spend a week at camp each summer!

Where are they Now?

I am in my 6th year of being a high school theatre teacher and director. I live in Goshen with Shelby and our 3 kitties. And I am a member of Camp's Alumni Committee.

Fun Fact: Melany and Shelby met at Camp as CITs and later married in July 2024. Check out their mud hike photo and photo in front of their individual Summer Counselor of The Year award.

Shout out from Mel!

"To the counselors who inspired me to be a counselor (my favorite job I've ever had) Audrey, Alyssa, Shelby N and Sarah."

Thank you, Melany!

Thank you, Melany! Melany gives of her time, talent and treasures regularly for Camp! Melany serves on the Alumni Committee, advocates for Camp, helps recruit staff and occasionally sends treats to the current staff. Thank you Melany, for investing in Camp's future!

Say Hello To Melany!

If you shared a memory or moment with Melany, she invites you to reach out. Melany's email: melanymor96@gmail.com

If you know a Camp Alumni that you would like to recognize email Karen at karen_kasprzak@fwymca.org.



Reconnect with Camp Join us on Facebook!



The Alumni Committee is coming up with new and exciting ways to reconnect with you and reignite your camp memories. Let's celebrate the adventure and fun we had together at camp!

Use the button below to share your contact information and let us know about your camp experience. This form can be used multiple times so you can add yourself and also friends from camp.

We also have an active group of [alumni on Facebook](#). Join the fun to see camp

Alumni Form

updates in real time, reconnect with past friends and enjoy an uplifting space online.

Use button below to add alumni to our list.

Join the Alumni Committee!

We are looking to add a few more alumni to YMCA Camp Potawotami's alumni committee! We would love if alumni were represented from each decade. The alumni committee meets quarterly throughout the year in Fort Wayne and once at Camp. A virtual option to participate may be available.

If you are interested in joining or learning more please reach out to Topher. Topher's email: tophercbs@aol.com



Our Contact Information

YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne
347 W Berry St. Suite 500
Fort Wayne, IN 46802-3106
260-755-4966
<http://www.fwymca.org>

Camp's Contact Information

YMCA Camp Potawotami
7255 E 700 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795
260-351-2525
camp@fwymca.org
www.fwycamp.org

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)