



Camp Whitley

"MAKING MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME SINCE 1928"

To Campers, Parents, Friends, and Supporters of Camp Whitley,

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes the excitement of another camp season. Opening Day at Camp Whitley is now less than three months away. We hope you are making plans and are as excited as we are to begin our 98th year of welcoming campers ages 7 to 14. Camp Whitley continues to be a place filled with engaging programs, meaningful activities, and unforgettable experiences, where memories are truly built to last a lifetime.

Registration is now open!. We encourage you to visit our website at www.CampWhitley.org to secure your spot. Several weeks are already filling quickly, and enrollment is limited to 60 campers per session.

The 2025 season was a tremendous success. We were deeply honored to receive a generous bequest from the estate of Jon Pontius. Through this gift, we were able to purchase new archery equipment, construct a covered pavilion, and enhance our archery range. In recognition of his meaningful contribution, the pavilion has been named in his honor.

With both gratitude and sadness, we share that Camp Director Hannah Walters has stepped down due to a career change that no longer allows for the flexibility required during the summer months. We are incredibly thankful for her years of dedicated service, her genuine care for campers, and her passion for Camp Whitley. Hannah will be greatly missed.

We are pleased to welcome Justene Whitehead as our new Camp Director. Justene brings a deep connection to Camp Whitley, having been a camper herself and later serving as a counselor and Assistant Director. We are confident in her leadership and look forward to the continued growth and success of our camp under her guidance.

This past year was also significant due to the awarding of two major grants from Lilly Endowment. Through the first grant of \$150,000, we were able to purchase a zero-turn mower, a compact tractor, and begin construction on a new pole barn for storage, as well as a lakeside pavilion.

The second grant, totaling \$750,000, will fund the construction of a new Mess Hall and Kitchen facility. This updated space will include heating and air conditioning, along with a planned basement for additional storage. Preliminary timelines anticipate construction beginning in early August following the 2026 camp season, with completion targeted for the start of the 2027 season.

Plans for the current Mess Hall include removing the kitchen portion and repurposing the remaining structure into an expanded Arts and Crafts space to better serve our campers.

In addition, we are grateful to the Whitley County Community Foundation for their support in funding improvements to our pier. The original wooden runners beneath the deck have been replaced with aluminum supports, resulting in a stronger and safer structure for all to enjoy.

Looking ahead, Director Justene is excited to introduce new free-time activity options, including fishing, pontoon rides, astronomy, and more, further enriching the camper experience.

With the camp season quickly approaching, we encourage you to complete your registration soon. Whether this will be your first summer at Camp Whitley or your eighth, we look forward to welcoming you.

Camp Whitley - Making Memories to Last a Lifetime.