

Camp Discovery '22

At Beechwood Park, Maysville, KY

Jessica Johnson, Director

May, 2022

Sponsored by Maysville Initiatives, Inc.

33 West Second Street, Third Floor

Maysville, KY 41056

Camp Discovery '22 Starts May 31st !

After a 2-year suspension for Covid-19, we will be back in summer of 2022! We weren't idle during the pandemic.

Remembering that one of our goals was to feed kids during the time school was not in session, we organized a meals program in 2020 & 2021 that delivered meals to young people seven days a week.

We also developed and funded a program to give children and families a break during summer of 2021. Although we couldn't do Camp, we distributed tickets for kids and their adults to enjoy a free day swimming at the Rec Park in Washington.

At our busiest time, we were providing over 1,150 meals a week for kids who in a normal year would have been our campers! We utilized our Camp Discovery van and the Maysville Lions clubhouse for our meals program. Both our directors, Jessica Johnson and Marainda Tull were busy and employed through much of the Pandemic: operating the meals program and planning for the resumption of camp this summer.

A 13-Week Camp This Year

The Mason County School District tells us that summer vacation this year will be from May 31st to August 26th. That's one day shy of 13 weeks! We are committed to programming for the vacation period when young people may otherwise have little supervision and not a lot of good nutrition.



We expect a good-sized camper population, and we will have to start from scratch to organize camp for our young people this summer. We have a staff of 15 adult counselors, and we will supplement that staff with Junior (volunteer teen) Counselors.

We're servicing our two buses that have sat idle for two-plus years... That's still a work in progress. We may have to replace one of them! We will be needing two new bus drivers for weekly trips and swimming.

There will be only one day a week when all campers will be at Beechwood Park. The older & younger groups will be away for a field trip once a week, and away another day for swimming



FREE... All Summer Long

Camp is free, and open to any young person between the ages of five and twelve. We accept 4-year-olds who will be turning five on or before July 1, 2022; and twelve year olds whose 13th birthday is after July 1, 2022. There is no registration fee; no hidden costs. The field trips are free. The swimming is free.



We have campers who for the most part come from Mason County. But that's not a requirement. Each year, we have campers from Florida, Ohio and California. One year we had a camper from Korea. (When asked what the best thing about America was, he said, "Camp Discovery!")

This year, Camp Discovery will cost over \$110,000. [especially since it will be the longest camp, ever, at 13 weeks.] We rely on donations to Maysville Initiatives, a 501-C-3 non-profit corporation to raise the funds for Camp. We have a good chunk of the funds necessary for camp, but we will need the support of our community. That's why you find an envelope addressed to Maysville Initiatives along with this newsletter.

Camp Discovery is a "lean" operation: Dave Sugarbaker works year-round for no salary whatsoever [he's retired!]. Our newsletter/fundraising costs have historically been under 3%. What you give goes to the campers and the camp program.



Do the Pictures in This Newsletter Look Familiar???

Blame the Pandemic for that! We haven't taken any pictures of campers enjoying themselves for the last two years! The pics you see are from old newsletters. All of the campers pictured here are years older by now.

It's guaranteed, however, that this year's campers will have as much or more fun as those you see pictured here! Pictures will be on FaceBook.

We can't wait to get started!

“People You Can Count On”

My grandson and granddaughter were visiting from out West in the Summer of 2019. Since they were the right age, they went to Camp Discovery. One late afternoon, after Camp was over for the day, we were at the home of a friend who had a pool. The kids were swimming.

Suddenly my granddaughter screamed: she had been stung by a wasp! She made so much noise, we thought she had been mortally wounded! Finally, she began to talk through her tears. She said, “Take me to Camp Discovery! Those women (counselors) know what they’re doing!”

She wasn’t the only camper to see our counselors that way. We dispensed a ton of band-aids in the course of a summer! Campers would save their small injuries to show a counselor when they got to Camp. All our staff is trained and certified in CPR and First Aid. Campers knew if they had a skinned knee or a jammed finger, our staff would pay attention.

One of our Junior Counselors was talking about our staff, saying, “They are adults you can count on!” Some of our campers have too few adults they can count on: to be there, and to pay attention to their bumps and scrapes.

It’s a reputation I like to hear about! It’s what Camp D is all about, really... *-Dave Sugarbaker*



We Need Your Support To Make Camp Happen

After two years of no Camp, we anticipate a good turn-out this year. Then, the summer got longer than it’s ever been, due to the Mason County Schools calendar. We are full of energy and plans, but all our costs are up! We need support from our community!

We’re looking at a budget of at least \$110K, when you consider swimming, field trips, staff expense, buses...

We would appreciate your support for our program. We believe Camp Discovery is one of the “best-kept secrets” in Maysville.



Please use the envelope to get back to us with your gift to the young people in our area. They are worth it! Thank you for your support!

It’s Not Just Play-Time:

✓ **We feed young people who are “food insecure” during the summer.**

Each year we have campers whose only reliable source of food over the summer is Camp Discovery.



✓ **We provide safe, supervised, “bully-free” child**

care to families who otherwise would have no child care at all. The Department of Justice says that during unsupervised hours, young people are at the greatest risk of either being the victim or the instigator of crime.

✓ **We offer field trips that broaden our camper’s experience of the world**, and connect them to their local community. We will visit some local organizations like the Fire Department and some far away, like the Cincinnati Zoo and the Lexington Explorium. Just riding the bus to a city is a world-expanding experience for some of our campers.

✓ **Our summer reading program helps campers maintain reading proficiency.**

Studies show students who don’t have appropriate reading material at home over the summer lose some of the reading skills they gained the prior year. There are always age-appropriate library books at camp.



Campers get “points” for each book they read, and each book they read to a younger camper.

✓ **We offer Cooking School and Babysitter Training as well as First Aid & CPR Training** to our older campers so they can better contribute to their family and community as they grow.

✓ **All campers get age-appropriate versions of Life Skills / Drug Prevention training each week** during the summer. Younger campers know it as “Dinosaur School”. There’s been a decrease in conflict at camp over the years, as campers learn conflict management skills! We’ll see if it’s all been forgotten during our Pandemic break!

Room for a Few Teens

The upper age limit for campers is 12; but we have up to a dozen young people who are 13 to 17 as Junior Counselors. These teens give their time to Camp Discovery, and at the end of the summer, they get a very “official” letter of thanks, enumerating their volunteer hours. They are advised to save this letter to include with a college or job application.

YES!

May, 2022

I/We would like to help support Camp Discovery 2022 with a tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

This gift is from _____

Address: _____

City/State, Zip: _____

The non-profit tax ID number for Maysville Initiatives is 31-1545887.