

# CAMP DISCOVERY '24

At Beechwood Park, Maysville, KY  
Jessica Johnson, Director  
April, 2024

Sponsored by Maysville Initiatives, Inc.  
33 West Second Street, Third Floor  
Maysville, KY 41056

➤ Getting Ready for Camp D '24 ➤

## Thirteen Weeks of Camp This Year!

Our summer schedule is determined by the Mason County School District calendar. We will be open and operating every week of the District's scheduled vacation: 13 weeks. Our start date will be May 28



and our closing date will be August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will begin the day after Memorial Day and have our final day's party on August 23<sup>rd</sup> (a Friday).

We will operate five days a week, from 7:30 AM until 3:30 PM with one

exception: Independence Day (July 4). There is no Camp on that day, BUT we invite all campers to be on the Camp Discovery float in the Parade in the early evening.

Thirteen weeks is as long as Camp has ever been! Years ago, young people had ten weeks of summer vacation; now it's way more!

## Making New Friends

Camp is a place to make new friends. Especially for campers who are new to our area or have been home-schooled, Camp Discovery is a place to get a head start making new friends. It happens naturally, in the process of shared experiences and having fun. Even riding on the bus is an opportunity to make new friends.



There's a bench on the playground called "the Buddy Bench". If anyone feels left out and alone, they sit on the Buddy Bench. If we notice someone on that bench, we ask them to join us.

We have a "no bullying" rule at Camp. We want everyone to feel safe and welcome.

Bullying behavior means many different things. When counselors or the Director see bullying behavior, we stop it.

Friends don't do bullying!



## What Do We Do at Camp?

Beechwood Park is our home base. There's lots to do there: We have a big play structure, a killer old-style Merry-Go-Round, two basketball courts, swings and a large shelter in case it rains vertically. (When it rains horizontally, we head for the Lion's Club. That's where we have breakfast and lunch.)



Our weekly schedule means that two days each week campers are elsewhere: on a field trip or swimming. That means everyone is at Beechwood only one day each week. Our field trips take us to a bowling alley or roller-skating, to a water park or amusement park.



Sometimes the Mason County Library will have a special event, either at Beechwood Park or somewhere else. They are always fun! The Mason County Extension Center has invited some campers to a week-long cooking class at the Extension Center. There's a class for older campers and one for younger campers.

Every week our "Campers of the Week" go to the Library and select books that other campers their age might like. These books reside at Camp for the week, available to be checked out and enjoyed. We keep track of who is reading or being read to, and the campers with the most reading hours at the end of the summer get a prize!



Arts and crafts is a daily choice. Sometimes we stay in the shelter and do some cool art projects! Besides drawing, etc., we can make bracelets and necklaces, do face painting or draw with chalk.



## Food & Snacks

Thanks to the Methodist Food Program out of Covington, KY, we provided almost 19,000 breakfasts and lunches to campers in 2023. This food comes from the federal Summer Lunch program and doesn't cost us anything.

We also give every camper a snack in the afternoon each day. This adds up, since it means roughly 9,000 snacks in the course of the summer program!

Our goal is good summertime nutrition for all our campers. It will allow them to start strong in school in the fall.



## Exploring the Wider World

Sometimes we go on field trips that broaden our campers' experience. Other times, new experiences come to Camp. The Straub Family Resource Center has sponsored a day at Camp that includes a petting zoo, bouncy houses, and visits by the Maysville



Police and Fire Departments. The police even made all-you-can-eat hot dogs, and gave out chips, juice & pop. The campers could pet some farm animals and explore the inside of an ambulance, a fire truck and a police car! It was a chance for campers to interact with our

city's emergency people in a non-emergency atmosphere.

Some years we have done field trips to places like the Cincinnati Children's Museum, the Underground Railroad Museum, Old Washington, the Rankin House, the Old Kentucky Chocolate Factory and the Cincinnati Northern KY Airport. We have visited Coney Island (when they had rides) and several water parks. We sometimes go to movies and go rollerskating and bowling.



## Support For Campers

Each year, we have campers with specific needs we help with.

A camper doesn't have a swimsuit. Another has just one summer outfit. Another has only flip-flops for summer shoes, and they have broken. When we encounter these kinds of issues, we quietly try to solve the problem with a small purchase. It can make a world of difference for the camper, and it feels like the right thing to do.



Another hidden means of support to our campers each summer starts with all our counselors being trained in First Aid and CPR. One consequence of this is that all our staff are willing and able to treat the bumps and scrapes our campers inevitably come up with. We find campers will "save up" their boo-boos to have the staff at Camp treat them! Counselors carry band aids and antibiotic cream and will follow up with campers until it's all better.

Recently, a Junior Counselor told us that the Camp Discovery counselors were "adults you can count on". If they say they will be there, they are there; if they say they will help, they help.

## Donations to Camp Discovery

*It takes more than \$100,000 to give our campers good nutrition, safety and an intellectually stimulating summer!* We have more than two-thirds in the bank.

We need the support of individuals and businesses in our community for this summer program that cares for our children. [It takes a village...]

**What happens if we don't have the money to fund Camp Discovery this summer?** We will have to close early, after only a partial summer of support and care for our campers. Some young people will not have good nutrition for that part of their summer. They will lose the safety and supervision Camp provides.

Camp Discovery is one of the hidden treasures of our area! Not much is said, but the program is of real benefit to our children.

If you would like to be a part of this great project, send your tax-deductible donation to Camp Discovery (Maysville Initiatives), 33 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Third Floor, Maysville, KY 41056.

**YES!**

April, 2024

I/We would like to help support Camp Discovery 2024 with a tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

This gift is from \_\_\_\_\_

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