

CAMP DISCOVERY '24

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

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

Report to our supporters

Camp Discovery Demographics 2024

Our camper population for '24 was a little different than in years past. First, we had more girls than boys (103 girls; 80 boys). Our campers were younger than in recent years. Almost 56% were eight or younger.

We had eighteen four year olds*; seventeen five year olds, twenty-three six year olds, twenty-six seven year olds, and eighteen eight year olds. That was our younger group, for a total of 102.

Our older group was comprised of twenty-four nine year olds, twenty-one ten year olds, thirteen eleven year olds, and twelve twelve year olds, for a total of 70.

We had eleven Junior Counselors, who were from thirteen to seventeen years old. Close to half our campers in '24 were attending Camp Discovery for the first time!



76% of our campers came from households at or below the Federal poverty line for 2024.

There was a decline in the number of campers living with a grandparent (10), and an increase in the number of campers living with one or both parents (155).

We had thirty-seven campers with ADHD diagnoses, and another fourteen with anxiety issues. Sixteen young people were dealing with asthma and four had issues with either vision or hearing impairment. Ten campers had learning disabilities and four were developmentally delayed.

Every single camper knew how to have fun!

**Officially, our campers are a minimum of five years old, but there are exceptions. If a four year old's siblings were all going to Camp Discovery, we might be asked to accept the four year old. Our answer was always "Let's try it for a while." If the four year old was mature, they could fit right in. If they lacked the maturity, after a few days at camp it would be clear they were too young.*

No Bullying!

We try not to have too many rules at Camp, but one rule persists: No Bullying!

We don't see everything, but when we see bullying, we stop it. We try to teach campers the many facets of bullying.



What's New At Camp?

Due to a grant to the City of Maysville, we got a brand new play structure at Beechwood Park! It was finished just a day or two before Camp began this last summer, but it was great to have!



It has a steel "web" on one side for climbing and a "Fireman's Pole" for sliding down. There were things to do even at ground level with the new play structure. More swings were added by the same grant, so close to a dozen campers can swing at the same time!



We also got a replacement merry-go-round (one that doesn't throw kids six feet, or make them want to throw up). That was a real improvement!

We heard from our Mayor that Beechwood Park will get a new splash pad, hopefully in time for Camp Discovery '25. That should be a great addition on very hot days. (We plan to keep our swimming schedule in '25, so all campers get to swim at least once a week.)

... And a New (Old) Bus

We used to have two buses, used for field trips and swimming. Then one bus (probably born in 1998) began to have multiple problems: brakes, shocks, things falling off the bus while on the way to a field trip. Since we never take more than half of camp anywhere on a given day, we got by with our other bus (also old).

We heard of a new (used) bus -72 passenger - from Indiana, and, with the sale of our two existing buses, it cost only \$500 out-of-pocket. We have had "Camp Discovery" plastered on all four sides of the new bus, and it's ready to begin our 2025 Camp season!



Expense & Income for Camp D '24

This was a good year for our Camp budget. Our income was up a little and our expenses down:

Expenses

Office/Newsletter/Fundraising/Admin	\$ 603.
Supplies (non-food)	\$ 2,509.
Insurance	\$ 17,031.
Utilities (water/sewer)	\$ 376.
Field Trips/Swimming	\$ 13,651.
Food & Food Prep	\$ 6,418.
Payroll & taxes	\$ 70,276.

TOTAL Camp D '24 Expense: \$110,864.

[Our total expenses were less than both 2023 (\$125,351) and 2022 (\$118,302.)!]

Income

Individual and Business Contributions	\$ 19,880.
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$ 57,672.
Other Revenue	\$ 1,510.

TOTAL Camp D '24 Income: \$ 79,062.

[Our total income was more than '22 (\$73,260) and less than '23 (\$87,081.)]

Where do we get the \$31,802 to balance our budget this year, or any year? From earnings from investment of the proceeds of a gift of land that we sold some years ago. If we were not able to draw on that gift, we would have had to close Camp 4 weeks early!

Our Supporters in 2024

Thanks again to all our supporters of Camp Discovery this last year. They are listed below:

Hayswood Foundation	Jim & Claudia Moose
Charles E. & Mary E. Scripps Foundation	Knox & Brothers Funeral Home
Carmeuse Lime	Bank of Maysville
I.N. Foster Fund for the Poor	Haney's Hardware
Dr. Audrey Spencer & Randy Anderson	Michael & Krissie Clarke
Mason County Fiscal Court	Limestone Properties
Burnette Family Foundation	Fraternal Order of Eagles #1564
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Clarke	Jack & Rhonda Gaunce
Dr. & Mrs. Don Wilson	Mr. & Mrs. John R. Denham
Ben's Car Wash	Bob & Joyce Weigott
Bob & Kirby Ross	Shannon Frogde Irish
Maysville Lions Club	Victory Christian Center
International Paper – Maysville	Jim & Joyce Rawlins
Dr. & Mrs. Randall Dennison	Dr. Charlie Clarke
VFW Post 2734 Ladies Auxiliary	Mr. Nick Clooney
Dr. Charlotte Harris	Debra Cotterill
Ohio Valley Tax Service	Mike & Sally Walton
Virginia J. Browning	Elaine K. Lafferty
Stephanie McNeill	Lil Marie Birr
Dan & Kathy Combs	Bob & Sue Kiner
Orangeburg Church CWF	Pasquale's
Moose Lodge #1124	Harry & Ethella Mann
Stober Drives	Drs. McDowell & Faris
Bob & Judy Vance	Jim & Barbara Finch
Kirk & Christy Clarke	Dr. Rachel Naylor, DMD
Mitsubishi Electric	Joe & Libby Traxel
David & Liz Wallingford	Ron & Wanda Paul
Tom & Barbara Clarke	John & Rhonda McDowell
Doug & Kathryn Hendrickson	Security Bank
Rev. Bob Hudson	Coroner David Lawrence
Brell & Son Funeral Home	Gary McKee
Rebecca Wellbaum	CAPS
Church of the Nativity	Jim Joe & Marcia Toncray
Mary K. Cotterill	Vicky Barteer
	Nadine Barker

A New Kind of Food Support

In addition to our breakfasts, lunches and snacks each weekday, we were able to add weekend nutritional support for 100 campers and their siblings.

Each Friday, the Methodist Food Program delivered large bags of cereal, string cheese, pop tarts, beef sticks, chicken jerky, fresh fruit, canned soup, chicken salad and shelf-stable milk (that doesn't need refrigeration).



These bags were sent home with campers on Friday afternoons, to provide some nutritional support over the weekend.

Feeding young people is one of our core goals in offering our summer program.

Hidden Benefits of Camp Discovery



We tend to focus on the benefits of Camp D for our five to twelve year olds. A hidden benefit is that fourteen adults in our community – some who have no other job – are employed as staff of Camp Discovery during the thirteen summer weeks Camp is active. Those employed are members of our community.

Our three goals for camp are:

✓ Nutritional support. It's invisible, but our campers will not be starting their next school year with a nutritional deficit. They will be ready to learn.

✓ A safe, supervised environment. Because our campers are in summer-long supervised activities, they are less likely to be the cause or the victim of a crime. It's something that doesn't happen, so it's sometimes hard to see, but it's there.

✓ World-expanding field trip experiences. Sometimes a Camp Discovery field trip becomes the subject of a school essay. We think that's great!

Donations to Camp Discovery

It takes more than \$100,000 to give our campers good nutrition, safety and an intellectually stimulating summer! We already have half of what we need for 2025 in the bank, thanks to the Hayswood & Scripps Foundations.

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 2nd Street, Third Floor, Maysville, KY 41056.

