

VALKAZON

SERVICE WEEKEND EDITION



Celebrating our 501(C)(3) status, Service Weekend Style!

WoHeLo for Aye: Many Hands Made Light Work

With nearly 75 women in attendance (and despite some very heavy rain), our cleaning, organizing, sorting, labeling, weeding, and woodburning projects for Service Weekend 2023 were completed in true Nakanawa fashion. Camp was filled with smiles, songs, and laughter as our teams tackled each task.

Volunteer extraordinaire Alex Seblatnigg set the tone with a productive, fun-filled agenda. In addition to our Camp "work," plenty of time was set aside to mix and mingle with our multi-generational crew! Representatives from TRs '68 to '08 were present and accounted for, along with dozens of former counselors, friends of Nakanawa, and even parents of current campers!

Check out the video below to see our collective Work, Help and Love in action.



But don't just take our word for the success of the weekend. Here are some comments from those in attendance:

"I never expected a reunion combined with the Service Weekend to be so enjoyable. A lot had to do with the combination of several belated reunion groups, with campers I knew, coming together at the same time thanks to the pandemic. I also loved having the continuity of reliable faces at camp so it felt like a coming home."

- Margot Kepper Berry, TR '71

"The May Reunion Weekend was a wonderful trip back in time to camp days and a great opportunity to reconnect with my TR friends and meet other alums while helping camp prepare for the upcoming season. I found myself smiling at so many points throughout the weekend: waking up to the sounds along the lake in a bunk, eating in the dining hall, singing old songs, and talking to a pal on the Crow's all brought back such happy memories. If you have the chance to come back for Service/Reunion Weekend, I highly recommend it!"

- Rachael Mercer, TR '08

3 Reasons Why Service Weekend Rocked



Celebration

Twenty-five "TR women" joined the Service Weekend crew, adding their "Smile-



Dedication

Special thanks to Patsy King, Lee Stewart and members of TRs '71 and '72



Appreciation

Service Weekend groups trekked to Junior Camp to check out the docks! New

Pep" to our very first combined Service Weekend and Spring Reunion.

Alumnae from TR '08, along with three 50th Reunion groups (TRs '71, '72 & '73) livened things up with old songs and stories. These 50th gals were the last to live in the old TR cabins and the first to enjoy "the new roomy cabins."

Karen Cochran Bloomfield, TR '73, wrote the "Face Like Ava Gardner" song and was there to tell us all about it.

for an inspirational church service on the Crow's Nest, reflecting on what we all gain from Nakanawa.

Receiving their 50th Year Gold Carson Crosses in a ceremony on Sunday morning was especially meaningful to this crew since Carson Tays was a beloved figure during their many summers at Camp.

A special shout-out to Cumalee Nunn and Lee Stewart for serving as their TR Reunion Chairs.

lane ropes, diving boards, and slides are also being added, thereby completing the waterfront project in its entirety.

We know many a Nakanawa Girl will create memories here for decades to come.

Plans are underway for a full renovation of Senior docks, which we hope to install by Summer 2024. Thank you for continuing to support the Annual Fund that makes all these improvement efforts possible!



support our annual fund

Snapshots and Smiles



Nancy Adams McDonald (left) and Flossie McNabb (right), our "Golden Girls", repped TR '68 and paid tribute to their dear friend Hansi Orgain Russell who was unable to join this year. We know you'll enjoy seeing a photo of Nancy, Hansi, and Flossie as campers circa 1967!



Georgia Graham Mattern (TR '81), Lyn Brantley (TR '81), Dana Beer (TR '76), Karen Barlow Parrish (TR '81), and May Douglas Smith Bumpus (TR '81) at Service Weekend welcome dinner.



Becky Dickinson Wooley (TR '73) and Sally Tubb Welch (TR '76) share a smile in the Wigwam. More than 75 women attended Service Weekend 2023.

Reunions in May are Here to Stay

All who attended our Service Weekend / Spring Reunion agree that a May reunion provided a perfect opportunity to reconnect with friends and re-experience Camp! From the sound of screen doors slamming, the delicious smell of coffee cake, the gorgeous sunset views on the Crow's Nest, and the sound of laughter during Evening Entertainment, it's a Nakanawa weekend unlike any other.



Plan Now for Your Reunion: May 17-19, 2024

If your TR is interested in having an at-Camp reunion next May, now is the time to start planning! Originally, we targeted the decades of the '70s and '80s for next May reunions, but —for now— we're issuing an open invitation to *all TR groups* (except for those with July Reunions in '23 or '24.) First come, first served!

To make a tentative reservation or to get more info, please contact Margaret Matens at margaretmatens@gmail.com

[visit the alumnae page](#)

Values Matter and Character Counts

Camp Nakanawa recently sponsored the 2023 [Character Banquet](#), which was held at the Cumberland County Community Complex on May 6. Now in its second year, the event recognizes two student-athletes from local high schools who demonstrate outstanding leadership, values, and character.



Camp Director Karen Hale received recognition for Nakanawa's involvement with the prestigious event, and former Camp Director Pepe Perron served as master of ceremonies.

We're proud to be part of this "new" tradition, that The Crossville Chronicle stated is "quickly becoming one of the most prestigious events in the State of Tennessee," as it directly aligns with [our philosophy](#) promoting character, selflessness, and sportsmanship.



Tales from the Waterfront

Camp pranks are the stuff of lore at Nakanawa, and counselor-to-counselor pranks are some of the most creative.

Case-in-point: One late night in July 1997, three Junior Counselors discovered a pristine throne of porcelain underneath the Council House. Inspired by the prank stories they'd heard in the CB (as retold by illustrious Margaret "Mop" Queen, then head counselor of Junior Camp), the counselors got an idea to remind Senior Camp to do their "business" in Egypt before going swimming in the lake!

In the wee hours of the morning, the Junior counselors loaded the toilet into a canoe and quietly rowed across the lake to Senior. They lugged the toilet onto the high dive and placed it on the very end, and decorated the dock with rolls of toilet paper hijacked from Egypt.

It's been said that after snapping a flash photo, the night watchman had a good laugh that echoed across the lake before a trail of angry flashlights came down to inspect the masterpiece.

Share any legendary prank stories you have from your days at Camp by simply replying to this newsletter with your tale!

[donate to the Senior waterfront project](#)



Help Preserve our Past

We're launching a new project to convert archived photo negatives, slides and 8mm reels into a digital format. But, this initiative will take time, funds, and a bit of work. Join our quest to restore these photos! With a contribution to the Annual Fund, this project will be "a snap" and ensure that our legacy is preserved for generations to come.

give now

Our Alumnae Base is Going and Growing Strong

More than 100 alumnae registered with our new [alumnae directory](#) last month! Let's keep it going, shall we? In just a few clicks, you can update your contact information, share details of your time at Camp, and sign up for alerts about upcoming city parties or camp get-togethers in your area.

The search functionality is super easy and allows you to personally message other fellow Nakanawans. Create your profile by clicking on the link below:

get connected

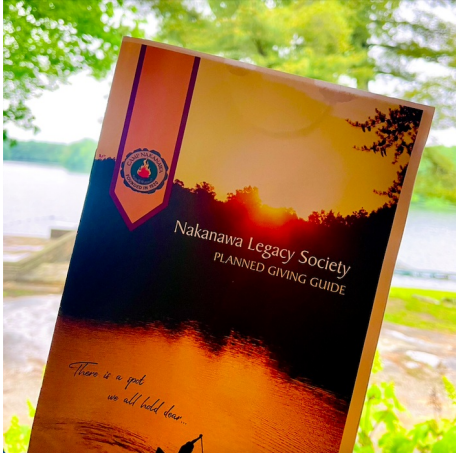
Leave a Legacy

Entrusting Camp Nakanawa with a Legacy Gift from your will or trust is one of the best ways to create a lasting legacy and enrich the lives of girls and young women.

Legacy gifts benefit the Nakanawa Endowment, which helps secure our financial future, promotes long-term sustainability, and guarantees happy summers ahead for future generations.

Click on the link below to view our planned giving webinar to learn more about easy, tax-friendly,

meaningful ways to support the future of Camp.



[learn more](#)

Zoom Passcode: 7@^e?BE@.

We're off for Summer break!

Our editorial staff will be taking the summer off and will return with another edition of the Valkazon in August. Check out all the latest happenings at Camp through our social media channels, or visit our website, www.campnakanawa.org.

We wish you a happy, healthy summer full of sunshine, daylilies, friendship, and warm hearts!



Do you have news to share with the Nakanawa family?

[Email Molly Cook Britt](mailto:Molly.Cook.Britt@campnakanawa.org), TR '00, with your updates and photos.



campnakanawa.org

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