

VALKAZON



Karen's Corner

Greetings from Camp Nakanawa!

I hope this letter finds you all in high spirits. We've been blessed with more frequent visits from bald eagles and hope they decide to stick around for a while. Annette managed to capture a stunning photo of one perched in a tree behind the bunkhouse!

In other news, Corie Wilson, Blair Rissing (TR 94), Margaret Leatherbury (TR 13) and I recently attended the American Camp Association (ACA) National Conference in the lively city of New Orleans. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to connect with fellow camp enthusiasts from all corners of the globe.

Together we immersed ourselves in a plethora of informative sessions and fostered an environment of learning and sharing. Trust me when I say that we returned with minds bursting with incredible ideas for summer 2024! The conference coincided with the delightful celebration of Mardi Gras, and we had a blast embracing the spirit of the occasion. This year's ACA theme, "S'moredi Gras," was a campy twist on the carnival festivities!

Our counselor staff continues to grow rapidly. We're thrilled to welcome new staff from Ghana, Jordan, Madrid, and all across the Southern U.S. Their diverse backgrounds and experiences will undoubtedly add a vibrant flavor to our Camp community and create a rich, global atmosphere of friendship and understanding.

Our equine friends have also been pampered with their scheduled spa day, courtesy of

the farrier. They are looking healthy and are eager to embark on exhilarating adventures with our campers this summer.

Last but certainly not least, I am thrilled to share that the first installment of The Chamberlain Dock has arrived! Deaton Docks will soon be delivering the rest of the masterpiece, like pieces of a puzzle coming together. We plan to float it from Junior to Senior, ensuring that our campers experience the joy of stepping onto this magnificent structure.

As you can see, Camp Nakanawa is abuzz with activity, like busy beavers creating a haven for extraordinary experiences. There is so much more you can look forward to! We can't wait for summer to arrive and to welcome all of you with open arms. Get ready for countless adventures, heartfelt friendships, and the best memories!

Sending you s'mores of love and warmth,
Karen

Special Delivery!



The Chamberlain Dock has arrived!



Installation begins soon. Can't wait!

Yes, it's really happening! The Chamberlain Dock and the all-new waterfront are clear examples of the power of our alumnae base. Thanks to your contributions, the future of Nakanawa is bright!

We still have work to do. The robust [Nakanawa Fund](#) allows us to plan improvements, pay our counselors and staff competitively, and maintain Camp's beautiful facilities. Your financial participation is vital to our mission.

put the FUN in FUNd

Counselors Here, Counselors There

Recruitment is going strong. To date, we've received more than 135 applications from across the country and have extended 110 offers to future counselors.

Our new recruits connect in monthly Zoom meetings to get to know one another, share stories and experiences, and prepare for the incredible job of being Camp Nakanawa Counselors. We'd love to continue to strengthen the 2024 staff further. Contact Blair Rissing at blair@campnakanawa.org if you'd like to learn more about counselor opportunities or if you know of a young woman interested in working at camp this summer.

**Alumnae Spotlight:
Vadie Turner - TR 94**



When asked what or who introduced Vadie Turner (TR 94) to Nakanawa, she replied, “I got a flyer in the mail and went to a slideshow in my hometown of Nashville, Tennessee – and didn’t know a soul when I got there.” But something must have clicked because Vadie spent five years as a camper, one year as a counselor, and has never missed a reunion.

Who Runs the World?

If you Google search Vadis Turner, known to all her friends as Vadie, you’ll learn that she creates “textile-driven sculptures and mixed media works, challenging narratives traditionally imposed upon female archetypes.” Raised in Nashville, TN, Vadie earned

both her BFA and MFA from Boston University, and has been a professor of art at Vanderbilt University and Pratt Institute in New York.

Camp Friends are the BEST Friends

It should come as no surprise that Vadie spent an inordinate amount of time in the Arts & Crafts building as a camper, no doubt getting recognized for her lapboards and friendship bracelets! She enjoyed a variety of activities as a camper and, as a Valkyrie Drill Cox, loved how creative and expressive campers could be with canoe paddles.

"I remember how crushing it was to lose," Vadie recalled, "and how genuinely happy I was for the Amazon Cox and crew who won. Only at Nakanawa do you cry for the winner after you've lost."

One of her most treasured memories from her days as a camper included walking around the lake with her dear friend Elizabeth Oglesby Kent. In fact, it's something she still enjoys doing each time she visits Camp. Vadie mentioned she still stays in close contact with members of TR 94.

"We're a fabulous group. I think we were officially the best Camp has ever seen, but I have a hopeful hunch other TR groups would disagree."



Elizabeth Oglesby Kent, Vadie Turner, Anne Bracken
McGraw, Marci Perry Peters



Lifelong friends!

Home on the Waterfront

When she returned to Camp as a counselor, she was 30 years old and spent her summer on Queens Row.

"I turned my cabin into an art studio," she said, "but I wanted to be on the waterfront, so I completed the Lifeguard training to teach swimming. I was living in Brooklyn at the time and started training months before at the public pool in Williamsburg because I didn't want to embarrass myself in front of the younger counselors. I got really into it and still swim for exercise."

Artful Inspiration

Like so many of us, Vadie was inspired to pursue her passions and talents by a wonderful teacher.

"My high school art teacher, Rosie Paschall, taught me to have confidence in my ideas, to be brave and take risks," she said. "In my studio practice, I encourage the misbehaviors and storied abstraction of domestic materials. I use a lot of retired textiles, mostly bedsheets and curtains, and transform them into 2D and 3D works that consider the female-identifying experience."



Her work has been displayed in museums and art spaces from coast to coast, including Brooklyn, NY; West Palm Beach, FL; and Portland, OR. Learn more about Vadie and view some of her amazing work at www.vadisturner.com

Our favorite line from her website reads:

“In the spirit of an archer pulling back on a bow string, Turner double-dog-dares us to underestimate the tensile strength and structural integrity of her works, and thus all that is witchy and wonderful about women.”

Sounds like a true Nakanawa girl!



Today, Vadie and her husband, Clay, live in Nashville with their two sons Vreeland (8, at left) and Gray (11, at right) who attend Camp High Rocks in North Carolina. “I’m keeping my ties safe for the next generation!” Vadie said.

A Song and A Smile for Service Weekend May 17-19, 2024

There's no better way to sustain the Spirit of Nakanawa for the next generation of campers than by joining us for [Service Weekend](#) and [May Reunion Weekend](#). Scheduled for May 17-19, we'll prep ties, make name tags and medals, weed gardens and perform other tasks to get Camp ready for another fun-filled summer.

But don't take our word for it. Hear from the Nakanawa ladies that have been there:



Nancy Adams McDonald, Flossie McNabb Sonneland and Hansi Orgain Russell from TR 68 have a special message to share.

What to Know: No special skills are required for Service Weekend -- just a willingness to pitch in and have fun while doing it. And don't worry, there will be opportunities to take an extended Rest Hour, walk along the lake with someone new, and sing your favorite Camp songs. Come for the full weekend or just for the day; all are welcome!

Please contact alexseb13@yahoo.com with any questions.

[sign up for Service Weekend](#)

Fun Fact: Four TRs are planning to join us for May Reunions as well! Does your TR want to tag along, too? Get all the details [here](#) or contact margaretmatens@gmail.com.

[make plans for your May Reunion](#)

Reunite This Summer, Too July 19-21, 2024

Registration for our July Reunion Weekend opens soon on our website, so stay tuned. Though we focus on anniversary years (10th, 25th 50th), we're delighted to extend the invitation to any TR celebrating a reunion in between (15th, 35th, etc). Remember, all TRs are welcome!

If your TR is interested in either weekend for 2024 or 2025, and you haven't contacted Donya or Margaret yet, please [click here](#). When we hear from you, we'll be in touch to answer questions and provide details.

**TR '94 has rented the Caryonah Lodge for the July reunion weekend and is interested in*

Help Us Shine Bright on Google

Choosing an overnight camp is a big decision, and Google Reviews guide families toward the best choice for their daughters. Help point parents to Nakanawa by sharing your firsthand experience!

We love the laughter echoing through the pines and the friendships forged around campfires. But perhaps the biggest impact of Nakanawa is rooted in our mission: to educate girls and young women through outdoor experiences to gain confidence and reach their full potential.



? How to Craft Your Review:

- **Make it personal:** Share specific moments—like canoeing on the lake or singing under the stars.
- **Highlight the unplugged experience:** Mention how Camp Nakanawa encourages real connections.
- **Talk about confidence:** How did Nakanwa boost your (or your daughter's) confidence? How did specific adventures or activities positively impact your / her home life?

Details like these can be very helpful to those who have never been to camp or sent a child off to camp before. Remember, your words can inspire other families to choose Camp Nakanawa—a place where adventure, friendship, and lifelong memories await.

[write a review for Camp](#)

Let's Link Up



Connect with alumnae and build our community by following us on [LinkedIn!](#) We'd love to show potential business partners and young women looking for an enriching job or internship opportunity how successful and diverse our alumnae are in talents and achievements.

Our goal is to gain 300 new connections from parents, former campers, counselors, and staff. We love dads, brothers, uncles, etc., so please join, too!

[follow us on LinkedIn](#)

Sharing is Caring

Have you celebrated a wedding, welcomed a child, launched a new business, led a conference keynote, or have any big and exciting news to share, please [email us](#) a photo along with details about your big event. We'd love to help you announce it far and wide to our Nakanawa community.

Do you know Nakanawa alumnae who would love to receive *The Valkazon* each month, but might not be in our email database yet? Encourage them to join our fun. It's easy peasy! In just a few clicks, they can update contact information, share details of their time

at Camp, and sign up for alerts about city parties or camp get-togethers nearby.

[sign up here](#)

After completing registration:

- Follow the Login link to our extended profile page.
- Look for My Account in the top, right-hand corner of the Login page.
- Share additional information about your years as a camper or counselor. This will help link you to others who had similar experiences!

Any questions about the directory? Email us at campnak@campnakanawa.org or call (931) 277-3711. We're open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nakanawa in the Know: Dates for 2024

Service Weekend: May 17-19

Two-Week Session: June 16-28

Four-Week Session: July 1-27

July Reunion Weekend: July 19-21

Mother-Daughter Weekend: Sept 13-15



campnakanawa.org

**Camp Nakanawa's regular business hours are Monday–Friday, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Central Time.
Messages received outside of those hours will be answered on the next business day.**

Camp Nakanawa | 1084 Camp Nakanawa Rd | Crossville, TN 38571 US

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