

VALKAZON

THE SPRING ISSUE



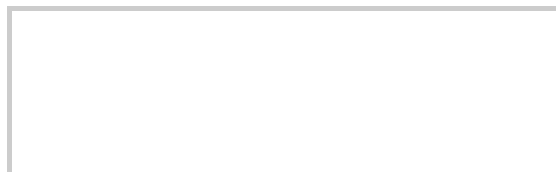
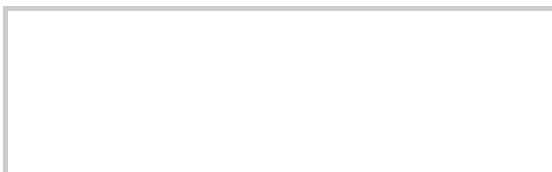
Karen's Corner

Hello Nakanawa Family,

As we prepare for another fantastic summer at Camp, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on one of the most treasured aspects of Nakanawa: lifelong friendships.

Over the past month, I've been hearing wonderful news about former campers and counselors getting together, embarking on new adventures, celebrating weddings, and welcoming little ones into the world. It always fills my heart with joy to hear about Nakanawa girls reconnecting with their camp friends and sharing their accomplishments and experiences.

Recently, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Morocco. I was invited by Shelly Duer Landau and Paige Landau to join an all-women's expedition in the Atlas Mountains. During my time there, I was able to visit Annelise Shannon, a Nakanawa camper who hails from Rabat, Morocco. Annelise and I became friends last summer when she was chosen as the Junior Camp Eagle.





Annelise Shannon with Karen in Rabat,
Morocco



Paige and Shelly Landau with Karen in
Morocco

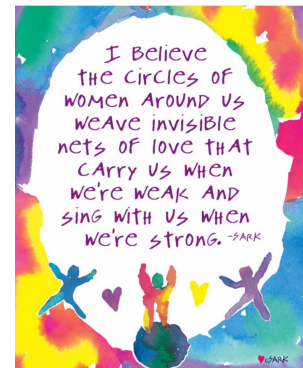
Exploring a foreign country alongside Camp friends opened my eyes to things I may have otherwise missed. We hiked, stayed in rustic guest houses, and even battled a pesky virus, all while cherishing the smiles and friendships that Nakanawa instills in all of us.

This Spring, I also attended a wedding of a former camper/counselor who is as close to my heart as a daughter. During the event, I had the pleasure of reconnecting with other Camp friends. It's fascinating how the passage of time seems to have little effect on our relationships and doesn't diminish the connection we share.

I wish you a beautiful Spring and encourage all of you to reach out to a Camp friend, say hello, and let the warmth of shared experiences, lifelong friendships and love fill your hearts.

In the Spirit of Nakanawa,

Karen



Dive into our 2023 Annual Report



Our very first annual report is here! Discover how Nakanawa has continued to blaze the trail as a non-profit organization in 2023-2024. Our board committees were hard at work boosting Camp's fiscal progress, operations, recruitment, marketing and so much more.

Nakanawa's second century relies on nourishing her deep roots. Our community's generosity of both heart and resources continues to move us forward. We extend our profound thanks - as deep as the lake! - to you, our donors, friends, committees, staff, and fellow board members.

[read the report](#)

The Wonderful World of Counselors

Counselor recruitment is still going strong with new candidates applying weekly, and a majority of the activity positions filled! Recruitment has also taken a global turn, with new counselors joining the Nakanawa staff from Australia, Ghana, Jordan, Mexico, New Zealand and Spain.



"This is our most robust, experienced, and enthusiastic staff ever," said Karen Hale. "With our counselors' variety of cultures and skills, we know this will be an exciting summer."

What's Next:

- Keep an eye out for our Counselor Highlights on our social media pages to see who is coming this summer.
- Contact Blair Rissing at blair@campnakanawa.org if you'd like to learn more about counselor opportunities or if you know a young woman interested in working at Camp this summer.

[get more counselor staff info](#)

Camper Enrollment is Still Open

Nakanawa alumnae are our greatest resources to promote the value of spending a summer on the Cumberland Plateau. Your experiences as campers and counselors weave the intricate fabric of Camp. **Please engage hometown friends who have young girls and ladies ages 8-17 who might not yet know about Camp Nakanawa.**

Two Week Junior Camp is on a waitlist at this time, but all other camps and sessions have room available. For new, prospective camper families, please share this informative, introductory video (below) about Nakanawa: <https://youtu.be/DJzWhaBMs0Q>.



Nakanawa representative Emily Blake (jblake@sbcglobal.net) has a wealth of ideas for reaching out to potential new campers who you feel would benefit from a summer at Nakanawa. Please reach out to her for tips and best practices!

As always, we thank you for your help in shining a light on this place we all hold dear.

Alumnae Spotlight:
Marie Bourgeois - TR 94



Marie with her daughters, Ellie (TR 29), Juliette (TR 31), and Stella (TR 25)

My husband teases me because I don't talk much about my sorority, either of my colleges, or my high school. But when Nakanawa is mentioned, I sing the songs, cheer the cheers, and get very "rah rah!" As it turns out, Nakanawa is an organization I have remained loyal to for most of my life.

As a little girl, I knew how important Nakanawa was to my family. I was told of the years my great-grandmother, Margaretta Graham, attended Camp. She started the Amazon team, helped create both tie styles and colors still worn today by Amazons and Valkyries, and was the pillar of her community both at home and in the history book of Camp.

My grandmother, Jane Beavers, was also a camper, followed by my mother, Margaretta Moore, my sister, Maddie Bourgeois, and myself.

taking the train to mayland

Travel to and from Camp for my great-grandmother, my grandmother, and my mother was by train. My grandmother attended boarding school in Forest Glen, MD and always did a quick "trunk switch" between the school year and the Camp session, and vice versa at the end of the summer. That's dedication and loyalty for you!

My sister and I enjoyed hearing of these famous train trips while driving to and from Camp with our mother each summer. Other Camp friends and their families joined our caravan over the years, too, including the Van Cliefs. Oh, the tears we shed together on those drives back home to Charlottesville, VA.

nurturing the next generation

It has brought me great joy to share Camp with my three daughters. Having that connection outside of our home forms a stronger bond between us. My girls have fallen in love with Camp and view it as a priority over all other summer activities.

Young girls striving to succeed in school and club sports are almost always required to participate in summer training to achieve their goals and prepare for the season. When given the choice between attending Camp or a pre-college sports training program,

Nakanawa always wins out in our household.

My husband and I are reassured that Camp is the one place that our girls feel they can relax, be stress-free, and take a break from the pressures of school and their home sports teams. I'm grateful they see the value in taking a step outside of all of that and giving themselves the gift of Camp. Nakanawa is a truly magical place.

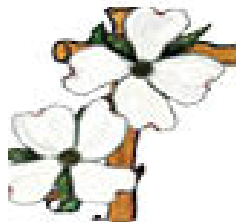


Marie throwing it back to camper days with Betty Drennan Stagner & Marci Perry Peters.



Marie's Mom, Margareta Moore Bourgeois TR 61, with two of her Amazon granddaughters.

**See You at May Reunions / Service Weekend
May 17-19, 2024**



MAY
Down in Tennessee ...

Three TRs are joining us for May Reunions! Initially, we imagined that most attendees would be the younger "TR women" who would be eager to sleep in cabins and re-live their camper days. But it turns out that it's the OLD LADIES who are showing up: TR 68, TR 69 and TR 71 - celebrating their 50th Reunion and reprising their TR Church for our Sunday service!

Some groups are staying off-site at Caryonah Lodge or Garden Inn at Bee Rock. While they won't get to hear the bullfrogs and the crunching gravel at night, everyone is excited about canoeing, visiting their rocks, seeing what's new at Nak, eating S'mores at Council Ring, and kicking back at Happy Am I Hours!

It's not too early to think about your TR reunion for next May. All groups are welcome.

make plans for your May Reunion

Don't forget to join us for Service Weekend.

No special skills are required -- just a willingness to pitch in and have fun while doing it.

Enjoy evening entertainment, sing songs around the fire in the Wigwam, spend a night in a cabin, canoe on the lake and join "Happy Am I Hour" at the Big House.

Please [register in advance](#) so we can get an accurate headcount for food orders and service project teams. And don't worry, there will be opportunities to take an extended Rest Hour. Come for the full weekend or just for the day; all are welcome!



Fun Fact: Each year, we print cups to use at our "Happy Am I Hour" and throughout the weekend. We've had a series of catchy slogans over the years. Dying to know what our 2024 cups will say? You could be a lucky recipient of one or more of our 2024 cups if you attend Service Weekend!

Please contact alexseb13@yahoo.com with any questions.

[sign up for Service Weekend](#)



**Reunite This Summer, Too
July 19-21, 2024**

Registration for our July Reunion is now open! Best of all, we're expecting groups from TR 84, TR 94, TR 99, TR 04, TR 14 and TR 23.

Weekend highlights include:

Varsity Soccer Game
War Canoe Race
Rock Meetings with alumnae
invited Council Ring in Junior Camp
Evening Program on the Crow's Nest

Sunday Church Service
Gold Carson Cross presentation
Reunion Luncheon in honor of TR 23
Valkyrie Vespers
Musical presentations by all TR groups

more on that

- **Fees are \$45** for all but TR 23 (\$25 for that group). Please register so we can plan for the right number of guests. If you need to cancel later, that's ok! We know that life happens and we'll happily refund your fees up to two weeks before the event.
- **If you're in another TR group** that would like to join, please email Donya Rose (donya@gmail.com). She'll be in touch to answer questions and provide details.

- If you want to join the fun without the rest of your TR, know that you are welcome and please [register](#).

SPECIAL NOTE: *TR '94 has rented the Caryonah Lodge for the July reunion weekend and is interested in sharing with another TR. Email Anne McGraw anne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

take me to July Reunion Weekend details

Alumnae Announcements

TOASTS AND SINGING



Steppin' out in Texas!



A little wine time.



"We are still so FUN!"

Hey y'all! Kathryn Bowyer, Cindy Alexander, Tracey Campbell, Isabella Hicks, and Lori Wagner represented the Amazons while Katie Mays, Lisa Box, Lori Bean, and Paige Browning represented the Valkyries for a long weekend of distinctions and competition in the Texas Hill Country.

TR 86 enjoyed a night dining along the San Antonio riverfront, followed by two days of touring wineries and shopping in Comfort and Fredericksburg. Their favorite activity: two-stepping at Albert Ice House to the band Two Tons of Steel. The Texas trip was rounded out by a run to Whataburger. The group held true to their TR slogan, "We are still so fun!"

DAY LILLIES & SUNSHINE



Happiness all around! Blakeley Sisk, TR 06, married Riley Cain on March 23rd, surrounded by Nakanawa family and friends. Celebrating with Blakeley were her Mom, Jennifer Lambert Sisk (TR 79), Karen Hale (TR 80), sister Charlotte Sisk Spector (TR 10), Catherine Ratelle (TR 08) and Ann Aston Slaton (TR 79). Not pictured: Blakeley's grandmother, Linda Petree Lambert (TR 56 & 57).

DANCING FLAMES



It's a girl! Lilla Bea Granger McMullan, TR 13, welcomed new Amazon Beatrice Myrie McMullan on March 16, 2024. "We can't wait for Beatrice to be a Nakanawa girl!"

Help Us Shine Bright on Google

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



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 Nakanawa 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. 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.

Alumnae Giving

Honor someone you love with a gift to the Nakanawa Fund

give now

Nakanawa in the Know

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

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