

# VALKAZON

## KAREN'S CORNER

June is Here — and So is Camp!

Camp is officially underway, and June has arrived with a burst of excitement! We kicked off the season by welcoming our incredible Upper Crust Food Service chefs: Mary and Anesha at Senior Camp, and Caitlin and Kevin at Junior Camp. From the very first bite, the staff has been raving! Think: fresh fruit salad, teriyaki pineapple chicken, melty quesadillas, warm chocolate chip cookies, and dreamy lemon bars — just to name a few. The food is SO good, counselors are declaring they are "too full"... and loving every minute of it!

PreCamp kicked off June 9 with a brand-new 6-day orientation format. It was full speed ahead as our team trained, certified, and connected. Highlights included lifeguard training, activity certifications, epic games, Minnie/Koochie team drawings, and even a refresher in good old-fashioned table manners. Songs were sung, friendships were formed, and one thing became clear: we are on a mission to be the BEST staff we can be.

This summer, we're all about five powerful daily practices:

- ~Names Matter
- ~Celebrate
- ~Unplug
- ~Participate
- ~Have Fun and Be Joyful!

We're also carrying these five virtues into every corner of camp life:

- ~Patience
- ~Tolerance
- ~Kindliness
- ~Love
- ~Humility

Our counselors have shown up, worked hard, and poured themselves into preparing for the summer ahead. I couldn't be prouder of this top-notch team — full of enthusiasm, heart, and the commitment to make a real difference.

Campers arrive June 15 - Father's Day! Wishing a heartfelt Happy Father's Day to all our dads, granddads, and father figures. Thank you for the love and support you give every day.

I've been counting down the days — 291, to be exact — and the wait is over. This summer, we're ready to change lives. Just like we've done for 106 summers before. Let's go, Nakanawa! Here's to the best summer yet!

With joy,  
Karen

P.S. Why don't campfires ever tell secrets?  
Because they're always crackling up!

## NAKANAWA FEATURED IN A PODCAST

Get to know more about Nakanawa through the **stories of Karen Rathgeber Hale, the Director of Camp**. Hear about the history of Camp and Karen's personal journey as a camper and counselor. She talks about what Camp gave her, and what it continues to give current and future campers.

Better Together with Kosta Yepifantsev is a podcast about business, parenting and living life intentionally.



[listen to the podcast](#)

### Annual Report 2024 is ready to read!

With deep gratitude for our extraordinary community, we are pleased to share the 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a year of growth, resilience, and enduring commitment to Camp Nakanawa's mission of empowering girls and young women through outdoor experiences. Thanks to your support, strong enrollment, and generous giving, Nakanawa continues to thrive—preserving our cherished traditions while investing in the future for generations of campers to come.

[Access Nakanawa's Annual Report here.](#)



# RING THE BELL!

*Camp is hiring a new part-time position.*

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**JOIN THE TEAM!**

- BIG IMPACT
- FLEXIBILITY
- DRIVE CHANGE AT THE CAMP YOU LOVE
- WITHIN 3 HOUR RADIUS OF CAMP

**CONTACT US**  
931-277-3711



## Emily DeLoach Gatlin Alumnae Spotlight

Claims to fame for Clarksville, Tennessee include The Monkees hit, "The Last Train to Clarksville" (well, sort of), The Leaf Chronicle - the oldest newspaper in Tennessee, being a neighbor to Fort Campbell where Jimi Hendrix was a Paratrooper in the Army from 1961-62, and the hometown for our very own Emily DeLoach Gatlin, TR 2000.

[read more about Emily's success here](#)



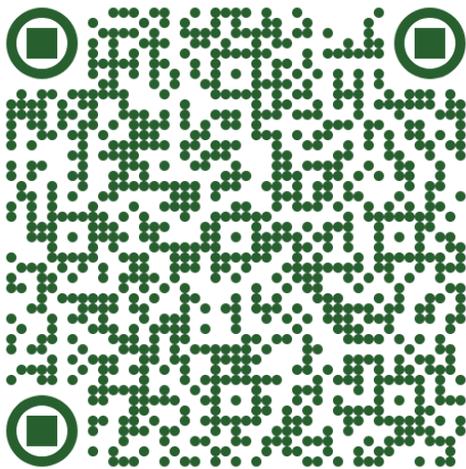
### Support the Nakanawa Fund

The air is alive with that camp-time buzz . . . trunk loads of anticipation and hearts full of memories collide as summer 2025 rolls into view. The “camp of our dreams” depends on the **Nakanawa Fund** which takes up the slack to provide ongoing equipment upgrades and unexpected facility repairs. From songbooks to stand-up mixers, bridles to bows and arrows, rifles to radios, the Nakanawa Fund ensures that each camper has a shining summer.

Hop in, Team Nak grandparents, godmothers and aunts! Your gifts of every size make Camp happen. Consider a monthly donation – the yearly total and **your impact** just might surprise you.

Thank you, dear **Red** and **Blue**!

Illustrations by Margaret Matens



contribute to the Nakanawa Fund



### Register now for Mother Daughter Weekend

Mark your calendars for **September 12-14, 2025!** Girls aged 5-11 are invited to experience the magic of Camp alongside their mother, grandmother, or another cherished adult friend.



Join Us for **Mother Daughter Weekend**

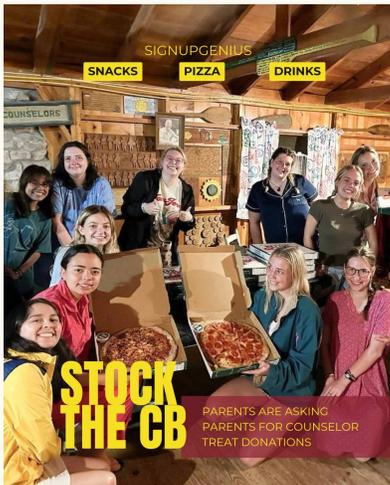
September 12-15

Registration is now officially open!

details and registration



learn more about and register for July Reunions



## Stock the CB – Parents Support Our Counselors!

Counselors make Camp the magical place it is —guiding, cheering, leading, and inspiring. Current camper parents (former alumnae) are asking other camper parents to join them in showing their appreciation by helping **stock the Counselor Bunk with snacks and special surprises**. They've created a [SignUpGenius](#) to make it easy. See suggestions and dates on the form, and for help, contact Emily Richardson Blake at 405-206-1778 or Camille Richard Jackson at 318-794-6063. [Sign up here](#) to show the care!



## We're off for Summer break!

**Our editorial staff will be taking the rest of 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 (see icons below), or visit our [website](#).

We wish you a happy, healthy summer

full of sunshine, daylilies, friendship,  
and warm hearts!



## Alumnae Giving

Consider a monthly gift to the  
Nakanawa Fund.

June donations were made  
in memory of

Carole Bodie Harrington  
Chris Redmond Ford

[give now](#)



## Nakanawa in the Know

[2-Week Session: June 15–27, 2025](#)

[4-Week Session: June 30–July 26, 2025](#)

[Reunion Weekend: July 18–20, 2025](#)

[Mother/Daughter Weekend: September  
12-14, 2025](#)



**Camp Nakanawa's summer business hours are Monday–Friday, from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Central Time. Messages received outside of those hours will be answered within twenty-four hours.**

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

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