

# VALKAZON



Karen enjoys one last slope this skiing season before the busy summer season starts.



## Karen's Corner

### Spring at Nakanawa - New Beginnings, New Updates

Spring has arrived, bringing with it daffodils, yellow forsythia, and a much-needed splash of color after winter's grip. Unfortunately, it also brought some high winds – too strong for kites and a bit too much for a few of our beloved trees. But no worries! Our amazing staff and volunteers have rallied, tidying up and making repairs to keep Nakanawa looking its best. On a brighter note, we've got 40 new trees of various species ready to plant at both camps, promising even more beauty and shade for years to come.

In early March, we were thrilled to welcome Deaton Dock and our brand-new boathouse. This project is a game-changer for the health of our war canoes, providing them with a safe, dry spot all year long. It will also serve as the home for our sail boats and kayaks, making water activities even better for everyone.

While enrollment is looking fantastic, we still have a few spots available. As you'll see below, we didn't fill our new session, so we've offered those already enrolled a spot in our original two-week session. We're excited for next year's session, with word spreading earlier than ever!

We recently attended the Tri-State Camping Conference – the largest of its kind in the world – and walked away more inspired than ever. Camps across the globe share our commitment to enhancing security and ensuring our staff is trained to handle any situation. Nakanawa is rolling out a multi-phase plan based on expert recommendations, and security is our top priority as we head into counselor training and the summer season.

I hope everyone is enjoying the arrival of spring!

S'mores truly,  
Karen



## Wish You Were Here

*Cindy Alexander Dubose, Karen Rathgeber Hale,  
Corie Wilson, and Claire Pinck*

## A Tri-State CAMP Conference: A Huddle of Inspiration, Learning and Eye-Opening Insights

As I walked into the Tri-State CAMP Conference—the largest gathering of camp professionals in the world—I could practically feel the energy buzzing in the air. Over 3,300 people, 170+ educational sessions, and a booth exhibit hall packed with new products and services... if you're a camp enthusiast, this is the place to be.

This event, hosted by the American Camp Association of New York and New Jersey, isn't just about networking (though that's a huge perk), it's about coming together with a shared mission: to make a positive impact on the lives of children. We're all about creating experiences that build a world of belonging and growth. Cue inspirational music.

The conference kicked off with a bang, thanks to the keynote speaker, David Brooks—a cultural commentator and author who had a compelling message. He didn't just talk about camp; he shared his personal experience and dove deep into some eye-opening studies that revealed the emotional and societal challenges many in the U.S. are facing. His focus? The importance of social intelligence, which camp helps foster in spades. From emotional range to social experiences, camp pushes campers to expand their horizons—basically, camp is where you become the best version of yourself. And if you've ever watched Ted Lasso, you'll know that's what it's all about!

But it didn't stop there—oh no. We had a lineup of other remarkable speakers who kept the inspiration flowing. Dominique Dawes, the Olympic Gold Medalist gymnast, wrapped things up with a powerful message about the value of teamwork. Her advice? "Check your ego at the door." Simple, yet profound. It was a timely reminder that in both camp and life, taking a genuine interest in those around you is the secret to success.

By the time the conference ended, we were buzzing with ideas, new connections, and a renewed sense of purpose. After all, a great summer camp season is just around the corner, and we left ready to bring our camp program to the next level!

Thanks to Corie Wilson, Cindy Alexander Dubose and Claire Rinck for joining me and allowing us to gain more from the conference experience.



## What's in a Roll?

Ah, dinner rolls on Saturday night at Camp, with beef, gravy, onion rings and our signature frozen fruit salad. From the homemade rolls of the 1920s to decades of butter flake rolls and the Sister Schubert rolls of the 2000s, the role of the roll is a feature of the Nakanawa table. Just ask Pepe: active campers can put away many dozen!

This spring, we plan a different roll: the **Donor Honor Roll**.



As we complete our Annual Report, we will roll out the names of each donor to the non-profit Nakanawa since our beginning. Our vital Nakanawa Fund, the growing Nakanawa Endowment, the Elisabeth Mitchell Charitable Fund, memorials, honoraria – each initiative plays an *important and needed role (pun intended!)* in building a solid foundation and brilliant future for Camp.

We look forward to honoring **you** as we express our deep gratitude for everything your generosity makes possible, from **roof replacements to waterfront transformation, cherished camperships, ongoing security enhancements, tree plantings, Egypt renovations and so much more.**

In a world of instant images and rapid change, Nakanawa's role in our lives as campers, counselors, alumnae, parents and volunteers is lasting, just like our memories of Saturday nights around the table together. **Every Gift Matters!**

**Let us add your name to the Nakanawa Fund Team Honor Roll!**

**Consider a Family Gift for Capital Improvements  
Appreciated Stocks, IRA Distribution with Tax Advantages, Monthly Donation  
We can do that!**

**Contact Our Development Chair Mary Shearer Baker:** [shearermary@hotmail.com](mailto:shearermary@hotmail.com)  
or **Legacy Gift Specialist Ginny Bass Carl:** [ginny@givingwellok.com](mailto:ginny@givingwellok.com)  
or **Click below to donate. Thank you!**

**click here to roll with  
us**



## ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT: Margaret Van Clief - TR 1995

Meet Margaret Van Clief, **Camp Nakanawa alumna and conservation leader.** From Valkyrie Vespers to protecting Virginia's coastline, her journey is filled with heart, nature, and community impact. Click the button to read about her journey.

[read more](#)

## A New Boathouse Rises on Lake Aloaloa

A new floating boathouse is being built on Lake Aloaloa by Deaton's Waterfront Services and will be the future home of war canoes, sailboats, and kayaks. Click below to see more photos and read the details of this exciting new feature for Camp.



[read more](#)



# MAY down in Tennessee...

# Service Weekend MAY 16-18, 2025

May is a fabulous time to visit the Cumberland Plateau ... white dogwoods, pink lady slippers, and redbuds. And the timing is perfect to help ready camp for its 106th summer. Come for the weekend or, if you live in driving distance, come spend Saturday at camp.

Register online by clicking the button below. If you can register by May 4, that will help

us in meal planning.

It's always fun when the "old-timers" take part in our May events. This spring we welcome a big crew from "Almost Heaven TR 77." They will be lending a hand all weekend and are preparing a Church Service for us for Sunday morning. It just might be Birds of Wington! Don't miss the fun.

[register now for service weekend](#)

## 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

*CLICK BELOW...*

[apply within for Director of Development](#)

# JUNIOR SESSION 1 UPDATE



## What's Ahead for Camp 2025

We want to share a quick update regarding this summer's schedule. **Junior Session 1 (June 1–13) will not be held this year.**

We hope families who were planning on attending this session will consider joining us for one of our other offerings. Junior Session 2 (June 15–27) will run as planned and is a wonderful option for our younger campers. Our Main Session (June 29–July 27) welcomes campers ages 12–16 for a full month of unforgettable experiences. Or, check us out again in 2026—Junior Session 1 will return as part of the summer schedule!



TR 1995, 2000, 2015, and 2024 - pull up your (Reunion) Chair! July Reunion Weekend is coming up soon, and we are hoping to see the 1-year, 25-year, and all the 10-year groups. We already have Chairs for TR 2005 (Lucy Loveless) and

TR 1985 (Terry Villemez McKee and Mattie Hodges Sateri), and we're most grateful. **We are actively seeking Chairs for TR 1995, 2000, 2015, and 2024.**

The Chair is responsible for communicating between their group and Camp as we share important information and news about Reunion Weekend. If you would be willing to serve in this important role for this year, or if you have a friend you'd like to nominate, please be in touch with Donya Rose ([to.donya@gmail.com](mailto:to.donya@gmail.com), 919-824-8141).

See you in July!!



## Counselor Recruitment Update

**The 2025 Counselor Staff is shaping up.** We continue to receive applications weekly, and love getting to talk to both new to Nakanawa and former counselors and campers during our phone and Zoom interviews.

Keep a lookout for Counselor Highlights on our Socials, as we give sneak peeks into who will be on staff this summer!

We held our first Counselor Zoom where we discussed the Mission and Vision of Camp Nakanawa as well as ways to make our actions as counselors intentional and meaningful. It is wonderful to see counselors sharing ideas on ways to become the best counselors for our campers and enjoying getting to connect with each other.

We are still looking to strengthen and develop the 2025 cabin and activity counselor staff.

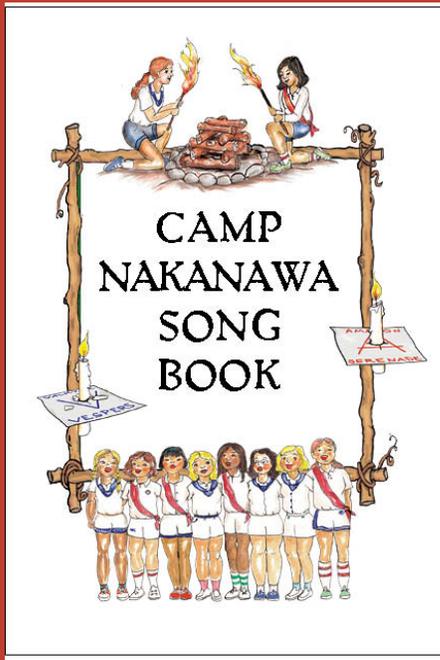
Please contact Blair Rissing at [blair@campnakanawa.org](mailto:blair@campnakanawa.org) if you'd like to learn more about counselor opportunities or if you know of a young woman interested in working at camp this summer.



[apply to be a counselor](#)

## Did Your Jolly, Jolly Tent Row Write this Song?

Tiny McPhillips and Margaret Matens are updating the Nakanawa Song Book. We would like to list the year of the Tent Rows who composed each song below and specify its tune. Please email [margaretmatens@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmatens@gmail.com) if you can supply this vital information. Thanks!



### "A Tent Row Girl"

*A Tent Row Girl, a smile on her face  
The symbol of devotion and grace ...*

### "You Gotta Be, Be, Be"

*You gotta be, be, be a Tent Row girl  
to amount to anything ...*

### "We're from Tent Row"

*We're from Tent Row, jolly, jolly Tent Row ...*

### "She's Got a Face Like Ava Gardner"

*She's got a face like Ava Gardner, a figure like Bardot ...*

### "We're Here for Two Months"

*We're here for two months and we're mighty glad ...*

### "They Call Us TR Women"

*They call us TR Women, and maturity is our name ...*

## Alumnae Announcements

### Out & About

#### TR '91 Reunion Weekend: A Celebration of Lifelong Friendship

Reuniting from across the country—Louisiana, Oregon, California, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and of course, Texas—the women of Tent Row '91 gathered in Dallas, TX, for a weekend full of laughter, love, and a whole lot of pickleball!

Organized by Kristi Cies TR '85 (our beloved Reunion Mama), the group included: Camille Richard Jackson, Lisa Rimbey Beyer, Allison (Tex) Clark, Beth Walker Ehrich, Laurie Soule Fenderson, East Apthorp, Elizabeth Page Ryll, Bree Pattillo, Margaret Fitts Stein, Rachel Wagner Epperson, and Sullivan Calloway





**Strong and True Friendship ...**  
... and matching sweatshirts!  
Dear childhood friends who became members of TR '81 - Georgia Mattern, Stacey Madison McNamara & Nancy Cumming Burgess ♥☐



**Get your Pickle On!**  
Nakanawa girls on the court:  
Kate Freshwater TR '07, Molly Mattesky Sanders TR '06, Danielle Rovers TR '06, Kate Freshwater TR '06, Kaitlin Ordemann TR '06

**Day Lillies & Sunshine**



**Love is in the air!**  
Annie Wagner TR '17 married Trae Weber on March 22, 2025



**Nakanawa in the Know**

**Alumnae Giving**  
Honor someone you love with a gift to the Nakanawa Fun in memory or honor of.

Virginia Thomas Harris

Eloise Bootie Farnsworth

Barbara Green Moate

[give now](#)

[Service Weekend and May Reunion Weekend: May 16–18, 2025](#)

[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 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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!