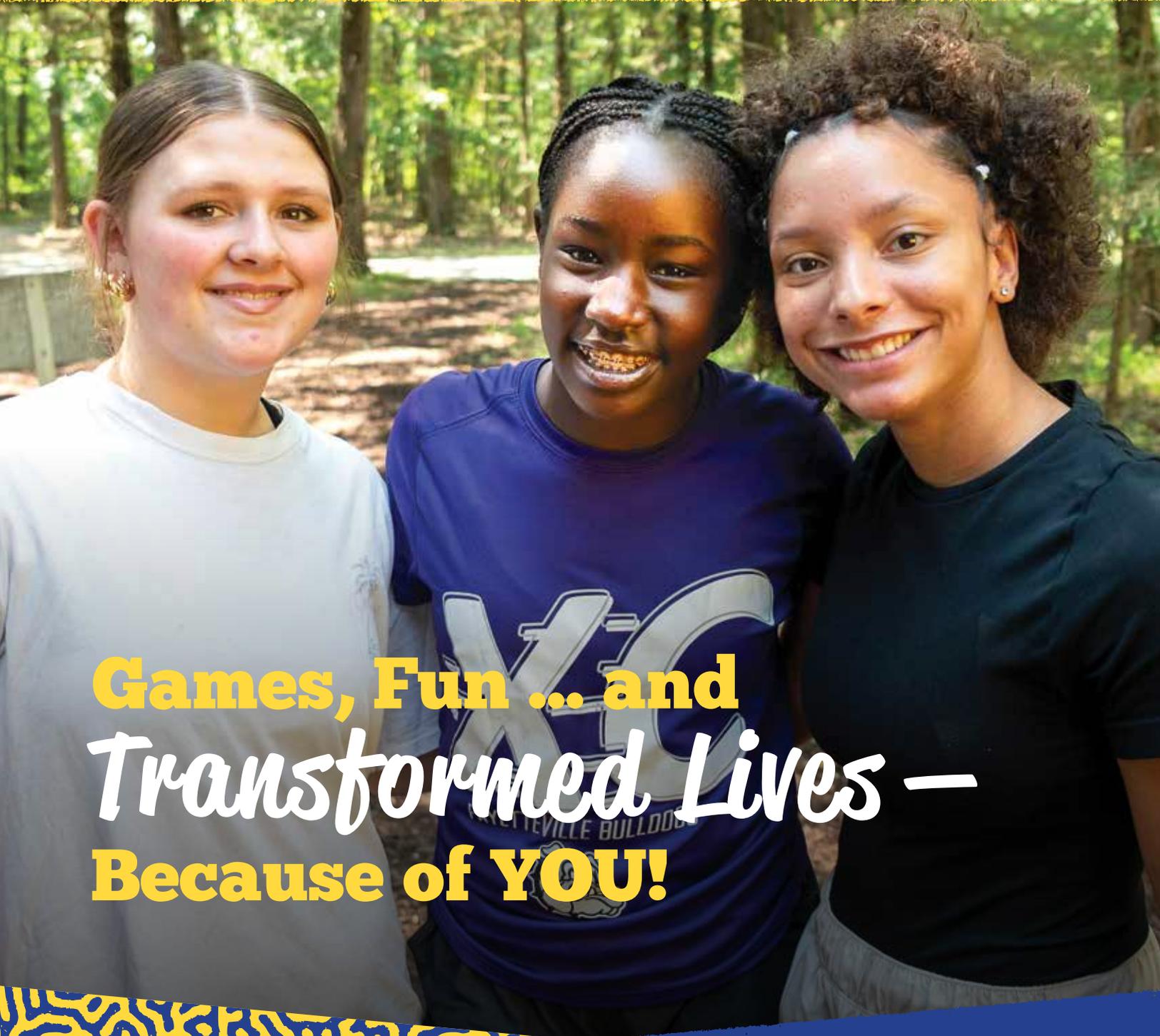


Lifeline



Games, Fun ... and
Transformed Lives —
Because of YOU!

In This Issue

Overcoming the Odds –

Marco turned his life around

Page 4



Restoring Hope

Mia's heart was changed at KAA

Page 7



Hoops with a Legend

Jackie Stiles comes to KAA

Page 12



KAA Outfitters: Get outdoors and help support Kids Across America!

Important Dates • Mark your calendar now

Page 20

... and so much more!



A Personal Word from

Randy Odom,

President and CEO



Randy Odom, President & CEO

As the summer vibes and the echoes of laughter and shouts fade from our grounds, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and *pure awe* for what God did through your partnership at Kids Across America (KAA) this summer.

God showed up in powerful ways. **We joyfully welcomed 4,640 campers and leaders**, and the impact was transformative. We saw young people step up, saying “yes” to Jesus, watched our dedicated staff grow into incredible leaders, and had the profound privilege of seeing urban youth experience genuine hope, joy, and purpose in a safe and loving space.

Because of friends like you, we’re doing more than just running a camp — we’re building Kingdom leaders!

Our mission is more urgent than ever. This is why we lowered our camper age to nine years old. In a world constantly pulling kids in every direction, Kids Across America remains a solid place where they are seen, known, and loved. What we do here matters now more than ever, shaping futures and planting seeds that will last a lifetime.

We’re gearing up for a bold future. We’re actively expanding our year-round leadership pipeline and investing in services that truly match the excellence of our mission, with the goal of positioning KAA to serve even more campers with the highest standards of care and impact.

While many camps nationwide are facing real challenges, KAA’s strong enrollment of nearly 5,000 campers and leaders this summer is a powerful testimony to the lasting value and deep impact of our programs.

Thank you for standing with us. Because of your unwavering support, our mission keeps pushing forward.

We’re dreaming big, praying boldly, and trusting God to multiply our impact in a major way in 2026 and beyond.

A handwritten signature of Randy Odom in blue ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, appearing to read 'Randy Odom'.



of campers attending: 3,940

Overcoming the Odds

Camp at KAA is incredible ... and kids' lives are transformed! Every donation you make is an investment in a young life — one that can turn struggle into strength and isolation into belonging. No one knows this better than Marco Tucker, Jr., a 15-year-old from Memphis, Tennessee ...

Marco's early years were anything but easy. Born in Memphis and raised in Kansas, he carried the weight of being the eldest of four — a burden that

demanded strength and sacrifice. But Marco's challenges ran deeper. From a young age, he struggled to speak, and the world around him rushed to label him — some even assumed he had autism. Misunderstood and misjudged, Marco often felt like an outsider in his own life.

School, far from being a refuge, became a battleground. By the time he reached middle school, the bullying was relentless. Rejection from his peers chipped away at his spirit, and the pain turned inward





— until it finally exploded. One fight. One moment of fury. Expelled and staring down the possibility of jail, Marco stood at a crossroads. Who was he going to be? A boy defined by his anger and pain — or someone who could rise above it?

With the unwavering support of his parents and his faith, he found the discipline to overcome the odds in his life. He kept his grades up, stayed out of trouble, and surrounded himself with positive influences. *“God put discipline in me and focus in me to be that person and to do it right,”* Marco shared.

Kids Across America is a place where young people facing adversity, like Marco find hope, community, and the tools to thrive.

At Kids Across America, Marco found a place where he could let his guard down. The camp became a haven — a safe place to heal, grow, and genuinely smile.

And it wasn’t just the fun and games that changed Marco. *“It showed me how to be a better older brother for my younger siblings. It has also shown me to trust people who I never met before, but it gave me enough trust to love my brothers,”* Marco explained.

Kids Across America is a place where young people facing adversity, like Marco find hope, community, and the tools to thrive.

When you support Kids Across America, you’re not just sending a child to camp. You’re giving them a chance to overcome the odds and rewrite their story. *Join us in making more stories like Marco’s possible. Your generosity changes lives.*



of Kaleos attending: 700



6

of states represented: 30



Restoring Hope



Mia has faced challenges that would overwhelm many adults, and she's only 16.

Last year, she and her siblings escaped an abusive household thanks to the compassion of a church member who adopted them. The transition was difficult. Mia was thrust into a new school and an unfamiliar environment. The emotional toll was heavy, and the pain of family separation lingered.

Yet, Mia's story is not one of defeat, but of resilience and renewal. She returned to Kids Across America this year with a heart open to healing. Despite her adoptive mother now being in rehab and the uncertainty surrounding her biological mother's recovery, Mia expressed a readiness to forgive and reconnect — a testament to her growing strength.

What made the difference for Mia? It was the unwavering support of her counselors and the KAA community. Her counselors helped Mia confront the burdens she carried, offering empathy and wisdom that allowed her to break free from emotional struggles. "How do they see that on my face? How are they helping me carry this burden?" Mia wondered. The answer was simple: through love, faith, and a willingness to walk alongside her.

She also had fun. And every young person needs that! Mia loved the fun and challenges of camp life, from competing

for the coveted "krunk belt" to scraping trays after a friendly cabin competition. These experiences taught Mia the value of perseverance, teamwork, and maintaining a joyful spirit no matter the circumstances.

The most profound change in Mia, however, was spiritual. Camp helped her feel restored and ready to dedicate herself more fully to her faith.

She spoke of letting go of worldly concerns and focusing on her relationship with God. "I need to be this image for God," she shared, reflecting a newfound sense of purpose and identity.

Mia's journey is just one example of the countless lives transformed at Kids Across America. Thank you for loving her and so many others. Through you, they come to camp and find healing. They discover their true potential.

Breaking the Cycle: Healing the Father Wound

Forerunner Mentoring Leads the Way

Forerunner Mentoring, located in the heart of Dallas, is lighting a path for young men growing up without a father at home. Founded with a mission to fulfill the potential of every boy in Lake Highlands, the ministry provides mentoring, after-school programs, and family support rooted in Christian love and guidance.

Understanding the *Father Wound*

The “Father Wound” refers to the deep emotional and psychological impact caused by the absence of a strong, caring, and responsible father figure. This void often manifests in adulthood through symptoms like selfishness, unresolved anger, and difficulty trusting others in relationships. These young men are left to make sense of manhood on their own, lacking a role model to affirm them or teach them how to navigate life’s challenges and responsibilities.

The Power of Mentoring

At KAA, we call mentors Kaleo’s, Greek for “called ones,” because it takes people with a special calling to carry out the mission of leading youth from under-resourced communities. Noah McGuffy is a Kaleo, too, for Forerunner. He felt called to stand in the gap for young men without a father and serves as the mentor coordinator for Forerunner.

Every boy who comes to Forerunner is paired with a mentor who listens, cares, and demonstrates what it means to be a man of character and faith. The programs are all about building relationships, cultivating identity, and offering family support so that mothers aren’t bearing the load alone.





Forerunner Comes to KAA

Noah's experiences with Kids Across America (KAA) inspired him to give his mentees a taste of something greater ... so he brought them to camp this summer! "Camp is a place where they can step away from daily struggles and discover who they're meant to be," Noah says.

One camper shared his profound experience: "Cross Talk was really eye opening for me. Since eighth grade I've been dealing with mental illness, like depression type stuff ... having bad thoughts." He continued, explaining the weight of his father's passing and a cousin's drowning earlier in the year, stating, "that just made things 10 times as worse." Despite appearing "normal" and telling people he was okay, he admitted he felt empty and lost. He realized he needed to talk to somebody about it. And he did. He shared his fears, griefs and hurts with Jesus at foot of the Cross.

"KAA impacted our young men in an incredible way this summer," Noah shares. "Our staff works to provide consistent and ongoing support and discipleship year around, but the 'mountaintop' experiences our boys had at camp is pivotal for their lives. Most of our boys either placed their faith in Christ for the first time or made a recommitment. It was an absolute honor to watch our young men grow in their faith, feel safe in a camp experience, and simply have an absolute blast!"



Every boy who comes to Forerunner is paired with a mentor who listens, cares, and demonstrates what it means to be a man of character and faith.



of cities represented: 502

For the past two years, Bridge of Faith has partnered with KAA to host pop-up day camps, reaching youth in Rockaway Beach with faith, fun, and friendship.



Bridge of Faith

Once a bustling tourist hotspot dubbed “The Fort Lauderdale of the Midwest,” Rockaway Beach, Missouri, saw its economy decline after the construction of Table Rock Dam cooled the waters and drove visitors elsewhere.

Today, signs of renewal are emerging. At the heart of this revival is Bridge of Faith, a local ministry committed to sharing the Gospel, supporting families in need, and driving community transformation. Through practical outreach, job creation, and discipleship, Bridge of Faith is not just part of rebuilding a town — it’s *restoring hope*.

For the past two years, Bridge of Faith has partnered with KAA to host pop-up day camps, reaching youth in Rockaway Beach with faith, fun, and friendship. This year marked a milestone: for the first time, Bridge of Faith brought campers for a full week at KAA, offering them an immersive experience centered on faith and personal growth.

Brant, one of the campers who attended through Bridge of Faith Community, described his week at KAA as *life-changing*. He learned about Jesus, felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, and participated in sports like baseball, basketball, and football. Brant especially



cherished learning to swim and conquering his fear of heights on the Faith Pole. The experience left a deep mark on his heart, inspiring him to make better choices and to share his newfound faith with his family. “Most of my family members don’t even believe in Jesus, but I can help,” Brant shared.

His story is just one among many. Several campers made first-time decisions or recommitted their lives to Jesus during their time at camp. The impact of a single week — filled with fun, faith, and community — has rippled outward, touching families and strengthening the bonds within Rockaway Beach.

Bridge of Faith’s ongoing commitment to the town’s youth and families is helping to write a new chapter for their town — one filled with hope, purpose, and the promise of transformation for generations to come.



% of campers who made first-time decisions or recommitted their lives to Jesus: 49%

Hoops with a Legend:

Jackie Stiles at KAA

She's inspired and impacted millions with her tremendous skill and finesse on the basketball court. From her roots in Claflin, Kansas, to a professional career in the WNBA, Jackie Stiles is one of "best of the best" in the history of the women's game!

Jackie held the NCAA career scoring record for 16 years while accumulating honors that include the prestigious Wade Trophy and the Honda Awards Player of the Year. She was a three-time NCAA All American and the 4th pick in the WNBA draft in 2001 where she was named WNBA Rookie of the Year. In 2016, Stiles was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Following her prolific playing career, Stiles moved into the coaching profession with collegiate stints at Loyola Marymount, Missouri State, and the University of Oklahoma, before moving into private business. Earlier this year, she connected with Kids Across America and

after learning about its mission, agreed to put on a clinic for female campers interested in basketball.

She has long been an inspiration to young athletes everywhere who have big dreams. In June, Jackie put on a mini clinic with our elementary girls' basketball specialty class and a combined middle school and high school girls' basketball specialty class. She taught campers how to improve their fundamentals, how to execute a skill and the strategy behind it. After each clinic, every girl received an autographed autobiography from her, and she encouraged them to reach out if they had follow-up questions about the drills they learned with her or needed help connecting to a college to play ball.

"Getting to participate in the clinic was probably the best thing that's happened to me," shared Caroline, a 15-year-old camper who has a dream of one day playing basketball for U Conn.

"Just meeting somebody that's played in the league before is just so amazing to me, and it's very inspiring. I would love to one day be where she is. She inspired me to just keep going. Because even though she was not the tallest, not the strongest, and nobody expected her to go to the WNBA, she still made it. Her story gave me a lot of hope and courage."



Happy Birthday!

KAA Turns 34

KAA started camp off this year with something truly special — by commemorating KAA’s 34th birthday the entire first week of camp!

Our first group helped us celebrate 34 years of KAA’s incredible legacy, impact, and growth. The week was packed with excitement, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose as we shouted our birthday cheer while enjoying cake and ice cream and came together for a camp-wide *Day of Prayer* for KAA’s present and future.

This celebratory week was not just for KAA — it was for every camper, staff member and every supporter who has contributed to this incredible journey and reflects the heart of what KAA stands for: transformation, community, and growth.

Thanks for being a part of the legacy of KAA!



Introducing ... the Ray Arechiga Field

KAA welcomed back a special friend and alumnus this summer — Ray Arechiga. Few names are synonymous with camp, and Ray’s is among them. In KAA’s 34 years of operation, he has served in multiple staff capacities — from counselor to Chief Operations Officer. His faithfulness in our ministry has helped lead countless young lives to the cross. To honor his legacy, KAA renamed the KAA 2 baseball field to the *Ray Arechiga Field*.



of summer staff: 447

13

KAA + Cru® IMPACT

KAA partners with IMPACT, a Cru® ministry that equips Black students to become disciples of Jesus Christ who integrate their faith into every aspect of their life. And it's a win-win partnership that connects Christian college students to meaningful summer work opportunities at KAA.

For Layla Miller faith was once a distant concept — until IMPACT at Florida Memorial University transformed her life. Her freshman year was marked by partying and substance abuse. But an invitation to an online campus church service led to a powerful altar call, sparking her decision to volunteer, get baptized, and embrace a new way of living rooted in Christ.

When she found IMPACT, Layla's transformation deepened. She candidly shares her battle with depression, a stay in a



mental health hospital, and doubts about her worth. Through her IMPACT community, she found renewed purpose, spiritual guidance, and the healing power of forgiveness. And through IMPACT, she found another opportunity to grow in Christ!

... it's a win-win partnership that connects Christian college students to meaningful summer work opportunities at KAA.

Layla served as a counselor at KAA this summer. She embraced her role, feeling a deep responsibility to guide children — many from tough backgrounds — toward understanding their identity in Christ. She found joy in the resilience of the kids and was moved by their openness during a dramatic reenactment of Jesus' resurrection.

Layla's story is one of transformation, service, and hope. She now encourages others to experience camp, emphasizing its power to deepen faith, build community, and serve others: "You don't have any distractions—just a chance to really lock in with God and help others do the same."





THE **Impact** MOVEMENT



% of groups attending 20+ years: 9%



Twice the Impact

Thanks to Hideaway Pizza!

Two years and twice the impact ... thanks to pepperoni, cheese, and all the "fixin's"!

Hideaway Pizza cooked up a savory deal for the second year in a row to ensure kids get to experience camp. For a full week in April, the pizza chain donated \$2 from the sale of every large specialty pizza sold at its locations to KAA.

And we are so grateful!

Hideaway Pizza got its start in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1957, and has expanded to 17 eateries in three states. To learn more about Hideaway Pizza or to find a location, visit www.hideawaypizza.com. If you own a business and would like to partner with KAA on a similar promotion to ensure finances never stand between deserving kids attending camp, please reach out to Mark Parry: mark@kaakamps.org.

To learn more about Hideaway Pizza or to find a location, visit www.hideawaypizza.com.



Donate Your Wheels, Drive Adventure!

Is your old car, truck, RV, ATV, or boat taking up space? Give it a new purpose — send it to camp! When you donate your vehicle, you help send kids on unforgettable summer adventures filled with laughter, friendship, discovery and most of all — JESUS.

Why Donate?

- **Easy & Free Pickup:** We'll tow your car, truck, boat or RV at no cost to you.
- **Tax Deductible:** Your donation could qualify for a tax deduction!
- **Big Impact:** Every vehicle helps create more camp memories for kids.

How to Help

1. Call us.
2. Schedule your free pickup.
3. Watch your old ride bring smiles all summer long!

Turn your keys into campfire stories — donate today and fuel a child's summer adventure!

If you would be interested in donating a vehicle, ATV, UTV, or boat, we would love to talk with you. Contact Dave Janke at 417-263-1800 or dave@kaakamps.org.





They say the only things you can't avoid are death and taxes.

But there's ONE (astonishingly simple) way you can avoid one of them ...

Creating a will or estate plan can help you eliminate unnecessary taxes ... and more.

No, it's not glamorous. Maybe it even seems like a chore or hassle. But there's no more certain way to ensure that you avoid "the end" of your ability to provide for your loved ones and continue your legacy of impact reaching youth from under-resourced communities with KAA and on this earth — as well as unnecessary taxes, probate fees, and other burdens for your surviving loved ones!

And the process is surprisingly fast and easy ...

When you include Kids Across America in your will, you can either ...

- Establish a bequest of a certain amount — or
- Give a percentage of your after-tax estate

Simply provide your attorney with instructions, our formal name (Kids Across America) and tax ID #: 83-1966879

Another incredible strategic giving opportunity maximizes your impact!

Did you know you can distribute grants from your DAF to Kids Across America? These funds are already set aside for ministry, via your selected charities, so you can give freely without touching your ready capital. Most importantly, you will experience the joy of knowing your gift will help transform youth to impact their communities for Christ!

For more information on these or other strategic giving options, contact Marsha Miller at 417-266-3129



% of groups attending 10+ years: 18%

Empowering the Next Generation:



A Legacy of Encouragement at Our Alumni Meetups

At the heart of every great organization is a vision that transcends time, connecting the past, present, and future. Since we began hosting Alumni Meet-ups our vision has been to create a space where the wisdom and encouragement from past generations can uplift the new generation of summer staff. It's about more than just reconnecting — it's about building a bridge of support and inspiration that strengthens the legacy of our camp.

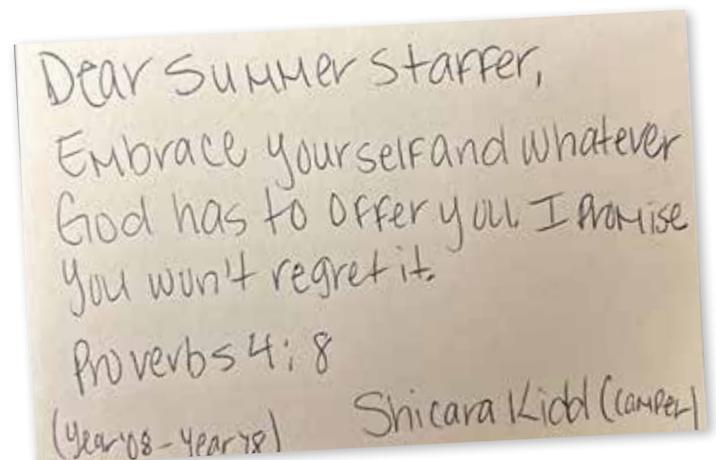
This is the core idea behind our *Note to The Next* initiative! Alumni of KAA write notes of encouragement to current staff, sharing their wisdom and favorite scriptures. It's powerful!

Each note is written with care, with alumni taking the time to reflect on their time at camp and the impact it had on their lives. It's not just about words on paper — it's about speaking life into the future.

During the Staff Training Week this summer, the summer staff gathered to be officially welcomed into the KAA

family and received letters from alumni. When these notes are read aloud, there is a sense of joy, gratitude, and inspiration in the room. For the summer staff, these letters serve as a reminder that they are part of a legacy that stretches back years, with every generation having an important role in shaping the next.

As we continue this tradition, we look forward to seeing how these notes of encouragement ripple through the lives of our summer staff, continuing the legacy of transformation that has defined KAA for decades.



Dear Summer Staff,
 I thank God that you were selected to work at Kamp this Summer. This Summer will be one of the best & influential of your life. Make sure you slow down & enjoy the small wins! Stuff will get stressful & frustrating, but remember that you are doing it for the Kingdom & for the kids. Keep your head up & keep pushing. I will be praying!
 '11-'21 KAA3 - Much Love
 Frebrill FFB Oliver

James 2:17

Dear KAA Summer Staff:
 God has placed you in a important position that will forever change the life of several kampers. The experience of sharing God's word and hearing the stories of the kampers you serve will be a time you will never forget.
 Jeremiah 1:4-6
 Bryant H.

Since we began hosting Alumni Meet-ups our vision has been to create a space where the wisdom and encouragement from past generations can uplift the new generation of summer staff.

Yoooo!!
 Now that I have your attention... you are loved! Your life on this mountain has exceeded. The light that God has that ignites the spark that will encourage you when you are in the towel. You are bread and butter. The world need you.

Dear Summer Staff,
 Whether you are new or returning... congrats to being at UAA. This is a transformative time for you. You are going to be challenged, tested... but more than anything you are going to see the Lord in so many ways IF you stay attune to His voice. During camp, you will be tired, maybe frustrated but always remind yourself, you're 3rd!
 Worn on your leadership skills, build a bond with your CO, make sure you spend time in the word (even if its 12am) love on your kids well & more than anything LISTEN
 John 1:27 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'
 -Monah

Upcoming Events

DON'T MISS IT!

Experience the game of golf on stunning courses in the heart of Ozark Mountain country with other players who share your heart and want to make a difference in the lives of youth from under-resourced communities.

KAA Cup/Payne Stewart Memorial Golf Event, June 7-9, 2026

Courses: Payne's Valley, Mountain Top, & Buffalo Ridge (Entry includes 3 rounds of golf, 2 dinners, 2 lunches, 2 breakfasts, and an opportunity to tour KAA)

Spring Outing: Dallas Date/Course TBD
Fall Outing: Tulsa Date/Course TBD

For more information or to register, contact Mark Parry at **417-263-0128** or **mark@kaakamps.org**.

SAVE THE DATE! *Laced Up & Locked In*

October 11, 2025 | Dallas, TX

The faith, the fam, the fire — Friday night is a youth rally with worship & Amazing Speakers + Saturday's alumni cookout. *Camp isn't over... it's just getting started.* Reserve your spot NOW and get the final details of the event as soon as they're available! **<https://kaakamps.org/laced-up/>**

JOIN US! *Pheasant Hunt*

Join KAA Outfitters for the Pheasant Hunt, a fundraiser for KAA scholarships.

January 14-16/February 22-24, 2026. For more information or to book your outdoor adventure, contact **Dave Janke at 417-263-1800** or **dave@kaakamps.org** — or visit **kaakamps.org/outfitters**.

