



Fall 2018

THE CAMP ASCCA *good* TIMES



I See Extraordinary Magic in You

It was a historical 42nd summer here at Camp ASCCA full of first-time visits, evening concerts, conquered fears, and much more. It is your continued support that makes unforgettable summers like this one possible for so many people across the state of Alabama and beyond. Many campers were here for the first time, and parents are already sharing their experiences about how their child returned home with a newfound independence. We love having the opportunity to serve people with disabilities through new experiences, and having you along for the ride makes it that much more special.

In your newsletter, you will find more information about many of the activities that happened this summer and the organizations that visited Camp. Some of our most memorable experiences this summer were during the ASCCA Concert Series that we were able to host on the Big Stage all summer long. Several campers shared that they rarely get to experience an event like a concert because of lack of seating and safety concerns, but after ASCCApalooza 2018, Jacob shares, "I love dancing, singing, and just being together. I thought it was awesome. Not just having a concert going experience, but to have a concert going experience with other people who are disabled to have that comradery and friendship." That is what Camp ASCCA is all about, bringing people together so that they can feel free to be their true selves with some of their closest friends.



Camp ASCCA provided 5,535 camper days of service to individuals with disabilities this summer.

Camper day - one camper visit of five days equals five camper days of service - the typical week of camp!

Thank you again for your support, and if you haven't already, please visit us online at www.campascca.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

COMING UP:

- September 14 - 16: Camp Frog
- September 18: Junior Leadership
Lake Martin
- September 20 - 23: Lakeshore Fdtn
- September 27-28: Yarbrough
Elementary
- September 29: Campfire Girls
- October 3: East Alabama
Medical Center
- October 12-14: Landmark Church
- October 19-21: Camp Seale Harris
Fall Family Weekend
- October 26-28: Camp ASCCA
Fall Family Weekend
- November 2-4: Atlantic Pacific
Tang Soo Doo
- November 9-11: Landmark Church
- December 14-16: ASCCA Christmas
Weekend
- December 15: ASCCA Jingle Jump



Camp ASCCA is a nationally recognized leader in providing outdoor recreation for people with disabilities and health impairments.

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Meet Director of Health Services Sean Jaco

We would like for you to join us as we welcome back Sean Jaco as the new Director of Health Services! Jaco's first summer at Camp ASCCA was back in 1988, when he first worked as a counselor. He later worked as program staff and head counselor. After his early summers at Camp, he received a degree in Nursing from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1997. He has two children, Shelby and Caleb.



One of his greatest camp memories was when he was the best man in his former camper's wedding. His friend's name was Donovan. Jaco was his counselor for only one summer, but they formed such a close bond that they became best friends after camp. When asked about his favorite session of the summer, he chose Mobile Rotary Week because in his words, "Everyone on that bus knows each other, and they've been coming to camp for years. So when they remember me from when I was a little sprout, it makes me feel good."



After many years of working in the hospital environment, he later returned to Camp ASCCA as a summer nurse in Summer 2013. His daughter also worked that summer as a Counselor-in-Training. After that summer, he continued working as an RN in Huntsville, Alabama. However, he could not stay away, and he returned as a summer nurse for Summer 2017 and Summer 2018. As the position for Health Services Director came available, Jaco knew this was the place for him. He is excited to be back in a full-time role and always reminds everyone that we are "living the dream!"

Elks Day

ELKS CARE. ELKS SHARE.

On August 7, 2018, we were joined by members of the Alabama Elks Association for our annual Elks Day. It is an opportunity for Elks from across the state to come visit Camp and receive a tour from our staff. It has become a recent tradition for the Elks to also grill hamburgers for lunch, and campers and staff talk about it all day long.



Camp Director Matt Rickman was presented with a couple donations. One will go towards the Camp ASCCA Campership Fund that helps campers attend summer camp each year, while the other donation was made to create a bit of a competition between Elks Clubs. Mike Thrasher presented a check for \$100 to begin raising funds for a new pontoon boat and challenged the other clubs to do the same.

The Elks have been supporting Camp for many years, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued generosity and exciting energy they bring to Camp every time they're here!



Amazing experiences are happening every day.

ASCCA CONCERT SERIES 2018

This summer, we hosted the first ever ASCCA Concert Series at the Big Stage and other locations across the campus. Performers from across the Southeast joined us during several ASCCA sessions for what turned into some of the most memorable nights in camp history. Here are a few moments from this summer's concerts with performers like Bobby Miller as Michael Jackson, Black Jacket Symphony, Sweet Tea Trio, and much more!



Rotary Days

SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

Rotary Clubs from around the state offer tremendous support to Camp ASCCA every year. In return, we like to invite those clubs to visit us during our busiest season of the year to experience what an ASCCA summer session is all about through tours around Camp and a lunch with campers and staff.

Earlier this summer, we were visited by clubs from Dothan, Montgomery, Opelika and more during Teen Week. The members visiting during Session 3 even had the opportunity to see the new LPR Zipline in operation as Camper of the Year Cale Galloway took a ride across the pond. The Rotary District 6880 also presented Camp with a check for the ASCCA Campership Fund that helps many of our campers attend summer camp each year.



During Mobile Rotary Week, we held Rotary Day 2.0 for a few clubs from Robertsdale, Mobile, Montgomery, Troy, and more. Many of the members in this visit had never been to Camp ASCCA before, so it was an exciting day as the tours visited programs across the campus. Several Rotarians even had the chance to get to know a few campers. A large number of Session 5's campers are also sponsored by the Mobile and Robertsdale Rotary Clubs.

We cannot say thank you enough to the incredible clubs that help us make Camp ASCCA possible every single year!



We have more ASCCA 2018 gear available online!

Visit www.campascca.org to place your order.

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**A letter from
Cauper
Mark Heine**



To Camp ASCCA,

When I first attended this camp 35 years ago, I did not know what I was getting into. Over the years, I have developed many friendships that will last a lifetime. I really enjoyed the Disney World trips that I was fortunate enough to attend.



This place will forever be a part of my life. I hope to be able to attend this camp for many more years to come. This camp gives me the opportunity to do things I would never do: such as zipline, fishing, & the white-water trip we did 20 years ago. Thank you to whoever put on the Russell Craig concert Sunday night. It was the best opening night activity I have ever attended.

I believe in this camp and the people associated with disabilities. I wish every disabled person would have the chance to experience this inspirational place at least once in their lifetime. Back when I started in 1982, Camp only had a handful of activities such as quiet hours, tree house, and the pool. They also had water skiing for one summer. Sessions also used to be 10 days in length. We did things such as girls and guys cabin parties. Each would have a theme like Jurassic Park or New Orleans Style. I really hope that this letter gives people insight on how far this camp has evolved. Camp wouldn't be the same without all of you.

Sincerely yours,
Mark Heine

4th Annual Jingle Jump

ICE, ICE, BABY!

Since 2015, Camp ASCCA and its supporters have raised more than \$110,000 through the annual Jingle Jump fundraiser in December. Participants are given the opportunity to setup an individual fundraising account with the goal of raising at least \$725 to cover one ASCCA Campership for the upcoming summer. Once a Jingle Jump participant reaches or exceeds his or her goal, they are expected to celebrate their accomplishment by jumping into the Camp ASCCA pool on a chilly December afternoon.

Last year, the 3rd Annual Jingle Jump consisted of 53 jumpers and 34 teams, and the funds raised were enough to support more than 51 full camperships. On Saturday, December 15, 2018, we will host the 4th Annual Jingle Jump, and you can get involved by contacting Kasey Langley at kasey@campascca.org.



**Did you know
that many
companies
match
donations
made by their
employees to
Camp ASCCA?**

Contact Dana
Rickman at
dana@campascca.org
for more
information.

**2017-2018 Contributors
available online!**



You Tube flickr

www.campascca.org

