



Summer 2017

# THE CAMP ASCCA good TIMES

*Where positive, life-changing experiences are happening every day.*



## COMING UP:

- 7/2-7/7: ASCCA Session 1
- 7/9-7/14: ASCCA Session 2
- 7/16-7/21: ASCCA Session 3
- 7/18: ASCCApalooza
- 7/23-7/28: ASCCA Session 4
- 7/30-8/4: ASCCA Session 5
- 8/6-8/11: ASCCA Session 6
- 8/13-8/18: ASCCA Session 7



Visit [campascca.org](http://campascca.org)  
for all of your camp news  
and summer memories!

## Let the fun begin!

Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, you can do it," and at Camp ASCCA, we thrive on being full of big dreams and endless possibilities. As the summer fun approaches, we cannot help but look forward to the opportunities that will be created this summer. More than 600 children and adults with disabilities will be visiting camp for their week-long sessions, some for their 34<sup>th</sup> summer and others for their very first. When campers arrive each week, they will be greeted by this summer's program staff and counselors who will be ready to welcome them with open arms. We also have several events planned this summer and have a few new additions to camp that will make this an unforgettable year.

By its definition, the word "dream" means to "contemplate the possibility of doing something," and Camp ASCCA is the place where dreams become reality no matter how distant they may seem. Campers come each year having never done an activity anywhere else out of their wheelchair or been away from their parents for an entire week, and our staff is immediately there to encourage them to try something they have never done before with zero limitations. The bonds made between the campers and our staff each summer are what make this place "home."

We would love to see you this summer and welcome you into the ASCCA family, so please consider planning a visit this summer. You can come see for yourself what makes this place so great and unforgettable, and you will never want to leave. See you soon!



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

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# Donor Spotlight

ORDER  
TODAY!



Summer 2017 t-shirts and  
decals are available  
online.

Visit  
[www.campascca.org](http://www.campascca.org)  
to place your order.



Recently, Camp ASCCA received a generous donation of \$4,000 from Pilot International. The Alabama Pilots have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to Camp ASCCA over the years, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued support. They have helped fund many of our activities such as our putt-putt golf course, pontoon boat, boat renovations, and much more.

This particular donation was specifically for the "Save Our Pool" repairs that we completed in May. When it came down to the final vote at the Pilot District Convention, Alabama District Treasurer Kay Chandler states, "the Pilots voted 100% to support Camp ASCCA!"



Over the past few months, Camp ASCCA has also received multiple donations to the ASCCA Campership Fund from local rotary clubs. On May 2nd, members of the Camp ASCCA staff traveled to Enterprise to receive a special donation from the Jerry B. Brunson Enterprise Rotary Club Foundation, Inc. The foundation held its annual Allocations Luncheon at the Enterprise Country Club and invited all of this year's recipients to join. As one of the many recipients pictured, Camp ASCCA was presented a check for \$1,450 that will cover two camperships for

campers to attend during the summer.

On May 11th, the ASCCA staff was also invited to a special luncheon with the Greenville Rotary Club. The current president, Charles Haigler, and the president elect, Tori Norris, presented all of the 2016/2017 rotary projects with the year's donations. After a delicious lunch and the club's new member induction, Camp was presented with a check for \$1,000 set to go towards the ASCCA Campership Fund. It is donations like the ones mentioned above that help make the summers possible for so many people each year!



## ASCCApalooza @ The OutPost



The new Camp ASCCA OutPost is officially complete, and we have big plans for the new activity area. Located where Hammocks and Horseshoes had been over the past couple years, the OutPost will be the host of the inaugural ASCCApalooza this summer on July 18th.

Similar to the world-famous music festival event, Lollapalooza, ASCCApalooza will include musical performances by a variety of artists from Nashville Bound - An Academy of Music, Inc. The lineup of artists includes Nashville Bound, Charity Bowden, Jackson Capps, and a group recently touring with Bon Jovi, Sweet Tea Trio.

The event is going to be a great opportunity for the Camp ASCCA campers to experience a true music festival during the summer, perhaps for the first time. Special ASCCApalooza t-shirts will be given to campers, and everyone will stay hydrated with plenty of water and delicious shaved ice treats.

Throughout the summer, the OutPost will also be the location for outdoor talent shows, acoustic nights, special lunches, group hangouts, and much more. Visit our Facebook page to see more pictures of the Outpost and all of its features.



# ASCCA PALOOZA!







**LIFE IS BETTER  
IN THE SUMMER!**



**ASCCA**  
*on the road*

On April 10th, the ASCCA on the Road team received a new addition to their adventures around the Southeast. Camp ASCCA will now be seen on roadways everywhere in this new van. Thanks to the wrap team at Sign Source and the great folks at Glynn Smith Chevrolet, the van is wrapped in summer camp pictures, the ASCCA logo, and the new Easterseals logo, so that we cannot be missed when we visit new towns.

Since picking up the van, Amber Cotney and Kasey Langley have been on a few trips to schools and rotary clubs where the van was a huge hit. They have received phone calls and happy honks from people who are excited to see Camp ASCCA out and about. If you are interested in having the ASCCA on the Road team visit your school or organization, contact Amber Cotney at [amber@campascca.org](mailto:amber@campascca.org)!



## Meet the PR Staff:

**Get to know the 2017 interns!**



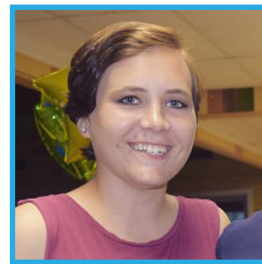
Clayton Smith is a junior at Columbia College Chicago and a Camp ASCCA veteran. This summer will be Clayton's fifth summer as a member of the PR staff. He specializes in videography and hopes to one day be a film producer. He directed, edited, shot, and produced last summer's "This is Home" short documentary and many other

ASCCA videos. In his spare time, Clayton enjoys long walks and listening to music to help keep his creative energy going. Clayton has big production goals for this summer's videos, so keep up with his work on our channel at [youtube.com/campascaeasterseals](https://youtube.com/campascaeasterseals).



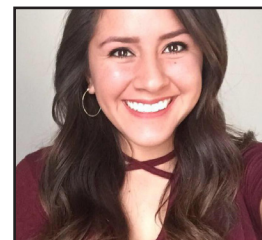
Jasmine Reed is a senior at Auburn University majoring in public relations, and this will be her first summer at Camp ASCCA. Since middle school, she has had a passion for serving children and adults with special needs and hopes to bring that together with her passion for PR in the nonprofit world. She will

be responsible for creating fresh and new photo, video, and blog content throughout the summer. Jasmine hopes to one day carry her PR talents to a major beauty brand and be the PR Director. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, watching hair/makeup tutorials and spending time with her family.



April Garrett is a junior at Troy University and a second year Camp ASCCA PR staff member. At Troy, April has been a copy editor for the Tropolitan News and hopes to bring more written pieces to camp and other local newspapers. Last summer, April spent many weeks working as a fantastic

photographer around camp capturing the unforgettable memories that are happening every day. April hopes to one day receive her Masters in English and become an editor for a publishing company. In her spare time, April enjoys spending time on Lake Eufaula.



Karla Silva is a junior at the University of South Alabama majoring in communications and marketing, and this will be her first summer at Camp ASCCA. Karla has a passion for working with individuals with disabilities and has

previously worked at Camp Smile in Mobile for more than 4 years. This summer, Karla will also be responsible for creating unique photo, video, blog and social media content throughout the summer. Karla hopes to one day use her Communications and Marketing degree to coordinate the marketing department of a major NFL team. In her spare time, Karla enjoys working out, watching sports, working with children and adults with disabilities, and spending time with her family and sorority sisters.



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# CAMP ASCCA EXPERIENCES ARE ALWAYS UNIQUE!

Jim Dodwell, a board member at the local Lake Martin Area United Way, recently visited Camp on behalf of the organization's Allocations Committee. What he thought was just going to be a day of checking in with member agencies turned into a moment he would never forget. Check out his story.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Camp ASCCA located on Lake Martin, Al. The camp is purposed for special needs children and offer several activities for the "campers" during their stay. They have archery, horseback riding, a nature center, a sensory room, putt-putt golf, boating activities on the lake, a craft room, zip lines, splash pad and much more. At one point during our tour, we had to wait while several campers paraded by us on the way to the next activity, when one of the young men at the end stopped, turned to me and said, "Hey, what is your name?" Surprised that he picked me out I said, "Jim." He said, "Hello, Jim, you are a big guy, you know what we just did in that room?" "No sir", I replied. He said, "Me neither but it was something with dirt and I got it all over my hands, so be careful." I said, "Okay, I will, good to meet you."

As I walked to the entrance to rejoin my group, he shouted, "Hey, Jim, you forgot to give me a hug." So I walked back to him and gave him a hug and shook both his dirty hands. He smiled then asked me, "Hey, Jim, what's your last name?" I said, "Dodwell." He looked at me for several seconds as if trying to process the name and its meaning, then said, "Well, Jim I need to move along, see you later, bye, good to meet you and watch out for that dirt in there." I don't know if he will remember me but I will always remember him, a special young man making my visit extra special by taking the time to touch my heart, share a little advice and offer me a hug which I could not pass up.

I heard it said, "Sometimes the embers are better than the campfire." My interpretation is that the flames and heat from roaring fire will make you stand back while the cooler, glowing embers will draw you closer seeking their warmth. In my limited experience with special needs children they are like the embers. The warmth of closeness and love is what they seek, not necessarily for themselves but to share. They think of others first. They accept you, unconditionally, whether you accept them or not. This could be a lesson for

all of us, in my opinion. The young man's openness, honesty, and trust in me affected me in a way I can't explain. He opened the eyes of my heart in those few minutes of conversation and I will never be able to repay him for the kindness.

Special needs: love, hope, kindness, joy, faith, honesty, trust, character, integrity, and so forth and so on, are especially needed. These are obtainable and shareable and it requires so little work. We just need to keep our hearts open and willing to share these "special needs" with others. So why do we simply do what is expected instead of the unexpected? We are thinking only of ourselves when this happens. But think about this, when we give generously, the impact of our generosity often outlives us. What, this is crazy talk...Well, not really.

In the moment of giving, we cannot imagine how our actions might impact the lives of others in the future. Because generously adding value to others is rare, the impact of that generosity lingers long after we are gone. Sometimes it outlives us both now and in eternity. We all have gifts to offer others. God has gifted us strengths to use for benefit of others. Everyone has something we all need. His gift makes us indispensable to others. In the Book of Luke, generosity played a big role in the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. Jesus blessed the small basket of fish and bread and at the end of the meal collected 12 times more. This is how generosity works. In other words, a candle loses nothing by lighting another.

I encourage each of us to be open with our gifts and to share our love, hope, joy and faith with others. Be willing to share the flame of our candle to provide a source of His light to others. It will make a difference and add value to others. Luke 9:12-17

Have a wonderful day - JD

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all things  
Camp ASCCA!



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## SUMMER 2017

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