



# 4-H CAMP OHIO

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A SECOND CENTURY...  
RENEWING THE VISION

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[4HCampOhio.org](http://4HCampOhio.org)

# Introduction

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Summer camp at 4-H Camp Ohio is what thousands of 4-H members from fourteen Ohio counties highly anticipate each and every year. It's almost magical how 4-H Camp draws campers to return year after year by offering them new experiences and opportunities that they cannot find elsewhere.

Amazingly, 4-H Camp Ohio has been successful in all these ways since some of this year's campers' grandparents and great-grandparents attended camp at the same location. Yes, current campers have several opportunities that were not offered to those who came before them. However, this camp continues to provide every camper with unique opportunities to enjoy camp for many of the same reasons.

What is it which draws some 4-H members back year after year? What does the experience provide that literally brings last year campers to tears, has them repeating over and over that 4-H Camp Ohio is such a special place, and insisting that all current campers should keep coming back? At camp they have made new friends, had new experiences, sang new songs, hunted for crayfish in Rocky Fork Creek, planned silly skits and most importantly were provided an opportunity to grow their independence and confidence in a safe and friendly environment.



**At camp,  
everyone learns;  
everyone grows;  
everyone belongs.**

 **4-H GROWS HERE**

# Mission & Objectives

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4-H summer camp, like 4-H overall, strives to offer youth learning experiences that will help them grow into successful adults.

It is learning by doing.

The 4-H Camp Ohio camping program is an intentionally designed, creative, experiential learning endeavor in which participants engage with each other, older teens, and adult staff, and where youth develop decision-making skills, accept personal responsibility, and have a sense of self-determination in a carefully supervised and supportive environment which typically incorporates aspects of the natural surroundings.

4-H Camp Ohio strives to adhere to the mission of the Ohio 4-H Camping program by offering youth of all ages with personal opportunities for the development of leadership, workforce preparation, and 21st century skills. It also offers personal growth as campers experience being away from home, being away from parents/guardians, and providing a safe environment where socioemotional development takes place.

The primary objectives for youth who participate in residential camping at 4-H Camp Ohio include:

- Live with significant role models
- Develop responsibility for their own decisions and actions away from parents/guardians
- Meet and learn to get along with people of diverse backgrounds
- Develop skills or hobbies for wise use of leisure time
- Develop leadership skills and explore group action
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of nature
- Develop personally by establishing standards and values they believe in enough to live by

## Our Programs

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4-H Camp Ohio continues to provide a wide variety of traditional camp programs that have been a mainstay for decades. Environmental education, nature education, the A.S.E course, shooting sports, archery, crafts and recreational activities all provide campers with fun and educational experiences.



Camp has also added many new activities to its program list. One of the most popular activities is the high ropes course. It, along with the climbing wall/zip line tower, provide campers with an exciting personal growth experience. A more recent addition is the Flying Squirrel providing an exciting team building experience for campers of all ages.

STEM education programs have been recently added. Bottle rockets and drones are popular activities which provide an experience not likely to be available back home.

Combine the many educational and personal growth opportunities listed above with all the traditional things camp offers and young people from 1928 to today learn and grow through a wonderful residential camp experience.

# History of 4-H Camp Ohio

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In 1928, a group of County Extension Agents working in the fledgling Ohio 4-H program saw the need to create a permanent facility for summer residential camping. Each agent donated \$500 and together purchased 129 acres along Rocky Fork Creek in rural Licking County. This would be the beginning of what is now 4-H Camp Ohio. In future years, 4-H Camp Ohio would purchase additional acreage and grow to encompass just over 300 acres.

Little did that original group know, that for the next 94 years their foresight would provide a summer destination for up to 3,000 4-H members and be the source of educational programming and endless enjoyment for thousands of school students and families as well.

The 1928 facility was much different than it is today. There were no permanent structures in the early years. Over time, many new structures were added, a pool was built and 4-H Camp Ohio adapted to the changing demands of those attending camp to become what it is today.

Today, 4-H Camp Ohio can accommodate nearly 300 youth. It operates approximately 9 months out of the year for residential camping and hosts small groups throughout the winter months. It is fully accredited by the American Camping Association and is a model for other Ohio residential 4-H camps.

4-H Camp Ohio hosts State Leadership Camp and 14 county camps:

- Ashland
- Coshocton
- Delaware
- Franklin
- Hancock
- Hardin
- Holmes
- Knox
- Licking
- Marion
- Morrow
- Muskingum
- Perry
- Wayne



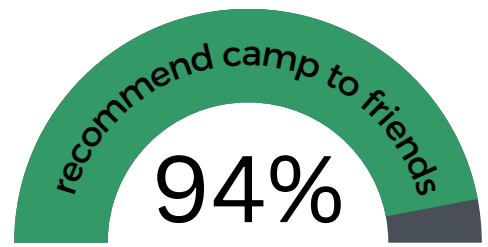
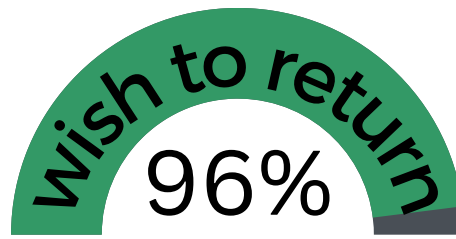
## Outcomes, Stories, & Impact

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Not many things in our society last 94 years. Fads and fancies come and go, but 4-H Camp Ohio has stood the test of time by offering campers something they deeply enjoy and return to each summer for up to 10 years.

Residential camping is a proven positive educational activity. Multiple national studies provide insight into the high level of benefits youth receive from participating in the unique experience offered at 4-H led residential camps. Both campers and teen counselors benefit immensely in planning and participating in camping programs.

Evaluation data from 2021 shows that 4-H Camp Ohio continues to provide a high quality camping program.



That year 96% of campers indicated they would return to camp in 2022 if they could. Ninety-three percent indicated they would recommend camp to friends. A few quotes campers include:

**"I felt included and wanted."**

**"Camp will always be a home to me"**

**"It's more than just camp to me."**

**"The activities always pushed me to try something new."**

**"It changed my life."**

These quotes are from youth who attended a camp at 4-H Camp Ohio during the 2021 camping season. However, they could be quotes from youth who attended camp in 1991, 1961 or 1931. Even though the generations change, 4-H Camp Ohio campers will always come away a better person from being involved.

## Financial Need

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Funding for 4-H Camp Ohio comes from camper fees and episodic fundraising for identified facility improvement projects or repairs. It receives no funding from the Ohio 4-H program or any other outside source.

The recent Covid-19 pandemic had a significant negative effect on 4-H Camp Ohio. Closed all of 2020, camp lost nearly 95% of anticipated revenue for that year. It remained financially viable only because of financial gifts from supporters, spending down our savings and obtaining loans that we must now pay back.

2021 saw camp re-open, but at a reduced camper level. These two combined financially poor years have left camp in a financially precarious situation that has required it to put on hold all but essential facility maintenance and improvements, program expansion and capital projects. It has also forced camp to eliminate several staff positions which are vital to meeting the mission of camp, but just can't be funded if camp is to balance its budget and pay off the loans.

Another side effect has been the need to raise camper fees by a much larger amount than has ever been raised previously. Raising fees by the amount required was a very difficult decision given the board of trustees has always strived to keep camper fees as low as possible so as many youth as possible can afford to attend camp.

Over time, a list of facility improvement projects has been created. Some projects are maintenance and improvement related. Others are large capital expenditures for building new camp structures as a part of our long range goal for the overall facility enhancement. The Second Century Campaign will help camp fund these projects, which otherwise may be put on hold for an extended period of time.

# Improvement Projects

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## **Swimming Pool Repairs - \$56,000**

The swimming pool is by far the most popular aspect of 4-H Camp Ohio. Major cracks in multiple areas of the swimming pool allowed water loss that forced the closing of the pool for the entire 2024 camping season. Total cost to make the pool useable was over \$56,000. Funds raised will be used to reimburse the general operating budget for those repairs.

## **New Zip Line Cables - \$7,750**

The zip line cables and hardware will be replaced. The current cables have reached the end of their useful life. Without replacing them, the zip line cannot be used in 2025 and would eliminate a program that engages over 1,600 youth annually.

## **Walk-in Freezer - \$55,000**

The aging walk-in freezer will be replaced with a larger model. The replacement is necessitated by continued maintenance issues of the current freezer and a need for a larger model to provide freezer space to meet changing food delivery patterns. A larger concrete pad will be installed along with the new freezer.

## **Zero Turn Mower - \$13,000**

A new long mower will be purchased to replace the 20-year-old mower camp currently uses. The new mower will help eliminate rising maintenance costs and down time.

## **Campbell Lodge Gathering Area Floor Replacement - \$6,000**

The original flooring has started to deteriorate. The floor is unsafe and unsightly. The plan is to replace the original sheet vinyl floor on the main floor of Campbell Lodge.

## **New Nurse's Station - \$80,000 - \$125,000**

A separate nurse's station has been a priority for many years. The current arrangement, although manageable, does not provide a confidential space for camper care nor a place separate from the adult women's staff living quarters. The new station would be attached to the Cow Palace. It would provide clinic space, separate sleeping areas for sick campers, bathroom facilities and a separate bedroom for the nurse.

The existing nurse's station will become adult women bedrooms allowing for a more functional space for female volunteer staff.



# Improvement Projects

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## **Old Office Remodel for Staff Housing - \$10,000**

The current office will be remodeled into summer staff housing. Additional housing for summer staff will provide much needed space. The project will entail adding a larger bathroom facility, new flooring and painting.

## **WiFi and P.A. System Upgrades - \$2,000**

The current wifi equipment will be upgraded to provide broader coverage and a stronger signal throughout camp. Additional PA equipment will be purchased for use in the new covered basketball court.

## **New Low Ropes Course - \$29,000**

Programming for campers ages 8-12 would be enhanced with a new low ropes course. The course would mimic a high ropes course, but built just a few feet off the ground. The low ropes experience would also mimic the high ropes experience, but in an environment safe for younger campers. Up to eight pods can be included in the design. A minimum of four pods would be built, with additional added when funds are available.



# Means of Support

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The Second Century Campaign has set a goal of raising at least \$500,000 over the next five years. Most of the funds raised will be used for the aforementioned facility maintenance and capital improvement projects. A portion would also be used to cover the cost of a wide variety of programming supplies currently paid through camper fees.

The 4-H Camp Ohio Second Century Campaign offers interested individuals a number of options for supporting the campaign.

**When you support camp, you support the positive youth development of thousands of campers.**

**Thank you!**



## **CURRENT GIFTS: Project Fund or Endowment**

**Outright:** Gifts can be made in any amount. Gifts can be directed to areas of interest. Payment methods can include cash, check, secure online payment with a credit card. Check out our website for gift instructions.

**Memorials/In Honor of:** There are two kinds of memorials. Outright gifts, which carry the name of a loved one, and those given to a memorial (endowed fund to the OSU Development Fund or a community fund in Knox or Licking County) of which only the interest is used.

**Stock or Mutual Fund Gifts:** If you have appreciated stock or mutual funds, this might offer some extra tax savings. Transfers must be sent in-kind to a 4-H Camp Ohio account with your mutual fund company.

**Gift In Kind:** There are many needs for practical items or services – program supplies, construction materials, handyman work, donated labor for construction projects – all provide a valuable service to camp.

**Real Estate:** If you are looking to transfer or sell land, real estate or income properties, now might be a good time to consider a part or complete gift of that asset to save taxes. Options may exist as well for receiving income for life in return and still get a tax deduction as a charitable gift. All gifts of real estate must meet the gift policies guidelines of 4-H Camp Ohio. Please consult us if a gift of real estate is being considered.

**Paid Up Insurance:** With some individuals, policies are paid-up and not needed anymore for the original purpose. These could make easy gifts with no impact on the checkbook.

**Retirement Funds:** Sometimes a gift from a retirement fund is the best thing one may offer. Currently anyone 70 ½ years or older may also gift up to \$100,000 from an IRA, 403, 401(k) account, if transferred directly from the donor custodian to 4-H Camp Ohio. Any Qualified Charitable Distribution can be made to camp without income tax due on the distribution. Ask us for more details about this giving type.

## **ESTATE GIFTS: Project Fund or Endowment**

**Assignment Gift:** By designating 4-H Camp Ohio as a beneficiary or co-beneficiary of your retirement funds, insurance or bank account, you provide a nice gift when you are done with them. Many gifts like this only require a simple signature on a beneficiary form.

**Bequests in Wills or Living Trusts:** A simple way for you to establish memorials, or funds which will live on past your lifetime. We suggest a person leave a percentage bequest which then fluctuates with available assets. In some cases, when children or other family members are part of the plans, we suggest they consider our charity as an “extra” family member.