

The Rising Sunnation

Camp Rising Sun Newsletter

August 2023



Camp Rising Sun
PO Box 8241
Columbus, MS 39705

info@camprisingsunms.com

www.camprisingsunms.com

Follow us on social media:



[CampRisingSun.MS](https://www.facebook.com/CampRisingSun.MS)



[camprisingsun_ms](https://www.instagram.com/camprisingsun_ms)

*"Camp Rising Sun is more than a place,
it's a people"*

Christmas in June

Camp Rising Sun celebrated its 36th year in whimsical fashion with its first ever CHRISTMAS in JUNE! There were 35 campers and CITs total from across MS, AL, TN, and even as far as MO. Campers ranged in age from 5 - 17.

Arts & Crafts, per usual, was a camp favorite. Paula and Ann Marie did not disappoint, once again, with their projects. We had Christmas stockings to decorate as well as Christmas ornaments. We painted large sea shells found on Dauphin Island, AL. We painted beautiful crosses. Of course, as always, there were plenty of paracord bracelets and shrinky dinks to be made.

The week was packed with activities such as horseback riding, archery, riflery, canoeing, and laser tag. The rock-wall, zipline, and giant swing were exhilarating. CJ and Hannah brought a fresh twist to CRS Camp Olympics with all new games, and Spencer brought back capture the flag with flour-filled sacks.

Our dance this year was spectacular with a very special visit from the one and only Santa, who came bearing gifts of ear buds, smart watches, and radio controlled cars. We wrapped up the week with some of the most amazing talent from our campers and volunteers in the CRS talent show.

Thank you to all those who attended for making this one of the greatest years ever. We want to give a special shoutout to [Timberlake Ministries](#) for being such gracious hosts. The facilities are top-notch and we can't wait to return in 2024.

Welcome Campers

First-Year Campers...

Brewer, Kensley	Honsinger, Sawyer
Brewer, Sarah	Kernan, Farris
Ferguson, Lilly	Najarian, Danny
Franks, Aiden	Nix, Dalton
Franks, Caleb	Ottenhof, Angus
Garza, Aaron Ramirez	Warren, Evelyn
Garza, Adrian	Warren, Mary Caroline
Godwin, Rebecca	Watts, Beau
Hammer, Caleb	Watts, Charlie
Hatcher, Harper	Westmoreland, Shawn
Honsinger, Hayden	

Returning Campers...

Carter, Bo	Rich, Anthony
May, Austin	Rittenhouse, Ritt
May, Leslie	Sims, Lane
Ottenhof, Max	Warren, Sutton
Ottenhof, Sam	

Welcome Back CITs...

What is a CIT? A CIT is any camper in good standing, between the ages of 17-20, who the directors feel would make excellent candidates for future potential volunteers. It's a privilege to be invited back to this role, as it means someone noticed within you a genuine love for camp and a willingness to serve others.

Did you know that most of our overnight volunteers were once campers? In fact, 13 out of 17 have gone through our Counselor-In-Training program to become overnight volunteers. Most have been attending Camp Rising Sun now anywhere from 10-35 years! That's what we call commitment!

We were so excited to have Jorden Daniel, Jamie Hutchinson, Ellen and Nicholas Taylor, and Desmond Watkins return as CITs during 2023. We also had two additional counselors in training this year, Tori Cooper and Kalie Sudduth. You guys were all an amazing support team and we look forward to working with you for many years to come. You are the future leaders of Camp Rising Sun!

Quack Quack... Duck Hunt ?

It was a year of firsts for Camp Rising Sun, including our first ever DUCK HUNT. Throughout the week rubber duckies were hidden daily across the campground. Nearly 100 ducks had been hidden during the week.

Campers were instructed to go "Duck Hunting." The campers with the most ducks on the last day received a special CRS Christmas blanket rewarding them for their hunting skills.

Campers were also encouraged to share or trade ducks at the end of the week with new friends or someone who made their time extra special.

We hope this can become a yearly tradition, especially duck-trading, and plan to hide even more ducks next year.



Pictured: Rebecca Godwin, first-year camper and hopeful future CIT for 2024.



↑ Pictured: CITs, Ellen & Nick Taylor, Jamie Hutchinson, Desmond Watkins, Kalie Sudduth, and Jorden Daniel with Santa.



Team Activities...It's kinda our thing. Camp Olympics ↑ ↑ - Capture the Flag ↓ ↓



↑ Pictured: Angus Ottenhof, first-year camper, one of two 5 yr old campers attending 2023. Angus (fearless) was quite possibly the only camper to make it to the top of the rock wall, and definitely the ONLY camper to go OVER THE TOP.

← Pictured : First time volunteer Brooklyn Pennington of Vernon, AL with first-year campers Kensley and Sarah Brewer.



↑ Pictured: First-year campers, Harper Hatcher and Danny Najarian. Danny wins for being the camper who traveled the furthest to get to camp from MO.

Friendship and Love... It's kinda our BIGGEST thing.



↑ Pictured: Congrats to the Choctaw cabin for taking home the spirit stick on the last night of camp! Pharaoh Pharaoh!!



↑ Pictured above: Long-time overnight counselor Jason Kirkland (Uncle J, Old Man, Camp Daddy or Gramps as some of his campers jokingly like to call him) bids farewell to first-year campers Beau and Charlie Watts. See you next year!!!



← Pictured left: Long time friends of camp, first-year campers Evelyn and Mary Caroline. Twinning is winning!!



↑ Pictured above: We love our awesome Aussies second-year campers Max & Sam, and first-year camper Angus Ottenhof.



↑ Pictured above: Say Cheese! Lillyana Ferguson first-year camper. Pizza is life! Well... especially on pizza night.



Volunteer Spotlight...

Ms. Pam Brownlee was our new photographer for the week of camp. Pam is a photographer for the Packet in Columbus, MS. For over 10 years, we have not had a designated photographer. Pam understood the assignment and put her heart and soul into capturing our camper's most memorable moments during the week.

While we relax in a hammock, swim in the pool, or enjoy a game in the air conditioned arcade, photographers are up on their feet, running from one corner of the room to the next, or driving across the campground to get to the next activity. While we are sitting down to eat, photographers are changing SD cards. When we go to bed they are up late editing, sorting, and uploading photos. You see them at every activity, but they rarely participate nor are they noticed and included in photos. Over 1900 photos were taken this year, and we got one photo of this lovely lady because she set her camera down for a minute.

To say Pam went above and beyond is an understatement. Long after the campers and many volunteers left the campground, Pam stayed behind to help pack and load the moving truck. She even went with a handful of volunteers to unload at the storage facility. She rarely asked how she could help, but simply stepped in and went to work where needed.

Ms. Pam... your heart and love for CRS, our campers, and volunteers was felt. Your service was noticed. We are so grateful for you and blessed to have shared the week with you. Thank you for capturing our most special moments.

Things to Know...

September: Childhood Cancer Awareness month. We'll create social media posts all month spotlighting our campers and camp. If you would like to share your child's journey with cancer or provide a testimony about Camp Rising Sun, please email your story **between September 1st—15th. #GOGOLD**

September 20th: Photo contest. Email your favorite camp photo from 2023 **by September 20th.** Tell us why it is your favorite. We'll post your photo on our social media for votes. The photo with the most votes will be submitted to the Children's Oncology Camping Association (COCA) to be entered into their Best of Camp photo contest. You can access all photos from [Waldo](#) using code **CRSROCKS23**.

October 30th: Deadline for Christmas Card contest. We have so many talented artists and we would like to use your art. If you would like to submit a design for our yearly Christmas card, please email your art **by October 30th.**

November 28th: Giving Tuesday campaign. We will plan a fundraising social media campaign on **Nov 28th.** We ask that you please follow us on social media and share the posts. Our goal is to raise \$5k on this day to support Camp Rising Sun.

November 30th—December 1st: Camp Rising Sun will participate at the St. Jude Expo prior to the St. Jude Memphis Marathon Weekend. Please stop by and see us if you plan to be at the expo. Additionally, CRS has a team running this year. If you would like to join the CRS team to run on December 2nd, please email for more info on how to join the team.

February 15th, 2024: Camp applications will open for returning campers. Applications open for new campers on **March 1st.** We aim to double our camper attendance this year, so you'll want to reserve your spot early. We will be using Jotform applications again this year. You'll definitely want to make sure you schedule your child's physical, talk to the physicians, obtain an email address, and let them know we'll need their assistance with the applications.

For any and all inquiries or submissions, please email:

info@camprisingsunms.com

Camp will be held at Timberlake Ministries

June 10 - 15, 2024

Ways you can help...

- **Seeking an additional volunteer photographer to assist Ms. Pam. They must be available for the entire week.**
- **Looking for campers or volunteers to assist in putting together the camp newsletter in 2024.**
- **Parents link your [Kroger](#) account. Simply login to your account and select Community Rewards. Type in Camp Rising Sun or use code MD550. Each time you shop and scan your Plus Card, Kroger will donate a small percent of your total to CRS at NO COST to you.**
- **Spread the word! Are you visiting St. Jude or Children's Hospital soon? Please ask if you can place our brochures in their facilities.**
- **Follow us on social media. Like, comment, and share. Word of mouth is the simply the BEST form of advertising for our camp family and it is FREE!**

Camper Testimonials...

"CRS is my favorite week of summer. I count down the weeks until the next one. The counselors are some of my favorite people and are the reason I want to go back to be a counselor when I am old enough. CRS is about old friends, new friends, games, food, pranks, and just hanging. It's just one of my happy places." - Bo Carter

"I had a lot of fun this summer at Camp Rising Sun. I'm definitely going to come next year, I told that as soon as I came home." - Danny Najarian

"This was my first time coming to camp, and I had so much fun! My favorite part was the duck hunt! I can't wait to come back next year!" - Beau Watts

"I love that a camp like this exists for kids like me & that my brother could come too! My favorite part were the games because I could run around and have tons of fun." - Charlie Watts

"The best part of camp was Brooklyn and Amy!" - Kensley Brewer

"I feel as if it's a safe home away from home that I very much look forward to. I feel a connection to the camp and the counselors." - Lane Sims

Traditions...

The last night of camp is always one of the most special moments of Camp Rising Sun. We laugh, we cry, laugh, and cry a bit more.

On Friday evening, our campers and volunteers get to showcase their talents. The CITs helped put together the talent show this year, which was hosted by emcee Max Ottenhof.

Rebecca Godwin brought us a twirling light show, and Choctaw had lawnmower troubles with an assist from Carl Miller as the "Big Jerk." Natchez brought us synchronized swimming, Sarah Jackson sang "Jingle Bells," and Creek showcased some special dance moves. Max Ottenhof brought us a special rap, Arapaho brought a unique twist on Classical Christmas Movies, and we ended the talent show with the Tunica boys being taught to make hamburgers at the new "Burger Joint." Little did they know they would be wearing most of the condiments when the show was over.

We ended the night, per usual, singing Lean on Me and Angels Among Us in memory of those we've lost through the years. It's hard to keep those eyes dry. Note to self... we need tissues donated.

Our last campfire of the week became heated as well, emotionally, as campers new and old shared stories of what camp means to them. The central message seemed to be "I immediately felt loved and accepted. At CRS I feel like I'm with family. I feel like I'm at home."

We love our camp family so much. We've always said "You are number one, at Camp Rising Sun." Through the years another common phrase adopted has been "Camp is not a place, but a people." Our camp is so unique in that we have so many returning campers and volunteers each year, that it really does seem like when you're here, you are with family. CRS is 36 years strong, and growing, and we could not be more proud to have you as a part of this amazing experience. #CRSLove





↑ Pictured: There will always be unicorns at the dance... CJ Wise, Bo Carter, Max Ottenhof, Jorden Daniel, Desmond Watkins, Sutton Warren, Austin May, and Shawn Westmoreland.



↑ Pictured above: CIT Jamie Hutchinson, Angus Ottenhof, Leslie May, CIT Ellen Taylor



← Pictured left: First-year campers Shawn Westmoreland and sibling Caleb Franks hanging on the Merry-Go-Round.



↑ Pictured above: Cancer is a family affair and we love when siblings get to share the camp experience together. First-year campers Hayden and Sawyer Honsinger.



↑ Pictured above: Best friends make great camp companions as well. First-year campers Caleb Hammer and Farris Kernan.

Special Thanks...

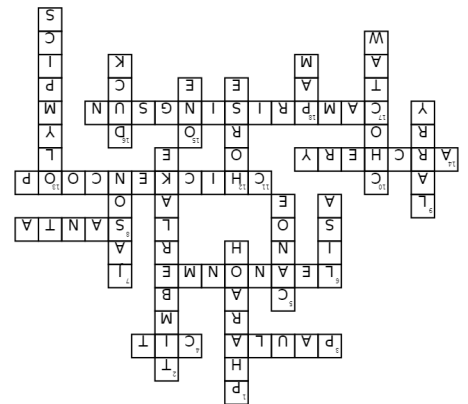
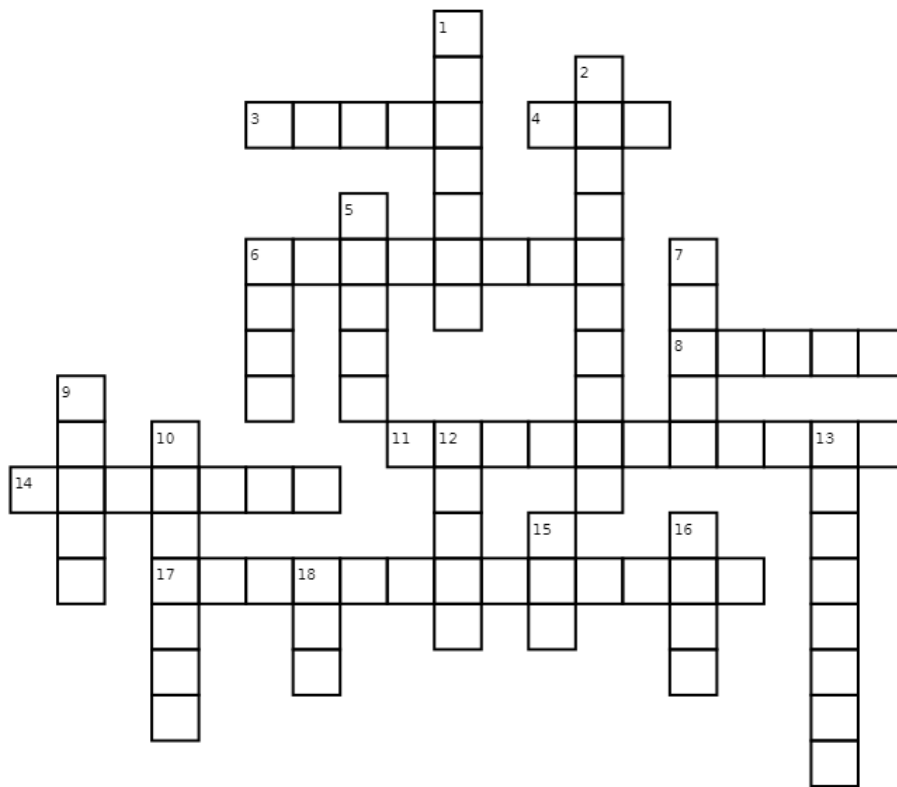
Special thanks to our campers for spending the week with us, and to the parents for trusting us with your most valuables. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and donors. Without you, we could not do what we love to do. Thank you for an amazing 2023 session!

- CRS Board of Directors



WHERE EVERY VOICE MATTERS

Camp Rising Sun Crossword...



Down:

1. battle song for the spirit stick
2. host camp
5. row row row your...
6. doctor nurse
7. oldest camp counselor
9. hype man at camp
10. winner of spirit stick on Friday evening
12. ride on a
13. fun and games
15. you are number ____ at Camp Rising Sun
16. hunting season this year at CRS
18. say cheese

Across:

3. arts & crafts crazy lady
4. short for counselor-in-training
6. song (hint: when you need a friend)
8. special visitor to dance
11. arts and crafts building
14. bullseye
17. you are number one at

