

A personal plea from Sandra Low, 2026 Summer Ex director:

I've heard concerns from both staff and campers that they're worried Summer Ex won't continue. We see the signs: less kids, less money because of less kids, less support because people's kids or grandkids are no longer attending, less kids because of other camps and other summer plans, less staff able to commit three weeks of their time, etc. I get it. The world is a different place than it was when I was a kid.

When I was a kid, summertime was actually time off. Three months to chill out, relax, take it easy, rejuvenate, sleep in and stay up late. Summer was when you went to the beach, hung out with friends, got a tan (or sunburn in my case), and ate ice cream sandwiches on a regular basis. Summer was a hiatus, a pause from school and schedules, a break before the craziness of school starting and the holidays coming.

That is not the case anymore.

Kids nowadays don't have summers like that. At least the kids I know. They have summer school, online classes, sports camp, Scout camp, smart kids camp, tournaments, training, etc. Sometimes they're even busier than they are during the school year! It's crazy!

Of course, this means that life is just as crazy for their families. For their parents or guardians who have to track their kids' schedules, get them from point A to point B, feed them semi-healthy meals on a semi-healthy basis, and make sure they have all they need for all that they have to do. Sometimes that involves doing laundry at midnight or ordering same-day delivery. It's not easy but ya gotta do what ya gotta do, right? I know this life. I've lived this life—tho not to the extent that my friends with athletic kids have.

Summer Ex is different—or at least should be different, in my opinion. It should be an oasis in the dry desert of daily demanding duties. It should be a place of renewal, rejuvenation, rebirth. It should be where kids—staff included—**want** to be because it's a home for them. At least that's what I think and I strive for.

I've been told that many of the staff plan on returning next year if things work out. I've been informed that the junior high kids want to go camping like the junior high classes used to do back in the day. I've seen glimpses of heaven on a regular basis this year. I know without a doubt that God brought us all together in the right place at the right time. It's exhilarating, humbling, and hope-inducing all at once.



Please help us not only survive but thrive. Get word out about us: tell your family, your friends, anyone who has a small or big child who could use an oasis or a glimpse of heaven. We need funds. We need successful fundraisers and generous donors. We need you to support us. If you want to know how to support us, come talk to me or Ms. BJ or Ms. Lisa. We'd love for you to partner with us. We're gonna need people like you to partner with us if we want to celebrate Summer Ex's 50th anniversary in four years with more than just memories.