



# Illinois Campers On Mission

October 2026

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| President Letter             | 1 |
| Calendar                     | 2 |
| Fall Rally Schedule          | 3 |
| Faith Focus                  | 4 |
| Fall Rally Business Agenda   | 5 |
| Photos                       | 6 |
| Fall Festival Project Report | 7 |
| SICC Project Report          | 8 |

President's letter—

We had a great time at SICC Camp. While the COM family was there, we were able to complete several projects. The new girl's cabin got walls, but no roof yet. Unfortunately, we had to wait on materials to arrive. We are planning to go back to SICC to finish the roof soon.

I am appreciative of all the lunches and suppers that was prepared for us while we were at SICC.

Doug & Suzy Kingsbury, Pattie Noeth, and Harold & Susan Mills, Jessica and her family, I wanted to give a shout out for the great help while at SICC. Also, would like to say Elise (aka Little girl) was the life of the party and very entertaining for the few days while we were there.

We had great and wonderful fellowship every day.

Please plan to attend the Fall Rally and business meeting on October. We have election of officers and a few pieces of business to discuss. Jim Diercks has arranged to have a musician and speaker for Thursday night so please come and support him.

PRAYER: Exodus 33:14-KJV And he said my presence shall go with thee, I will give them rest.  
Fred Riley- President



## COM Officers

President—Fred Riley, 618-508-3917, fred.riley1261@gmail.com

Vice-President (Project Manager) - Richard Evans, 618-218-4546,  
akrlevans1@gmail.com

Secretary—Karen Mowers, 309-945-3971, kcc61254@gmail.com

Treasurer—Dick Mowers, 309-945-1477, 728 Cardinal Ct., Geneseo, IL 61254

Chaplain—Jim & Marilyn Diercks, 618-965-9748 or 618-317-2353

Food Supervisor— Francie Lindeman, 618-713-2402

Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

National Coordinators—Don & Jan Kragness, campersonmission72@gmail.com

National website: campersonmission.org

## **Tentative 2026—2027 schedule**

**October 18 – 23** – Lake Sallateeska & Fall Rally

**November 12 – 21**- Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR

**Dec. 5** – COM Christmas luncheon, FBC Farina

**Jan. 18 – 30, 2027** – Piney Woods, TX

**March 15—27, 2027 (possible)** —Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR

**June 15—17, 2027**—National Rally, Amana, IA



## **Lake Sallateeska Work Project list for October**

**We will be working in the Dining hall primarily.**

### **Ceiling**

Try our best to level the existing drop ceiling grid, Replace the old 2x4 tiles with 2x2 tiles

### **Serving Line**

Frame wall that will have: 2 serving line windows, 1 door

Run electric for new serving line

Install counter tops

Hang Drywall (Mud it if possible)

Install pull down doors

Jacob also has a small list of things to do around camp but the dining hall is the top priority.



- |    |        |               |
|----|--------|---------------|
| 1  | Jim    | Herrin        |
| 5  | Sue    | Herrin        |
| 6  | Anita  | Evans         |
| 7  | George | Meese         |
| 24 | Joanne | Diercks       |
| 28 | Doug   | Kingsbury III |



## Fall Rally Schedule

## October 18 –23

**Sunday, Oct. 18**—arrive, meeting at 7 pm in Hotel (Keene conference center)

**Monday, Oct. 19**—Work project in dining hall & sewing starts (TBD location)

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**—work day & executive meeting at 6:30 pm

**Wednesday, Oct. 21**—work day & hot dog roast at 6 pm

**Bring chips or dessert, hot dogs & buns will be furnished**

**Thursday, Oct. 22**— work day in morning &

**General business meeting at 2 pm in dining hall**

**Potluck supper—5:30 pm chicken furnished**

## Music and guest speaker to follow

**Friday, Oct. 23**—work until noon, lunch on your own

clean up and leave in afternoon



## FAITH FOCUS—

### "Go Back"

*Joshua 1:9--Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Have you ever noticed that the Armor of God detailed in Ephesians 6 doesn't include anything that covers your back? It includes the sword, the helmet, the breastplate, the belt, the shoes, and the shield. Nowhere on that list is anything to protect your back, because God never intended for us to run away! He has anointed you to go through hard times when needed.

In Genesis 16, a pregnant Hagar wanted to run away when Sarai began to mistreat her, but an angel of the Lord found her and told her to "go back" and submit to her mistress.

In Exodus 2, Moses fled Egypt after he killed a man. He ran to the wilderness, where he stayed 40 years, but an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a burning bush and told him to "go back".

In 1 Kings 19, the prophet Elijah hid in a cave to avoid Jezebel, but the word of the Lord came to him and told him to "go back"

You won't always be in the mood to confront your issues. You won't always feel like it when God tells you to stay in the fight, but He may bring you back to it until you learn to trust Him.

*Ephesians 6:11--Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the hostile spiritual powers. Wear the breastplate of righteousness. Knowing and doing what is right is to live with integrity. It takes courage to do what is right, even when others say it doesn't matter.

Carry the shield of faith. Faith is belief and trust in the living God and his promises, even though we cannot see him. Though it can seem that evil is winning, it has already lost to Christ and in him we will win.

*God, thank you for being with me wherever I go. Help me keep moving forward. Give me the courage to face what I need to face and stay in the fight until I get it, especially on those days when I feel like running away. Amen*

Jim & Marilyn Diercks, Chaplains



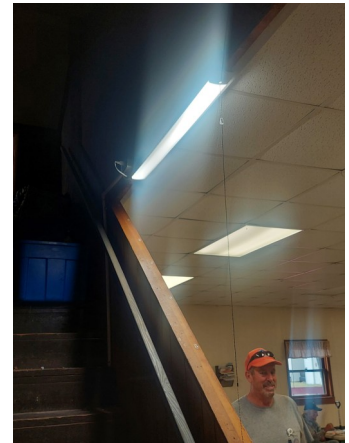
**Agenda – General Membership Meeting**  
**Fall Rally 2026**

1. Prayer – Chaplain
2. General membership minutes of Spring Rally
  - a) changes, corrections or additions, motion to accept, second, vote
3. Treasurer's report - Dick
  - a) Review of YTD financial report
  - b) Presentation of 2027 budget for approval
  - c) Motion to accept report and budget, second, vote
4. Project Report review – Richard
  - a) Project report reviews
  - b) Questions or additions
  - C) Requests for help in 2027
    - i. North Carolina Baptist Camp
    - ii. Missouri camp request
    - iii. SICC request for 2 times in 2027
    - iv. Association Camp at Robinson?
5. Food Report – Francie
6. Sewing Report - Irma
7. Chaplain report – Jim & Marilyn
8. National COM report
  - a. rally information for 2027 - Karen
9. Old Business – Fred
  - None to be brought forward
10. New Business – Fred
  - a. Report from nomination committee & Election of officers and committee chairs for Oct. 2026 - Oct. 2028
  - b. Discussion, open to other nominations
  - c Motion to accept, second, vote
11. Questions/concerns/prayer requests
12. Prayer – Chaplain
13. Motion to adjourn





**See you at the Pole  
prayer time on  
Sept. 23, other  
work and fellow-  
ship photos from  
the work week.**





Don Kragness, National Coordinator, helping put wheels on toy cars & trucks for Samaritan Purse boxes at Christmas at the Missouri Fall Rally.

**Below—we start them early in the bear factory.**

Paula and Harold teaching Elise all about stuffing bears.



## **Baptist Children's Home Fall Festival Report**

### **September 19, 2026**

#### **Present:**

|                                               |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Richard & Anita Evans (Fri & Sat)             | George & Penny Meese  |
| Fred & Paula Riley (Fri & Sat)                | Susan Mills           |
| Sonny & Sondra McKenzie, Amanda, Zeke, Rachel |                       |
| Randy & Sandy Tedford                         | Bryan & Terri Keller  |
| Andy & Marilyn Thomson                        | Susan Mills           |
| George & Penny Meese                          | Randy & Sandy Tedford |



#### **Report:**

1. 2 quilts were donated for quilt auction from Illinois Campers On Mission. One sold for \$475 and one for \$175.
2. A team went up on Friday and helped with set up (Fred & Paula and Richard & Anita)
3. Richard assisted with parking
4. Part of the group hosted the IL COM booth and presented As You Go Bears talk and distributed bears, Frisbees and salvation dolls. (100 items)
5. Andy drove the side by side people mover

## **Work Project Report SICC**

### **Sept. 20 -25, 2026**

#### **Present:**

Fred & Paul Riley  
Jim & Marilyn Diercks, Logan, Sky, Joanne, Ella, Eve  
Doug & Suzy Kingsbury  
Richard & Anita Evans  
John & Francie Lindeman  
Harold & Susan Mills  
Jessica Bonnell, Allexys, Oakley, Kaleigh, Ryland, Elise  
Leroy & Irma Burnett  
Pattie Noeth  
Andy & Marilyn Thomson  
Randy & Kay McClellan  
Aeris Huhman  
Guests: Mike & Wendi Young

#### **Projects completed/worked on**

Sewing curtains for several cabins – 14 sets  
Rebuild Girls Cabin #4 – partially done (will complete this week when roof trusses arrive)  
Finish painting Girls Cabin #1  
Sand & mud Girls Cabin #2 and Boys Cabin #1  
Sewed As You Go Bears - 73  
Cleared tree line including around lake and lagoon  
Gutters cleaned and repaired on big building  
Repair cords for electrical box  
Kitchen outlets fixed  
Replace boards on stationary dock  
Repair board on floating dock at the ladder  
Picnic tables fixed and stained  
Stair lights replaced  
Install closer arms on 2 backdoors of the big building  
Replace loud light in boy's bathroom in chapel  
Level washing machine properly to stop shaking  
Pressure wash basketball court  
Install key lock box in storage room of big building  
Remove vines from fence at basketball court  
Finish sealing and painting picnic tables at beach shelter  
Install spotlights for pulpit in chapel  
Weed eat around lake and burn grass  
Served 107 meals



**Cabin build at SICC.**

