



New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Cooperative Extension
Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center
For Outdoor Education
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Dear Friends of Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp,

Way back in 2006, we made a major change to our Camp Program when we relocated our central fire ring from deep in the woods to right on the shore of Lake Shawanni. We still use that secluded wooden spot for our Honor Camper Ceremony, but over the past eight years we've found that our campers love the fire ring's scenic "lakeside" location.

We are now looking to complete our fire ring's new home with a permanent tiered seating structure. It will feature 10 rows of benches in a raised amphitheater. It will provide seating for over 200 people (a sold-out week at Summer Camp) and be divided into four sections, one for each of our camper groups. The fire ring itself will be extended so it juts out into the lake. It should create quite a view.

Lakeside Fire Ring is the home to the campfire every Monday evening where we welcome our campers. The fire begins as the setting sun mirrors gold off the lake, and by the time it ends Stokes is hushed in twilight darkness. It's always an awesome way to kick-off a week of camp. It's also the scene of our closing campfire Friday evening, where the campers reflect on all that's occurred during their time here. In between it will be the site for all-camp game orientation, rec-time activities, various performances and occasional staff meetings. In addition, it's a favorite of our off-season rental groups.

To help us fund this project, we are opening each of the new Lakeside benches for sponsorship. For just \$400 you, your family or organization could sponsor one of these benches and become one of the forty founders of this new iconic centerpiece of camp. This sponsorship would include a 3x5 plaque on the corner of your bench displaying your family's or organization's name, or a dedication. These benches are priced significantly lower than any other naming opportunity on camp and will help make this new structure a tradition that holds up for years to come. We expect these benches to go fast as supporters of camp help us complete this project.

When campers think of camp, some think of their favorite bunk in their favorite cabin. Some picture going down the slide at the waterfront, sitting on Vespers Island, or singing in front of the Dining Hall Porch. It is our hope that in the future many will fondly remember the hours they spent in front of the fire at Lakeside.

Sincerely,

The Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp Staff

Checks can be made out to "The Rutgers Foundation" and mailed directly to Camp. Please include your requested plaque inscriptions, or contact the Camp Office with any questions.