Every year, more than 12,000 kids and adults from schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and universities come to Camp Joy for summer camp, team building, leadership development, and outdoor education. Camp Joy combines camaraderie with the restorative power of nature to bring respite, confidence, and joy to everyone we serve.

For the children we serve, the Camp Joy experience provides a place where, for at least a little while, kids can be... kids, surrounded by other kids just like them in a community of friendship. Our kids leave with more than memories. They leave with relationships—with other kids, with Camp Joy counselors—that last a lifetime.
Nurture Yourself While Nurturing Nature

Since 1937, Camp Joy has advocated for the restorative power of nature. Our Nurturing Nature program is a great way for kids from all backgrounds to experience how nature takes care of us each day, while we take care of it.

Camp Joy is doing innovative work—through Nurturing Nature, we provide real-life lessons on how to dispose of waste, manage land, and design built environment in ways that are in harmony with nature. Camper education is at the heart of all our programs.

So far to nurture nature, we’ve planted a new orchard, brought additional fields online for crops, initiated a timber harvest for on-site building materials, and have created a 50-year forest management program. All Camp Joy lighting was converted to LED, which saves us $10,000 annually. We’re phasing out fuel oil, insulating cabins, and switching to all-electric everything in anticipation of the move to solar energy. In the long run, converting our energy needs to solar will reduce our operating costs by nearly $35,000 per year and, among other benefits, help achieve our energy goals and reduce carbon emissions. Additionally, we’re converting some mowed grass to native prairie, creating an excellent pollinator habitat. We’re happy to report that all camp waste is either composted or recycled.

Nurturing Nature will save and earn money, while also allowing more kids to experience Camp Joy.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

• Fund the systems, materials, and expertise needed to install and maintain the camp’s assets by making a gift to Camp Joy. Help us hit our goal of net-zero everything by 2027!

• Volunteer. Show us your green thumb and we’ll show you ours.

• Help us build awareness through our new ambassador program. Complete the enclosed form and mail it back to us or give us a call to learn more: 937-289-2031.

Our Leafy Goals:

• We’ll hit net-zero everything by 2027. That means we will give back to nature exactly what we take from it.

• We’ll reduce our use of energy overall. Camp Joy will design and operate its buildings to minimize operating costs and take advantage of green building practices afforded by our climate.

• We will nurture the needs of our 317-acre home by tapping into the perfectly elegant processes that drive the natural world. We will grow our own food, support wildlife and plant diversity, manage invasive species and responsibly harvest our timber.

This innovative program will save and earn money, allowing more kids to experience Camp Joy.