



Parents,

As many of you know, Kanakuk has been serving kids and families for over 96 years. Kamp remains committed to the vision that today's Kampers will be the Christian leaders of tomorrow. First and foremost, Kamp will continue to advocate for their safety as they grow in friendships, faith, and confidence. We're so grateful to all the past, present, and future Kamp families that allow us to be a part of your child's summer.

Unfortunately, several articles were recently published that misrepresent Kanakuk, its mission, and its reaction to events that transpired over a decade ago. I want to communicate with you in a transparent and forthright manner the truth about these claims. These articles would like you to believe that Kanakuk is not who we say we are. These articles believe they have the "facts." They do not. The sad reality is their narrative is incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading. You can read our response [here](#).

As you are probably aware—twelve years ago, one of our full-time staff members was convicted of abusing Kampers. Kamp is still devastated by this behavior and the damage caused. Any act of abuse is absolutely deplorable and stands counter to Kamp's core mission and beliefs. This individual's behavior sent shock waves throughout the Kamp community. It left an indelible mark and shook us to the core. It still hurts. But accusations that Kanakuk—or any of its leadership—knew of the abuse and covered it up are categorically false, misguided, and self-serving. At no time was anyone at Kanakuk charged with knowingly allowing abuse or failing to report suspected abuse.

Our comprehensive Child Protection Plan was created as a result of this tragedy and has been rigorously taught and followed every summer since. It has more than 340 protective elements to prevent, detect, and respond to potential physical, emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse. It is the standard for child protection for youth-serving organizations across the country today.

There are those in our society who would like nothing more than to see Kanakuk's mission to equip Next Generation Christian Leaders undermined. Rest assured, Kanakuk is exactly who you think we are. Kanakuk is an organization that acknowledges the deplorable acts of this individual and has educated its staff, Kampers, and Kampers' families about the events that took place and the measures since added to make sure it never happens again. There never has and never will be any attempt to hide incidents of abuse. Anyone who knows Kanakuk and its heart knows that we do not hide from our history. We learn from it.

*Equipping Next Generation Leaders*

Recent articles have accused Kanakuk of using Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) to hide details of abuse and silence victims. This is simply not the case. The awful details of what transpired is part of the public record. The criminal component was equally public and local television stations and newspapers covered this for many months. Kanakuk's focus is on supporting victims' privacy and healing. The overwhelming majority of confidentiality agreements were established in cooperation with the victim to protect their privacy.

Furthermore, Kanakuk approaches these victims with profound humility, sensitivity, and regret. The Kanakuk brand is never more important than even one of these victims. And it never will be. Every action taken by Kanakuk has been to protect and respect the desire of victims. The Kanakuk name is not more important than the hearts and lives of individuals. And, every Kamper's safety is our number one priority.

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to call or email us. And, if I may be so bold, please pray with us. Kanakuk's mission is bigger than all of us. And it will—Lord willing—outlive us all. While much institutional introspection and growth has occurred since 2009, our hearts and prayers are continually focused on kids and their safety.

Thankfully, for almost 100 hundred years, over 500,000 youth and more than 50,000 summer staff have walked through Kamp's gates and experienced an amazing summer. Kanakuk considers this legacy and responsibility a privilege worth protecting and defending. This will never change.

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