Peace Summer Day Camp

Established in 1976, our Summer Day Camp is Peace Neighborhood Center’s longest-running program. Over the years, 1,703 young people have participated in our camp programs, where they have enjoyed a range of fun summer experiences, including: games & recreational activities, a variety of enrichment groups, and local field trips to zoos, parks and museums. All have opened up a wider world of new possibilities and experiences for youth they otherwise would not have the chance to explore.

For some “Peace kids”, attending Summer Camp was their first introduction to Peace Neighborhood Center. They all have fond memories of special activities and field trips, the occasional sleepover or camping trip, and the life-long friends they’ve met here. Peace’s Summer Camp has always offered young people the opportunity to forge deeper relationships with each other, build life skills, and explore nature and new interests.

Local field trips have included weekly visits to the Pinckney State Recreation Area. A variety of enrichment clubs have included gardening in partnership with the Washtenaw Master Gardeners, physical fitness, the visual arts, dance, theater, music, and other areas of special interest for Peace youth. The drumline has always been a fun favorite. Kids get to choose how they spend parts of their day based on the activities they’re interested in, giving them an important sense of agency over their summer vacation.

Over the last 45 years, Peace’s summer programming has grown to include a range of targeted and age-appropriate opportunities for youth:

- Summer Day Camp for elementary school kids,
- Leadership Development Camp for middle school teens,
- Ninth Grade Academy for youth transitioning to high school,
- Camp Counselor job opportunities for high school and college students.

For many Peace alumni, their first summer job was at Peace Neighborhood Summer Camp as a Counselor—where they have a chance to learn new leadership skills and serve as mentors and positive role models for their younger peers. This first job experience often serves as a foundation for future career opportunities.

“It made my childhood a childhood.”
—Tangyika, former Peace Camper