

PRESS RELEASE—May 25, 2022

Jacktown Packers (JTP) was a high school backpacking group from 1977-1996. Each year for three weeks a school bus of students, student advisors, adult advisors, and two bus drivers from Parkside, Jackson HS, Northwest HS, Columbia Central HS, Hanover Horton HS, Lumen Christi HS, Grass Lake HS, etc.... would make the trek "out West" to hike canyons, climb mountains, and visit national parks and historical sites. The trip was curriculum based, earning students both a history and science credit. For the first time ever this group will gather for a multi-year Reunion on Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 2-7PM at Northwest High School's Cafetorium at 4200 Van Horn Rd, in Jackson, MI. This invitation is open to all 558 Packers and their families who participated from 1977-1996.

Assembling this group started back in 2012 when Al Ferry, 1979-1996 NWHS Teacher and Advisor, donated the entire slideshow collection to care of Lisa Schell (JTP 1987, 1988, 1990, 1993). As a trained archivist, Lisa and her internship team spent the next few year's digitizing the collection of legacy slide images, cassette tapes, and related documents. By 2016, all of the content had been recaptured, now what? Thanks to Facebook there were already two groups, Former Jacktown Packers and Jacktown Packers (now archived) online where about half of the Packers had already reconnected. Our initial attempts to gather were postponed because of the pandemic. In the meantime, the JTP Reunion Committee hosted mini-Reunion Zoom Parties and Oral Histories to keep the community engaged until it was safe enough to gather.

**To reserve your ticket(s) and t-shirt, go to:**

<https://www.jacktownpackersreunion.eventbrite.com>

If you would like to view some of the digital collection, go to:

**Facebook's Former Jacktown Packers:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/43684101058/>

**YouTube Oral History Interview Collection:**

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQB1NRL8IB8uv\\_Ju5pbyBlfEo4IGv1FuK](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQB1NRL8IB8uv_Ju5pbyBlfEo4IGv1FuK)

In addition to questions about the Reunion, the JTP Reunion Committee is assembling materials for a JTP Archive to forever preserve this amazing Jackson story! If you would like to donate memorabilia please reach out to Lisa Schell directly for details.

Lisa M. Schell (JTP 1987, 1988, 1990, 1993)

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