



Happenings from Camp Horizons



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30 campers return to Horizons for fun-filled Fall Reunion

Thirty campers and seven staff members gathered Halloween weekend for our annual fall reunion, a weekend filled with great camp activities, lots of fun and plenty of time to relive great memories from summer 2010.

Campers kicked the weekend off Friday evening with a slide show of photos from summer, followed by a campfire with s'mores, songs and games.

Saturday morning was packed with activities as campers and staff enjoyed arts & crafts, music, canoeing, archery, horse care, trail rides, sports and outdoor living skills.

Following lunch, the reunion group hiked through camp property, carved pumpkins and enjoyed a hayride.

Evening festivities kicked off with a great dinner, followed by the Extravaganza that featured a talent show, dance, and judging for best costumes and best-carved pumpkins. The categories included best pumpkin, carved by a boy and a girl; best girl costume; best boy costume; scariest costume; and best overall costume. Counselor Liz Heilbronner took top honors for staff costume as she did a role reversal and dressed as a camper.

Following Sunday breakfast, more than 10 hearty campers braved the chilly waters of Lake Philippa for the annual Polar Bear Plunge. Plenty of towels and hot chocolate awaited the cold but enthusiastic campers as they emerged from the lake. Later that morning, campers took to the trees for the high challenge course, where they enjoyed the Giant Swing, Flying Squirrel and Zipline elements of the high course.

Thanks to all our Fall Reunion 2010 participants: campers Kalyn Bauer, Stephen Bauer, Morgan Brittingham, Marley Byorick, Casey and Erin Christoph, Elizabeth Crown, Connor Day, Cecilia

Garner, Emily Golden, Richard Gordon, Claire Harkins, Sophia Herman, Julia Howard, Kennedy Lee, Ella Marian, Katya Maslova, Dana Mendoza, Rhys



Photos by Liz Heilbronner

Morgan, Aidan and Andrew Norville, Brennan O'Reagan, Sarah Palmer, Emilie Pratt, Tyler Rodriguez, Thomas Russell, Hallie Scotland, Callie Smith, Tristan Williams and Casey Willkens; and staff members Devin Hall, Chris Jett, Jake Bogdonoff, Rayce Williams, Anna Buchanan, Liz Heilbronner and Amanda Heaton.

Horizons Leadership Program deadline Jan. 1, 2011

Rising High School Seniors, don't forget to get your applications in for the Horizons Leadership Program. Application deadline is Jan. 1, 2011.



The four-week program for returning campers only gives rising high school seniors the training, leadership skills, responsibility and self-confidence

they need to excel in high school, college, employment and other aspects of their lives. Leadership campers live in cabins with younger campers and help lead camp workshops and activities, and plan special camp-wide programs. They also get training in communication, leadership, teamwork, group dynamics, conflict resolution, camp philosophy and more. Leadership campers also plan educational and/or service projects they will implement at home, and get feedback and support in launching these projects. Special Leadership program activities include a trip to the Via Ferrata rock climbing adventure in West Virginia, an overnight canoe trip, special dinners, the high and low challenge courses and more!

To apply, please complete the Leadership application and mail it to Camp Horizons by Jan. 1, 2011. Acceptance letters will be mailed on or before Jan. 15, 2011. If any spaces remain after Jan. 15, applications will be accepted until all slots are filled.

Take advantage of our **Early Bird Discount!** Register by March 11, 2011 and save \$45 off each week. And don't forget our **Sibling Discount:** \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.



Happy Holidays from the crew at Camp HORIZONS

The Director's Corner



We've had our first dusting of snow here at Camp Horizons, heralding the start of winter. For us, it's a time to catch our breath after the fun, action-packed summer season and a busy fall of hosting groups at the Outdoor Learning Center at Horizons and at the Via Ferrata at Nelson Rocks Preserve in West Virginia. It's also time to begin the planning for next summer.

We're excited to be partnering with the international Up with People organization to bring Camp Up with People to Camp Horizons next summer. The coed performing arts camp for ages 14-17 will be offered in two three-week sessions, and will be headquartered at the nearby Horizons

at Valley Pike retreat center. CUWP campers and staff will enjoy many of the great facilities and programs at Camp Horizons, and will conduct workshops with our campers and staff and stage performances.

We're pleased to announce that Lori Ostrem will return as summer program director. Anna Buchanan, our equestrian director, will continue to build our summer horseback program as well as offer trail rides, riding lessons and special horse events throughout the year.

As we enjoy the holiday season, it's good to reflect on the many blessings we have. Thanks to all of our campers and staff for the enthusiasm, joy and friendship you have brought to Camp Horizons.

At this time of year, it's also good to consider those less fortunate and think of ways we can extend a helping hand to our neighbors.

I hope your holiday season will be filled with friends, family and anticipation for a wonderful 2011. Stay in touch, keep warm and begin that countdown to Summer 2011.

John Hall
"Life is for Living"

Want more info about



Camp Up with People, a partnership with the international Up with People, is for teens, age 14-17, who are interesting an intensive performing arts, stage production and community service experience. The program also focuses on multi-cultural awareness and social responsibility. Need more information? Check out the CUWP web site at:

CampUpwithPeople.org or **CLICK HERE** to download the CUWP brochure.



Horizons Family Album: Wayne Berger

As director of the Outdoor Learning Center at Horizons and of its sister organization, the Via Ferrata at Nelson Rocks Preserve in West Virginia, Wayne Berger has two top goals that serve as the foundation for his work. “My top goal is to keep it safe,” Wayne says. “Second, to provide quality, fun experiences.”



Wayne Berger and friend Lynn Bobb pause for a break on the Via Ferrata.

His third goal is to make it possible for more people to enjoy and learn from adventure activities. “Adventure is all around us. You just have to access it. We provide the access.”

That’s just what Wayne has been doing for the past 29 years – providing people of

all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to try new things, reach new goals and experience the outdoors in new ways.

Specifically, Wayne has worked in the challenge course industry (high and low ropes courses) for nearly 30 years.

Wayne has a bachelor’s degree in outdoor recreation and a master’s in administration of leisure services. His first job in outdoor recreation was as a recreation specialist working with adolescents with drug and alcohol dependency issues.

Among his duties was leading four-day therapeutic camping trips that featured high/low challenge courses, rock climbing, canoeing and backpacking.

He also served as an assistant team trainer for Corporate Adventure in Reston, Va., and as program director for InnerQuest, an outdoor adventure organization based in Purcellville, Va. At the height of its operation, InnerQuest hosted 11,000 participants a year, and Wayne managed a staff of 24 full-time and 12 part-time/contractual workers.

In 2000, Wayne joined Project Adventure, based in Massachusetts, an company that was founded by a group of teachers who wanted to offer alternative physical education programs to their students and grew into an international organization that focuses on designing and building challenge courses.

Throughout the years, Wayne and Camp Horizons founder John Hall crossed

paths at Association of Challenge Course Technology meetings. But it wasn’t until last year, with the recent acquisition of the Via Ferrata at Nelson Rocks Preserve, that John approached Wayne about the OLC director position. Wayne, who was ready for a change, was intrigued by the offer, and started May 1, 2010. Unquestionably, the “Via Ferrata was the big carrot” that lured him to Horizons. The new facility, with its spectacular beauty and incredible potential was a perfect fit for Wayne. “It’s the same principles as with any high challenge course. John just says the Via Ferrata is a challenge course on steroids.” Future plans include enhancements to the cabins, tent camping area and lodging facilities at Nelson Rocks and additional recreational options, including a new Canopy Tour to open in early summer.

However, his position as director of OLC, also involves directing the OLC staff and its busy year-round operation here at Camp Horizons. Goals for OLC include “ramping up the depth of programming we are doing here, putting additional emphasis on the educational component of the outdoor programming, and keeping the focus on continuing to provide outstanding customer service.”

In short, everything loops back to his major goals – keep it safe; keep it fun; and make adventure accessible to all sorts of people.

Looking ahead to outdoor adventures at the Via Ferrata

As winter settles in, it’s a good time to let your thoughts drift toward thoughts of warm weather and the possibilities of outdoor recreation. For folks who crave challenge, adventure and the spectacular scenery of Pendleton County, West Virginia, the Via Ferrata at Nelson Rocks Preserve, provides plenty of material for daydreaming.

The Via Ferrata, an activity option for Explorer, Leadership and CWUP campers here at Horizons, is ¾-mile-long, guided, self-belayed climbing adventure. The route features a permanently installed anchor system that includes steel cables, metal rungs and bridges. Participants wear a climbing harness with a specially designed lanyard that is clipped into a steel cable that traverses the entire climb.

While participants don’t need rock-climbing experience, they do need to understand that the Via Ferrata is a challenging, strenuous adventure that requires focus and stamina. The rewards are breath-taking vistas high on rock faces that would otherwise be inaccessible, the camaraderie of shared accomplishments and the satisfied exhilaration of scaling towering “fins” of Tuscarora Quartzite rock formations.

The Via Ferrata is open to the public, year round, weather permitting, by appointment only. Participants must be 13 years old or older. Gift certificates are available.

For more information, please visit VisitViaFerrata.com or call 1-877-435-4VIA.



Alumni News, Views and Happenings

1998

Claire Taylor (1997-1998) and Hugh Muschamp welcomed baby Ben, who arrived on Sept. 30, in Edinburgh, Scotland. Ben weighed in at 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was nearly 2 feet long (dad's very tall)! He is doing really well, and mom and dad are busy, but delighted!



2004

Andy Payne (2001-2004) just returned home from serving over two months in Afghanistan with the British Army.

2005

Bill Smith (2003-2005) is an elementary school art teacher in Rochester, New York. He and wife, Bonnie, are expecting their first child in May.

2007

Emily Posner (2006-2007) graduated in May from George Mason University and is a graphic designer for a start-up company in Washington, D.C. Her sister,

Rachel Posner (2003), just completed her first marathon.



Emily Posner, right, celebrates her graduation with sister Rachel.

Anna Witten-Sage (2007) is teaching high school English in Auckland, New Zealand.

2010

Equestrian Director Anna Buchanan (2008-2010) and **Hannah Dunn (2008-2010)** participated in a benefit ride Oct. 3 to raise money for Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp, a camp for area disabled children and adults that offers a therapeutic riding program. Anna and Hannah rode Dolly and Sassy, two camp horses, on the 8.5-mile ride and raised \$350 for the camp.

Anna, on Dolly, and Hannah on Sassy, at the finish line of the benefit ride.



Hannah Dunn

(2008-2010) graduated from the University of Hull in England in October with honors in Equine Science. She has just started a job at a summer camp staffing agency in Edinburgh, Scotland.



Devin Hall (2008-2010) is performing in "Shrunkn Heads" at Schultz Theater in New Market, VA in February. He plays the role of Car. Devin will be heading to England to meet up with former camp staff there for a New Year's celebration.

Graham Hollingdale (2007-2010) graduated from Gloucester University in England and is spending the winter working at a ski resort in France.

Camp Horizons Fall Staff celebrated an early Thanksgiving together in October. Those attending included: April Banks, Hannah Dunn, Gustavo Calvi, Jenny Walker, Olivia Merriam, Wayne Berger, Grace Corapi, Kim, Kenny, Brayden and Brinley Betts, Amanda Heaton, Mike Bishop, Devin Hall and Kaylie Metcalfe.



The Horizons crew celebrates an early Thanksgiving in October at camp.

New campers!

Visit camp during our Open Houses

New to Camp Horizons? Would you like to visit camp, check out our great facilities and meet some of our talented staff before summer? If so, join us for one of our Open Houses, where you'll get a chance to meet our staff, check out the cabins and other facilities and get a feel for camp.

All Open Houses start at 1 p.m., rain or shine, and include a slide show, refreshments and a walking tour of camp. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, bundle up if it's chilly and allow about two hours for your visit.

Please call our office during business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,

at 540-896-7600, if you'd like to attend one of our Open Houses.

Open House Dates

Saturday, Feb. 5

Sunday, Feb. 6

Monday, Feb. 21 (President's Day)

Saturday, March 5

Sunday, March 6

Saturday, April 2

Sunday, April 3

Saturday, April 30

Sunday, May 1

Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our ever-growing Camp Horizons family, so keep in touch! Let us know what's happening in your life and who of your Camp Horizons friends you keep in touch with. Stop by for a visit, drop us a line or e-mail us to update your address, send information or share any alumni news. Please send news and photos to Alumni@HorizonsVA.com. Visit our Alumni page on our web site, www.CampHorizonsVA.com to see if you have contact information for any of the staff listed there. Also be sure to visit us on Facebook.