



Happenings from Camp Horizons



June 2011
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The final countdown to the start of camp begins!

The pool is filled with sparkling water, freshly vacuumed and waiting for swimmers. The canoes and kayaks are at the lake's edge. The colorful Wet Willy waterslide is in place, and the zip line is ready to go. There's plenty of firewood at all the campfire circles, the arts & crafts cabin is organized and waiting for budding artists. The nature center is sporting a new deck, and the teepees soon will be pitched in the Home in the Woods area. In short – summer is about to begin!

While the main season of Camp Horizons begins June 19, we'll welcome our first campers on June 12 for the first session of Horizons Equestrian Camp. Our horse-loving campers will have two new equine staff members to meet – Tabs, a big, friendly chestnut gelding, and Hank, a gentle, relaxed bay gelding. Both horses are at camp for the summer on a lease arrangement, and have made friends with the rest of the Horizons herd. Like the other horses here, they are looking forward to welcoming campers for both sessions of the Equestrian Camp as well as campers who sign up for the riding program during

tion program of the international Up with People, will welcome campers, age 14-17, from across the country and around the globe. CUWP will focus on the performing arts, but will include service projects, leadership training and cultural awareness. Each session campers will stage a performance that showcases their talents, cultures and hopes for the world. CUWP campers will enjoy Camp Horizons' outdoor activities and will collaborate with Camp Horizons staff for part of the performing arts programs here at camp.

An exciting new option for Explorer campers will be the North Fork Valley Canopy Tour, based at the Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center in West Virginia. NROC also is home to the challenging Via Ferrata rock climbing experience, an optional activity for Explorer campers 13 years and older. Campers who sign up for the Canopy Tour must weigh at least 70 pounds. Both the Via Ferrata and Canopy Tour are offered as optional day trips.

Parents, be sure to check the list of recommended things to bring to camp that's included in the Parent Handbook. It will make packing for camp much easier!

Please note new pick up and drop off times: Parents can drop off their campers



Left to right, Daniel Hisey, Kenny Betts and Wayne Berger enjoy a beautiful day as they put up the Wet Willy Water Slide.

on Sundays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Pick up for regular camp sessions is Saturday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Parents of Equestrian Camp participants should arrive at camp on Saturday between 9:30 and 10 a.m. to enjoy the grand finale horse show from 10 to 11 a.m., where campers get to showcase their new riding abilities.

One of the best things about coming to camp is that it gives both campers and staff a chance to take a much-needed break from e-mail, Facebook, instant messaging, cell phones, web surfing, computer games and other technology that are so much a part of our day-to-day existence. Camp offers kids a chance to be outdoors, make new friends, and discover new talents and abilities. In the process, they grow in independence and self-confidence.

So, please leave all electronic games, radios, CDs and DVD players, iPods, laptop computers and cell phones at home. **DO** bring your camera to get lots of great pictures of your fun times and new friends at Camp Horizons. And **DO** bring your energy, enthusiasm, ideas and desire to meet new people and have a fantastic summer camp experience!



Tabs, a friendly, playful Chestnut gelding joins the herd.



Hank, a gentle bay, is the perfect trail horse!

the main camp sessions.

This year, Camp Horizons will welcome another specialty camp program. Camp Up with People, which will be housed at Horizons at Valley Pike, a sister facility a few miles from camp, will run two sessions: July 3-23, and July 24-Aug. 13. The camp, patterned after the performing arts/produc-

Haven't registered yet? Don't miss the fun! We still have a few openings in some sessions.

CH alumni, sending your kids to camp? Ask about our Alumni Discount!

Don't forget our Sibling Discount: \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.

The Directors' Corner

It's hard to believe that camp is just weeks away. The Equestrian Staff is conducting staff training from June 6-10, and our regular summer staff will hold a busy week of staff training beginning June 13.



We're especially excited about our staff this year (although we feel that way each summer!), as we welcome back veteran counselors and meet new staff members, who come with plenty of enthusiasm and new ideas.

As we think about the value of camp, we can't help but marvel at the incredible experience it offers kids. The value and importance of camp is even more evident in youngsters who are facing unique and challenging situations. We are thrilled to welcome back Operation Purple, a program of the National Military Family Association. This special camp offers kids who have a parent in the deployment cycle a chance to enjoy summer camp, surrounded by peers who understand what it's like to have a parent serving in the military far from home.

Camp Horizons also will host the annual Mid-Atlantic Burn Camp July 31-Aug. 6. Campers, all burn survivors, will stay at a neighboring camp, but will enjoy the ropes courses and horseback here at camp as well as canoeing, tubing and caving trips off camp. Camp offers these youngsters a wonderful opportunity to be with peers who understand their unique experiences, to have fun, make lifelong friends and to be unreservedly accepted.

These two groups are poignant reminders of the value of camp for all youngsters. We feel privileged to be able to play a role in providing wonderful experiences for these and all our campers.

Lori Ostrem & Chris Coventry

Staff 2011

Prepares for a super summer!

Our talented staff for the 2011 summer season includes 22 returning staff and 19 new staff members. Staff members represent the following countries: the United States, England, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Mexico, Colombia, South Korea and Hungary. US staff come from the states of North Dakota, Virginia, Maryland, Florida and New Jersey. We

also are pleased to welcome nine Leadership Campers, all rising high school seniors, who will be honing their leadership skills, helping counselors stage special events, assisting with and eventually leading some activities and events, and, in the process, having a fantastic time!



Our 2011 staff, as of June 1, is:

SIXTH YEAR: Lori Ostrem, Makoti, N.D.

FIFTH YEAR: Jake Bogdonoff, Charlottesville, Va.; and Chris Coventry, Liverpool, England.

FOURTH YEAR: Anna Buchanan, Bath, England; Hannah Dunn, York, England; and Devin Hall, Halifax, Va.

THIRD YEAR: Grace Corapi,

Arlington, Va.; Liz Heilbronner, Charlottesville, Va.; Chris Jett, Fredericksburg, Va.; Yoon Jin Kang, Seoul, South Korea; Roy Macias, Pueblo, Mexico; and Jenny Walker, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

SECOND YEAR: Olivia Clarke, Dublin, Ireland; Hayley Davis, Kent, England; Alice Latham, London, England; Hamish McKenzie, Tauranga, New Zealand; Emily Middleton, Blackwater, England; Tom Morris, Hornchurch, England; Oscar Oliveros, Huila, Colombia; Marshall Tuck, Richmond, Va.; Adam Whitehall, Leeds, England; and Amanda Williams, Strasburg, Va.

FIRST YEAR: Shannen Athey, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Chris Barron, Derby, England; Daniel Batters, Birmingham, England; Sabra Bushey, Sykesville, Md.; Susan Davis, Poquoson, Va.; Bill Enkhbayar, Marlton, N.J.; Jo Eynon, Old Coulsdon, England; Jo Gibson, Leicestershire, England; Katie Hamilton, Portsmouth, England; Paul Jones, Norfolk, Va.; Alex Kindley, Cramlington, England; TJ Kirk, Lovettsville, Va.; Kate Shaver, Gainesville, Va.; Emily Mansfield, Stafford, Va.; Szonja Meyer, Budapest, Hungary; Sarah Mueller, Fredericksburg, Va.; Flora Szanto, Gyor, Hungary; Anita Weyer, Virginia Beach, Va.; and Jen Wilson, Herndon, Va.

2011 LEADERSHIP CAMPERS are Aude Buchmuller, Ted Diamond, Marshall Edmunds, Kara Grosbach, Julia Howard, Sam Kane, Megan Niewold, Isabel Vera and Erin Walsh.

Kim Betts receives ACA service award

Kim Betts, director of administration, received the Outstanding Service Award from the Virginias Field Office of the American Camp Association. The annual award is presented to a member who has given outstanding service to the ACA Virginias Field Office.

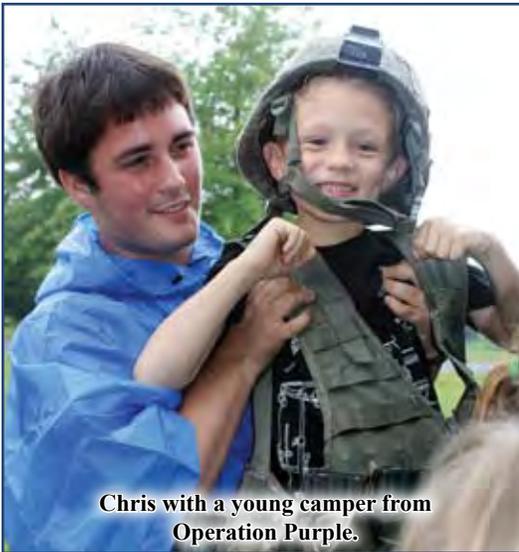
Kim currently serves as vice president of programs for the ACA Virginias Field Office, and previously served as chair of the Camper Recruitment Committee and as secretary of the Virginias Field Office. Kim also has been involved with EPIC

(Emerging Professionals in Camp), a program of ACA. Kim serves as a Standards Visitor, visiting other camps each summer to conduct ACA accreditation visits.



Kim Betts receives the ACA award from Terry Patterson, membership chair.

Horizons Family Album: Chris Coventry



Chris with a young camper from Operation Purple.

When Chris Coventry, who hails from Liverpool, England, started as a counselor for the Discover program in 2007, it was his first experience with summer camp. Granted his family was very outdoor oriented, and camping and hiking were the norm. But a summer residential camp “is such an alien concept for us Brits,” he says with a laugh. “It’s not something we have at home.”

So that first summer was a new, and, as Chris says, “AMAZING” experience. In addition to working with the youngest of campers here, Chris had the opportunity to meet staff members from different countries and cultures – New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Australia and more – who became “real, life-long friends.” The entire experience was so positive that midway through that first summer, Chris knew he would be back. Now, four years later, he is preparing for his fifth summer here, and will be serving as the Explorer director, overseeing the activities and staff of that program.

“I love the whole philosophy behind camp – the opportunity to come here and be on a level playing field, accepted for who you are,” Chris said. “I love being able to be a positive influence on kids.” Chris also enjoys the optimistic American philosophy that is infused in the Camp Horizons experience – “You can do anything, be anything.” At camp, kids from different backgrounds, cultures, social groups, educational levels and more

are all equal, all friends.

In 2008 Chris served as activities director, a support staff role in which he oversaw the scheduling and supervision of activity leads. Duties included making sure all staff had the equipment and supplies they needed and that trips went out on time.

“I missed not being with the kids, but enjoyed the new challenge,” Chris said. “I could make a real difference in the way we ran programs at camp.”

The following summer Chris was back in the cabins – this time as head counselor of Sunset Village for Explorer boys. “Working with 15-year-olds was really exciting,” he recalls. “All my experience had been with the younger kids – that was where my comfort zone was.” But he quickly found he enjoyed working with the older campers, getting to know them as individuals and serving as a positive role model and mentor to the teens.

Last summer, Chris served as Explorer director, overseeing the programs for the older campers and enjoying the fact that many of the young campers he met his first year were now teens in the Explorer program. “It was great being able to see the kids progress over the years.” During the 2010 season, Camp Horizons also welcomed international campers from the United Kingdom, Venezuela, Germany, Spain and France. “It was a fantastic cross-cultural experience,” Chris recalls.

With start of camp just weeks away, Chris is working closely with Lori Ostrem, summer program director, and Kim Betts, director of administration. He describes the staff for this summer as “the best of the best – all handpicked” for their talents, enthusiasm, maturity, and love of camp and of children. “I’m excited to see what the new staff will bring to the table.”

Although his focus is on the summer camp program here at Horizons, Chris is in the enviable position of working with the summer camp industry all year long. During non-summer months he works for Smaller Earth, an organization in Liverpool that focuses on cross cultural exchanges for young people with an emphasis on providing summer camp employment opportunities for international counselors at 1,000 summer camps across the United States.

Garden provides fresh produce for camp

Once again, Camp Horizons will use the harvest of its camp garden in the menu planning at camp and at sister organizations, Mountain Valley Meeting & Retreat Center and Horizons at Valley Pike. The garden, located just above the baseball field, has been planted and already is providing spring vegetables and greens.

The garden is organized as a sectional garden this year, with a greater variety of produce planted but few quantities of each individual crop. The hope is to

have a steady stream of delicious fresh produce all summer and well into the fall, without being inundated with one particular crop.

So far, the garden includes tomatoes, zucchini, swiss chard, a variety of different lettuces, kohlrabi, eggplant, sugar snap peas, beans, yellow squash, bok choy and fresh herbs.

Camp Horizons also will continue its composting efforts, collecting vegetable and fruit scraps and turning them into rich compost for our garden. Other “green” efforts at camp include using electric-powered golf carts throughout camp; generating electricity from solar panels on the Western Village roof and the wind turbine located on the knoll behind Western Village; recycling glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans; and producing our own biodiesel fuel to power our fleet of diesel-engine buses and trucks.



The camp garden, ready for growing season!

Alumni News, Views and Happenings

2010

Devin Hall (2008-2010) and **Graham Hollingdale (2007-2010)** just completed a road trip from Virginia to Maine.

Amanda Heaton and **Rayce Williams** were married on May 14 in Virginia.



Congratulations Amanda and Rayce!

Kristine McNerney (2008-2010) is completing an internship with Horizons in the field of Marketing. She just returned from an internship abroad in London, working for Juicy Couture, this spring.

Chris Coventry (2007-2010), **Adam Whitehall**, **Carolyn Harvey (2005-2007, 2009)** and **Ralph Demeger (2006-2007, 2009)** met in London to enjoy the royal wedding!



Ralph, Chris, Carolyn and Adam enjoy festivities!

2009



Steve Martin (2002-2007, 2009) graduated from medical school at Howard University in May.

Maxie Keeler (2009) will be studying abroad this summer in Cape Town, South Africa.

2008

Laura Maxfield Simpkins (2005, 2007, 2008) and **Carl Simpkins (2006, 2006, 2008)** recently visited **Joyce Metzler (2007-2008)** in Fredericksburg, Va.



Laura and Joyce

2004

Nicole Dukes Robey and husband John welcomed baby Julia on April 2 in Georgia.

Molly Seltzer (2004) has written a book, which is a collection of humor columns about living in New York City. After blogging weekly for a year, fundraising and receiving some grant money, she self-published her book. You can purchase *All Downhill from Ivan Puffenbarger* on amazon.com or from her website: www.MollySeltzer.com. Molly is a financial reporter and editor at Bloomberg News in New York.



Nicole with baby Julia



Aimee Woodill Payne and **Andy Payne (both 2001-2004)** welcomed baby Edward "Ted" Harrison Payne born April 2 in England.

2003

Ashlee Droscher (2000-2003) received her Masters in Organizational Development from American University in May.



2002



Krista Burdick McNally and husband Tom welcomed Thomas "Tommy" Bartholomew McNally III on April 28 in New York.

Bethany Humble (2001-2002) and **Chase Bearden** were married April 3 in Texas.



Bethany & husband Chase

1990s

Robin Searles (1998), 29, passed away on March 6, 2011, after a long battle with cystic fibrosis and related complications.

Donations may be made in Robin's memory to the Boomer Esiason Foundation (esiason.org), 483 10th Ave., Suite 300, New York, N.Y. 10018. Please designate the donation for research.



Kelly and John

Dr. Kelly Murphy (1995, 1997) received her doctorate from Emory University in May and will be a visiting professor in the Religion Department at

Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., for the 2011-2012 academic year. She is engaged to **John Percy (1994-1995, 1998)**.

Markus Eriksson Amanto (1994-1996) sent this photo of him with his kids



Amanda and **Rafael**. After the earthquake and tsunami hit her hometown of Sendai, Japan, **Rie Hashimoto Bailey (1994)** is raising money for the Japanese Red Cross and Americares. She has raised over \$2,000 already! For details, email her at Rie_bailey@hotmail.com. Rie now lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, Brent, and children.

Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our ever-growing Camp Horizons family, so keep in touch! 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!