



Happenings from Camp Horizons



June 2012
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Camp ready and waiting for start of 30th season!

Excitement is growing here at Camp Horizons as we prepare for our 30th season of summer fun. Campers will notice a number of new facility improvements this year. Philippa Lake has been deepened, and has been refilled with water. The wooden dock has been replaced by a new enlarged one, and there is a new boat launch dock at the edge of the lake. Work will soon start on a boat house there to house all the canoes, kayaks and lake equipment. The colorful Wet Willy Water Slide is up and ready, as is the zip line.

The most noticeable addition to Camp is the new tree house, located close to the main campfire circle. The tree house features two stairways and screening throughout, making it the perfect place to enjoy an evening in the woods. This new structure will provide one more option for Home in the Woods campouts for our campers.

The benches at the main campfire circle have been rebuilt, and several groups with the Outdoor Learning Center at Horizons have tested them out and given them their stamp of approval. The pool is filled with sparkling water, freshly vacuumed and waiting for swimmers.

While the main season of Camp Horizons begins June 24 with our one-week Session 1, our first campers arrive June 10 for the first session of Horizons Equestrian Camp. This popular option for girls ages 10-14 who are crazy about horses, will be offered three times this summer, June 10-16, June 24-30 and Aug. 19-25. This year campers have three new four-footed staff members to meet – Alvin, a Arab-Welch pony; Moose, a 17-hand Cleveland Bay; and gentle Betty, a gray thoroughbred. Budder, our massive thoroughbred, has been retired, and is living out his days out on a farm in Maryland, accompanied by lots of Angus cattle!

For our older campers who want to take adventure to a more challenging level, Camp Horizons is offering our one-week Horizons Adventure Program Aug. 19-25. Explorer campers will also have the opportunity to experience the thrill of the Via Ferrata climbing challenge and the North Fork Valley Canopy Tour at Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center in West Virginia.

Parents have received the Parents Handbook, which contains valuable information to help ready their campers for a great time here at Horizons. Included in the Handbook is a list of recommended things to bring to camp. The Parents Handbook also is available at our website: www.CampHorizonsVa.com under the Register/Pay tab.

Please note that camper drop-off times on Sunday are 3 to 4:30 p.m. Pick up for regular camp sessions is Saturday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Parents of children enrolled in Equestrian Camp should arrive on Saturday between 9-9:30 a.m. to enjoy the grand finale horse show from 9:30-10:30 a.m., where campers showcase their new riding abilities.

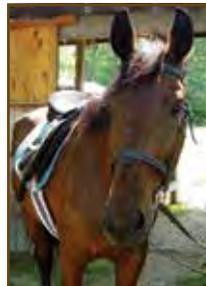
One of the best things about coming to camp is that it gives



Horizons carpenter Gary Bodkin, above, works on finishing touches of the tree house. At left, new campfire circle benches.

both campers and staff a chance to leave the hectic pace of the school year behind and get a much-needed break from e-mail, Facebook, instant messaging, cell phones, web surfing, computer games and other technology. Camp allows kids to be outdoors, make new friends, try new things 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, and DO bring your energy, enthusiasm, ideas and desire to meet new people and have a fantastic summer camp experience!



Moose



Betty



Alvin

Take advantage of our new Multi-Session Discount: Register for 2 or more sessions and save \$30 per session; and our Sibling Discount: \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.

The Director's Corner



As Camp Horizons gears for its 30th season of summer camp fun, I can't help but reflect on the value of the summer camp experience. In this world of technology-driven entertainment, when communication with others more often than not is through Facebook rather than face to face, Camp Horizons gives campers a chance to put technology aside for a bit and make new friends in a totally different environment.

Campers step out of their comfort zone and into a new camp family made up of children and young adults from across the country and around the world. What transpires during those summer camp sessions is nothing short of amazing. Children often arrive unsure of themselves and what to expect, and a bit nervous about meeting new friends, living in a cabin with a whole group of people, being outdoors all the time, and not having air conditioning, cell phones, internet, or social networking. A week or two later, we say goodbye to a cohesive group of youngsters who have expanded their universe to include a global network of friends and the satisfaction of really getting to know people by sharing challenges, adventures, activities and FUN. They leave stronger, more confident, more independent and knowing that true friends accept them for who they are, not for what they post on line. What a summer experience! This kind of growth and transformation makes me more convinced than ever that summer camp is an investment in our youth that pays huge dividends both now and in the future.

So here's to 30 years of camping fun at Camp Horizons, and to many more decades to come. Welcome home to Camp Horizons!

Lori Ostrem
Summer Camp Director



Welcome home to Camp Horizons

Staff 2012

Camp Horizons welcomes its 2012 summer staff. This group of talented young people come from seven different states – Virginia, North Dakota, Georgia, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas and New Jersey – and from eight different countries – the United States, England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Mexico, New Zealand and Hungary. Of our staff of 42, 22 are returning staff members and 20 are new to Camp Horizons.

For our 30th season of summer fun, directors and head counselors are Chris Smith, director of program operations, Broadway, Va.; Kim Betts, director of administration, Broadway, Va.; Lori Ostrem, summer camp director, Makoti, N.D; Chris Coventry, program director, Liverpool England; Hannah Dunn, equestrian director, York, England; Olivia Clark, Discover/Journey head counselor, Dungannon, Northern Ireland; Craig Lien, Discover/Journey head counselor, Peachtree City, Ga.; Jenny Walker, Explorer head counselor, Belfast, Northern Ireland; and Devin Hall, Explorer head counselor, Halifax, Va.

AQUATICS: Lead: Darren Stewart,

Program staff

Glasgow, Scotland; Shannen Athey, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Dan Constant, Worcestershire, England; Liz Heilbronner, Charlottesville, Va.; Devin Hall; Louise Manahl, Springfield, Va.; and Alex Kindley, Cramlington, England

SPORTS: Lead: Conner Leeks, Suffolk, England; Alice Latham, London, England; Alex Kindley, Cramlington, England; Sam Fine, Oak Hill, Va.; Sheila Anliot, Hingham, Mass.; Liz Heilbronner; and Charlie Schedler, Harrisonburg, Va.

HORSEBACK: Lead: Emily Middleton, Blackwater, England; Cathy Cass, Dublin, Ireland; Philip Pallas, Ryton, England; and Rosie Proud, East

Yorkshire, England.

OUTDOORS: Lead: Grace Corapi, Arlington, Va.; William Ballew, Houston, Texas; Hayley Davis, Kent, England; Scott Dovel, Keezletown, Va.; Sam Fine; Tom Morris, Essex, England; and Shoni Tavendale, Crieff, Scotland.

VISUAL ARTS: Lead: Roy Macias, Puebla, Mexico; Jen Wilson, Herndon, Va.; Anya Hein, Bay Head, N.J.; Louise Manahl, Springfield, Va.; and Shannen Athey, St. Petersburg, Fla.

PERFORMING ARTS: Lead: Hamish McKenzie, Tauranga, New Zealand; Niall Murphy, Dundalk, Ireland; Luke Clayson, Leicestershire, England; Emma Brown, Warwickshire, England; Olivia Clarke; Jessi Gower, Alexandria, Va.; and Jen Wilson, Herndon, Va.

OTHERS: Camper Care Center: Paul Bernardo, Bent Mountain, Va.; Kitchen/Laundry: Judit Molnar, Berhida, Hungary and Vanda Virosztek, Kunhegyes, Hungary; Nanny: Terrie-Lea McKone, West Yorkshire, England; and Office Assistant: Amy Evans, Hampshire, England.

Leadership Campers

The 2012 Leadership Campers are Carlos Bannatyne, Madrid, Spain; Chloe Berry, Waynesboro, Va.; John Coates, Gaithersburg, Md.; Alex Holberger, Vienna, Va.; Isabel Incorvati, Mason Neck, Va.; Vanessa Thomas-Paul, Ashburn, Va.; Issy Ward, Brentwood, England; and Olivia Whitaker, Echenevex, France. These campers, all rising high school seniors who have been to Camp Horizons before, will focus on leadership, communication and group building skills, and will help with different camp programs. They also will enjoy a number of special activities designed just for this elite group of older campers.

Horizons Family Album: Hannah Dunn

This summer, Hannah Dunn will find herself in a new but familiar role at Camp Horizons. Hannah will be the summer's equestrian director, building on the Horizons Equestrian Camp and summer horseback programs established by former Equestrian Director Anna Buchanan (Anna has returned to England and is working as the head nurse at an equine clinic). Her new position will give her the opportunity to work with horses again – Hannah was on the horseback staff in 2009 and 2010. Horses have been her passion since she was 11 and the focus of her studies at Bishop Burton College in Yorkshire, England, where she earned a degree in equine science in 2010. This summer she will get a chance to build on Horizons' horseback programs, and "add a few things as we go along." Hannah hopes to make more use of the jumping facilities here and "find some different trail rides" for summer campers.

In addition to serving on the horseback staff, Hannah was head counselor of Rainbow Village in 2010, and was Starlight head counselor last summer.

As equestrian director, Hannah will oversee all horseback activities, teach many of the lessons and supervise the summer horseback staff, which includes returning staffer Emily Middleton, who will be horseback lead; Rosie Proud and Philip Pallas (horseback's first male coun-

selor in recent years), both of England; and Cathy Cass of Ireland.

Hannah laughs when she thinks of the summer ahead. "Everybody always says you should never work with both animals and children, but I think that when you put them together it's a good thing."

Hannah notes that many of the children who participate in horseback here at camp have no previous experience with horses. "Sometimes it's a matter of getting the children to understand these horses are not machines. You have to learn how to communicate with them."

"But when kids form that bond with their horses, when they start to understand, it finally clicks, and you see that big smile on their face . . . that's a huge achievement," Hannah says. "That's a great feeling."

The satisfaction that comes from working with children keeps Hannah connected to summer camp here at Horizons and shapes her employment the rest of the year. Hannah currently works for Wild Packs Summer Camp, in Edinburgh, Scotland, an organization that recruits international staff for summer camps in the United States. She often tells first-time counselors that "you won't understand the true impact you have on these kids until you've been at camp."

For Hannah, that impact involves seeing children grow in confidence and

independence as their camp session progresses. Often the scenario goes like this: on the first day, the children are kind of nervous. By the second day they're meeting new friends, and "bouncing off the walls" with excitement. And by the end of the week, "they're crying because they don't want to leave. That's when I say we've done our jobs."

That transformation and the satisfaction she feels each time she sees it keep Hannah involved in the summer camp industry. "Camp is an escape from real-



Hannah Dunn visits with Alvin, Camp Horizons' newest pony.

ity," Hannah says, and recruiting new counselors for summer camps is an opportunity to "spend the whole year hearing about great camp experiences and sharing them with others. I'm pretty lucky to be able to combine them both in my jobs."

Horizons Adventure Program is...

calling all adventure-loving teens!

Want to take your adventure to a new level? Love the thought of rock climbing, caving and seeing magnificent views of West Virginia? Want to tackle new challenges in a supportive, small group environment? Consider Horizons Adventure Program, for ages 14-17! There are a few more spots available for this one-week, action-packed summer camp experience. Our one-week Adventure Program, which runs Aug. 19-25, focuses on rock climbing and caving, with on-camp activities like the challenge course and climbing wall and off-camp expeditions to area caves and climbing spots, including to Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center in West Virginia. NROC is home to the Via Ferrata climbing challenge and North Fork Valley Canopy Tour, but also boasts some of the best vertical rock climbing faces in the east. Experienced instructors lead our Adventure campers through a variety of breathtaking experiences. Camp Horizons provides instruction, equipment and transportation to

and from all activities. Our "Challenge by Choice" philosophy allows campers to set individual goals and feel pride in their accomplishments, regardless of their experience or skill level.

So if you're looking for some high powered adventure and the chance to share that adventure with a group of like-minded teens, sign up for Horizons Adventure Program!



Alumni News, Views and Happenings

2004

Aimee (Woodill) Payne (2001-2004), Claire Angell (2001-2003), and Helen Coles-Hennessey (2001-2002) met up in London, England recently.



CH alumni Aimee Woodill Payne, left, Claire Angell and Helen Coles-Hennessey catch up on great camp memories.

2005

Amanda (Rider) Whippen (2003-2005) graduated from Capital Community College in Connecticut with a degree in Nursing.



2007

Ben Horwood (2007) and wife Kate welcomed baby Freddy Robert Horwood on May 19 in the UK.



2008

Maddie Ryan (2007-2008) graduated from the University of Michigan with a Master's of Social Work. She is an Adoption Resource Consultant at Orchards Children's Services in Michigan.



2011

Chris Jett (2009-2011) graduated from JMU and now is working as a server at Red Lobster in Harrisonburg, trying to earn money to move to the UK. Chris says he will miss camp tremendously this summer.



Kristine McNerney (2008-2011) graduated from James Madison University's School of Media Arts & Design, and is working this June in marketing for Endless Horizons.



2009

Megan Finnerty (2008-2009) and **Mike Gregerson (2006-2009)** just competed in the Thule Urban Assault mountain bike race at Dominion RiverRock in Richmond, Va. Both stopped by the Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center booth at the annual outdoor sports festival.

2012

Alice Latham (2010-2012) is finishing her year abroad at the University of Washington. After working at Camp Horizons this summer, Alice will return to London to complete her master's degree in chemistry.

Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our ever-growing Camp Horizons family, so keep in touch! 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 at www.facebook.com/camphorizonsva, follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/camp_horizons, or check out of camp blog at <http://camphorizons.wordpress.com>.



Help us celebrate three decades of fun!

Camp Horizons is turning 30 years old, and we need you to help us celebrate. Share your favorite camp memory, photos and other memorabilia with us. And staff, mark your calendars for our 30th Year Staff Reunion Labor Day weekend. Send info to Alumni@HorizonsVA.com



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