

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Camp**

### **When was Skyland Camp founded?**

In the years around the first World War, Skyland Camp founder Susan Courtney Harris (aka, Granny Harris) was summering with her children in what is now called the Big House; at that time a Victorian era hotel. In the summer of 1916, the hotel was to be sold. Mrs. Harris boldly called out the winning bid at the end of the auction, and then walked down the hill to the nearest telephone in the valley to call her husband and report the purchase. Upon returning home to Florida, the resourceful mother of five organized her friends and neighbors to come to the mountains the following summer. Skyland opened as a camp, exclusively for girls, in mid-1917. Thus an annual summertime venture began in a time of national crisis, born of determination, cooperation and old-fashioned “girl power”.

### **What makes Skyland Camp unique?**

Limited to no more than 75 campers per session, the scale of Skyland is just right for girls to form meaningful relationships and feel they are an important part of the Skyland community.

Founded on a tradition of friendship and cooperation almost a century ago, Skyland has been a place where girls make friendships that last a lifetime.

The costume attic on the third floor of the Big House has been a special place for Skylanders since the 1920s. It is the go-to place for inspiration and ideas for original skits, musicals, and special activities at camp. Costumes donated over the decades have inspired many reluctant performers to become real stage stars.

### **Will my daughter be supervised?**

With a camper-to-staff ratio of 3-to-1, one of the best in camping, each camper receives individual attention and is helped to immediately feel at home among new friends. Most of our senior staff members and counselors are former Skyland campers.

Campers who are in the 4th grade or younger, live in the Big House where the senior staff (including the Director) lives as well as counselors dedicated to supervising each of our “rooms” with 3 to 5 girls. The older girls live in cabins with 2 or 3 counselors dedicated to ensuring cabin life is happy and harmonious.

### **How do you handle medical emergencies?**

We have an excellent regional hospital located five minutes from camp with a well-regarded emergency room and urgent care center. We also

have access to a local doctor who we have known and used for many years.

### **Why just girls?**

We believe girls are more likely to relax and be themselves in an all-girl environment. With no boys around to impress, girls are more likely to be spontaneous, outgoing, silly and FUN.

### **What does a typical day look like?**

We have a structured activity schedule that includes “classic camp” activities such as swimming, theater/dance, riding, tennis, archery, crafts/art, and volleyball. We also integrate into the schedule electives to give girls choices in how to spend some of their activity time.

### **Is the food good?**

Delicious, well-cooked food is a tradition at Skyland. All meals are “home-cooked” in the Skyland kitchen, and served family-style. We focus on buying local produce and serve organic as much as possible.

### **What if my child has dietary restrictions?**

We always provide vegetarian alternatives and can accommodate many dietary restrictions provided we don't have to restrict what is served to our other campers.

### **Can parents contact their daughters?**

We are one of the few camps that encourages parents to come visit in the second week of the session. Come join us for lunch and get a tour of your daughter's favorite places on Skyland Hill! We also allow parents to speak to their daughters on Sundays provided camp has been in session more than four days.

### **What does the camper tuition fee cover?**

The camper tuition covers everything but laundry, rafting, skyland mongramed clothing and spending money for offsite trips.

### **Can campers use a cell phone, iPod or Nintendo DS?**

Since the point of camp is to unplug as much as possible, we don't allow campers to have computers or handheld devices that are capable of accessing the internet. Cell phones of any kind are allowed provided you check them in with the office at registration. The girls can use them during rest hour for “Phone-home Sundays”. Other days we will keep them safe in the office. We also allow iPods and Nintendo DS devices provided girls use them only during free time and take full responsibility for any devices lost or broken while at camp. Electronic devices of any kind are not allowed in the activity areas.

**What if my daughter gets homesick?**

Over the 91 years we have been operating, we have had very few girls leave Skyland due to homesickness. Our small size and high staff-to-camper ratio allow us to closely monitor each girl, making sure every camper is happy and feels at home. Parents may call our office as often as they like to get a status report on their daughter. We love connecting the parents and sharing stories of their daughter's daily activities!