

# MAIL CALL

## A Big Year in the Big House



We are proud to announce that Skyland Camp for Girls achieved accreditation through the American Camp Association (ACA) this year! With the ACA's sharp focus on education and collaboration among camps, this milestone is a celebration of Skyland and the industry in which we serve.

The ACA requires camps to meet up to 300 standards based in industry best practices. Accreditation includes evaluation of the camp's site and food safety, health and wellness, operational management, transportation, program development, and aquatics programs. The ACA collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to ensure that current practices at camps reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation.

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## Let's Keep in Touch - Update Your Alumna Record

Have you moved? Changed your name? Started using a new email address? Just want to say "hi?" Please update your contact information in the Alumnae Database so we can keep in touch. Updating your record takes just a few minutes.

Once you have updated your information, please help us spread the word. Dig through your

scrapbooks, call or write your old cabin mates and counselors, and post the link on social media. What a great excuse to reminisce about your days on Skyland Hill!

**Update your information online at**  
[www.skylandcamp.com/alumnae](http://www.skylandcamp.com/alumnae)

## Snapshots of Summer: On the Hill in 2013



**New campers and staff added lots of excitement** with nineteen new campers in session one alone! Here (left) veteran camper Melanee of Michigan shows her counselor, Jackie, the motions for camp songs. Jackie is a new counselor who came to Skyland this year from Brandeis University. As a member of Brandeis' archery team, Jackie made a great addition to Skyland's archery program.



**Skyland's games counselors** spiced things up a bit and introduced Quidditch to the Hill. Ordinary brooms became the Nimbus 2000 of magical flying broomsticks, and pool noodles transformed into attacking bludgers. Costume attire was a must, of course. In this photo (right) camper Aryn of Florida races for the snitch!



**The Tallyho and Trossach competition** was fueled this summer by close competition. While the Tallyhos were in the lead at the end of session one, the Trossachs pulled ahead during session two, and just enough to call themselves the champions of the summer overall. While both teams demonstrated skill in a variety of activities, it was the Trossach's domination in games that put them in the lead.



*Bunny and Sherry prepare to welcome campers at Mother-Daughter Weekend in September.*

## A Note From Bunny

Hello Skylanders Everywhere -

I am reporting from a glowing Skyland Hill. The abundant summer rain has caused a carpet of golden fallen leaves. Our Hill is aglow. Dorothy's yellow brick road is nothing compared to this!

I bet you didn't know that my magical number is 13! For decades 3's have been wonderful for the Skyland Browns and 2013 has been that in many ways. This summer had as many smiles, giggles and laughs as it had raindrops. Yes, it rained most everyday, but the counselors quickly went to Plan B and entertained the campers ingeniously. Several campers said it was the best summer yet. Hurray!

Sherry and Mike have beautified the campus and restored the old buildings amazingly. Please come and see for yourself all that has been done. We love your visits!

Lovingly,  
*Bunny Brown*

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## Director's Corner

What a wonderful year we have had. We accomplished so many of the goals we set for ourselves in January - obtaining ACA accreditation, launching our Skyland Retreat weekends and establishing a campership fund, just to name a few.

This summer, Mike was certified as a level one archery coach and will soon be trained to certify counselors. Archery has become increasingly popular and he's keeping Skyland a step ahead of the game. I have been studying "natural horsemanship" which emphasizes the human/horse connection and training methods based on horse herd behaviors. As a result of my studies, we have converted all of our horses to bitless bridles, which are more humane for horses that are not being used in competitions.

Skyland Retreat, our new sister business, was launched with a Luxe Life Camp weekend in partnership with our good friend and exceptional designer, Lisa Sherry. Her team turned Skyland into an upscale rustic retreat for women. Adult campers enjoyed an elegant cocktail and dinner party in the barn and individual sleeping "tents" with high-end mattresses and luxury linens on the Big House sleeping porch. The group couldn't get enough of our camp activities!

We plan to host more of these Skyland Retreat weekends in 2014 through partnerships with women who are experts in design, wellness, scrapbooking, etc. Stay tuned for fun weekends ahead! We hope you will come back and experience camp life with the luxury and comfort we all appreciate as adults.

All the best,  
*Sherry and Mike*



*(Continued)*

## Accreditation

While Skyland proudly promotes 97 years of excellence in camping, we hold high the importance of continual assessment and improvement. Our partnership with the ACA, a nationally recognized independent accrediting organization, demonstrates Skyland's dedication to quality camp programming.

Achieving accreditation required months of preparing documentation and culminated in a site visit. During the visit, visitors – ours were the directors of Camp Rockmont and Camp Crestridge – observed the camp's commitment to best practices through observation, documentation, and conversations with campers and staff. The visitors were impressed all

around, from our facilities and programs to exceptional staff and rich history. We are proud to announce that Skyland met or exceeded all requirements for accreditation.

Accreditation marks the start of a relationship with the ACA that is sure to grow stronger. Madi Weisberg, Skyland's head counselor, will be trained as an ACA visitor and begin evaluating other camps seeking accreditation in 2014. Additionally, through accreditation Skyland joins a movement to educate the public about the benefits of camp and to make camp a reality for more families.

You can learn more about the American Camp Association at [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org) or [www.campparents.org](http://www.campparents.org). To learn more about Skyland's accreditation, please contact Madi Weisberg at [madi@skylandcamp.com](mailto:madi@skylandcamp.com).

## STOPPING IN FOR A VISIT



Margie Madison ('97-'09) caught up with Potts ('62-present, intermittently) and the horses at the barn, her regular stomping grounds from her camper and counselor days.



Weeks after we saw Margie, her older sister, Christina ('94-'07) found her way to Skyland, too! Pictured here, Christina takes a pause from her New York City life to enjoy the mountains with her grandmother and Potts.

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## See You There: Alumnae Volunteer Work Weekend 2014



*Alumna Suzanne (Hoover) Klimek ('71-'84) and director Sherry Brown do some serious work with the camp tractor.*

Join us for the 2014 Alumnae Volunteer Work Weekend this Memorial Day Weekend, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. It's a great way to give back to the camp community and catch up with old camp friends!

We need everyone from painters to cleaners to gardeners to make the weekend (and summer!) a success. It will be a busy weekend, so we request that participants are adults only. Tasty meals and cozy nights on the Big House sleeping porch are provided.

For more information and to register online, please visit [www.skylandcamp.com/alumnae](http://www.skylandcamp.com/alumnae)

## Come up to Skyland, Come up to Camp!

Here is what's in store for campers in 2014:

### Traditional Camp

Traditional camp activities, singing on Sunday night, campouts, and lifelong friendships. For girls rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

Session 1: Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

Session 2: Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

Both Sessions: Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

### Starter Camp

For first-time campers (rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades) this one-week camp gives a taste of traditional camp life, and lets kids see how parents will do back home without them!

Session 1a: Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

Session 2a: Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

### Mother-Daughter Weekends

The perfect weekend experience to preview Skyland for future enrollment and grab some great bonding time. Grandmothers, aunts, and special friends are welcome, too!

Spring: Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Fall: Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Register online at [www.skylandcamp.com/registration](http://www.skylandcamp.com/registration)



*Adorned in attic costumes, alumna Shannon (Jones) McCall ('80s) makes new Skyland memories with her daughter, Anna Grace, at Mother-Daughter Weekend.*

## Skyland Spotlight: Kay Anderson



Kay is the cheerful response on the other end when you give us a call, send an email, or stop by at a camp fair. Now having completed her sixth season (and third full-time year) with Skyland, Kay holds many roles. She diligently keeps in touch with parents, helps train staff, and even holds the title of Skyland's Aquatics Supervisor. During the off-season, Kay guides families through the camper registration process, manages marketing and social media, and plays a leading role in the development of Skyland's new sister-business, Skyland Retreat.

Kay came to Skyland with a host of valuable experience. Before launching her own business in leadership development and organizational coaching, Kay was the director of Human Resources at ARAMARK. Before that, she was the Assistant Dean of Admissions at Cottey College, a small liberal arts college for women in Nevada, MO. Kay holds a BA in Education from the University of Northern Iowa and an MS in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania.

In her free time, Kay is an avid swimmer and triathlete. Next summer, she will swim in a race that spans eight lakes – a total of 43 miles – over eight days. Her endurance racing, in combination with big smiles, makes Kay a great support and motivation for campers and staff alike.

## Alumnae Announcements

**Ann (Johnson) MacMillan** ('30s) passed away in 1998. She lived in Jacksonville, FL. She was the mother of **Ann (Gretton) Lynch** ('60s) and the grandmother of **Sally Lynch** ('93-'97, '01).

**Lee (Raby) Hual** ('51-'53,) a mother of six, now has 17 grandchildren.

**Marianne (Kephart) Jolley** ('56-'58) spent years teaching elementary grades, working in curriculum development, and then with the Education Division of Apple Computer for 14 years. She has three boys and three grandchildren. She now is retired and raises Rocky Mountain Horses in Fincastle, VA.

**Mary (Laraine) "Larry" Young** ('57, '58, '60) and her husband, Tom Hines, a fellow Vietnam Vet, have two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren. She received her master's in special education from UNC-Chapel Hill and an MA from Duke. She is a breast cancer survivor since 1997. Mary has traveled to 70+ countries and six continents. She will go to Australia (her seventh continent) in 2014.

**Ann (Gretton) Lynch** ('60s) is the grandmother of a tall grandson who is almost 15 months.

**Elizabeth Cowart** ('79-'83) - married Matt McCracken in 2006. They hope to see their four-year-old, Megan McCracken, cheering on the Tallyhos one day soon.

**Amy (Rife) Impara-Gregory** ('84-'87) married Chad Gregory in

October 2012. They have three daughters and one son. Danielle and Annilyn currently attend Skyland. They hope to see six-year-old, Alex, be the next Trossach in the family in the coming years.

**Evi (Geigel) Barr** ('84-'88 and '90-'93) got engaged and married in 2005. She has since had two daughters who are now six and two.

**Ellen (Matthews) True** ('94-'97) had her first daughter, Ada Louise True, born April 25th, 2013. Hopefully she will one day be a Tallyho herself!

**Kersten (Prevost) McGeary** ('95-'98) is married with two daughters, Makaylah and McKinley. Her family is expecting twin girls in December. Kersten recently earned her associate degree and is pursuing a bachelor's in Christian counseling.

**Helen (Soash) Turnquist** ('81-'00) got married, has one daughter and completed her master's degree!

**Heather Lane** ('93-'06) is engaged to her boyfriend of four years, Will Courtney. The two will marry in February of 2014. Heather is also soon to complete her Master of Business Administration from the University of North Florida.

**Christina Rodriguez** ('00-'07) graduated in August from the University of South Florida with a master's in rehabilitation and mental health counseling.

**Reagan Padgett** ('01-'11) graduated from high school and now studies nutrition at Radford University.

Have something to share? Please send your announcements to [alumnae@skylandcamp.com](mailto:alumnae@skylandcamp.com) or P.O. Box 128 - Clyde, NC - 28721

## STOPPING IN FOR A VISIT



What a great chance to stop in for a visit! The legendary Jane Chadbourne ('47-'00 intermittently) stopped by to drop off not one, but four Skylanders this summer - two campers and two counselors. Here she visits with director Sherry Brown on Opening Day.



Ellen (Matthews) True ('94-'97) stopped by with her husband, Aaron. They hope to bring their newborn daughter, April, to Skyland Hill in years to come.

## Launching Skyland's Campership Fund



While the Harris-Brown family has long assisted families in need with the cost of tuition, the need for a more community-based initiative has become increasingly evident. After much research, we believe we have found a solution: The Skyland Camp for Girls Campership Fund.

Camperships (closely related to scholarships) are grants that support a camper's attendance at summer camp. The Campership Fund will provide camperships to new and returning campers whose families demonstrate financial need. As an added bonus, through breaking down the financial barriers that some families face, the fund also invites diversity to strengthen the Skyland family.

The fund is set up through a fiscal sponsorship by the American Camp Association (ACA), chosen for the many benefits it offers to donors and awardees alike. As the ACA is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, we are able to offer tax deduction advantages to donors. In addition, the

partnership enables donations both in the form of annual funds, which support an immediate need for camperships, as well as endowed funds, which are invested to provide permanent sources of income for the fund's future.

Every year, lack of finances is the number one reason that interested new parents cite for not sending their camper to Skyland. Increasingly, returning families face financial hardships and worry about being able to send their daughter to her next summer at Skyland. There is no question that the benefits to campers increase as they spend more summers at Skyland. In consideration of this need, The Campership Fund includes two categories of camperships: one for new campers and one for returning campers. These two categories direct funds to both preserve the current Skyland family and to grow its future generations.

We can't wait to see all that this new step does for Skyland's campers. For more information on The Campership Fund, and to donate, please visit [www.skylandcamp.com/donate](http://www.skylandcamp.com/donate). To secure your tax deduction for 2013, be sure to have your donation postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>.



*Through traditional camp programs, Skyland Camp for Girls strives to instill passion for curiosity, creativity, personal responsibility, and to foster lifelong friendships.*

**SINCE 1917**  
**SKYLAND CAMP FOR GIRLS**

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## We're Coming to a Town Near You!

Every winter, the year-round Skyland team hits the road to meet with prospective and current campers and staff, and to reunite with alumnae. We add to our travel locations often at [www.skylandcamp.com/news](http://www.skylandcamp.com/news) so check in frequently for updates.

Date	Type	Location	Time
1/22/14	Camp Fair	Gaston Day School – Gastonia, NC	12pm-5pm
1/25/14	Camp Fair	Hilton Hotel – Rockville, MD	10am-6pm
1/26/14	Camp Fair	Sidwell Friends School – Washington, D.C.	1pm-3:30pm
2/15/14	Camp Fair	CoolSprings Galleria – Franklin, TN	10am-3pm
2/16/14	Camp Fair	DoubleTree Hotel – Charlottesville, VA	10am-3pm
3/1/14	Camp Fair	WNC Agricultural Center – Asheville, NC	11am-3pm
3/22/14	Camp Fair	Perimeter Mall – Atlanta, GA	11am-4pm
3/23/14	Alumnae Party	TBD – Atlanta, GA	11am-1pm

Do you know a bunch of families who want to learn more about Skyland? Host a camp party! Camp parties are a great, personal way for new families to meet Skyland staff and campers (past and current) and learn what we're all about. For more information contact Kay Anderson at [kay@skylandcamp.com](mailto:kay@skylandcamp.com) or (828) 627-2470.

Save the date!  
 Skyland Camp for Girls  
**100<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
 August 4-6, 2017