

SPRING 2018  
THE NEXT 100 YEARS



# MAIL CALL

SKYLAND'S INK-AND-PAPER NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1917  
**SKYLAND CAMP** FOR GIRLS



2

Director's Corner

3

Staff Spotlight

4

Recommended  
Reading

5

Pioneers of Camping

6

Upcoming Events

7

Alumnae Updates

## Director's Corner

As part of Skyland's launch into its next 100 years of operation, we have spent time thinking about the mission at Skyland Camp for Girls; what do we do at Skyland and, more importantly, why do we do this?

The "what" we do has been consistent for 100 years: we provide a place where girls can be themselves, explore the outdoors, become more confident and creative through fun and challenging activities, and connect with each other in meaningful ways.

What about the "why?" Generations of Skyland campers have returned year after year as counselors and staff, volunteers and guests, in order to be part of "just one more" Skyland experience.

Many alumnae talk about how rejuvenating it is to be in Skyland's beautiful outdoor space where they can be themselves and enjoy meaningful connections with others. It is also great, they report, that "work clothes" are t-shirts and jeans, or just about anything that is appropriate for the activities of the day. How many people get to work in a place where what they wear is never judged?

But the real reason many of us have dedicated our summers to Skyland is because we are passionate about helping girls connect with, and embrace, their own extraordinary selves. Just as Granny Harris loved providing outdoor experiences (rarely available to girls of her time!), we too love to provide girls the opportunity to immerse themselves in Skyland's tech-free, back-to-nature camp world where they can discover their own talents and gain confidence from their successes.

For us, there is nothing better than seeing a camper experience the pure joy of accomplishment, whether it's hitting a bullseye in archery, perfecting a song on the Skyland stage or making a new best friend at camp. Those "I did it!" moments that campers experience are beautiful snapshots we are privileged to witness. Watching them begin to discover their own extraordinary potential is simply beautiful!

We believe that the world is a better place because of the work we do at Skyland, helping each camper get in touch with what makes her truly remarkable, then encouraging her to carry that confidence into her world outside.

With your generous contributions of time and resources, you too are helping Skyland change the world, one conversation, one experience, one camper at a time!

--Sherry Brown  
Executive Director

# Staff Spotlight: Benny Justice

## Skyland Camp's Property Manager

Benny Justice has been a part of Skyland Camp for Girls since he was a teenager—for nearly five decades. He first connected with the camp through Mark Rathbone, Skyland's beloved jack-of-all-trades. Back then, the camp didn't have any of its own horses, so Mark would lease his horses to Skyland. If Mark didn't have enough, he'd visit local horse auctions to buy suitable horses for Skyland's campers.

That's where Benny came in.

At first, Benny would help Mark transport those horses to camp. Eventually, Mark hired Benny to work part-time for Skyland, starting in 1972. Benny recalls that he and Gabe the horse came to Skyland at about the same time. Benny did anything and everything necessary to keep Skyland Camp in tiptop shape, ready for each summer's batch of campers.

Benny left Skyland to work at American Motors Jeep in Ohio. He later moved back south and worked at both a sawmill and a furniture manufacturer for the next 16 years. Then he returned to Skyland. He's been here ever since.

Benny is now Skyland Camp's Property Manager, responsible for property development and maintenance for all of camp. With his many years of experience here, he's a font of knowledge about camp history. He remembers Mark Rathbone raking the entire camp by hand each fall—and wonders what Mark would think about the leaf blowers the camp uses now! Even with the blowers, it takes weeks to get all the leaves up.

Benny was also at Skyland for one of the biggest changes to the property—when the new barn, riding ring, tennis courts, and pool were built, all within twelve months.



According to Benny, the core of the current barn was built using timbers from the old, original barn which was built in the late 1800's.

Benny can be found working around camp whether it's summer and the sun is shining or it's winter and the snow is knee deep. His favorite chore at camp is mowing, especially that first spring mow when everything is so green and he can breathe in that great smell of fresh new grass.

Benny's life is about more than camp, of course. He and his wife love to visit Cherokee, where swimming and tubing are some of their favorite activities.

Benny also loves working on vehicles, and has restored a 1979 Ford truck, among others. He's especially proud of his vintage Chevy Impala, with its iridescent paint that, he says, "changes color in the light."

Benny's a bit of an iridescent jewel at Skyland too—someone whose dedication to the camp shines, no matter the year or the season.

# Recommended Reading

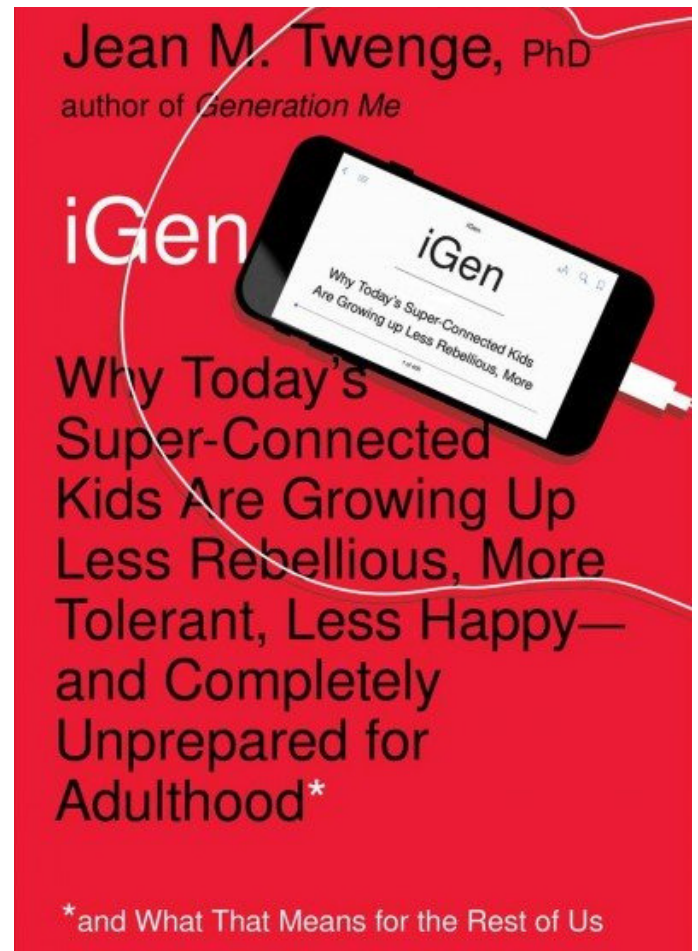
*iGen* by Jean M. Twenge, PhD  
(Atria Books, Aug 2017)

The Skyland team is currently reading *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood*. Jean M. Twenge, PhD, who wrote *Generation Me* about the Millennial wave, takes a look at the generation of young people born between 1995 and 2012. Twenge examines how different this next generation is from its predecessors, and what that means for parents, teachers, and society.

It's no accident that this generation is being called "iGen," as the "i" in labels such as iPhones, iPads, etc., stands for "internet." iGens are the first generation growing up with no memory of a time without the internet or smartphones. Social media and texting have replaced other activities of previous generations and members of iGen spend less time with their friends in person. This tendency to connect via technology frequently extends to interactions with family members as well. Research indicates that constant use of technology could be a key reason why iGens are more likely to experience incidents of loneliness, depression, and anxiety.

Twenge covers not only how technology has influenced iGens, she also examines how they spend their time; their attitudes toward religion and politics; and how they socialize with each other.

More than any previous generation, members of iGen are focused on safety, believe strongly in tolerance, and have little to no patience for inequality. At the same time, Twenge's data suggests they are growing up more slowly, and can sometimes experience a differential of up to three-to-four years of emotional and social level maturity compared to previous generations. That means that the 18-year-olds of iGen often look and act like 15-year-olds did in the past.



Reading this book made us realize how important a summer camp experience can be to this demographic.

As many of you have experienced yourselves, camp is a place to disconnect (from the outside world and technology), and to fully connect with others in powerful and meaningful ways. Summer camp is also a place where young people try new activities, gain self-confidence, live in nature and develop independence. Camp can support both camper and counselor iGens by providing an environment that fosters these things in a place without the intrusion of social media.

As this new group of young people grows into adulthood, we will all need to understand them and help them step fully into their role as leaders of change, because where iGen goes, so goes our society. Twenge's book is both sobering and uplifting: it brings the impact of constant access to technology to light, while offering hope that the young people of iGen take a mindful approach to the world around them. It's well worth your time.

# Pioneers of Camping

## DISPATCHES FROM THE NATIONAL ACA CONFERENCE



Dianna Fischer, Sherry Brown, Wendy Burns and Cindy Krulick



Sherry Brown accepts Pioneers of Camping Award.

We're proud to announce that at the 2018 ACA National Conference, Skyland Camp for Girls and Skyland's very own Bunny Brown were both inducted into the Pioneers of Camping Club with the American Camp Association. The induction took place in Orlando, Florida, on February 21, 2018.

The Pioneers of Camping Club was founded by Marvin and Annette Black in honor of Marvin's father, Edwin "Hughie" Black, who started Pine Forest Camp in 1931. The Club offers special recognition for current ACA members with at least thirty years of professional camp experience. Camps that have been in operation for at least thirty years and affiliated with ACA are also eligible for recognition. As we all know, Skyland and Bunny more than qualify!

This isn't the first time one of Skyland's own has been inducted into this prestigious group. In 2017, our summer camp director, Wendy Burns, was inducted into the Pioneers of Camping Club.

At this year's conference, Co-Executive Director Sherry Brown accepted both awards on behalf of Skyland and her mother, Bunny, and spoke eloquently about Bunny's contribution to girls' camping traditions and to Skyland itself over the last 70 years. Our very own Cindy Krulick and Dianna Fischer were able to join Kay Anderson, Sherry and Wendy for a day of workshops and attended the awards luncheon to see Sherry receive the Pioneers plaques.

In addition to the exciting awards luncheon, while attending the ACA conference, our Skyland group was lucky to see some impressive keynote speakers, including Duke professor Dan Heath who--with his brother, Chip--co-authored the book, *The Power of Moments*. Heath gave an amazing presentation about how powerful moments can be for all of us, and how summer camp creates these life-changing, powerful moments for campers, counselors and staff. We were happily surprised when the audience learned that each attendee would receive a free copy of Heath's book...over 1500 copies were distributed in the room!

In addition to all the amazing workshops, exhibitors and vendors, networking with other camp professionals, and keynote presentations, our group managed to fit in evening trips to the Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom. Be sure to ask Dianna and Kay about their Himalayan roller coaster ride, and ask Sherry and Wendy about their raft adventure! The group left the conference with new ideas for activities at camp, staff training and alumnae connections which they are excited about bringing back to Skyland for this coming summer.

2018

# REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

MAY 25-28  
ALUMNAE VOLUNTEER  
WORK WEEKEND

Join us for our volunteer work weekend to ready Skyland for the summer, and reconnect with fellow alumnae. Alumnae and guests (21+) are welcome. Register online.

[skylandcamp.com/work-weekend/](http://skylandcamp.com/work-weekend/)

JUNE 8-10  
MOTHER-DAUGHTER  
CAMP PREVIEW WEEKEND

Mother Daughter Weekend is the best (and most exciting) way to preview camp for future campers.

This event is for daughters rising K through 6th grades. Register online.

[skylandcamp.com/mother-daughter-camp/](http://skylandcamp.com/mother-daughter-camp/)

JUNE 23-JULY 28  
TRADITIONAL CAMP  
Session 1: June 23-July 10  
Session 2: July 11-July 28  
Full Summer: June 23-July 28

Our camp sessions are going to be better than ever as we enter our second 100 years of inspiring girls to discover their own extraordinary potential!

[skylandcamp.com/camper-registration/](http://skylandcamp.com/camper-registration/)

JUNE 23-JULY 19  
STARTER CAMP

**SOLD OUT** → Session 1a: June 23-July 1  
Session 2a: July 11-19

Perfect for first-time campers, Starter Camp welcomes rising 1st-4th grade girls to experience the magic of Skyland Hill. Register online.

[skylandcamp.com/camper-registration/](http://skylandcamp.com/camper-registration/)

**SOLD OUT**

# Alumnae Updates

## ALUMNAE UPDATES & MEMORIES FROM SKYLAND

**Mackensie (Condon) Roussos** (1995-'98) is currently living and loving life as a television agent in New York state. She says the most powerful lessons she learned at Skyland Camp include "Independence. Confidence. Learning how to work out conflict with peers on our own."

**Sally Lynch Zabel** (1993-'97 camper, 2001 counselor) and her husband, Matt, welcomed daughter, Quinn Elizabeth, on July 24, 2017. Quinn is a fourth generation Tallyho and Skylander; granddaughter of Ann Gretton Lynch (camper in 1960s) and great granddaughter of Ann Johnson MacMillan (camper in the 1930s).

**Cassie Stegman** (2001, 2004) is carrying on the Skyland tradition of making a powerful impact on the world around her. She serves as a public school teacher in Baltimore, Maryland.

---



SINCE 1917  
**SKYLAND CAMP** FOR GIRLS

P.O. Box 128 – Clyde, North Carolina – 28721

Ph: (828) 627-2470 – Fax: (888) 298-5711

www.skylandcamp.com – mailbox@skylandcamp.com

---

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE  
CAMPER AT A TIME

---

JOIN US FOR  
SKYLAND SUMMER  
2018

---

REGISTRATION OPEN

SKYLANDCAMP.COM

