



Forest Messages

A Newsletter for Camp Directors

G I R L S C O U T S O F V I R G I N I A S K Y L I N E C O U N C I L

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Camp Directors Workshop	2
Staff Needed!	2
Camp Programs/ Themes	3
Property Update	3
New ACA Study	4

Congratulations to all of our camp directors on another safe, successful summer!

The summer of 2006 saw 406 volunteers run 23 day and weekend camps serving 1,935 girls. This is a slight decrease due to fewer camps being offered. Our council-sponsored overnight camps (Resident Troop Camp, Pioneers, Pastimes & Pals, and Camp Graham) saw an increase in total attendance to 196 girls with an additional 57 volunteers. A historical overview of camp statistics is enclosed in this newsletter.

One of our major council goals for the next two years is to increase our participation in outdoor program, and camps are, of course, the cornerstone of our outdoor program. We strongly believe that the out-of-doors experience offers unique opportunities for girls to grow as they learn more about their relationships to the larger environment. And you all play a key role! So as we plan for the summer of 2007, let's concentrate on ways to get even more girls involved in our wonderful outdoor opportunities, especially our summer camps!

Happy Camping!

Sarah

Sarah "Sassy" Baughman



Welcome New Directors!

We have several new directors coming on board for the summer of 2007. Jenny Morris is currently putting together her team for Whispering Pines (Botetourt), and Angie Lomasney and Summer Hepler will be taking over Douthat Days (formerly Clifflington). Welcome aboard!





2007 Camp Directors Workshop

Got Camp?

Please join us for the 2007 Summer Camp Directors Workshop!

Friday-Saturday, January 12-13, 2007
Camp Bethel, Fincastle, Virginia

We'll arrive at 7 p.m. on January 12, and the workshop will end at 5 p.m. on January 13.

Tentative workshops:

- 2007 Camp Updates
- Directors' Roundtable
- Geocaching!
- Getting the Most out of Your CPA's and CA's
- New Directors Training
- Program Potpourri
- Project Learning Tree: An Introduction
- Special Needs Campers
- Tips for Training Adult Staff



Don't forget to bring any extra camp supplies that you'd like to sell and/or trade. **Please note that all camps must send at least one team member to the camp directors workshop.**

To register, complete a training registration form (#3205) and health history (#2072) and send them to: Debra Giles, 3663 Peters Creek Rd., NW, Roanoke, VA 24019-2809, or dgiles@gsvsc.org.

Wanted!

Directors and volunteers for Family Camp and Resident Troop Camps! Think of all the fabulous volunteers you know and encourage them to expand their horizons!





Camp Programs/Themes

Still looking for a camp theme or a way to update your programs? If you haven't already asked your older girls, start with them. They have lots of fabulous, creative ideas to share. And chances are, they know what interests the younger girls! We're hearing from girls that they want "new" and different programs. There are lots of ways to update our traditional camp program ideas and themes. Based on some of the programs that we have had success with recently, some of the things girls are interested in are:

- Forensics
- Mysteries
- The arts (not crafts)
- Archery
- Fencing
- Geocaching and/or letterboxing
- Competitions
- Creative writing
- Scrapbooking
- All things adventure based



Property Update

This is an exciting time for GSVSC. Many of the recommendations from the 2004 property study are beginning to come together.

Camp Sugar Hollow has a new cabin at Rocky Top as well as new siding and a new chimney on the multipurpose building. Sugar Hollow also has its own set of archery equipment thanks to a generous donor!

Camp Sacajawea has a new roof on Gay Lodge and a new archery range, and plans are underway for the replacement of the platform tents at Troop House with two cabins. The cabins will have modern bathrooms and heat! These cabins will more than double our year-round capacity at Camp Sac and give us the ability to have three troops or groups on site during the winter.

In accordance with the recommendations, Dark Hollow will soon be placed up for sale. This marks the end of a long, wonderful history of camping at Dark Hollow, and many people are affected by its sale. While we say our goodbyes to Dark Hollow, the future is exciting as we look towards a facility to replace it that will meet the changing needs and desires of today's Girl Scouts. Dark Hollow will continue to be used for troop camps and trainings until its sale, but we are not planning any camps on the property for the summer of 2007. Reservation deadlines for Dark Hollow are being adjusted as we gather information on the sale.

Confirmation of All the Good Things You Do

We all know from our experiences that camp is good for kids in ways that differ from other youth programs or even the troop setting. The American Camp Association has published a new study that confirms this. Here are some highlights of the study:

- Campers experience quality relationships with adult staff more frequently than youth involved in community-based youth programs.
- Campers are less likely to experience “insufficient relationships” with adults than youth in community-based organizations or schools.
- Camps offer youth the best chance to “experience challenging, engaging learning experiences.”

These are just a few of the interesting findings in this study. For a more detailed look at the study, please visit www.acacamps.org.

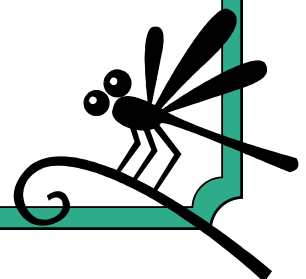


Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council
3663 Peters Creek Road, NW
Roanoke, VA 24019-2809
www.gsvsc.org

540-777-5121 or 800-542-5905, ext. 121
sbaughman@gsvsc.org

***Forest Messages
Fall 2006 Issue***

A Newsletter for Camp Directors



Comparison of Camp Attendance Statistics Girls in Grades K-9 (including girl staff)

Camp Name	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cave Hill	114	124	118	124	101	108	106
Clifington	108	80	68	43	cancelled	37	55 (Douthat)
Culpeper-Orange	52	91	57 (2 sessions)	74 (2 sessions)	70 (2 sessions)	44 (1 session)	78 (2 sessions)
Dark Hollow 1	188	183	187	174	152	167	199
Dark Hollow 2	164	179	118	153	138	158	130
Family Camp						42	44
Fairystone	54	53	43	36	32	85	96
Franklin	47	47	79	94	61	110	45
Friendly Hollow	124	89	146	133	102 (new site)	95	95
Friendship	60	70	110	72	38 (new site)	56	51
Greene Day					37 (new camp)	40	46
Greene Weekend						29	49
Imagination	83	127	100	85	93	93	192
Juliette	65	72	38	did not operate	27	33	11
Massawomee	110	101	103	71	75	96	100
Peaks Pals	75	81	52	65	40	59	37
Power Girls							88 (new)
Rainbow's End	64	65	53	45	cancelled	73	46
Sacajawea Day	130	110	124	101	109	73	101
Singing Cedars	0	0	0	65	77	87	73
South River	46	37	did not operate	32	58	62	cancelled
Staunton	131	122	114	74	71	67	52
Sugar Hollow 1 & 2	259	256	285	249	228	205	210
Wandering Trails	82	80	77	82	63	89	cancelled
Whispering Pines	134	118	105	93	cancelled	36	cancelled
Dark Hollow RTC							45
Sacajawea RTC							63
Camp Graham 1 & 2		65	71	66	61	57	54
PPP		61	67	38	49	48	34
Totals	2755	2703	2593	2326	1903	2152	2131