

2019 SCHEDULE

75th SEASON!

PRIORITY ENROLLMENT
ENDS

November 1, 2018

EARLY BIRD ENROLLMENT
DISCOUNT **ENDS**



December 1, 2018

2019 STAFF TRAINING
June 3 - June 15

CAMP SCHEDULE

2 WEEK SESSIONS

Session A June 16 - June 29

Session B June 30 - July 13

Session C July 14 - July 27

Session D July 28 - Aug 10

4 WEEK SESSIONS

First Session

June 16 - July 13

Second Session

July 14 - August 10

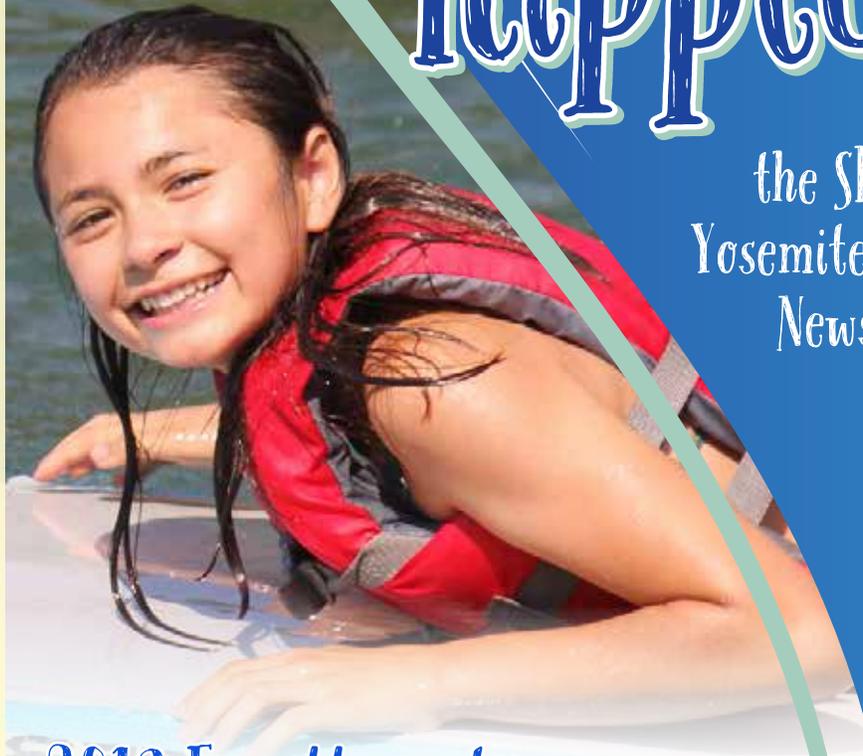
PRIORITY ENROLLMENT
FOR 2020

September 2, 2019

Fall · Winter 2018

Skylake Ripples

the Skylake
Yosemite Camp
Newsletter

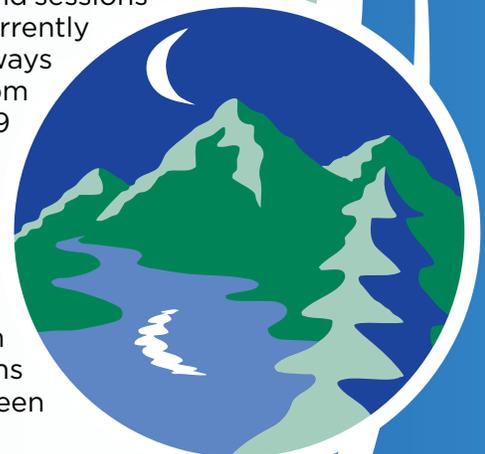


2019 Enrollment

The enrollment process for 2019 began on September 1st. There are always an incredible number of applicants the first day. Every returning camper is guaranteed their same space until November 1st so there is no imperative to sign up early. Only if you wish to change or add sessions is it important to sign up early.

There are already 250 campers signed up for next summer. This number will swell to over 450 by the November 1st priority deadline. All of the different cabin groups and sessions appear to be following the normal patterns. The girls' enrollments are currently higher than the boys, Tanager girls have the highest enrollments and that always seems to be the case. The number of CILT II applicants is up dramatically from last year for both boys and girls. We already have more applicants for 2019 than we actually enrolled in 2018. The new two-week structure for our CILT II's gives us the ability to easily enroll all of those that are qualified.

The cabin group structure of camp is fixed but does allow us some flexibility. There are 16 cabins in boys' camp and 16 cabins in girls' camp. Enrollment on each side of camp looks like a bell curve. There is a goal of two cabins of the youngest campers, and two cabins of the oldest campers allocated on both the boys and the girls sides of camp. We then have a rising number of cabins through the middle grade levels of 4th through 7th. We usually have between five and seven cabins of 6th and 7th graders.



Staffing for 2019

The reviews are in and it appears most of our 2018 staff are eligible for rehire. The number of staff that received reviews that were favorable (enough to be eligible to be offered a position for next summer) was up from prior years. That is definitely a good sign. Our requirement is that a staff member must be B/B+ as a minimum to be rehired. A staff member that only "meets acceptable standards" normally does not get offered a return position.

Historically, our staff has a strong contingent of former campers. This is clearly part of what makes Skylake so successful. The love of camp carried by former campers is then passed on to the new campers. The remainder of our staff come from Universities around the country and around the world. We have a basic requirement that all staff either be attending a University or very recently have graduated from a University. This assures us of a staff that is young, on a path to success, and achievement oriented. Skylake hires 65 counselors each summer.

Recently I ran into a father of a former camper who had applied for staff two or three years ago but had who had not been accepted. The young man had been a great camper and was now completing his education at Syracuse University. I remembered this camper very well and I felt compelled to share with the dad why his son had not been hired. I told the dad we could not get his son, even with some strong prompting, to say the magic words. We needed the applicant to say he would be there for the campers and not there to relive his great days as a camper. One risk in hiring former campers is that sometimes they are more interested in continuing their own good times, and are not there enough for the campers. Saying the magic words is not proof they will live by them, but we do need to hear them. It was not easy to deny a position to one of our beloved campers.

So many of our staff did a fabulous job this year it is almost unfair to single out one in particular. However, Jason MacMillan, deserves recognition. His story helps in framing another point in our hiring policies. Jason had been a "fun" camper. I think that is a euphemism for a boy that walked to the beat of a different drummer. When such former campers apply for positions they do need a little more scrutiny. Jason not only passed the scrutiny, he returned to camp with a musical passion and a love of kids. He was a shining example of a camper who returned to the place he loved and made it a better place. My only regret was being too busy to sit with Jason at those morning guitar sessions and get some quality instruction. Hopefully that will happen in 2019.

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Camp-Fan-Page](https://facebook.com/pages/Skylake-Yosemite-Camp-Fan-Page)

Follow us on **Twitter**
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the latest news and
events!



Magic of CILT Backpack Trip

A major component of the CILT I experience is the backpacking trip. It is highly anticipated by most, and dreaded by some. Historically the trip had been 3 nights and 4 days. Campers would leave camp on Thursday and return on Sunday, which fell on opening day for either B or D. Upon reflection, we decided that was not the best scenario for camp nor the CILTs. This past summer we extended the trip to

4 nights, providing an additional night in the high country and more time to focus on the skills they are learning in the wilderness. Additionally, having the CILTs return to camp on Monday allowed the rest of camp to fully focus on opening day procedures and then the following day provide the proper welcome for the CILTs. The CILTs then enjoy sharing stories of their adventure during our opening initiations for boys and girls camp that night during campfire, giving them a place to reflect and display their pride in their huge accomplishment. It truly is an adventure to celebrate!

The trips themselves are either in the Ansel Adams Wilderness or Yosemite National Park. Wilderness permits are limited to small groups, and therefore we normally send four separate groups out on four different routes. Logistically, it can be very challenging. Permit requests have already been submitted for our 2019 Ansel Adams Wilderness trips but we must wait until 6 months prior for a planned Yosemite date before we can submit our permit request.

CAL defeats Idaho State

Periodically we plan a fall event at one of the local Universities football games. The Pac-12, having converted to a TV controlled schedule, sadly makes it impossible to predict game times until 10 days prior to a game. In planning an event, you really need to know well in advance when a game will start. Only for a couple of pre-season games were start times actually announced.

We chose to try a U.C. Berkeley game during the preseason against Idaho State. Over 50 campers and parents attended. The game started at 3 p.m. but by the end of the day, it was getting cold and the game was not competitive. We sent out invitations to all those that lived in the East Bay or Marin. Next year we will shoot for a Stanford game for our Peninsula families in the north and a UCLA or USC game in the south.

Lake Tahoe Office Now Open

During the winter, the Skylake staff scatters. Jessica and Adrienne both reside in the Tahoe area, while Jeff lives in San Rafael. Paul lives near camp and is in camp daily. The camp work is carried out in camp and in three satellite offices. This year we have added Riley Riordan to the year-round staff. Riley has been with Skylake both as a camper and most recently as Head Girl's Counselor.

Off season, Riley has been located in the Lake Tahoe area also. To be more efficient; an office has been opened on the North Shore. Everyone is looking forward to the ability to meet and share ideas over the course of the winter. Our fancy little phone system is integrated to ring in all of our offices.

This year, the annual conference of the Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC) is in Incline Village, Lake Tahoe. That makes attendance for all of us located in the north, very convenient. The WAIC conference provides three days of educational workshops and an opportunity for camps to gather and share common experiences. All the area camps learn from one another for better camp experiences for all.



Out of Camp Trips



“Trip, Trip, Hurray!!” This is the cheer trips staff normally announce as they unfold a daily announcement. At Skylake, we normally have at least (1) overnight, (1) backpacking trip, and (3 to 4) days of day trips happening at any given time. Campers express interest at the beginning of each session for trips and can request trips at any point during their stay. Spaces are limited on trips, but all campers are guaranteed at least day trips and most can go on an overnight during a two week stay, and definitely during a four week stay. Our weekly backpacking trips are normally available for approximately 10 campers, based on the individual permit. Spots are reserved first for 4 week campers, while 2 week campers are also going on backpacking trips when spots are available. When interest is really high we work to obtain more permits. Make sure your campers let their counselors know if they want to go on trips!



Day trips will go into Yosemite National Park and explore the Mist Trail, Artist Point, Sentinel Dome, Chilnualna Falls, or Sequoia Grove to name a few. Trips staff pack lunches for everyone and following an early breakfast, vans are heading out of camp at 9 a.m. and returning to camp around 4:30 p.m. Our Seniors (8th Graders) do a special day trip along the Panorama trail down to the Yosemite Valley floor or up to lower Jackass Lake in the Ansel Adams.



Overnights are normally either to Nelder Grove or the popular “Canovernight.” Nelder Grove is a secluded camping area in the thick of beautiful giant Sequoias. The Canoe trip on Bass Lake brings campers to a group camp ground on the other end of the lake. Campers and staff load into canoes and paddle down to the end of the lake. They swim, play games, enjoy a big dinner and sleep out under the stars. Following breakfast the next morning, campers and staff load the canoes and head back to the camp docks.

One or two backpacking trips go out weekly. Backpacking trips are normally best for upper division campers, but we’ve had some hardy warblers and bobcats out on the trail many times.

Backpacking trips take place in the beautiful mountains of the Ansel Adams Wilderness.

The crisp high elevation mountain air and cold lakes provide quite a contrast to our warmer weather around Bass Lake.

Campers often help prepare meals and assist in water filtration on backpacking trips. These are great trips and often spark interest in backpacking for life!

If your camper wants to go on a trip, make sure they advocate for themselves. They can and should also always come to Directors too! Parents, also, please let us know if your camper is desirous of a trip and we’ll help to make that happen.



Silver Bullet Update

Everything at Skylake seems to take on a special meaning, a nickname, or some other special attribute. One example is the “Silver Bullet.” Skylake over the years has either owned or leased its vans. We always have white vans. One year we purchased a silver van, and used it for a summer before painting it white. For ever after however, it remained known as the Silver Bullet.

This year it was time to sell the two older vans we owned. One was the Silver Bullet. We heard that Vernon Talmon, former assistant director at Skylake, and part of Skylake lore for over 50 years, had a need for some vans. Vernon’s son Sam is a local pastor and with four children and two adopted children, a van would be nice.

We gave both vans to Vernon and his son for their use. Vernon cleaned up the Silver Bullet and found a non profit agency in Fresno that was overjoyed to receive the van. The Silver Bullet has a new life in transporting the homeless to Dr. appointments and social service needs. There are a lot of good vibes in that vehicle and good to know it is being put to good use.

Camper Feedback

This is a time of the year we spend a lot of time looking back at our previous year and planning for the future. Considerable time and energy is devoted to re-reading surveys completed by the campers while they were at camp. These surveys, completed by all of the campers late in the first week of each session, are designed primarily to quickly find out if there is anything occurring that requires quick action while camp is still in session. We are looking to see if staff or other campers are doing anything to make a campers’ stay uncomfortable. We read every one of these surveys the same day they are written. This is a great tool and very helpful.

Campers however sometimes are reluctant to share everything that is going on. We know that as you speak with your camper about camp, you may be gleaning information that would be very helpful to us. Please do not hesitate to drop us an email or give us a phone call if you feel you have any information that would assist us. We continue to always strive to “get a little better, in every way, every day.”



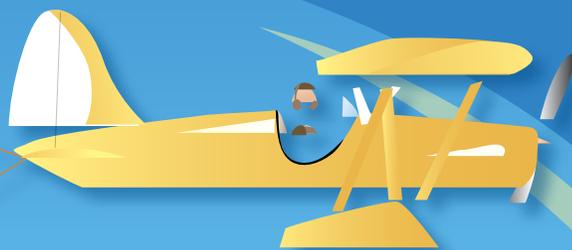
Smoke gets in your eyes

We could not write a newsletter about the summer of 2018 without mentioning the smoke that came from the fire in Yosemite. Although we were never in harms’ way from flames, we did deal with a problematic smoke issue.

In prior years we have had fires much closer that never produced the air quality concerns raised by this fire. The number of fires in the state and the inversion layer that trapped the smoke made air conditions less than favorable. Starting late in Session C and continuing through all of Session D, there were concerns. Although we usually had blue skies overhead, there were a couple days that definitely had us concerned. If the poor conditions had continued, we would have had to face some difficult options. Happily, the conditions never forced us to take drastic steps.



Enrolled Campers for 2019



9 YEARS

Jordan Amos-Grosser

8 YEARS

Carly Goldblatt
Makayla Thoits

7 YEARS

Adelaide Chaiken
Hamilton
Alex Chanawatr
Asher Lippes
Brandon Spector-Townsend
Caroline Spector-Townsend
Harry Setrakian
Jonah Olin
Jordan Gross
Kaedin Kurtz
Olivia Chaiken
Hamilton
Tyler Hawthorne

6 YEARS

Adelaide Ryan
Alexandra Sanders
Allie Tarkoff
Anders Patel
Anna Bartle
Audrey Sachs
Ava Wick
Catherine Keifer
Charley Manser
Charlotte Keifer
Chase Cranston
Ella Sweeney
Elle Piercey
Emily Chanawatr
Evelyn Sarti
Harris Hilbert
Hayden Schneider
Isabell Kossar
Jack Noymer
Jaden Faerber
Jeremy Koren
Julia Shippey
Laney Saye
Mats Leckie
Mikayla
Weinhouse
Mila Hughes
Peter Koren
Samara Freedman
Zachary Grigsby

5 YEARS

Anders Leckie
Andrew Pastis
Andrew Stanger
Ash Rose
Ashley Markatos
Audrey MacLean
Avery Hicks
Brooke London
Caden Weinhouse
Campbell Keith
Emma Bogomilsky
Evie Lambeth
Isabella Millman
Jack Chung
Jaya Conmy
Jolie Wineburgh
Lauren Escola
Lauren Jacobs
Luke Markatos
Maggie Sowell
Mia Hull
Reese Weiden
Sadie Kieffer
Sarah Sargent
Sloane Fong
Sophie Ward
Sydney Kaplan

4 YEARS

Alec Hoffman
Alexa Blumenthal
Amelia Escola
Annabelle Snyder
Becca Rosenblatt
Brody Barrington
Brooklyn
Barrington
Caitlin Gaffney
Cavan Donery
Connor
Weinhouse
Daisy Melen
Elijah Portnoy
Fountain Whitaker
Gabriella Bartle
Gracie Snyder
Isa Maeder
Jack Alley
Jade Jamieson
Jake Morosini
Karina Hoffman
Kate Cassidy
Kaylin Kelly
Keatyn Kurtz
Keira Cassidy
Krista Mendivil

Lily Haines
Nora Collins-Burgard
Parker Leaf
Quinn Collins-Burgard
Riley Peterson
Sinead Donery
Sydney Hant
Sydney Kroonen
Vivian Lambeth
Zoe Guevara

3 YEARS

Ava Kennedy
Brenna Bicknell
Brett Rosenblatt
Caroline Carr
Cecelia Millman
Chloe Scott
Claire Kowalski
Dana Hathaway
Dane Hansen
Drake Ivory
Ella Nielson
Eloise Kennedy
Emerson Lehmann
Emmet Arkin
Hannah Lunkewitz
Hayden Handler
Isabella Soghaier
Izaiah Wasserman
Jack Greenspan
Jacob Barrett
Jillian Cardwell
Kathleen
Niedermeyer
Lily Bensussen
Logan Pagani
Mackenzie Boyer
Molly Darmody
Naftalia Segal
Noa Schimek
Noe Orgain
Ryan Kazerani
Simone McClary
Sophie Sutton
Tanner Bortel
Thomas Viane
Tulah Lehmann
Virginia Maeder
Zachary Peachin

2 YEARS

Alexander
Goldsmith
Alexandra Hatch

Aliza Grancell
Andrew Buchanan
Anna Viane
Anya Harron
Ari Kaufman
Asher Harron
Audrey
Czerniewski
Ava Westberg
Avery Buchanan
Benjamin Ellis
Blake Friedman
Brian McWhorter III
Brigitte
Appelbaum-Schwartz
Cameron Cox
Cameron Lasman
Carl Lunkewitz
Carlos Munoz-Koster
Carson Jordan
Cassidy Williams
Catherine Childers
Caymus Cooper
Charlotte Baron
Charlotte Jett
Chloe Levoy
Claire Schmidt
Cole LaRoche
Connor Jordan
Danek Diez
Barroso
Dante Blend
David Kossar
Dylan Stephenson
Eleanor Goldsmith
Eleanor Zaragoza-Aaron
Eleanor Ziperovich
Elizabeth Baskins
Elsa Wallin
Emily Maremont
Finn Darmody
Fletcher Graham
Grace Berry
Grace Castaneda
Graham Kroonen
Greyson Shumow
Henry Sly
Isabella Baskins
Jace Needleman
Jasper McClary
Jaxson Glowacki
Jerry Zhu
Joseph Weil
Josie Hicks

Jude Segal
Julia Guillen
Kai Caroe
Katherine King
Lana Westberg
Lane Baker
Layla Blumenthal
Liam Diez Barroso
Lily Sjogreen
Logan Ashby
Luke Chanawatr
Mackay Kemp
Mackenzie
Marlborough
Makenna Larkins
Marisol
Appelbaum-Schwartz
Mason Cooper
Matias Ziperovich
Maude Giroux
Millie Bartlett
Natalia Fishkin
Natalie Littman
Nola Kilar
Olivia Munoz-Koster
Oscar Hanson
Padraig O'Neil
Paul Lunkewitz
Paulina Paredes
Pearl Abrahams
Quinn Hathaway
Reed Kushner
Robert Patterson
Ruby Zhu
Samuel Schmidt
Sarah Giroux
Sebastian Lema
Skylar Kimmel
Sophie Landry
Soren Alldredge
Stephen Cohen
Suki Zhu
Summer Jordan
Sydney Danylchuk
Sydney Solash
Taliah Ellis
Taylor Wein
Tess Oreck
Thomas Jett
Toby Danylchuk
Vivian Abrahams
William Oreck
William Portnoy
Zoe Cox

1st YEAR

Adalee Foster
Avery Prince
Beau Schinto
Carter Lass
Catalina Mendivil
Charles Sjogreen
Charlie Meehan
Charlotte Haas
Charlotte
Vukojevich
Cole Landry
Cooper Haas
Damian
Stephenson
Deia
Campodonico
Ella Werlin
Ellen Rhodes
Gjelina Cooper
Grace Moran
Gryffin Glowacki
Hazel Vukojevich
Isabelle Waxman
Jack Czerniewski
Jake Kazerani
Jordan Rogers
Joseph Lavezzo
Josephine Hanson
Josiah Peterson
Julia Meehan
Larkin Cooper
Lucas Waxman
Midus Dezorzi
Mika Tobin
Presley
Whitemans
Reagan Patterson
Sarah Rhodes
Shanti Alley
Theodore Daley
William Cox
Yan Diez Barroso
Zachary Shada
Zoe Dusig