



## Around the Rocks

It's time to get excited about the summer! Time to get back to the mountains of North Carolina, visit old friends, meet new ones, challenge ourselves, and HAVE FUN!

This year looks to be another great one, with staff and campers from all over the United States and Canada. I hope everyone is as excited as we are about another summer on the mountain!

### News for Parents

Just a reminder that each camper's paperwork was due to camp before June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have not done so, please get the information back to us as soon as possible.

Don't forget these opening and closing days and dates for 2000 sessions:

#### Three Week

Open: Sunday, June 11  
Close: Friday, June 30

#### Four Week

Open: Monday, July 3  
Close: Saturday, July 29

#### Two Week

Open: Monday, July 31  
Close: Saturday, August 12

As stated in the parent guide, please try to arrive before noon on opening day and leave before 2:00pm on closing day. A reminder that portable electronic game machines are not allowed at camp. We also are requesting that all Pokemon cards and toys, and other similar trading cards be left at home this summer. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thinking ahead to 2001 registration. Be sure to let us know if your mailing address is going to change. This will help avoid frustrating situations during registration time. We are expecting to fill up quickly in several age groups as we have in the past few years.

### August Expeditions

Our 2000 season welcomes another exciting climbing trip. This year the destination is Eastern US and the dates are August 2-18. A group of older campers and staff will be heading to the New River Gorge of West Virginia to begin a trip which will include some of the best climbing on the east coast. Their travels will take them on to Seneca Rocks and end in the Boone, NC area.

This is not only a great opportunity for older campers to use the skills they have learned in past years, but to learn new, more advanced skills as well. We view this as a tremendous experience for campers and staff and are looking forward to the trip.

### Staff Training

2000 marked the seventh year of our *Training for Outdoor Educators*. Each May we offer several courses relating to adventure programs in Outdoor Education. Many of the area camps and outdoor professionals participated in one of the 18 courses offered, including several of our own staff members. Some of the courses offered were:

- WMA, Wilderness First Responder
- WMA, Wilderness First Aid
- ACA, Whitewater Open Canoe Instructor
- ACA, Whitewater Kayak Instructor
- Technical Rock Rescue Training
- Rock Climbing Site Instructor Training
- High Ropes Course Facilitator
- Group Initiative Facilitator
- Mountain Bike Instructor

The courses were very popular this year, with several of them at full capacity.

## The Internet

If you haven't visited our internet site lately, you may want to check out its "new look". We continue to update it often with more information as well as neat sites for campers. Parents can also use it as a resource. There are lots of helpful reminders including the entire **parents guide online!** The address once again is:

**<http://www.highrocks.com>**

If you plan on sending e-mail this summer to a camper, simply type the campers name with a period between the first and last name and *@highrocks.com* (i.e. *Mark.Birdsong@highrocks.com*). Please note there is a \$.75 fee for each e-mail and it will only be checked once a day. The emails are printed out and delivered with the noontime mail. Please note: campers do not have access to computers at camp and will not be able to send e-mails home.

Be sure to send us your new e-mail address if we do not have it or it has changed recently.

## What's New

Continuing with the internet theme, everyone needs to look for the new online High Rocks newsletter! The newsletter will be updated each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday this summer. The newsletter will include pictures and stories from the week at camp. Another way to stay in touch "electronically" is to e-mail staff members. Their addresses can be found on the web site, and we can get messages to them daily.

Another exciting new addition this summer is the High Rocks Crazy Creek chair! The Crazy Creek is a portable, lightweight folding chair. Made of nylon, it is water resistant and padded for comfort. This popular camp favorite, bearing the High Rocks logo, can be viewed and purchased through the camp store by pre-ordering on our web site.

## 2000 Summer Staff

Highly awaited each season, this is the current list of new and returning staff for the summer of 2000. An asterisk (\*) before the name indicates a previous High Rocks staff member or camper.

**Rich Beck** – Rich currently hails from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, though he also has attended nearby Brevard College. An Exercise and Sport Science Major, Rich enjoys mountain biking and will be serving on the mountain biking staff.

**Allison Bell**- A first year staff member, Allison is one of the many fine riding instructors that High Rocks has had from Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, VA. She is excited about her first summer working at the barn with the campers.

**Andre' Bell-** Andre is coming north from Louisiana to spend his first summer at High Rocks. He is a speech communications major at Northeast Louisiana State University, and we are glad that he will be helping out in archery and in crafts.

**Jeff Bendall-** Jeff has a degree in business with a minor in German from Southwestern University, and is one of several staff joining us from Texas. Jeff will mainly be working in the rock climbing program, but also is very talented in soccer and will be helping out there.

**\*Hank Birdsong-** With over twenty years of experience working with children in camp settings and with outdoor programs, at Outward Bound and Discovery, Hank provides camp with a rich background of knowledge and technical skill. Currently, Hank serves on the national accreditation council for the Association of Experiential Education. A UNC- Chapel Hill graduate with a degree in Recreational Administration, Hank enjoys soccer and rock climbing. Past climbing ascents include El Capitan (twice), Liberty Cap and Half Dome in Yosemite.

**\*Townsend Birdsong -** Born and raised at camp (her parents built and ran High Rocks for the first 30 years), Townsend has camping in her blood. A graduate of UNC- Greensboro in Nursing, she has chosen horseback riding as her specialty. The year 2000 marks the thirteenth summer the Birdsongs have directed High Rocks.

**Josh Bishop-** A long-time camper, Josh has been part of the High Rocks family for many years. He has participated in the Yosemite Trip and has interest in supporting the hiking and climbing programs as a counselor trainee this year.

**\*Betsy Bowman-** An avid mountain biker and backpacker, Betsy is on the hiking staff this summer. Betsy is graduating from S.U.N.Y. Cortland with a major in Outdoor Recreation. Among her many interests is soccer. She has played for 14 years and was on a women's team in Poland!

**John Burns-** John has a bachelor's degree in political science from Truman State University, and is currently studying law at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is highly experienced in mountain biking, and is looking forward to spending the summer as an instructor.

**John Burt-** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher joining us from Garland, Texas. He has a business management degree from the University of North Texas, and received his teaching certification from Tarleton State University in Science Education. We are happy to have John in the main capacity of hiking instructor this summer.

**Marcus Cano-** Another of the resident Texans this summer, Marcus comes from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas where he is working on a degree in International Studies and Spanish. Marcus has many talents to offer camp, but will focus most of his time in the climbing program.

**\*Brad Carter-** A talented climber and High Rocks counseling veteran, Brad is joining us for a sixth summer in the mountains. He will be serving as head counselor this year.

**\*Vera Cohen -** Returning for her fifth summer as a camp cook, Vera comes to us from Charleston, South Carolina. She has many years of experience with children. Most recently, she worked with the Charleston County Parks and Recreation summer lunch program. As always, it is wonderful to have her back again.

**\*Katie Crawford-** Katie is graduating from Clemson University with a major in English. She is here for her third year on the waterfront, and this year as the Swimming Activity Head. Before working at High Rocks, Katie lifeguarded and taught swimming lessons for five years. As always, her cheerfulness will be appreciated around camp!

**\*Chris Curtin-** Chris began year-round employment this fall at High Rocks. This winter, he was working on several maintenance projects around camp. In addition to completing these tasks, Chris is an avid mountain biker and climber and will be helping to lead trips in those programs this summer.

**Marianne DiPietro-** Marianne has finished her second year of Biochemistry at the University of Ottawa. Marianne has been lifeguarding for several years and will be instructing swimming on the waterfront.

**\*Stuart Dodson-** Some say Stuart has been here "forever", and it is getting close (though he has several decades to go to catch up with Terrell and Martin!). He has continued to be part of the High Rocks family for over a decade. We are delighted that Stuart will be heading up the ropes course again this year.

**Linnea Erickson-** From the University of New Hampshire, Linnea has finished her first year toward a degree in Outdoor Education. She will be joining us in our paddling program.

**Alexis Eynon-** Alexis has taken several ceramics classes at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. This should be very helpful as she is teaching pottery this first summer with us! She also brings to camp her musical talents.

**Clinton Fatter-** Clinton is coming to the mountains for the first time this summer, and is looking forward to a relief from the heat in College Station, where he is an Industrial Distribution major at Texas A&M University. Clinton will be splitting his time between the soccer and ropes course programs.

**\*Rex Frieberger-** Rex was a High Rocks camper for several years, and is joining us as an assistant counselor this year working in the tennis program. From Charleston, South Carolina, Rex will begin college at Loyola in Baltimore in the fall.

**\*Matthew Gardner -** Matthew is a local resident of Brevard and will be joining us for his fourth year on our Maintenance Staff. Matthew is a talented musician and has a great personality. We are excited to have him with us again.

**\*Terrell Garrard -** Terrell has been at High Rocks for several years, and year after year, we all enjoy her humor, her love of working with kids, and her relaxed nature. This year, Terrell will be splitting her time between horseback instruction and canoeing during the first two sessions this summer. Taking time out from her life down in Madison, Ga., Terrell began coming to Camp as a camper in 1958- the first year of camp.

**\*Ryan Gaunt-** Ryan “Skippy” Gaunt is returning for his second year at High Rocks. He is a rising junior at Brevard College and majors in Wilderness Education. This year he will be working in the rock climbing and mountain biking programs.

**\*Don Gentle –** Now in his seventh year at High Rocks, Don will be head up our canoeing program. Don has multiple layers of experience that he continues to offer camp, ranging from his experiences working with a therapeutic camp, to his well-developed skills in paddling and climbing, to his articulate organizational skills in trip preparation and group programming. His background includes a Master’s degree from Ohio University in physical education with a recreational studies focus.

**\*Harold Gertner-** Harold is also a High Rocks veteran, having been both a camper and a counselor for several years. Harold is currently in graduate school at the University of Florida, but will be joining the paddling staff for the July and August sessions.

**Jesse Grafflin-** From Riverside, CA, Jesse is another of our riding staff that is joining us from Randolph Macon Women’s College. She is a first-year English major, and has several years of riding and showing experience.

**Elizabeth “Zoob” Griffith-** Now in her eighth year at High Rocks, Zoob will be once again taking on the demanding position of program director. She is a longtime High Rocks family member with years of experience working with kids and staff and it is wonderful to have her skills on a year round basis!

**\*Angela Gryder-** This is Angela’s second year at High Rocks, but first as a full-time staff member. She will be assisting in the office during the summer, as well as helping out with several website projects.

**\*Bill Gryder-** As Kitchen Manager for the summer, Bill will be spending his days feeding numerous campers and staff. He comes to High Rocks full-time from the Grove Park Inn.

**\*Travis Herbert -** Travis is beginning his second year as year-round High Rocks year-round staff. This summer he is again head counselor, serving as a liaison between parents, staff, and campers. He will also assist in the climbing program. Travis is a graduate of Appalachian State University, and has past experience leading hiking trips and is an avid rock climber.

**\*Eric Hinesley -** A senior at Texas A&M studying sociology, we are happy to have Eric returning to High Rocks for his third summer. This summer Eric will be a head counselor, and will be helping in the office by updating High Rocks’ Online Newsletter.

**\*Jennifer Hinton –** Starting in the summer of 1998, Jennifer has continued to work in the office during the summers and the off-season as she finished her Ph.D. in Recreational Therapy at Clemson University. This year she will continue to assist in the office, but also will venture out in camp to work on the ropes course before leaving for her new faculty position at Ohio University.

**\*Jeffrey Howard-** Jeff has been a camper for six years at High Rocks, and will be joining the staff as a counselor trainee. Jeff is a rising senior at Ransom Everglades school in Miami, FL.

**\*Danny Howell -** Danny will be coming for his third summer at Camp High Rocks. He is currently attending UVSC with a major in criminal justice. Danny will be working with the mountain biking program again this summer. During his free time in his home state of Utah, he competes in mountain biking and snowboarding.

**Chris Johnson-** Chris is a recent graduate of the University of Delaware with a major in English, though he has also attended nearby Clemson University. A past runner and boy scout, this is his first year at High Rocks, and he is joining us in the paddling program.

**\*Bronson Lamb-** A past High Rock camper, Bronson joined the paddling expedition last summer. He is joining the staff this year as a counselor trainee. Currently, Bronson is a rising senior at The Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida where he plays La Crosse.

**Robert Lamb-** Robert is joining us for a second summer at High Rocks. He is a student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill studying English. Rob will again be working in the hiking and backpacking program.

**\*Kelly Large -** Kelly, bringing two of her children, competently serves High Rocks again as camp nurse. Kelly, a cousin of Townsend Birdsong, attended High Rocks as a child and has been a member of our staff for five years.

**\*Brian McGuire-** Brian has been at High Rocks for a long time. He has been a camper and a counselor trainee, and this year will be an Assistant Counselor and climbing instructor. As this is Brian's twelfth summer, he has a unique advantage of being able to relate with the campers from his own personal experiences at High Rocks.

**\*Lorraine McNamara -** Back for her twelfth year in a row, Lorraine joins us for our four-week session as our resident camp nurse. With Lorraine's excellent awareness and comfort at High Rocks, she is like our Mom away from home...watching and taking care of us. It is wonderful to have her back once again! During the year, she works at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, NC as a critical care nurse.

**\*Zach Miller-** Zach attends Pomona College, and will be joining us for his second year at High Rocks. Zach will be spending the July and August sessions at camp, and will be again working as a canoe and kayak instructor.

**Jenny Minniti-Shippey-** Another of our riding staff from Randolph-Macon Women's College, Jenny is originally from Eugene, Oregon.

**\*Justin Moman-** Justin is a rising senior at Brevard College where he is studying Wilderness Leadership. He is returning for his second year at High Rocks, and this year will focus his efforts on instructing rock climbing.

**\*Elmyra Morris-** We are delighted that Elmyra is back at High Rocks for another summer as camp nurse. She is returning to the mountains to once again escape the Jacksonville (Florida) heat. Her son, Daniel, will also be attending camp and is looking forward to the 2-week climbing trip.

**Dan Morgan-** Dan is a rising junior at Pomona College majoring in Math. A past swim instructor and lifeguard in his home state of Oregon, Dan will be working in the canoeing and kayaking programs.

**Chad Neuberger-** Chad is a first-year High Rocks staff joining our hiking and pottery programs.

**\*Dan Noland -** A Ph.D. teaching English and linguistics at UNC-Wilmington, Dan is spending his 28th summer at High Rocks. A brother-in-law to Townsend, Dan has been an integral part of shaping camp's philosophy and activities over the years. Campers and staff alike appreciate his warmth and humor.

**\*Strickland Parks-** After taking a summer off, Strickland returns to the High Rocks staff. Strickland also spent many years at High Rocks as a camper. His main focus at camp this summer will be instructing tennis and soccer.

**\*Keri Piling-** Keri returns this year as a horseback-riding instructor. She is a rising senior at Randolph-Macon Women's College. Her horseback experience includes riding for over half her life, teaching riding lessons, and competing.

**\*Michael Powell-** "Red's" smile will light up camp for the fourth summer here at High Rocks. Michael will be on the climbing staff again this summer. Michael's stories about traveling and love of life add spice to camp each summer.

**\*Aaron Power-** Aaron is back for his fourth summer at High Rocks, and will not only be working as the Pottery Activity Head but also as Head Counselor. Aaron has been working in Brevard this winter, and recently was working on a Coca Cola advertisement!

**Todd Rainville-** Originally from Riverside, Rhode Island Todd is currently a rising junior Outdoor Recreation Leadership major at Colorado Mountain College. He will be joining the High Rocks staff for his first summer, and concentrating his efforts on climbing instruction.

**\*John Rippy-** John is a rising senior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is returning this summer to again instruct backpacking. John has a great relationship with the boys, and has a goal to pass on his love of the outdoors and nature.

**\*Joe Rivers-** We are glad to have Joe returning to Camp High Rocks, this year as Head Counselor and paddling instructor. His many years of paddling experience, both personally and professionally, are an asset to the program.

**\*Franklin Sames-** We are happy to again have Franklin, a past High Rocks staff member who is joining us after a four-year hiatus. Franklin will be leading the hiking and backpacking program.

**\*Martin Schmidt** - Another one of the long-timers, Martin returns for his 34<sup>th</sup> (!) summer to help as assistant/program director for the four-week session. Currently, he teaches physics, astronomy, and geology at the McDonough School in Maryland.

**Lisa Shantz**- Though Lisa has attended university in her home state of Washington, she was also, as many of the other riding staff, a student at Randolph-Macon Women's College. She has just finished a bachelor's degree in psychology. She has a variety of experiences working with horses and children.

**Joe Silviera**- A rising senior at the University of New Hampshire, Joe majors in humanities. Having grown up in the woods of New Hampshire, Joe will bring his love of nature to the hiking and backpacking program.

**Shaniqua "Nikki" Simmons**- We want to welcome Nikki to our summer kitchen staff. She comes to camp from Charleston, SC, where she has recently completed her second year at South Carolina State, majoring in Physical Education with a minor in Biology.

**Andrea Stellrecht**- Andrea will be coming north from Florida, where she has lived most of her life, to join the Arts and Crafts program for her first summer at High Rocks. She is a rising junior at Stetson University where she is on the Crew.

**Alex Stigliano**- Alex is coming to High Rocks from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, where he majors in English. Alex grew up camping and hiking in West Virginia and North Carolina, and has been mountain biking for several years. He brings these experiences to the mountain biking program in his first year here.

**\*Deborah Weldon**- Deborah returns for her second year as the office manager for camp. Originally a local of the Brevard area, she has graduated from Western Carolina University. Currently, Deborah teaches kindergarten in Pollocksville, NC, which is 20 minutes south of New Bern on the coast.

**Shannon Whitworth**- Shannon is student at Brevard College studying Wilderness Education and Art. From the Chapel Hill area, she joins High Rocks in the crafts program.

**\*Ellen Willson**- Ellen graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College this year with a degree in English. She is returning for her third year at High Rocks, and we are happy to say that she will be the Horseback Riding Director this year.

*Thank you everyone for all your support. As many of you are traveling this way, drive safely and enjoy the view. Come September, we'll be back in your mailbox once again with all the news and events. Have a wonderful summer and keep in touch.*

*-From all of us here at The Rock*

**Camp High Rocks**  
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