



The Thompson Family

Camp Carolina has been a camping tradition since 1924, and it's been a life's work for the Thompson family.

ADMINISTRATION

Nath Thompson, General Manager, lives at the Camp year-round with his wife Mary, and has directed Camp Carolina since 1959. Prior to becoming Director, he was a camper, counselor and administrator for twelve years.

Their son, Charles Thompson (a.k.a. 'Cha Cha') grew up at Camp Carolina, joined the year-round staff in 1989, and became Camp Director in 1995. Alfred and Mary Eccles Thompson joined our year-round staff in 1994. Alfred is Business Manager.



"This is a happy, adventurous camp whose campers and counselors seem to love being here."

From *Choosing the Right Camp* by Richard C. Kennedy, Times Books. Reprinted by permission

LEADERSHIP

Camp leaders play a critical role: These are the mature young men who serve as Head Counselors, Cabin Counselors, Activity Heads and Trip Leaders. They are the exemplars of our community, the role models for campers, and the importance of their behavior cannot be over-emphasized. We look for maturity and personal integrity. Well over 50% of our cabin leaders are over the age of 21. In our younger age groups, there

is one counselor for every three boys in each cabin; for campers 10 years and older, we maintain a ratio of one counselor to 6-7 boys in each cabin. Overall, our ratio of counselors to campers is 1:4.



We invite your inquiries, and visitors are welcome every day. For more information, please contact:

CAMP CAROLINA BACKCOUNTRY

P.O. Box 919, Brevard, North Carolina 28712 Office: (704) 884-2414 Fax: (704) 884-2454
After March 22, 1998, area code will be 828.



Brevard, North Carolina

Since 1924



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"The Old Man in the Mountains Award is the only award a boy may receive while attending Camp Carolina. It is not an award for excellence, or for athletic prowess, or for personal achievement. It is to recognize good citizenship. And like any award that means something, it must be earned. A canoe paddle, a useful instrument in a boy's hand."



Each camper belongs to a tribe of same-aged campers known as the Newts, Muduppies, Waterdogs, Salamanders, or Mollyhuggers.

Mollyhugger

Cryptobranchus a. alleghaniensis is the American salamander with the largest mass, length, and width. It is usually 10 to 20 inches long, but some 30-inch specimens have been found. Its grayish head and body are flat, and a fleshy fold of skin runs along each side of its body. Commonly and fallaciously thought to be poisonous (it even looks dangerous), it is perfectly harmless. It is found along the banks and in the clear, deep streams and rivers draining the Appalachian Mountains.



Brevard, North Carolina

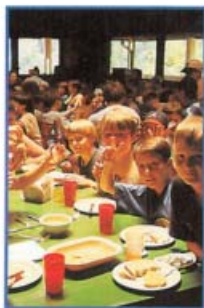
What we learn in fun, we never forget



'Shaving cream battle' during twilight games.

Camp Carolina Backcountry is a boy's summer paradise of 220 acres nestled in Lamb's Valley, and bordered by the Pisgah National Forest - 450,000 acres of old growth, slopes and coves. Our camp is allowed full access to this magnificent natural resource under a commercial use permit.

Under careful supervision and constant encouragement, boys discover and reach for new



frontiers on whitewater rivers, unspoiled trails and rocky summits. These experiences are lessons

learned for a lifetime.

Camp Carolina Backcountry is about pure adventure. It's about meeting challenges head-on and dealing with the rush of the unexpected. It's about the simple faith that anything can be accomplished through planning, determination and enthusiasm. It's about living fully, fearlessly, creating personal goals and enjoying one's accomplishments.

But it's mostly about fun - on the rivers, lakes, rocks, trails, courts and fields. In our experience, we rarely encounter a boy who cannot excel in one

or more of the activities and sports offered.

Our program is a balanced mixture of individual and group athletics, nature, crafts, and deep-woods tripping. We value quiet time too, and work hard to maintain a well-rounded experience of health, fun and growth.

How are these important values taught? Our camp leaders are guided to focus on the "teachable moment" - that time when a boy is enthusiastic, inter-

ested, searching for answers and having fun. We believe, and many educators agree, that more teachable moments arise during the long-term camping experience than during comparable days

We are proud of the part we have played in shaping the lives of tens of thousands of men and boys.

at other types of educational institutions.

Overall, our purpose is to make a boy's summer camping experience fun, memorable, and a valuable factor in his complete development. The experience we offer speaks of basic values: simplicity of life, importance of self-reliance, value of human relations, wonders of nature, and the challenge of high adventure.



The tennis program offers individual attention to build new skill levels on our six courts.



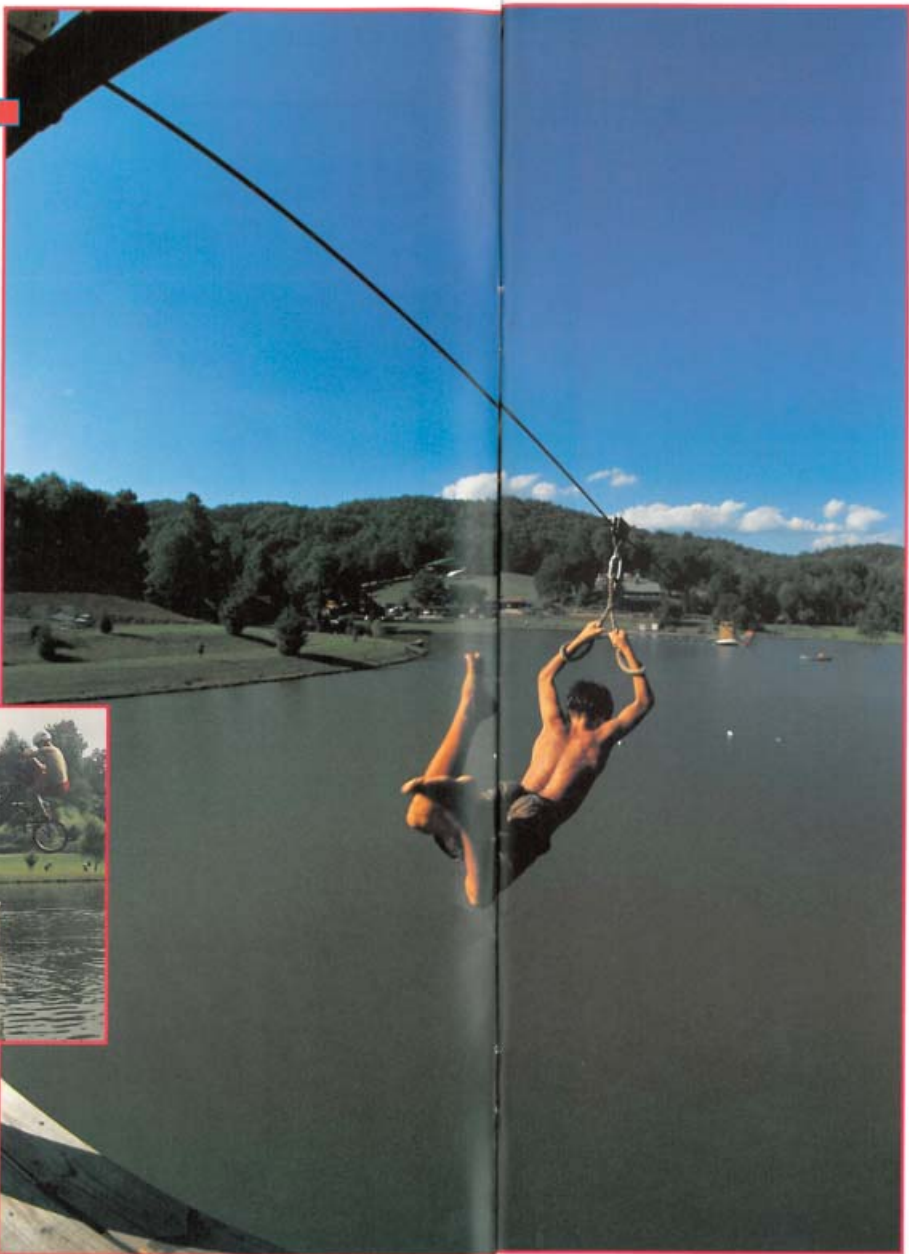
Building self-confidence on land and water

Carolina is a camp in which boys learn to see with their eyes, feel with their hearts, do with their hands, and live together in the spirit of brotherhood. Here boys are taught to appreciate the beauties and wonders of nature, the value of health and physical strength, the fellowship of true friends, and the essential worth of high ideals and sound character. A special effort is made to send every boy back home stronger in body, keener in mind, more appreciative of the beautiful, and more noble in character.

Camp Carolina Backcountry offers a wide range of water-sports thanks to its natural centerpiece, our private 4.5 acre lake. Fed by sixteen separate springs, it is one of the camp's chief attractions – large enough for swimming and canoeing, but small enough to closely supervise.

One of the most fun-to-do water activities (and even funnier to watch) is the zip-line, a cable that runs over and across the lake from a thirty-foot tower on one side to the shore on the other side. This is a confidence-builder of the first order, and the first flight is truly an unforgettable experience for a boy. Also, our campers love the bike ramp, which is similar to the wooden ramps used in skateboarding exhibitions – except that our ramp catapults a whooping boy and his specially padded bike into ten feet of lake water.

The swimming area is 25 meters square and has a 1-meter board and a regulation high-dive. Instruction is offered according to American Red Cross water safety standards, including basic rescue and strokes. We have regularly scheduled water games, trials and competitions.



Camp life centers around our 4.5 acre lake.



Campers master new skills before paddling ubbeater.



"The first time I came to camp, I was afraid to take my Bass Test. Cha Cha (the camp's director) sent me the requirements in the Spring newsletter and I practiced at our club pool. On opening day, I passed with flying colors!"

- Mitch (Camper)

CCB ROCKS

We bring boys to new heights

"There's nothing like seeing the reactions on kids' faces when they climb a multiple-pitch route. On our long climbs, we go for routes that offer maximum exposure to the wind, airy positions, and sheer verticality of the wall. Expressions of fear, amazement and pure excitement come from all of the boys on these climbs, but the one over-riding expression is always something like this: 'This is the coolest thing I've ever done!'"

- Bryan Haslam
(Climbing Specialist)

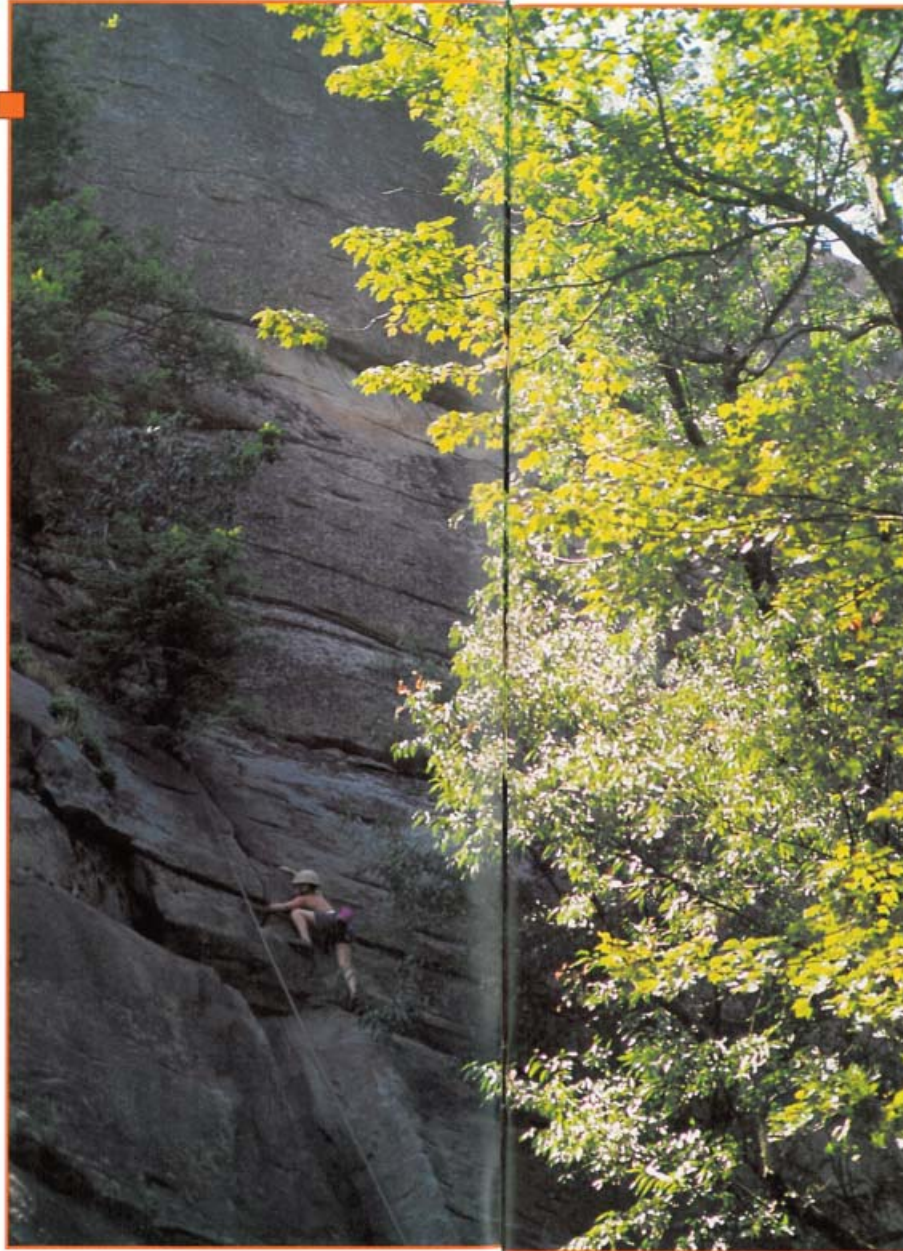
Our Climbing Program is accessible to all campers, regardless of age, ability, or experience. All of our trips include instruction in the use of safety rope systems – from putting on a harness correctly to tying in with a figure-8-follow-thru knot. For those campers who show more interest and a desire to excel in climbing, we provide thorough instruction in belay methods, rope management, and rescue techniques. The emphasis is always on risk management and safety.

The idea is to reach the top – but never at the expense of the safety of the camper. It's not a matter of muscle alone. It's more like playing chess, where climbers must plan every move and adjust to every mis-step. Rock climbing takes much more than grit and granite: It takes brains.

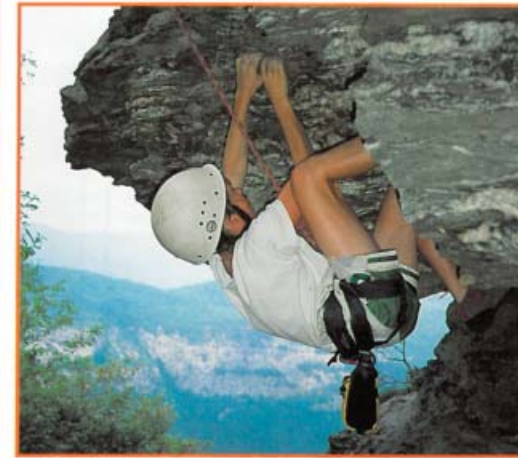
Yes, it's scary at first. But in our experience, we believe there is no better way to help a boy build confidence in his ability to meet any challenge. Whether it be a sheer rock face, a math test, or the trials of adolescence – it all requires the same stuff.

We know that high-quality one-on-one personal instruction by experienced instructors is the only place for young campers to begin. All our climbing equipment is state-of-the-art.

Camp Carolina Backcountry's proximity to Pisgah National Forest affords excellent opportunities for hiking and rock-climbing excursions for all campers. For longer and more challenging hiking and camping trips, we



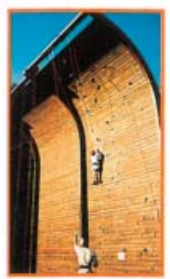
These boys have built a monkey bridge and learned new knot-tying skills.



take weekly trips into the Cherokee National Forest, Linville Gorge Wilderness, Mount Mitchell State Park, and Nantahalla National Forest – which provide a wild landscape of cliffs and precipitous gorges, towering rock spires, and mazes of tumbled boulders.



Our climbing gear is state-of-the-art.



Campers practice safe climbing technique on our new 50-foot climbing wall, the Carolina Wate.

The lure of white water

With over 100 waterfalls in Transylvania County, the sound of falling water is never far away.

Since The Blue Ridge mountains were never glaciated, there are no natural lakes in our area, but many free-flowing creeks, streams, and rivers.

It is no wonder that many native peoples consider falls, springs, and cascades as their most sacred spots – these running waters do seem to churn with a life that is both mesmerizing and endlessly beautiful. Beside some huge pink beds of rhododendron thickets, there's a massive cascade called Looking Glass Falls, which shoots out a wall of water from under a towering rock shelf. At Sliding Rock, nature's original water slide, whooping campers whoosh down a smooth 60-foot rock slab in Looking Glass Creek that dumps them into a swimming hole.

For sheer adventure, the lure of white water is hard to resist. Whether in a canoe, kayak, or raft, the challenge of navigating your vessel through a series of rapids surrounded by the beauty of the mountains is an unforgettable experience! As you accelerate into a rapid, you must read the river, run the downstream 'V', avoid the rocks, and drive for the eddy. As the adrenaline subsides, you look up-stream and marvel at your accomplishment.

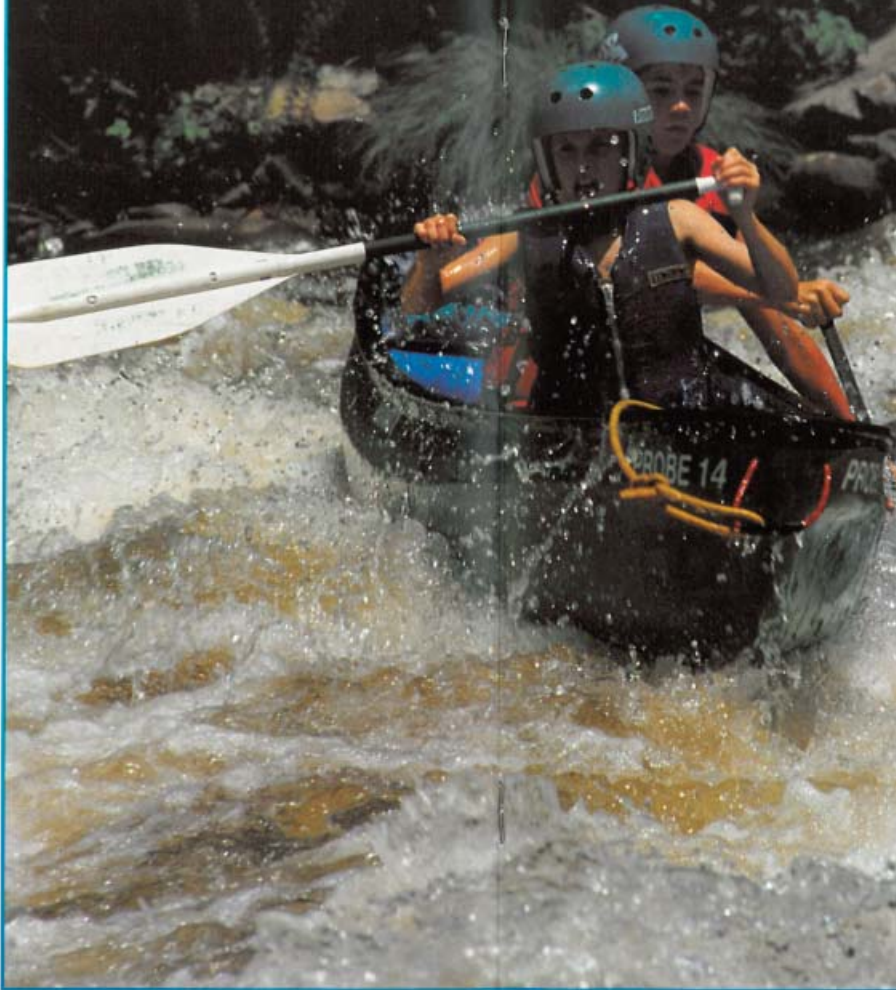
Named for the mountain range on which Moses stood to "see the promised land" Pisgah National Forest is home to one of the last stands of old-growth forest, which covers roughly 14,000 acres. This area is known as the "Big Ivy" because of the thick growth of flowering mountain laurel found there, which in this part of the country has long been called "ivy". In the last ten years, conservationists have documented over fifty rare plant and animal species in Pisgah, some of them with hearteningly healthy populations.



Mountain Laurel

"Feeling like you are on top of the world – that feeling – it's so easy to achieve at camp. All you have to do is stop, look around and listen – it's that easy to get the feeling. Sometimes, though, this feeling occurs at a moment you don't foresee, but after it happens, you realize. Wow, this is why I keep coming back."

- Peter Dickson (Counselor)



All boys at Camp Carolina who successfully complete their basic swim test (the Brim Test) are given the opportunity to go whitewater rafting. For boys who pass their intermediate swim test (the Bass Test), there are canoe and kayak trips to the Mills, the Davidson, and Upper French Broad Rivers. As campers progress in skill and proficiency, they are offered the chance to run the Tuckasegee, the Nantahalla, and sections 6

and 9 of the French Broad and the Chattooga Rivers. Our goal in the longer sessions is to build the skill level of a group of our most enthusiastic paddlers, enabling them to safely run the Ocoee River, the river used in the 1996 Olympics.

Our fleet consists of 12 lake canoes, 12 white-water canoes, and 24

whitewater kayaks. We are completely knowledgeable of the safety considerations involved in bringing novice campers into the sport of white-



Yanahsoo!

water paddling: Our whitewater specialists are certified as Swift Water Rescue Technicians, and have successfully completed a three-day course in rescue techniques that has become the most widely accepted national standard for boaters and rescue workers. We teach to American Canoe Association Standards, and have ACA whitewater certified instructors on our staff.



Pure adventure at Camp Carolina – times never to be forgotten.

Mountain bikes, hiking boots and trail horses...

"Yesterday we went on a mountain bike trip to Slate Rock Trail in Pisgah. We started with a steep climb in the pouring rain - more of a hike than a bike ride. We took it slow and safe, and we ended up in a gravel bed with another mile of climbing. Once back in the van, I asked everyone if they had a good time. It was met with an immediate chorus of 'Yessssss!' 'But I didn't yet understand the power of that 'Yes'. As we were cleaning the mud off the bikes, the campers on the trip were beside themselves trying to contain their excitement while explaining the trip to their friends. One comment that stands out in my mind was from one of the first-timers: 'It was unreal. I fell off my bike three times, and I got to swim under a waterfall. It was the greatest!' all in one breath, eyes alive, face glowing. Within five minutes, I was bombarded with questions from campers who wanted to know 'When is the next ride? Can I go?' A day like this - that is why I am here."

- John Gurke (Tripping Staff)

... these are the modes of transportation we take through our mountains: Tire treads, boot prints and hoof marks are the only things we leave behind.

There's a place in western North Carolina where the mountains merge with the sky in a blue haze that's the color of wood smoke... a beautiful valley surrounded by dense forests that slant steeply to elevations rising almost 7,000 feet about sea level... a place where water sings as it surges down deep-cut gorges with laurel and rhododendron clinging in impossible tangles on sheer cliffs... a place where a quiet hiker can scare up a deer or a rustling flock of wild turkeys...

Does it get any better than this? We don't think so.

A hike right out of camp through the cloistered coves, along the extended ridges, and up to the precipitous peaks is all a camper needs to get a taste of nature and its bounty - and to build a new appreciation for man's place in the world. And we take full advantage of our locale by offering just about every conceivable means of enjoying it.

A typical day at the Carolina Stables includes six ring classes and two half-day trail rides. Weekly, we offer overnight rides to the King's Creek Outpost, a three-hour ride, as campers learn the skills of horsemanship and the special demands of caring for a very large animal in an overnight camping experience.



In the distance, Looking Glass Rock, the South's premiere rock-climbing site.

Here, too, campers are given greater responsibilities once they demonstrate their competence in the ring.

We also keep a full "stable" of mountain bikes for daily excursions and races. Helmets are required at all times with no exceptions.

Boys enjoy building shelters in the woods. We are constantly impressed by the ingenuity and skill of our campers, and we encourage this hands-on outdoorsmanship by offering pioneering as a regular activity where

campers use their wits, an ax and some lashing to develop sturdy structures such as lean-tos, tree-houses, forts, dams and bridges.



The Southern Appalachians - ancient and beautiful.





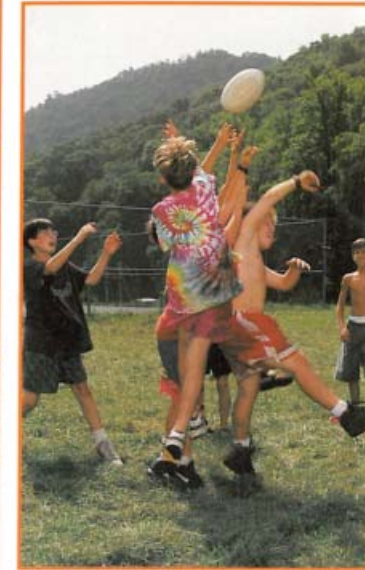
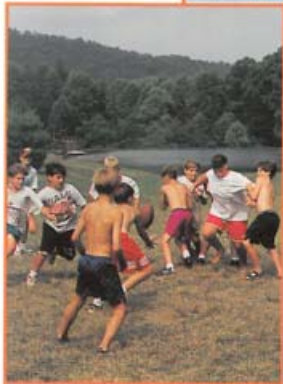
On the playing fields, courts and ranges

Our facility features twenty-five acres of natural grass fields, with playing areas for soccer, football, baseball, lacrosse, rugby, and golf. We play basketball indoors and outdoors. The tennis courts are hard surfaced to assure consistent high-quality play. Our indoor skateboarding and rollerblading park has several elements, including a street course and a six-foot vertical trainer. Weight-lifting facilities are also available.

Team sports are offered every day. Our facilities are first-rate, and each of the group leaders in these areas are chosen for their distinctive accomplishments on the playing field and technical knowledge of the sport.

Competition is tempered by avoiding permanent teams and

competitions with other camps. The emphasis at Camp Carolina is on citizenship, fair play, and good sportsmanship.



"We are constantly evaluating and finding ways to improve our facilities and programs."

"We strive to improve self-esteem, motivation to learn and sportsmanship of all our campers through the leadership and example set by our staff."

- Alfred Thompson
(Program Director)





Health, fun and growth

Camp Carolina Backcountry is graded 'A' by the North Carolina State Health Department.

The only award we give is for good citizenship. Belonging to a community and becoming one of its responsible members are key elements to assuring a safe, healthy and personally rewarding experience for a camper.

Each camper has his own bunkbed, a locker for his clothes and personal items, and a place for his trunk. The cabins are screened, with a front and back door, and a porch with a commanding view of the natural surroundings. In addition, there is an assigned Lodge for each age group for meetings, evening programs and rainy day activities.

One important theme of camp living is the idea of belonging to a cooperative group. Each camper belongs to a tribe of same-aged campers known as the Newts, Mudpuppies, Waterdogs, Salamanders, or Molleyhuggers – all amphibious creatures at home in any environment, whether it be dry land or the water.

HEALTH

Our Camp Physician is assisted by two registered nurses who live at our Camp Infirmary. The emphasis, for both staff and campers alike, is on preventative health and safety, which is supported by pre-camp staff training and regular health inspection throughout the camp sessions.

As parents know, food matters to boys – a lot – and it is all-important to the health and well-being of active campers. Over the years, we have learned the proven favorites to assure that each meal is eagerly awaited.



THE DAILY PROGRAM

Balance – the mix of high-energy and low-stress activities – is an important value to us. In addition, we believe that each camper should exercise considerable choice over the activities he wishes to pursue.

Each Sunday evening, after Vespers, campers sign up for activities for the coming week. During free time, campers may choose among relaxation, recreational swim, golf, tennis, reading, ping pong and fishing. Out-of-camp trips are offered every day at breakfast to every

age group as a break from the in-camp program. These may be half-day, full-day, overnight, or multi-night trips. Upon returning to camp, boys resume their

in-camp program activity schedule. We are a non-denominational camp with a Christian orientation, and we welcome boys of all religious faiths, races, colors and creeds.



Boys are free to explore a diversity of natural environments.



"What a day!"