

Over 60 Years  
of "Summer Magic"



SKYLAKE YOSEMITE CAMP

# OUR BACK YARD



Located in the Sierra National Forest, Skylake's private acres stretch into miles of outdoor living space.



Just plain fun is what camp is all about. Lots of free activity time allows the campers to let their hair down and enjoy a "kids vacation"



Bass Lake provides a beautiful waterskiing site. Located just down the swim trail from camp, the lake is warm and wind free. Great for swimming, kayaking and boat activities.



Yosemite is only 15 miles from camp. Campers head for the valley for day trips, backpacking trips, and the ambitious "Dome in a Day" hike.



"I always wanted to go to a camp like Skylake Yosemite."

Jeffrey Portnoy



Jon Moore  
Assistant Director



Jeffrey Portnoy  
Owner • Camp Director

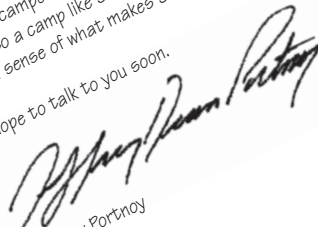
Dear Parents and Campers:

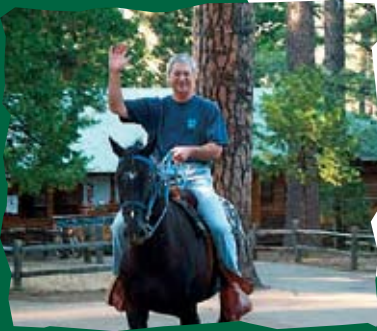
Congratulations, you are about to embark on the joyous and exciting journey of selecting a summer camp. Take your time and choose wisely. In the beginning the task may seem overwhelming. You don't know what questions to ask, and many of the camps appear the same. In reality every camp is unique. Take the time to ask the critical and tough questions. You will be rewarded. The properly selected camp will become a cornerstone of your lives that you will reap benefits from for a lifetime.

Society today has become all too impersonal and the fast pace of life is forcing our children to grow up too fast and too soon. Children need a safe zone. A time to think and discover their own identity. Plants and animals have their relaxed dormant periods, so should children. This is what summer camp provides.

Skylake campers and staff always refer to "Skylake Magic." I always wanted to go to a camp like Skylake Yosemite. I hope this brochure begins to give you a sense of what makes Skylake so unique.

I hope to talk to you soon.

  
Jeffrey Portnoy



Jeffrey Portnoy, owner/camp director



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# CHOICES

Skylake is unique among camps by letting the campers choose their own activities. This allows campers to either experiment with many activities or return to favorite activities more often. Each morning we have three activity periods with the campers moving through camp much like a college campus. Afternoons are more a time for cabin groups to play together, either at swim call or Cabin Group Activity, when the Cabins as a group select an activity they would all like to do together.



Skylake has a private waterfront in a very quiet cove on Bass Lake. The waterfront offers Canoes, Kayaks, Swimming, Waterskiing and all of the related water sports. Our picnic barge cruises all of Bass Lake with picnic lunches, dinners, and evening cruises.



Traditional activities in camp include archery, badminton, ping pong, campcrafts, tennis, handicrafts, softball, volleyball, basketball, along with drama, photo, and yearbook. The horse corral with western riding, mountain biking and the ropes course are three special activities with devoted campers spending many hours. The out of camp trips include backpacking trips into the high country, Yosemite Day trips, and overnight camp outs.



# MEMORIES

If the word "Skylake" was in a dictionary its definition would be "a place to make friends and create memories." The traditions include nightly campfire, Cabin Group Activities, Big Sisters, Skylake Reflection Hour, picnic barge, Length of the Lake Swim, Dome in a Day, milkshakes from Millers, "Fat Pills", camp songs, camp skits, the "crying line", and the endless special times created by the counselors. Even reveille and the morning flag salute take on special significance at Skylake.



*Morning reveille at Skylake*

*Campfires at Skylake*



# SAFETY STANDARDS

"Safety First" is practiced at Skylake. During six days of staff training before the campers arrive and throughout the summer, workshops are dedicated to making the staff understand and appreciate the awesome responsibility they have in caring for children. All staff are CPR/First Aid certified or have their Water Lifesaving Certifications. Eligibility for staff requires that they be over 18 years of age and currently enrolled or have graduated from a four year college. All of our drivers for out of camp trips are over 21 years of age. Many Skylake campers return to be on staff as counselors.



*The senior staff at Skylake are usually former counselors and college graduates who still know how to have fun.*

# 8 Qualities to Look For in a Camp

**1 Accreditation** – Your camp should be accredited by the American Camping Association and hold membership in the Western Association of Independent Camps. These organizations emphasize adherence to over 300 essential health & safety, program activity, staff training, and facility-maintenance standards for each member camp. Skylake Yosemite Camp has been an active, long term member of each organization.

**2 Camp Philosophy** – Your camp's philosophy should match your personal philosophy. Skylake is a traditional camp, with emphasis on an outdoor group living experience, building self worth, confidence and individual growth as opposed to competitive expertise in a specific activity.

**3 Quality Staff** – Your camp should have a mature, well trained, and quality staff. All of the Skylake counselors attend four year universities and participate in a full week of on site staff training.

**4 Camper Return Rate** – The friendships that are lifelong can only develop over multiple summers together. Your camp should have a high return rate of both campers and staff. Our magic number is 70%, i.e., the average percentage of Skylake campers that normally return from previous seasons.

**5 Staff:Camper Ratio** – Your camp should have a ratio of least 1:3 staff to campers and have small cabin groups. These items assure thorough and quality supervision. Skylake has 85 staff for 210 campers with cabins sleeping only 8.

**6 Program Flexibility** – Your camp should allow flexibility for the camper. Do the campers select their own activities or are they assigned? Skylake operates much like a college campus, with campers controlling their own activities and their out-of-camp trips.

**7 Program Diversity** – Your camp should offer a wide choice of activities and an opportunity to experience them all. Skylake offers over 25 structured activities and an endless variety of special events.

**8 Location** – Your camp should have a great location. Skylake offers a dream location in the mountains, on a large warm water lake, with the grandeur of Yosemite in our backyard.



**SKYLAKE  
YOSEMITE**



*"on a lake...in a cabin...at Yosemite"*

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