

2020 SCHEDULE

76th SEASON!

2020 STAFF TRAINING

June 8 – June 20

CAMP SCHEDULE

2 WEEK SESSIONS

SESSION A June 21 – July 4

SESSION B July 5 – July 18

SESSION C July 19 – Aug 01

SESSION D Aug 2 – Aug 15

4 WEEK SESSIONS

SESSION A/B

June 21 – July 18

SESSION C/D

July 19 – Aug 15

**PRIORITY
ENROLLMENT ENDS
NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT
BEGINS
NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

Fall 2019

Skylake Ripples

the Skylake
Yosemite Camp
Newsletter



Enrollment 2020

Skylake opened enrollment on September 3rd for the 2020 season. Although all returning campers have until November 1st to enroll, and still enjoy the priority to return to their same session, we received an incredible amount of enrollments on the first day. Some girls' sessions are already over 50% enrolled.

There is still plenty of time to enroll with your space still guaranteed. The hard part is trying to accommodate all of the requests for campers desirous of switching from two weeks to four weeks. We will do the best we can but sometimes it takes a few months for the spots to open up, so please be patient.

New campers in the younger village groups are usually able to enroll before the end of the priority period because we know we have the space available. It is in the older village groups where the enrollment pressure is intense so we need to wait and see.



2019 RECAP

2019 was a really good summer for Skylake. As host to almost 700 different campers and employer to just under 100 staffers, we are truly our own little city for those few short months. And this summer, with never a dull moment, our little city had many memorable events.

Always a big topic at sleep away camp is being homesick. It is a rite of passage for many because all of us, at one time or another in our lives, have experienced homesickness. We may even still experience it as adults when we are away from home for an extended time. For a young person to go away from home and not feel some level of anxiety would be unrealistic. "There is no place like home." Is a very true statement. However, learning how to live away from home is an important character building growth element of camp. There is no safer environment then a camp to learn this valuable life skill. We experienced very few "high levels" of homesickness this summer. Only one camper needed to go home this year after not being able to settle in. We do spend considerable time in staff training working on techniques to assist the kids over this life hurdle.

2019 was also a great year for weather. We also had no fires and no smoke. The forest is much stronger now after two very wet winters and there were zero fires this year in the mountains. The weather was a little cooler most of the summer, although in August we did heat up a bit. As is our norm, we had nothing but blue skies at Skylake and the lake was full and beautiful.

Unfortunately, one camper had to be sent home for having a "Juul pipe" (used for vaping). The recent news reports of the potential lung damage from these devices is enough to make all of us take notice. But this is also another reminder that there is a zero tolerance policy for this type of product at camp.

Our early season backpack trips required some rescheduling. The late snowfalls left much of the high country unreachable until the middle of July. Even with the later trips, significant snow was still found at higher elevations. And unfortunately, with all of the additional moisture, the backpackers did experience more mosquitos than normal.

Two of our more popular (voluntary) activities over the summer occur early in the mornings. The "Swim across the width of Bass Lake" occurs a couple times a week at 6:30 a.m., with anywhere from 12 to 15 campers. This early time slot allows the campers to swim across the lake without any boats present. The other early morning event is "Sunrise SUPS." SUPS (otherwise known as "Stand-Up Paddle Boards") is very alluring for its calming "Zen-like" feel.

We are always evolving our menu and services in the dining hall. A nice addition this year was adding another buffet lunch to our meal schedule. Now, in addition to Burger Fridays, Taco Tuesdays and the always-present salad and pasta bars, we added a "Thursday buffet" where we have a rotating mix of three entrees. We know everyone has different tastes and we want everybody to have something they want. An example of our new three choice entrée buffet might include chicken sliders, tuna melt sandwiches, or hot dogs. Each Thursday we would have different entrée items to choose from. There is a very good chance we will add another day like this in 2020 since it was very successful. The best new "ice cream creation" for the summer was "Lemon Ice Cream with Oreo Cookies." And making breakfast pretty phenomenal was the upgrade to the Belgian Waffle for "Berry Wednesday." Next summer we will have more dietary choices for those who want to maintain a "lighter diet." We will have 0% fat milk, 0% fat plain yogurt, and a "light" version of our tomato sauce (in the pasta bar) available daily.

Kahlil Johnson, from Riverside Studios in Truckee, came and started our leather craft program. This is a fun new addition to our crafts activities! A lot of campers went home with some pretty amazing cuff bracelets. And, as always, our Manzanita ring program is always popular with campers.

A low point of the summer was when three campers showed up on one of opening days with head lice. We were able to quickly isolate and focus on these campers. There was no spreading of the problem and after a few days of intense follow up, life returned to normal.

Always a high point, the dances and "special days" were especially fantastic. A lot of work and energy goes into making these days memorable for the campers. From the giant slides, the face painting, the dunk tanks to the endless food - it all adds to the magic of Skylake.



Silver Fox keeps on Puffing

In the stack of old Ripples newsletters I came across the newsletter from January 2007. There, in bold print, was the headline, "Silver Fox Retires." The Silver Fox from the article is Jon Moore, a true Skylake legend.

Jon is always reluctant to speak about his age, so he is always a bit vague on some of his Skylake history. But the truth is that Jon started at Skylake as a Chipmunk. He spent 10 years as a camper before eventually joining the staff. He earned his Bachelors and Masters Degree and pursued a career in coaching. Jon then returned to Skylake as Program Director seasonally (between 1996 and 2003) and then as Assistant Director (between 2003 and 2006). In 2006 Jon married Beth and they welcomed their daughter Abby into the world. Jon retired from Skylake and settled into Bay Area life with a full time coaching position.

But, lucky for us, Jon could not stay away from Skylake! As Abby grew (and is now old enough to be a camper) Jon wanted to come back! He recently began playing a great role by coming and assisting for a week during our staff training and providing the old calm hand. He also acts as an additional administrator during both Session A and Session D. Having that extra set of eyes in camp, along with his soft manner is a great addition to our summer team.

Glacier Point Road Closure in 2021 & Yosemite News

The Park Service has already advised us that Glacier Point Road will not be accessible during the summer of 2021. This will require us to choose different trips for many of our day trips and altering where we end some of our backpack trips. Yosemite is rebuilding the road and indicates it will take all summer. We will take full advantage of 2020 knowing that area will be off limits in 2021.

You may have all now noticed that the Park has settled its lawsuit with the former contracting company that ran the hotels. All of the traditional hotel names such as the Ahwahnee and the old Wawona have now returned.

Mariposa grove reopened this year after a number of years of limited or no access. The area has been really cleaned up and protection is now provided for the giant Sequoias. Mariposa Grove is one of our regular stops on trips into Yosemite.

JOIN US
Stanford vs. UCLA
6p.m. on October 17th

Skylake has a reserved a block of tickets for this Pac-12 match up. We have sent invitation emails to all of our northern California families inviting them to the game. We still may have some tickets left at this late date. Give us a call and hopefully you can still join us. There are no events planned outside of meeting at the game where all of our seats are together. These are free, give us a call.



Alumni Weekend

Many of you are aware that Skylake runs a very casual Family Camp in addition to our major Children's Camp program. The Family Camp program is much less structured with very few activities run by counselors. There are 67 counselors for children's camp and only 4 for family camp. Family Camp is primarily a camp where families just hang out together on the docks or have free time in camp. The meals are great, families each get their own cabin, and there is even a happy hour.

The weekend before Labor Day is the designated Alumni Weekend. All families that come for this weekend must have a family member that either was on staff or was a former camper. There is a very large contingent of former staff as part of this group. In fact, most have a family member that first were a camper and then became a staff member. There is a great feeling of comradeship during this weekend. A lot of great stories are shared.

Until you or family members qualify for the alumni weekend you might give one of our other weekends a try.

Rusty Selix

was one of the most popular staff members in the history of Skylake. Rusty was a staff member in the 70's and both the staff and campers from those years are still very close to this day. Sadly, he recently passed away and was a subject of many, many posts on one of Skylake's alumni Facebook sites.

After Skylake, Rusty went on to advocate for proper laws and policies regarding mental health. Growing up in San Francisco, he made his permanent home in Sacramento where he was closely involved in the legislative process.

On the day of his funeral, the CA Assembly adjourned in his honor at the moment the service began at San Francisco's Temple Emanuel.

In his poignant and beautifully written obituary it was mentioned that the four speakers at the Memorial service were representative of the four main groups of people that meant so much to Rusty. His family, his friends from San Francisco, his friends from Sacramento and amazingly, the fourth group represented was for his Skylake friendships. The genesis of those Skylake friendships were almost 50 years old, but the bonds of camp friendship extended throughout his entire life.



SHOUT OUT to Richard Gardner

Richard Gardner was a camper back in the 70's. In 1971 Richard completed the traditional Length of the Lake Swim and his name is proudly displayed on the giant Length of the Lake Board that hangs in the Dining Hall. Richard returned this year to swim the Length of the Lake again as part of his fundraising efforts on behalf of MS research. Although suffering from MS, Richard is proof that you never give up and you never stop reaching for new goals. Richard came into camp after his little swim and had an enjoyable visit back in camp.



2019 Yearbook

Adrienne has just completed the final editing of the yearbook. The book is now in production and will soon go to the printer. You can anticipate seeing your yearbook before Thanksgiving. Anybody who can't find their picture in the yearbook gets a free sweatshirt.



Historical Footnote

The following paragraph is taken from a 1959 Directors Records binder recently found in the attic of the trading post.

"Our first season with the former Bass Lake Sierra Camp, to be known as the Skylake Yosemite Camp starting in 1960, was very satisfying to us. There were 111 different boys and girls enrolled, quite a number for the eight-week season, and we received expression of satisfaction with our operation from many, many parents. The boys and girls had a fine time and many tears were shed on the closing day of each camp period. The girls and women staff members were very pleased with the new shower house. Next season we hope to do some work to improve the shower facilities for the boys and men staff members. Currently, we are making tentative plans for additional facilities and improvements for the next season which will include another canoe, another sailboat we hope, two more tent houses to permit one additional tent group of boys and one of girls, improvements to the kitchen, and paving part of the entrance road."

We've come a long way, but always so much more to do.

Latest Enrolled Campers for Summer 2020



9 YEARS

Makayla Thoits

8 YEARS

Addie Chaiken Hamilton
Harry Setrakian
Jordan Gross
Lela Rogers
Olivia Chaiken Hamilton

7 YEARS

Adelaide Ryan
Alexa Baum
Ella Sweeney
Eve Sarti
Hayden Schneider
Izzy Kossar
Jack Noymer
Laney Saye
Maddy Suddleson
Peter Koren
Shay Moskowitz

6 YEARS

Abby Moore
Ajay Parikh
Ashley Markatos
Caden Weinhouse
Campbell Keith
Claire Monaco
Grace Diehl
Izzy Millman
Jaya Conmy
Lauren Escola
Lily Feldman
Luke Markatos
Luke McKane
Maggie Sowell
Max Baker
Nate Kindler
Sacha Birdsong
Sadie Kieffer
Sarah Sargent
Sloane Fong
Tatum Fahey
Vaughn Rogers
Will Spangler

5 YEARS

Alayna Woodruff-Milner
Alec Hoffman
Amelia Escola
Annabelle Snyder

Becca Rosenblatt
Cait Gaffney
Connor Weinhouse
Darcy Bass
Gracie Snyder
Gus Gladstein
Jade Jamieson
Karina Hoffman
Keira Cassidy
Krista Mendivil
Lily Haines
Sydney Kroonen

4 YEARS

Ava Kennedy
Brenna Bicknell
Calla Fox
Caroline Carr
Cece Millman
Chloe Wyruch
Claire Kowalski
Dane Hansen
Ella Nielson
Eloise Kennedy
Hayden Handler
Iris Weiner
Jackson Ortiz
Jillian Cardwell
Logan Pagani
Luke Janosky
Naftalia Segal
Noa Schimek
Owen Hart
Ryan Kazerani
Simone McClary
Sophie Sutton
Theo Birdsong
Thomas Viane
Weston Fox

3 YEARS

Alex Hatch
Andrew Buchanan
Anna Viane
Anyaharron
Ari Kaufman
Ash Harron
Asher Collar
Audrey Czerniewski
Ava Westberg
Avery Buchanan
Ben Ellis
Brett Rosenblatt

Brian McWhorter III
Cameron Cox
Cameron Lasman
Cassidy Williams
Charles Robinette
Charlotte Baron
Chloe Levoy
David Kossar
Eleanor Ziporovich
Elizabeth Baskins
Ellie Goldsmith
Emmy Appelbaum-Schwartz
Fletcher Graham
Grace Berry
Graham Kroonen
Greyson Shumow
Haley Simon
Hunter Meyers
Isabella Baskins
Jace Needleman
Jasper McClary
Jaxson Glowacki
Jerry Zhu
Josie Hicks
Kai Caroe
Katie King
Lana Westberg
Lane Baker
Logan Ashby
Luca Measer
Mackay Kemp
Makenna Larkins
Marin Pollock
Marli Moore
Mason Cooper
Matias Ziporovich
Maude Giroux
Millie Bartlett
Nola Kilar
Paulina Paredes
Riley Lenz
Ruby Zhu
Sara Rice
Sarah Giroux
Skylar Kimmel
Stephen Cohen
Suki Zhu
Summer Weiner
Sydney Solash
Thomas Jett
Zoe Cox

2 YEARS

Aidan Maron
Amelia Baker
Ava Maron
Eliza Owen-Ward
Isabella Hogan
Brody Goslin
Bryn Rogoff
Catalina Mendivil
Ceci Dean
Cecilia de Mare
Charlotte Covert
Charlie Haas
Charlotte Vukojevich
Chase Gensler
Chloe Gensler
Claire Sibson
Cole Landry
Cooper Haas
Ella Werlin
Ellen Rhodes
Emily Ross
Emma de Mare
Emmy Gee
Everett Baker
Felix Pipski
Finn Fox
Flynn Weaver
Gemma Schaeffer
Georgia Bass
Grace Moran
Gryffin Glowacki
Hanna Harrington
Harper Green
Hazel Vukojevich
Hilary Hogan
Isabelle Waxman
William May
Jake Kazerani
Jordan Rogers
Joseph Lavezzo
Josiah Peterson
Josie LeBlanc
Julia Meehan
Juniper Pipski
Kamen Huynh
Katie Culp
Kingsley Huynh
Larkin Cooper
Lily Tyler
Lucas Pasewark
Lucas Shelton
Lucas Waxman

Madison Gensler
Max Marino
Milo Goyer
Olin Meyer
Presley Whitemans
Rafi Schaeffer
Rylan Sheedy
Sadie Franklin
Sadie Robin
Sarah Rhodes
Sayle Myler
Skye Dean
Teddy Daley
Will Bailey
Will Cox
Willa Smolins
Wyatt Shada
Zac Shada
Zack Goslin
Zahara Jule

1st YEAR

Abby Sherman
Alex Marino
Andrew Escola
Annie Meehan
Avery Handy
Cleo Schaeffer
Cole Needleman
Cora Bear
Cora Solash
Dominic Ramos
Evie Lohonen
Freddie Oman
Gracie Werlin
Hailey Handy
Hudson Blackmore
Isla Hatch
Isla Tracy
Ivy Smolins
Jay Weiner
Josephine Solash
Judah Kornblith
Julian Ramos
Maya Narayanan
Quinn Green
Roxie Kimmel
Ryan Pasewark
Tate Dean
Tatum Le Towt
Tyler Lenz
Wade Garoutte
William Green

→ **BIG** ←
ANNOUNCEMENT

July 4th, 2020
Closing Day

Session A Campers
MUST ride bus home

In 2020, Session A ends on Saturday, July 4th and on the same day, Bass Lake hosts a **very large** Independence day fireworks celebration. This event makes getting to and from the lake **very crowded**. **The only way our buses can maneuver on Road 222 on this day is to arrive and depart very early.**

Therefore, on July 4, 2020, there will be no closing ceremony, and all campers will depart by bus at 9:00 a.m.

For special circumstances* the camp gates will be open for ONE HOUR (10 am - 11 am) for any parents that have to pick up their camper directly from camp.
*Any special circumstances have to be approved by the director ahead of time.

Campers that are planning to fly home on this date should schedule their flights per our normal procedures. It's best to schedule any departing flights between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Opening day schedule for Session B (July 5th) is not impacted by this change.