

SKYLINES

2017

Newsletter of Skyline Camp and Retreat Center

BOLDER, BRAVER,
MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN FEAR



WWW.CAMPSKYLINE.ORG

WELCOME TO TEAM SKYLINE

You make Skyline what it is through your love, energy and talents. It may be that fifty years ago you beat a trail in the woods and built a cabin here or that two years ago you gave a summer of love and hard work to the campers. Maybe you are a parent that just can't get enough camp for your child and want to be in these woods as much as possible. Perhaps you have donated to the campership fund for a few years, or maybe a few decades. You may have spent every Memorial Day weekend here with your family back when you were a kid, or maybe you did your Eagle Scout Project here as a gift to Skyline's campers. You may keep the whole of Skyline in your heart and prayers every day. However and whenever you gave, you have made and are still making Skyline the gift that it is to all who are lucky enough to be part of it. So we've decided to give you a name, Team Skyline.

We have a beautiful community here at camp, but of course we are never all here at once. Many of us carry Skyline with us wherever we go, but sometimes we just need to get back to camp to breathe it in. We love our community events when volunteers come out and share the warm Skyline welcome with our guests, but we want to strengthen Skyline's community and welcome you here more often.

And here are three specific ways we are inviting you to get back to Skyline...

Friday, December 15, we have our annual **Christmas Party** in Focus Hall at 6pm. Please join us as we thank our year round staff and celebrate the season. We'll have music, crafts and a potluck, bring something you enjoy! Optional: bring a Yankee Swap gift for each family member who wants to play. Please RSVP by December 13 (by email to shana@campskyline.org, or through the website).

April 6-8, 2018 will be our first **Team Skyline Work Weekend**. We have reserved Focus Hall for our volunteers as lodging and will provide simple meals from Friday dinner until Sunday lunch. Day only volunteers are welcome too! We will ask volunteers to pitch in for meals that weekend. Jobs will range from deep cleaning our buildings to opening the cabins. Please RSVP by March 30 - details/sign up will be at www.campskyline.org.

Sunday, June 3, 2018 will be the **Skyline Homecoming** at 3pm. We need you to come out and welcome our newly arrived summer staff, to give them a glimpse of the breadth of Skyline. We'll play some big group games and have a BBQ dinner followed by a campfire. Focus and the cabins will be open for folks who want to reunite and stay overnight. Please RSVP by May 28 - details/sign up will be at www.campskyline.org.

"We welcome all who seek some peace among these trees." You make this happen, so please feel this welcome and come out and play more often.

We hope to see you soon!

SEEING DOUBLE

With sustained growth in our fall Women's Retreat, Skyline is very pleased to share that in 2018, we will be expanding to host two Women's Retreats. The first will be in late October, with the second at the usual mid-November time.

Each of the weekends will have a slightly different emphasis, but the same quality programming, food and community experience that participants have come to treasure.

Look for specific details in the months ahead.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Skyline's Fall Harvest Festival on October 1 could not have been blessed with a more perfect day. Warm temperatures and bright skies welcomed over two hundred participants to an afternoon of excellent food, local vendors, live music and entertainment.

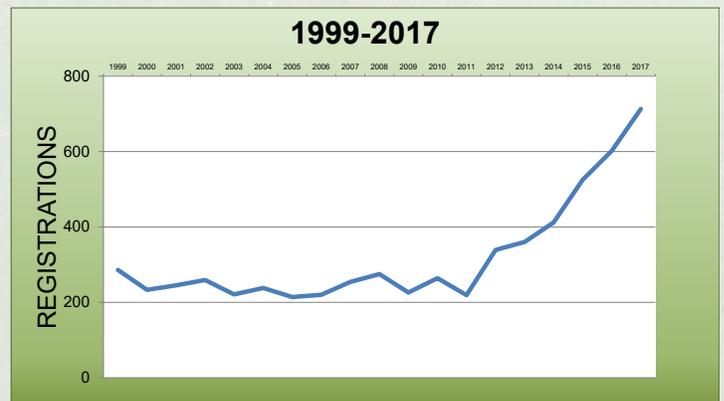
With games, crafts and activities for children and adults, we really made the best of a Fall Sunday afternoon. A lot of thanks go to our wonderful volunteers who made the day possible!



CLIMBING HIGH, DIGGING DEEP

One of the important efforts over the past several years has been to increase Skyline's summer registrations, whilst maintaining a commitment to our core and original mission of making camp possible for as many as possible.

So while this chart points to our sheer numbers growing, we still give away as much as \$60,000 of camp every year - and always need your help in achieving that.



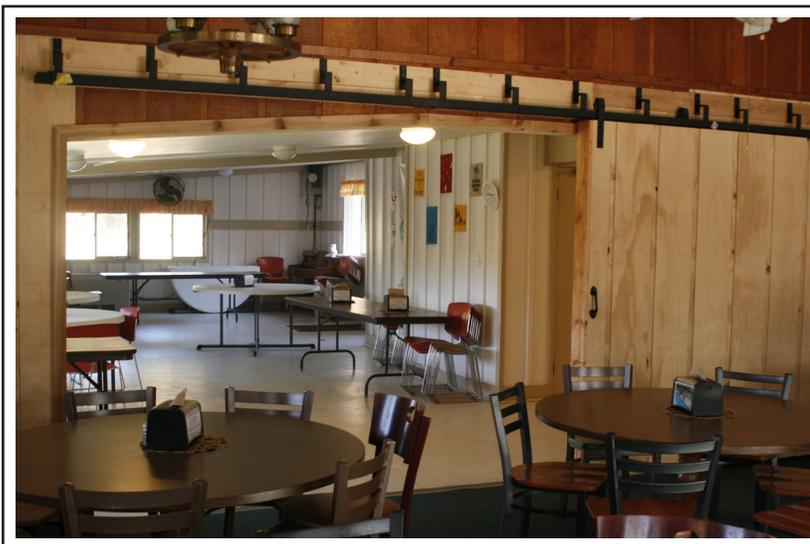


DAY CAMP HUB

Towards the end of summer 2017, our day campers were able to witness the construction of our new Day Camp Hub. The Day Camp Hub will serve as the main area for check in and check out, and provide additional space for rainy days. The name “Hub” comes from both its purpose as a central area but is also a nod in appreciation to two of Skyline’s family members, Kay and Al Huberty. “Hub” is how Kay often refers to her husband, Al.

The Hub is painted brown with a touch of yellow to camouflage into the surrounding woods. To help with the sun that shines down on us at checkout, we have added colorful shade sails to hang from the corners. Behind the hub is a cleared out area that is perfect for the day campers to play and explore during check-in and check-out. The hub also provides three storage closets for us to store our arts and crafts supplies, lost and found items and our sports equipment.

Skyline’s day camp program is directed by Skyline’s assistant director, Erin Furze. It has been growing in size since 2011. Day campers range in age from 5-12 years old. Skyline now offers eight weeks of day camps running from June through August, each week with a different theme. Day camp days are filled with free play in the woods, visiting different activity areas at camp, swimming, snacking, hammocking, singing, and more.



DINING HALL

Pictured here is the new view from the Green Room into the White Room of the Dining Hall. Until this summer, some old interior windows-and-wall separated these rooms, but the newly-installed sliding barn doors allow for the space to be opened into one large space for the first time ever.

The yet-to-be painted doors still allow two smaller rooms when needed, but the advantages we enjoyed this summer with the full space were tremendous!

RECENT FACILITIES DEVELOPMENTS

POOL HOUSE BLUES



The pool house has had its most substantial renovations in its lifetime. The showers are now private and nicely tiled, accompanying re-finished interior walls and floors.

All of the plumbing in the building - including the pool's filtration system - have been overhauled, simplified and renewed.

And finally: a nice exterior paint job, which, even above of all of the work indoors, seems to bring Maintenance Supervisor Shawn McCloskey his greatest pride. The color really is impressive in person: Shipyard Blue.

LITTLE LIBRARIES

Three little libraries donated by First Presbyterian Church were installed and stocked for our campers and guests ahead of the summer season.

Two were placed in the cabin woods, and this third one (pictured) by the hammock area. Built for the weather, these lovely little libraries encourage our campers to embrace reading as a relaxing activity choice.

Special thanks to First Presbyterian member and long-time Skyline supporter, Al Woodworth, for his part in the construction and project development.

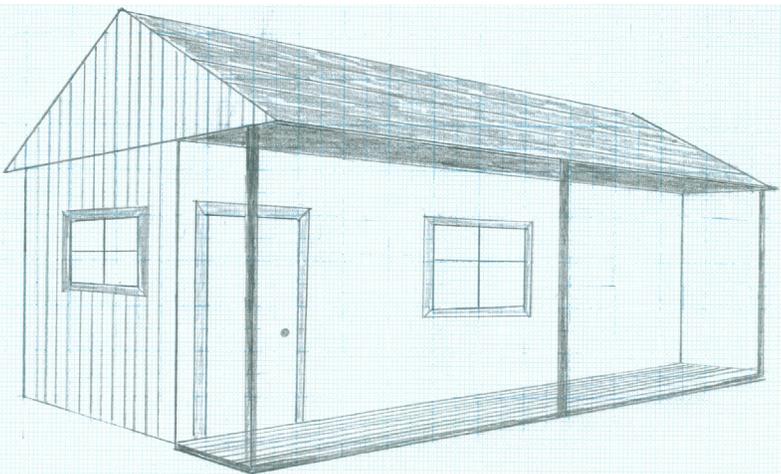


AND COMING SOON

TWO NEW CABINS

As Skyline has grown, we've identified a few areas in which we need to expand our capacity in order to make the best use of Skyline. One of the upcoming projects for which we are seeking your support is two new summer cabins

For more information on this exciting project, and how to be part of it, please see our website and contact Skyline's Director, Matt Henry, matt@campskyline.org or 810-798-8240.





SKYLINE'S GARDENS ARE GROWING... AND GROWING!

Thanks to a grant from Whole Foods' Whole Kids Foundation and hard work from our counselors and maintenance crew this spring, we constructed a deer fence around "Large Marge", our in-ground garden near the farmhouse.

The 500 feet of 8-foot-high deer fence allowed us to triple our growing space this season, with plenty of room to expand even further in years to come. While this garden grew only four types of vegetables the previous year, campers who visited the garden this summer were able to tend, taste, and harvest over twenty varieties of flowers and veggies, including broccoli, green beans, carrots, peppers, potatoes, and garlic. Campers delivered freshly picked veggies to our kitchen, and hundreds of pounds of Skyline-grown veggies made their way into campers' meals this summer.

On the other side of the farm, our livestock population continues to grow, as well. Campers played with the ever-popular goat kids, welcomed our very first woolly lambs, fed grass to new bantam chickens, and got dirty with pigs in the woods.

This year we also became a MAEAP (Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program) Certified Farm, which means that we have committed to using environmentally sound farming practices to raise our livestock and grow our gardens. The MAEAP program was started in 1997 to help farms of all sizes take an active role in protecting Michigan's natural resources. Skyline is grateful to our Garden Manager, Liz Adair, for her efforts in all things green and growing!

EAGLE SCOUT CREATIVITY

Local Boy Scout, Noah Haupt (pictured in uniform), recently completed his Eagle Scout project at Skyline. Noah took an existing single-surface traversing wall and transformed it into a four-sided adventure which will be both more challenging and more enjoyable for our campers.

Noah was well supported with some help from Skyline staff, but mostly leant on the muscles and expertise of family, friends and fellow scouts. Thanks and congratulations to Noah!

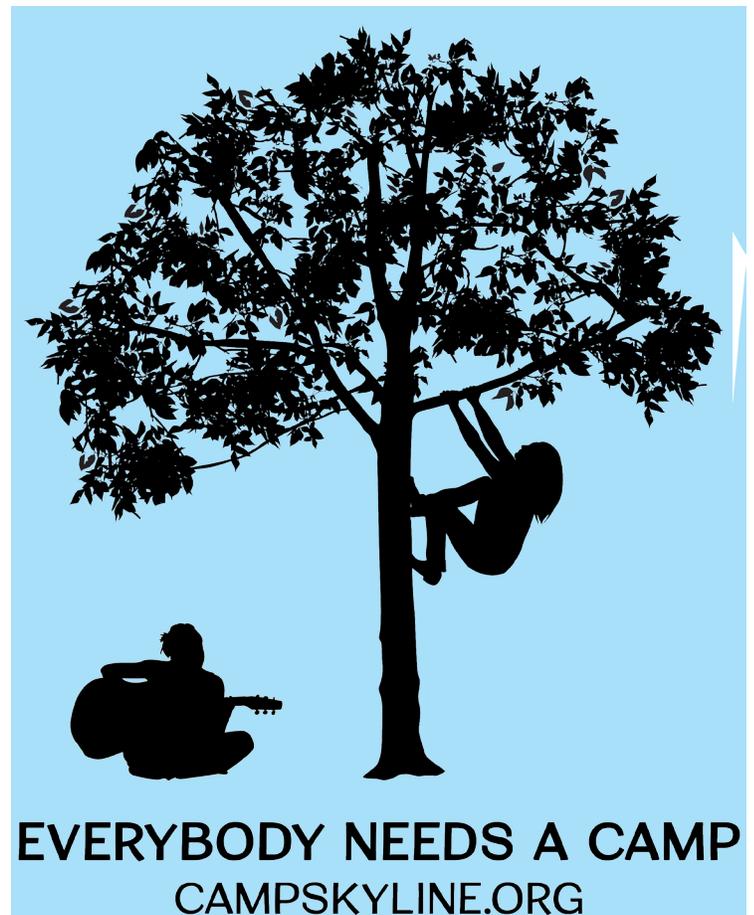
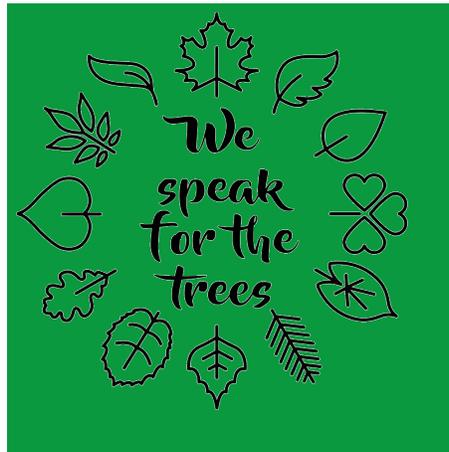


Another Eagle Scout project which is on the cusp of happening will be a new series of fences and a new storage & milking structure for our sheep and goats. The project has been years in development, and is a substantial undertaking by Eddie Jevahirian. Skyline is blessed with the fruits of Eagle Scout projects of Eddie's older brothers John, Nick and Robert, and this endeavor is shaping up to be of lasting importance to Skyline's programs. Keep an eye out on Skyline's Facebook page for pictures and updates in the near future!

ABOUT OUR COVER IMAGE

Each summer, Skyline's summer camp participants receive a camp T-Shirt. Our style generally been a simple design: a single color with the Skyline logo on the chest pocket, and a thematic phrase and image on the back. Oftentimes that phrase will be borrowed from a song we sing with the campers, as was the case this year "bolder, and braver more beautiful than fear."

Here are a few of the designs from recent summers.





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