

SPARKS

Fall 2025





hello GREYSTONE GIRLS!

Last summer was the best one ever! We are accustomed to most campers saving a spot during our Early Bird enrollment, but this year was special. Ninety-eight percent of our eligible campers signed up for 2026! We could not be more pleased! It was clear from all the surveys that both campers and parents thought camp was better than it had ever been in the past.

All of our sessions last summer were once again filled with mostly returning campers. Junior and August Camps accepted new campers from the Wait List, and June and Main Camps had 100% return campers. We thoroughly enjoyed the summer, celebrating the Great Day attitude with enthusiasm from the first day to the last.

God is good! This is what we all feel as we enter this new year. **He has blessed us in the past, and we know that He will be with us in the years to come.** Not only that, but His blessings increase with every passing year. We confidently expect that 2026 will, once again, be our BEST SUMMER EVER!

This Sparks magazine is a fun way to look back on 2025 and look forward to what is in store for next summer. **It doesn't matter if you are brand new to Greystone or if you have been coming for many years; there is a lot inside to make you smile!** Consider this Sparks magazine a springboard to jump into our next exciting summer. It will be here before you know it!

We are delighted that you are a Greystone Girl, and we are excited to be planning lots of fun new things with you in mind.



2025 FALL CAMP PROJECTS



RIDING RINGS

Two new riding rings are being constructed next to the barn. These rings will be enjoyed every day in our English Riding program next summer. Flip forward a few pages to read about this great addition!

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

You might not be interested, but this is our most significant project for 2026... and it makes us very excited! Campers use a lot of water, and it is important to plan where all that water goes. This new system will give us flexibility in addressing future construction needs. **You may not think about it now, but it will make your life better for years to come.**



TENTALOW BATHROOMS

We are now three years into a five-year process of renovating all of the bathrooms in our Tentalows and Bungalows. In 2024, we tried out a new design in Tentalows 11 and 12. In 2025, we did a similar (but better) design for Bungalows 1-4.

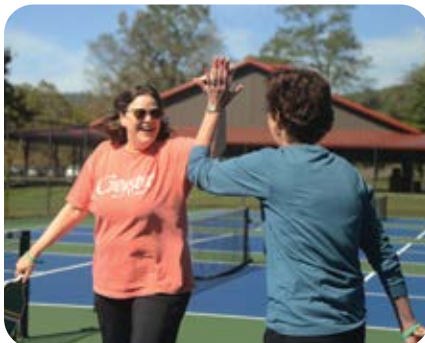
For 2026, we are taking the lessons learned and renovating Tentalows 6-10. **This means almost all of our cabins will have bright, clean, remodeled bathrooms with two showers and increased privacy. There are lots of hooks for towels and ample space for shower caddies.** We will do the rest of the Tentalows next fall!





2025 Alumnae Reunion

In early October, we welcomed over 175 alumnae to dear 'ole Greystone for a fabulous reunion weekend at camp. **We enjoyed wonderful weather, delicious camp meals, some favorite Greystone classes, a Talent Show, a beautiful church service, Stumblers, and even a Banquet celebration.** These alums know how to live every moment at camp to the fullest!



In this reunion group, alumnae represented decades from the 1950s through the 2010s. Some of your mothers who were alums even joined us for the weekend (and let us tell you, they know how to dance on their Dining Hall chairs just like you do!).



While we enjoyed the fun times and many laughs, the real purpose of the reunion weekend was to raise money for Greystone's scholarship fund: The Great Day Fund. Through the registration enrollment fees, donations from the staff working (many donated their full paychecks to the Great Day Fund!), along with a matching contribution from Jimboy, Margaret, Catherine, and Peter, **we donated over \$90,000 to the Great Day Fund after the weekend** - thank you, alumnae!

Thank you, Diane, Jamie, and Meredith!

This fall, we're saying a huge "thank you" to three key members of our year-round team who are stepping away from their roles at camp. We are going to miss them (and we know you will too), but we are so excited to cheer them on in their next adventures! Join us in giving them a big (not so silent) celebration for all the ways they've made camp better.



Diane Culler

- **Role:** Admissions Director
- **Years:** 23
- **We're going to miss:** her coordinating outfits, joyful laugh, and friendly voice on the phone.
- **Next steps:** retirement and lots of UT Vols football games!



Jamie Hutchinson

- **Role:** Head Nurse
- **Years:** 20+
- **We're going to miss:** her encouragement, baked goods, and legendary storytelling abilities.
- **Next steps:** enjoying retirement with her family and time at the lake!

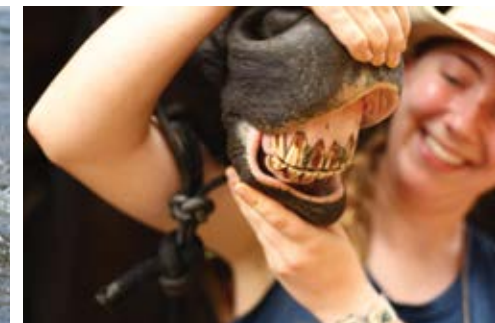


Meredith Bird

- **Role:** Junior Camp Program Director
- **Years:** 4 on the year-round team (many more as a camper and counselor!)
- **We're going to miss:** the sense of fun she brings to everything she does and all of her fresh ideas for Junior Camp classes!
- **Next steps:** leaning into her calling as a nutrition counselor and loving on her family.



Big Smiles From Summer 2025



10 THINGS WE CAN DO AT CAMP IN THE OFF-SEASON THAT WE CAN'T DO DURING THE SUMMER

1. **Walk and talk meetings:** a team favorite all year long! Our best ideas come when we're doing loops around the track.

2. **Battling the geese:** Jimboy and the geese are in a year-round push-and-pull; they want to eat the grass and he wants to protect it! Every day, he and Murray walk down the hill to chase them away. They get confident when camp is quiet!

3. **Grilling by the track:** fun fact - our Kitchen crew sets up a huge outdoor grill outside of the FORT every off-season, and each weekend, you can find them making dinner out there. Who thinks we should keep it up for the summer?

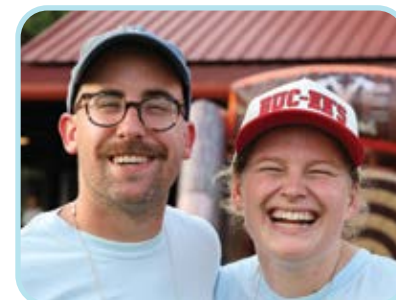
4. **Dogs in the office:** while the Dog Camp pups leave in the fall, we still have plenty of four-legged friends around. Birdie, Bear, Ben, Pepper, MeMe, and Murray are all frequent co-workers in the office!



5. **Visit other camps:** the Western NC camp community is a close one, and we take every chance we can get to tour other camps and share ideas. We recently went to Falling Creek for a North Carolina camps meeting and got to re-connect with lots of friends!

6. **Team lunches:** no more 1:20 lunches for us! At 12:30, anyone who is around gathers at the big table in the Lower Office (or outside, if it's pretty) to catch up.

7. **Leaf-crunching walks on the River Trail:** it only gets more beautiful in the fall! You wouldn't believe the leaves and the animals we see come out when camp is a bit quieter.



8. **Celebrate the holidays:** this is one of our favorite times of year as a team! We're already looking forward to our Friendsgiving meal in White Hall, decorating the office for Christmas, and our Secret Santa gift exchange.

9. **Marvel at the quiet:** no bugles, no bells, and no "When a Greystone Girl Goes Walking" coming from the Dining Hall. Camp is peaceful, but we're already ready for your laughter and singing to fill it up again.

10. **Plan for next summer:** we're already hard at work brainstorming and planning to make next year another best summer ever. The off-season is a fun change of pace, but we are counting down the days until you are back!



ALL ABOUT WHITE GLOVE

WHAT IS IT?

At our longer sessions, White Glove is the cabin cleaning and inspection on Sundays where your cabin needs to meet “white glove standards”...if a white glove ran across the shelf or floor, would it come away dirty? If so, grab that broom again, girls!

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

In the extra free time on Sunday mornings before church, campers make sure the cabin, porch, their personal drawers, and the bathrooms are sparkling.

WHAT GOES INTO MAKING YOUR CABIN CLEAN?

Blood, sweat, and tears...and a broom, mop, and cleaning spray.

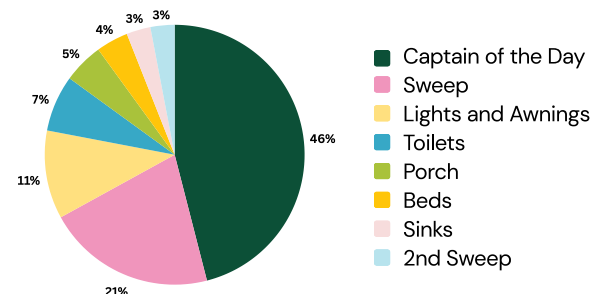
WHO CHECKS THE CABINS?

Your Group Leader. No amount of bribery can convince your Group Leader that your cabin is actually clean when it isn't.

WHAT DO YOU WIN?

One winning cabin is chosen by each Group Leader, and that cabin is dismissed first for the Sunday buffet dinner - the ultimate coveted camp prize.

WE ASKED OUR ALUMNAE: WHAT'S THE BEST JOB TO BE ASSIGNED ON THE JOB WHEEL?



COUNSELOR HACKS FOR SURVIVING WHITE GLOVE

(Also known as ways to make sure your cabin wins...)

- * **Annie:** Organize things drying on the lines in rainbow order.
- * **Mary Louise:** Play hype music and sing along while cleaning.
- * **Sallie:** Use extra, cheap toothbrushes to clean between tiles in the bathroom floor.
- * **Meg:** Have a dance party after cleaning!
- * **Eliza:** Sweep at least three times...channel your inner Cinderella.
- * **Mia:** First person to clean gets first shower!
- * **Mia and Mallie:** Cue up a song and when it stops playing, you can stop cleaning.
- * **Sophie:** Pick flowers to decorate the cabin after cleaning to impress the Group Leaders.
- * **Anne:** Unscrew the drain and clean out all of the hair.
- * **Grayson:** Be ready to give the Group Leader a tour of the cabin.
- * **Maria:** Spray Lysol or cheap body mist around the cabin, and play music (like “Be Our Guest”) when the Group Leader comes in.
- * **Parker:** Make some fancy toilet paper folds or origami.

CLASS HIT OF 2025: COOKING IN THE GARDEN

One of our most popular classes in 2025 was our brand new Cooking in the Garden class. With the popularity of our current indoor cooking program in White Hall, we knew it was time to expand our Greystone cooking options; Cooking in the Garden was the result, and it became the breakout hit of the summer!



This new Greystone class was developed by Devan Vandenbark, who has been overseeing our garden area for many years. He took the basic cooking options he has been offering in our Farm Barn class and upgraded the food-portion into our full-time Cooking in the Garden class. **Campers used fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden, as well as fresh milk and eggs from the Farmbarn, to make delicious recipes.** You campers absolutely loved it!



What do you hope we will make in Cooking in the Garden this upcoming summer? Let us know! Email Ellen-Anne (ea@campgreystone.com) and send her your ideas.



CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌀 Homemade ranch with fresh vegetables for dipping
- 🌀 Sorbet using fresh fruit and juice
- 🌀 “Fry-days” where we made piping hot french fries from potatoes we dug, homemade onion rings, and deep fried battered blackberries topped with powdered sugar
- 🌀 Fresh tortilla chips (from corn we grew!) and fire roasted salsa



COOKING IN THE GARDEN RECIPE

HOMEMADE RANCH

INGREDIENTS

- ⌚ 1 Cup Mayo (make your own, it's easy!)
- ⌚ 1 Cup Sour Cream
- ⌚ 4 Tsp Fresh Dill
- ⌚ 2 Tsp Fresh Parsley
- ⌚ 2 Tsp Fresh Chives
- ⌚ ½ Tsp Onion Powder
- ⌚ 1 Tsp Garlic Powder
- ⌚ 1 Tsp Fine Sea Salt
- ⌚ ¼ Tsp Pepper
- ⌚ 4 Tsp Fresh Lemon Juice
- ⌚ Dash Milk (add at the end to adjust consistency!)

DIRECTIONS

1. Start by harvesting the herbs. More is better for a fresh, vibrant flavor. Wash them thoroughly, then strip away the large stems, keeping only the tender leaves. Mince or finely chop the herbs before measuring.
2. Combine all ingredients and fresh herbs in a bowl.
3. Stir until well mixed, then taste and adjust as desired. Add more of any flavor components to suit preference.
4. Serve with freshly harvested vegetables and enjoy!



HOMEMADE MAYO RECIPE

- ⌚ 1 large egg at room temp
- ⌚ 2 Tbsp lemon juice @ room temp
- ⌚ ½ Tsp ground mustard
- ⌚ ½ Tsp salt
- ⌚ 1 Cup light olive oil

Start by combining all ingredients except the olive oil. Begin blending with an immersion blender, then slowly drizzle in the olive oil while blending. It only takes a few seconds!



Class Hit of 2025: Mahjong

We know you campers won't be surprised to hear, but one of our favorite camp classes of 2025 was our beloved Mahjong class!

Our Mahjong instructors Amanda and Mille brought all of the fun, pep, excitement, and sparkle to this favorite game. With the added excitement of ringing the official winners gong after a "Mahjong!" shout of victory, campers were thrilled to pick up this now iconic pastime.

So many girls learned to play Mahjong this summer, and **we hope that you have taken your skills home to play with your family, friends, and neighbors.** Until next summer - happy Bam Bird, Greystone girls...cheers!



Rugby



Lego Fun



Bookbinding



Slacklining



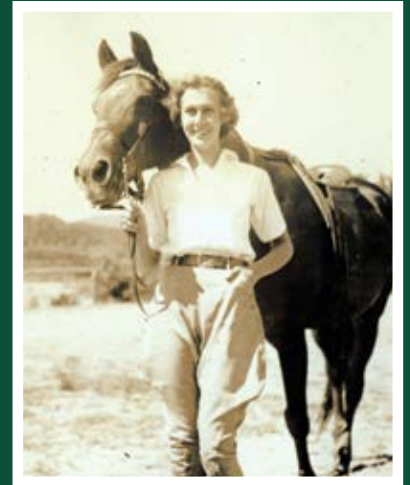
Some more new favs!



English Riding for June and Main Campers

Calling all Greystone horse-girls: we are thrilled to announce the return of our English Riding Lesson program for our June and Main campers!

Greystone girls have loved our English Riding program for over 100 years. For generations, campers have learned to ride and have improved their skills at Greystone, from simple trotting all the way up to show-jumping. For decades, the Main Camp Horse Show was a pinnacle achievement for our riders, with one lucky camper being crowned as our Riding Champion each year.



After camp closed in 2020, we took a temporary break from the English lesson program. Over the past few years, our current campers have enjoyed our Western trail-riding program at Thunderhead (which so many of you love and can continue to love at camp!). Now, we're thrilled to announce that we're bringing back our English Riding lesson program for 2026.





English Lesson Program: What to Know

What sessions are available?

Available for our June and Main camps.

What's the required riding level?

Girls of all riding levels can register for English Riding.

Where will girls ride?

We are building 2 new riding rings near our Farm Barn area - stay tuned for pictures!

How do you register?

English Riding will be a separate fee activity. Parents can register through your camp forms (available in early March), and English Riding will be available on a first come, first served basis.



How will classes work?

Campers will take English Riding as one of their camp classes. It will fill two class periods on your schedule on either Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday. You will find out your assigned riding time when you arrive at camp.

How will classes be structured?

Our English Riding program will be based on the hunter jumper discipline. Girls will have mounted lessons and barn days; they will also enjoy ring work and trails. The program will be geared toward helping riders of all abilities and backgrounds develop solid basics and appreciation and awareness for the horse, with a focus on having fun!

What about Thunderhead?

We will still offer our Western-trail riding program at Thunderhead. And, if you truly are a horse-girl at heart, you can take both English Riding and Thunderhead during June and Main Camps.

More details coming soon!

We will share more details about our English Lesson program in our Parent Handbook and on our website in the spring. If you have any questions, contact our Riding Director, Elizabeth Vandenbark: elizabeth@campgreystone.com.



We will be sharing more details about all of our riding options, including our Thunderhead Western trail-riding program, in the spring. Stay tuned!



ORGANIZE THAT DRAWER

We know, this doesn't sound exciting, but some simple bins, dividers, or even Ziploc bags go a long way to making getting dressed each morning a breeze. **Plus, a tidy drawer will get you a lot closer to winning that White Glove inspection!**

LABEL EVERYTHING

Yes, we mean everything. Your costumes, your Crazy Creek, your water bottle, your books - **if it's coming to camp with you, label it!** Nothing is worse than losing your favorite item on day 2!



VISIT THE LIBRARY

Our camp library is tucked away in the back of White Hall, and it's one of our favorite hidden gems! **We have hundreds of books, and you can check them out any time.** No late fees here!

SCHEDULE STRATEGICALLY

You know what classes you want to take, but when you take them matters too. Some campers like to have a "wet" day and a "dry" day or do all of their sports classes in the morning and arts in the afternoon. **No matter what, look at the camp map while you're picking.** No one wants to go from High Ropes to Farm Barn!



GO ALL IN

You will have the most fun when you throw yourself in to every part of camp from the beginning. Wear that costume to dinner. Roll down the hill before Flag. Bring clothes you don't mind getting messy. **Camp is the place to be your silliest self - embrace it!**

MAKE A CAMP BUCKET LIST

Now is the perfect time to dream! Do you want to meet a new friend every day? Try every snack at Shoppe? Get in every body of water at camp? **Make that list and share it with your friends so that you can check it off together this summer!**



PATCH PENNANTS:

THE NEW FAVORITE WAY TO DISPLAY CAMP AWARDS



23

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25



This past summer, during Council Fire at our longer sessions, we presented a patch pennant to our campers who have attended Greystone for 3 or more summers. This felt banner was a gift to these campers and will now serve as the place to display Greystone patches, awards, momentos, Banquet recognitions, and buttons.

In future summers, when our Junior campers transition to a longer session, or campers at our longer sessions hit their 3 year mark at camp, these girls will also receive their pennant at our Council Fire ceremony.



Have you added patches to your pennant or found a special place to hang your pennant in your room?

We would love to see!
Send any pictures to Cat
(cat@campgreystone.com).

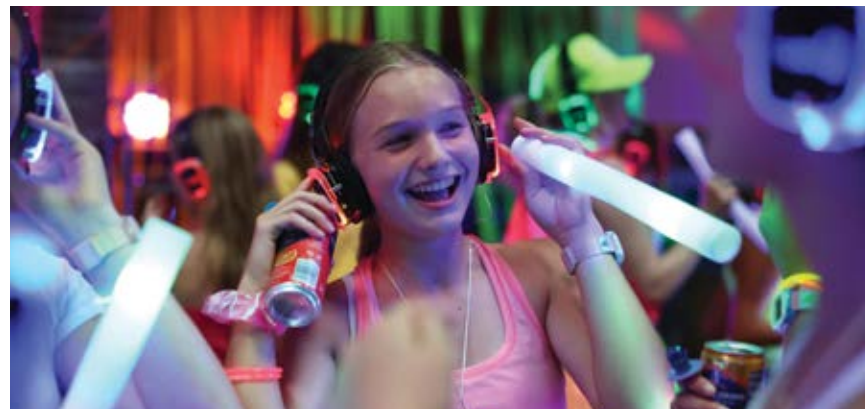
2025 EVENING PROGRAMS



CAMP THROWBACK: THE 1990s



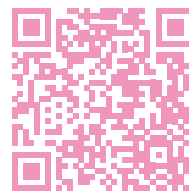
SUMMER 2026 ≡CONTEST≡



Design Your Dream CAMP EVENT!

From Pit Stop Palooza to late-night movies, themed Dining Hall meals, and golden ticket wishes, **we like to go BIG at camp!** Every year we come up with new ideas to surprise and delight, and we know you have your own event wishes. We want to hear them!

Do you picture an epic glow dance party under the stars? A Parent Trap-themed day at camp? Or even a morning where the campers switch places with the Directors? Nothing is too good to come true; **we just want your submissions to be uniquely YOU.**



Deadline:
January 15th

So get together with your camp friends or do some solo brainstorming, and then follow this QR code to submit your dream camp event.

We'll pick one entry and make it come true next summer! So get dreaming, Greystone Girls - we can't wait to hear your ideas.