

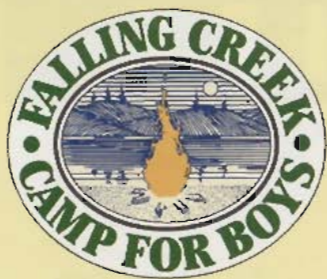
# Falling Creek Camp

FOR BOYS



TUXEDO, NORTH CAROLINA





## OUR MISSION

IS TO PROVIDE A SETTING, A PROGRAM, AND DEDICATED LEADERSHIP TO ALLOW OUR BOYS A MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND FUN AS THEY DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATURE, THEIR FELLOW MAN, AND GOD.

Falling Creek shall pursue its mission:

### I.

By allowing boys to experience the outdoors - its mountains, rivers, lakes, and trees - and awaken in them an appreciation of nature;

### II.

By providing a living situation - a cabin, a tribe, a caring, well-trained staff - in which boys can develop a sense of community and a fraternal awareness out of which grows a compelling sense of universal brotherhood;

### III.

By providing an opportunity for boys to experience camping, hiking, biking, climbing, paddling, team and individual sports, horseback riding, sailing, and all the other activities of camp.



*Nestled in a secluded mountaintop cove in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Falling Creek is surrounded by some of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the eastern United States.*

# INSPIRATION

An essential part of the Falling Creek experience is spiritual growth, and a better understanding of the importance of fundamental values in our relationships with each other, with our God, with the environment, and the creatures all around Falling Creek. In everything they do, campers learn to work and play in harmony with each other and with nature.

Falling Creek strives to nurture spiritual growth of campers from all faiths. Morning Watch, a time of non-denominational reflection and inspiration, is an important moment in each camper's day.



*After Morning Watch, campers head for breakfast at the Blake Dining Hall.*



*"When I think  
about Falling Creek,  
I think about the  
atmosphere and  
the people and a feeling  
of peacefulness  
that's just incredible.  
To me this is a*



*place where everybody can  
be themselves.  
You can make so many  
friends in so many  
different ways. You can  
learn so many things, espe-  
cially about yourself."*

CHARLES MILLING  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

*(Photo above) Morning  
Assembly is a great way to  
start the day with skits  
and songs like "Rocky Top" and  
"Rock Hard Oreo Cookie."*

# CAMP LIFE

"THIS PLACE DRAWS PEOPLE BACK" - CHUCK McGRADY

## A community of fun

**B**ackpack trips into the mountains. Kayaking on the Ocoee River. Sailing. Tennis. Basketball. Building strength for rock climbing on the climbing wall. Building friendships that last a lifetime.

Since 1969, Falling Creek has attracted campers from more than 30

states and several foreign countries. About 50 percent of the campers are returnees from prior years.

Falling Creek is an experience a boy carries with him for a lifetime.

It's an opportunity for physical and spiritual growth. A chance to make choices. A chance to make friends.

**Making Choices.** "Boys at



*Part of Falling Creek's magic is in traditions like the Sunday evening campfires and*



# and friendship



Falling Creek Camp learn to make decisions for themselves. We view ourselves as an educational institution. It's a different kind of education than kids get during the rest of the year. It's learning self-confidence, how to live with a group of people, how to see opportunities for growth and pursue them."

One of the first activities is an orientation tour of all the camp activities - from the ropes courses to the riflery range; from canoeing to mountain biking.

Campers then select six different activities to take part in on a daily basis - three activities in the morning, three in the afternoon.

Most boys eagerly take advantage of the many different trips and other optional programs offered throughout the summer. During our Main Session, a visitor might find as many as 100 boys away from camp on trips and outings.

Falling Creek counselors come from all over the United States and

several foreign countries. They are all at least 19 years old or have completed at least one year of college. The average age is about 23, and roughly half return each year.

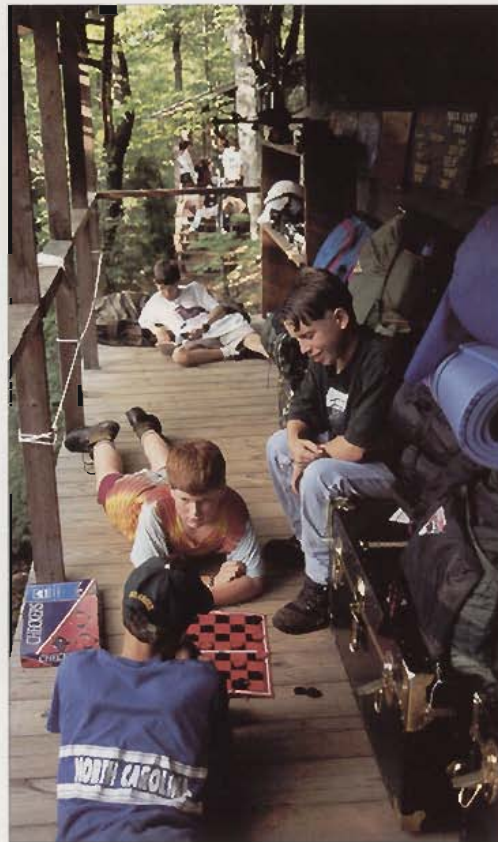
Every camper lives in a cabin group with six other boys and one or two counselors. We feel that the cabin group is one of the most

important elements of a successful camp experience.

The cabin counselor's enthusiasm and his interest in each boy contribute greatly to the success of a child's summer. Cabin groups go on overnight trips together at least once a week during each session.



*Tribal campfire programs.*



*Amid the activities, boys also get time to relax with their cabin group.*



*"Here you talk with friends  
in a way you never do at  
home. You get below the sur-  
face and talk about things  
that are on your mind."*

PERRY SILVER  
RYE, NEW YORK



*"This camp builds your  
spirit. It builds your self-  
esteem. Friends are  
everywhere. Everybody  
tries to live  
together and be brothers."*

ANDREW LITTLE  
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

# WATER

SWIMMING • THE BLOB • ROLLER COASTER • HIGH WIRE • SAILING • WATERSKIING

## Smiles on the water,

**T**he Falling Creek waterfront is located in the center of camp on a private lake fed by mountain springs.

More than 100 feet of dock space with high and low diving boards are excellent instructional facilities for all swimmers, from beginner to advanced.

All campers sign up for swimming lessons until they complete the requirements equivalent to the Red Cross "Swimmer" certification. Boys wishing to develop further skills may continue to take swimming classes, working on advanced swimming strokes, distance swimming and possibly a class in lifesaving skills.

During free swims, boys can also slide into the water on the Roller Coaster (photo top right) or ride over the Upper Lake while holding onto the High Wire (left).

**The Wind.** Sailing is a great teacher

of responsibility and respect for the elements. The Falling Creek sailing fleet is located about 15 minutes from camp on Lake Summit, a mountain lake with 27 miles of shoreline.

Boys learn seamanship and sailing techniques so that they can meet any situation in and around boats with

confidence. They start first on land with the basic points and principles of sailing. After sailing in instruction boats with members of the sailing staff, they work themselves up through the boats requiring a minimal amount of skill to the more sophisticated boats. In all, our 15-boat fleet includes Sailfish, Sunfish, Zumas, Force 5s and Puffers.

Waterskiing is offered at Lake Keowee, about an hour from camp.

Boys who sign up for waterskiing spend a full day at Keowee, and the activity is open to all levels, from beginner to advanced skiers.





underwater, and over it



*The Blob. You have to see it to believe it. An inflated balloon floating in the Upper Lake, with one end below the diving tower. Boys jump. They bounce.*



THE GREEN RIVER  
THE TUCKASEGEE  
THE LITTLE TENNESSEE  
THE CHATTOOGA  
THE NANTAHALA  
THE FRENCH BROAD  
THE TOE

and THE OCOEE, whitewater site  
for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.



*A camper  
practices a hand-roll,  
a move that  
allows kayakers to right  
themselves even without  
a paddle.*

# CANOES • KAYAKS

PADDLING TECHNIQUES • BUOY AND SLALOM COURSE • EDDY TURNS • FERRYING

## Paddling white water

**F**alling Creek offers an outstanding canoeing program oriented towards trips on exciting whitewater rivers as well as peaceful mountain lakes.

On the Lower Lake in the center of camp, boys learn the correct form for paddling strokes. They learn to work with a partner and accurately paddle through buoys and a slalom course.

Introductory whitewater trips on the Green River and Section 4 of the French Broad River introduce campers to slow currents in shallow water.

Intermediate rivers like the Little Tennessee, Section 6 of the French Broad and the Tuckasegee have more



water, faster currents and many obstacles to avoid. At this level, boys learn more advanced techniques, such as "surfing" and "ferrying."

Whitewater training continues until campers are safely paddling such challenging rivers as the Nantahala, the Ocoee, Section 3 of the Chattooga,



# rivers and mountain lakes



and Section 9 of the French Broad.

Sometimes it takes a boy only one summer to advance to these rivers. Usually it takes several years. Besides paddling whitewater rivers, boys can also take part in two- and three-day trips on Lake Fontana and Lake Jocassee.

*Once a boy has completed all the rivers in an open canoe, he may continue his whitewater training by learning to navigate the same and more difficult waters in a kayak or C1.*



*"Everyone here  
supports you 100 per-  
cent in everything you  
want to do.  
Everyone is accepted  
as who you are.*



*You learn what  
you can do . . . It's a  
feeling of  
independence."*

PIERCE LOUIS  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

# BIKING

TRAIL RIDES • OVERNIGHTS

## Riding rough terrain

**M**ountain Biking is one of the fastest-growing activities at Falling Creek. Atop 15-speed mountain bikes, boys explore the varied terrains of the near-



by mountains, with many older riders working up to extended overnight trips in the Pisgah National Forest.

Our qualified instructors help boys make basic safety checks on every ride. All boys go through a mountain-bike prep course before beginning our program, so that we are comfortable with their safety and ability in riding our mountain bikes. Once they have completed the prep course, boys can begin the trail rides around our camp property and work up to longer and more difficult trips.





# and mountain trails





# MOUNTAINEERING

HIKING • BACKPACKING • ROCK-CLIMBING

## Adventure, independent



### THE CLIMBING WALL

*One of the most efficient and safest ways to build strength and stamina and to practice rock-climbing technique is on an artificial wall. Falling Creek's climbing wall is 40 feet tall with three sides set up for climbing.*

**T**he Mountaineering Staff specializes in leading Backpacking and Rock Climbing trips through some of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the Southeast, including the Great Smoky Mountains, the Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness Area, the Pisgah National Forest\*, the Nantahala National Forest and Linville Gorge.

Mountaineering counselors are experienced outdoorsmen, free from cabin responsibilities, who devote their full attention to planning, packing and leading trips. Our trips range



from small overnights on camp property to 7-day trips through the Smokies.

Two counselors are always present for all overnight trips, and campers quickly develop an understanding of the woods and an ability to camp and hike safely.

In the course of a typical week,

five or six trips might leave camp--each designed to meet the needs of different ages and skill levels. All boys, regardless of age, are encouraged to participate in the fun and adventure of wilderness camping.

**Rock-Climbing.** The most important feature of the Falling Creek Rock Climbing Program is our emphasis on safety.

Boys begin by learning basic terminology and rope-handling techniques. After they master these skills on the ground, they are allowed to start climbing.

The first climb is on Capps Rock, a 70-foot outcropping of granite located 15 minutes from camp. From there, boys progress to a full-day trip to Gilberts Rock, where the climb is longer and more difficult.

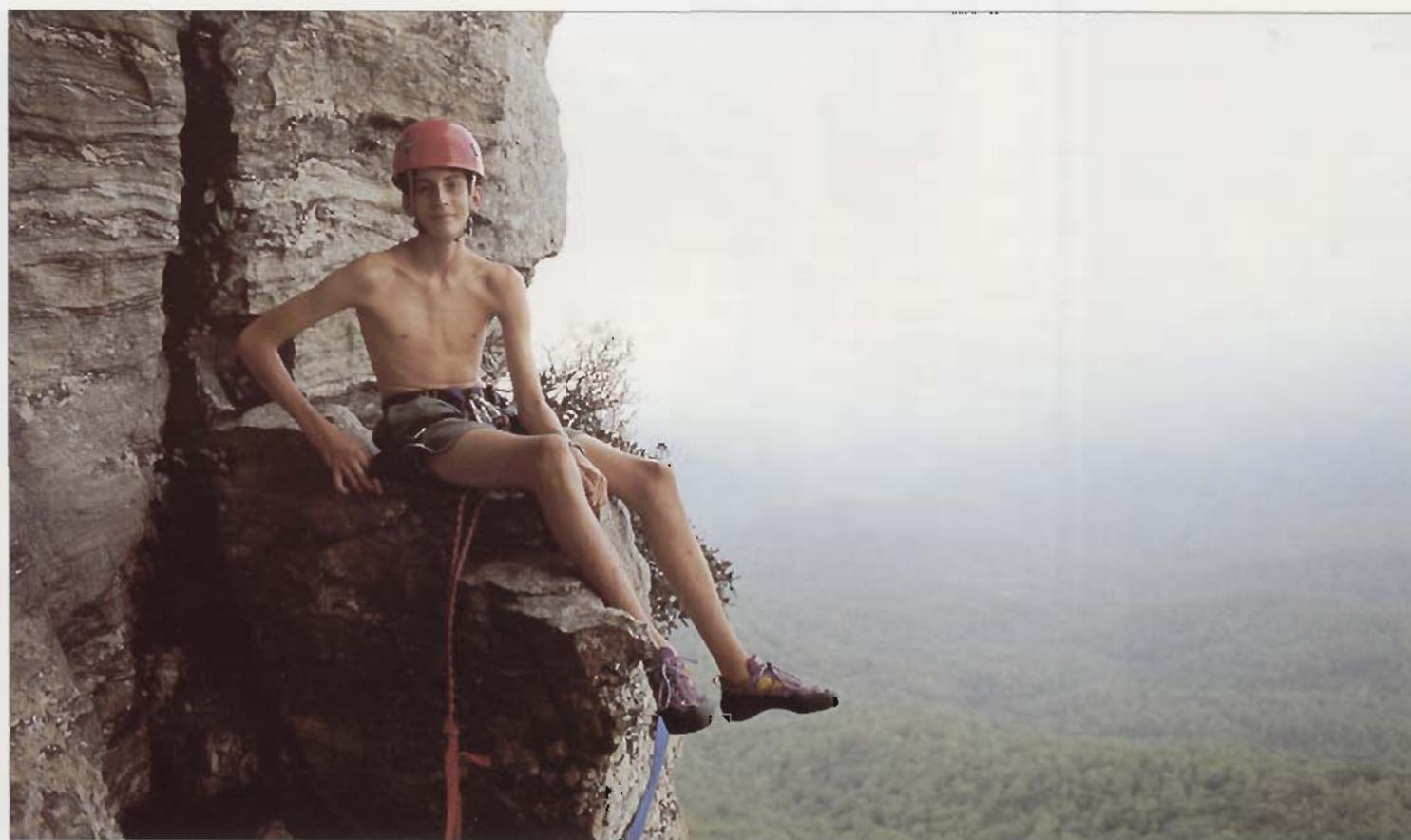
Once a boy proves he understands the fundamentals of climbing and group cooperation, he is invited to continue with more difficult party climbs.

Falling Creek utilizes some of the best climbing areas in North Carolina, including Devil's Courthouse, Looking Glass Rock, Linville Gorge, Cedar Rock and Table Rock.

Activities range from beginning to intermediate, and all of the safest methods of rope belaying are observed at all times.



# ence, and self-reliance



The first lesson of rock climbing: how to tie the climbing rope into your harness using a Figure-8 knot.



## Caring for the Environment

"One of the most important lessons we can teach is to respect the environment," says Chuck McGrady.

Falling Creek counselors follow and teach the methods and ethics of No-Trace Camping. Campers are taught to appreciate the wilderness and to leave a campsite exactly as they found it.

\*Operations on National Forest System lands are authorized under Special Use Permit by the Pisgah National Forest.



## TENNIS

*Qualified staff members offer daily instruction on five hard-surface, all-weather courts.*

*Fun and constructive games are used to develop young players'*



*skills. A tennis ladder,*

*camper-counselor*

*tournaments, and*

*camper tournaments*

*challenge the more*

*advanced players.*

*All campers learn the*

*strategy, sportsmanship,*

*and court etiquette*

*that characterize a good*

*tennis player.*

# FIELD SPORTS

SOCCER · TENNIS · BASKETBALL · WEIGHTLIFTING · TRACK & FIELD · ARCHERY · RIFLERY

## Challenge, skill-build



While we do offer many competitive activities, we feel that it's more important for a boy to learn to work and cooperate with others than to consistently try to outdo his peers. In field sports, as in all activities at Falling Creek, we emphasize growth, learning, and a sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others.

**Soccer** is always popular at Falling Creek. Counselors teach ball control skills and help boys develop proficiency at dribbling, passing and shooting, and lively scrimmages let campers apply their skills in game-competitions.

**Basketball.** Boys of all ages enjoy playing on Falling Creek's two outdoor all-weather courts. Emphasis is placed on ball-handling and other fundamentals to help improve individual skills.

Scrimmages help boys learn to work together and practice teamwork.

**Weightlifting.** Our weightlifting program is designed to help older boys (over 13) develop strength, flexibility and endurance. Boys are always required to warm up, stretch, and use proper technique.

**Track & Field.** A 220-yard oval track is marked out around the landsports

field. Boys receive instruction in all aspects of running, as well as the shot put, discus throw, long jump and highjump.

Cross-country runners utilize the mountain

trails surrounding Falling Creek.

Boys who desire more competition are invited to participate each week in the Greenville Track Club's All-Comers Track Meet, held at Furman University.

During Main Camp there is an Iron Man competition, combining a swim across the Upper and Lower lakes in





# ing, and team spirit



camp, a 3.5-mile bike ride and a 3.5-mile ridge run.

Campers look forward to the Olympic excitement of Field Day. There's an event for everyone and a chance for every boy to test his limits.

**Archery-Riflery.** Archery and riflery are taught with a strong emphasis on safety and responsibility.

Bow strengths in archery vary from 15 to 40 pounds, and shooting distances of 15 to 30 yards provide a challenge to both the beginner and the expert archer.

The covered riflery range allows boys to shoot in any type of weather.



Each boy is allowed to shoot six days a week at a 50-foot range and receives instruction in four positions: prone, kneeling, sitting and standing.



*"I've always liked horses,  
but I didn't start riding them  
until I came here.*

*In my second or  
third year a counselor  
suggested that I try jumping.  
I was real scared.*



*He didn't force it on me.  
He just encouraged me  
a whole lot to do it.  
I've learned that I can do it.  
Now that's all I want  
to do."*

RICHARD WHITAKER  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

# RIDING • NATURE

TRAIL RIDES • HORSEPACKING OVERNIGHTS • GYMKHANA • PLANT & ANIMAL LIFE

## Horses, snakes, owls,

# W

### Riding.

With more than 20 horses ready to ride and trails throughout its nearly 1,000 acres, Falling Creek offers a unique opportunity for riding and horsepacking on overnights.

Horseback riding is taught by

counselors ranging from dedicated amateurs to professional competition instructors. Boys start out in the ring learning basic horsemanship skills. When a boy demonstrates that he can control his horse, he may begin trail riding and taking advantage of the numerous outings and overnights planned by the riding staff.





# and salamanders

Our facilities include two barns, two riding rings, five pastures and miles of beautiful mountain trails.

Opportunities vary from small picnic rides to overnight trips and two-day trail rides for more advanced riders. Special clinics and popular vaulting lessons are offered throughout the summer. Emphasis is placed on the safety of the rider, as well as the well-being of the horse.

Boys who demonstrate interest and



enthusiasm are invited to participate in the June Camp Gymkhana and the Main Camp Horse Show.

**Nature.** The Nature Hut is designed to acquaint campers with the abundance of plants and animals native to the mountains of Western North Carolina. On walks through the woods and along lakes and streams, boys are able to see, hear, smell, taste



and feel the outdoors.

In the Nature Center, boys can observe the habits and life-cycles of a variety of animals - owls, snakes, mice, rabbits, turtles, salamanders and frogs.

Through active participation in the world of nature, boys will leave Falling Creek with a greater appreciation of our natural environment.

*Campers have a chance to get to know some of our native animals up close and personal. A box turtle (left), a copperhead snake (above) and a red-tailed hawk (top right).*





# CREATIVITY

CRAFTS · DRAMA · INDIAN LORE · RADIO STATION · SPECIAL EVENTS

*"There are friends,"*

*says Falling Creek Director  
Donnie Bain, "then there are  
camp friends."*



*Donnie's friendship with  
his partner, Falling Creek  
owner Chuck McGrady,  
began when they were both  
counselors in 1979.*

## Discovering talents a

**F**alling Creek has a well-equipped craft shop where boys learn to express their individual tastes and talents. The activities range from woodworking and pottery to leatherwork, painting, drawing and photography.

*"Good Morning, Falling Creek!"*  
Boys can play DJ, or give the morning wake-up call on WFCC, 1610 am, which broadcasts from the Blake Dining Hall to all the cabins.

### Indian Lore.

The mountains of North Carolina are rich with Cherokee lore. The legends talk of animals, or the world of nature all around us, and teach many of the important lessons of Falling Creek: of respecting the environment and the living things in it. There's also adventure, mystery and a rich tradition of

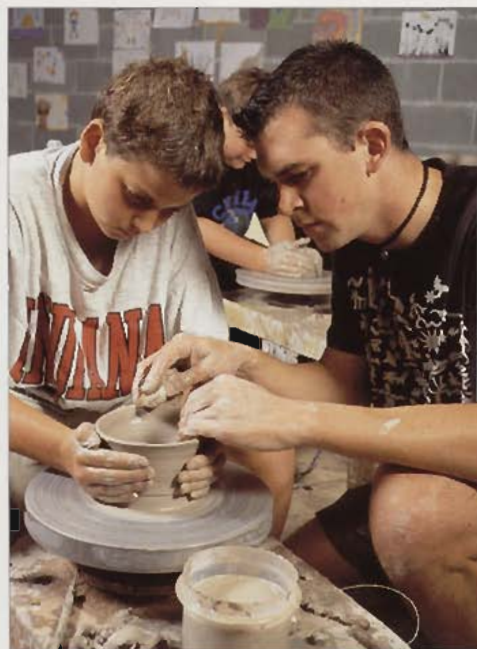
ritual to spark a boy's imagination.

The Indian Lore program seeks to give campers an appreciation of the crafts and culture of the American Indian. Boys learn to make Indian crafts from natural materials and create

their own costumes and weapons for a special Indian campfire presented at the end of the Main Session.

There are certain times during each session when regular activities stop and all boys participate in camp-wide special programs. These may include Green and Gold Field Days, Track Meets, the Falling Creek Olympics, the

Ironman Triathlon, the Falling Creek Horse Show, Backwards Day, California Day, Brother-Sister Day (with Camp Greystone), and the camper-counselor tennis tournament.





# nd interests



*Making a beaddress in preparation for an Indian ceremony.*



Every Saturday evening, campers and counselors enjoy a feature-length movie shown in the Miller Lodge.

#### **Dances.**

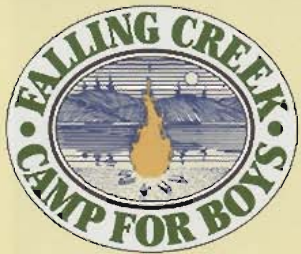
The boys of Palling Creek occasionally get together socially with some of the neighboring girls camps. These include Camp Greystone for Girls, Camp Merrie Woode, Camp Illahee and Camp Ton-a-wanda.

#### **The Closing Campfire Banquet.**

This is an event rich with tradition and meaning for the campers. It is an opportunity for the camp community to reflect on the session and give a sense of closure to the campers' experiences. "It always amazes me how many campers come back and talk about their closing campfire banquet," says Donnie Bain. "It helps to remind us how much camp means to campers. And we understand, because it meant just as much to us."

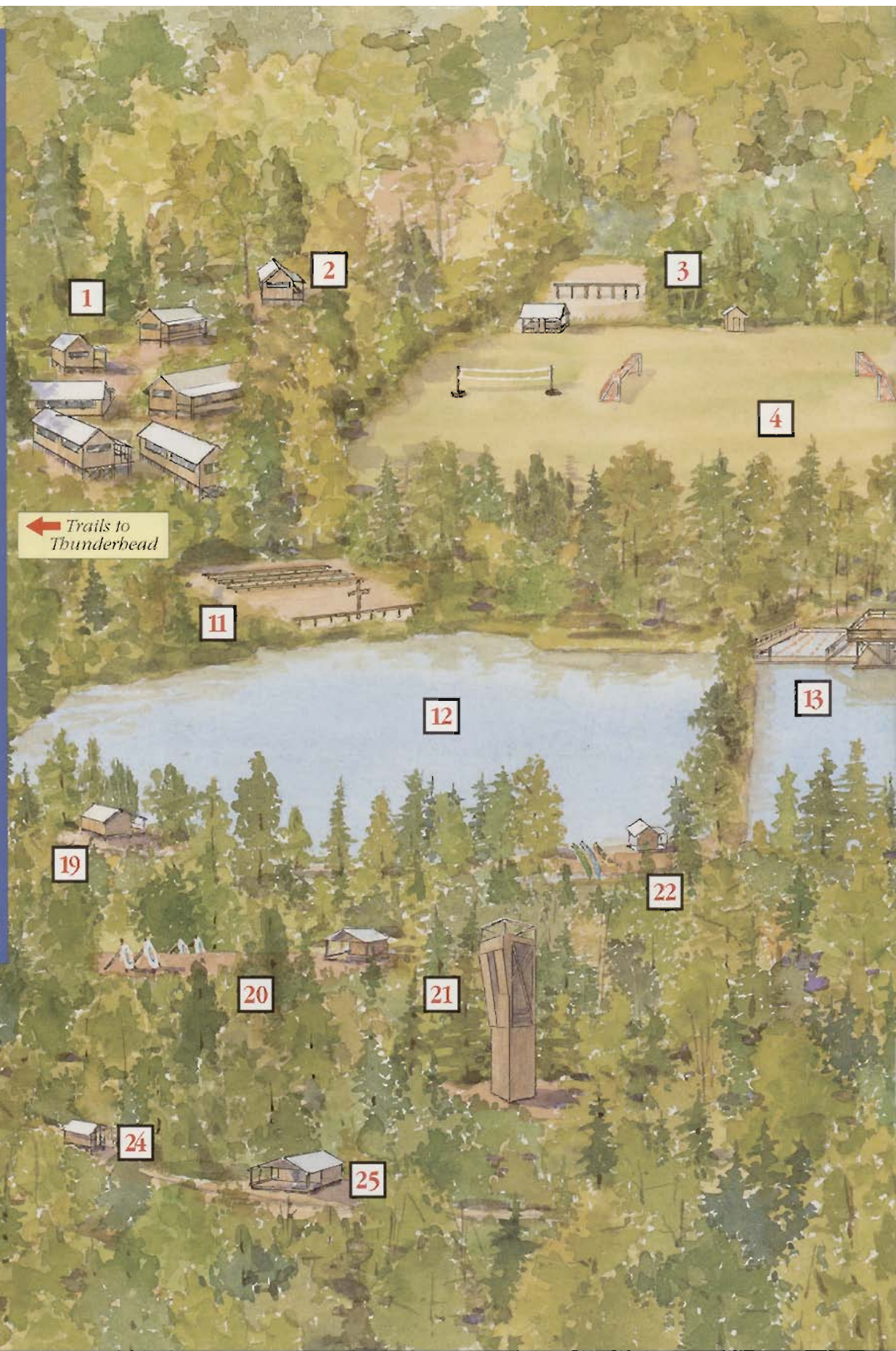
*Indian lore is an experience in understanding another culture and learning the meaning of its ceremonies.*





- 1 - Catawba Tribe
- 2 - Indian Lore
- 3 - Riflery range
- 4 - Athletic field
- 5 - Roller coaster
- 6 - Cherokee Tribe
- 7 - Iriquois Tribe
- 8 - Infirmary
- 9 - Tennis/basketball courts
- 10 - Doctor's A-frame
- 11 - Campfire area
- 12 - Lower lake
- 13 - Swimming docks
- 14 - The Blob
- 15 - High wire
- 16 - Main office
- 17 - Dining hall
- 18 - Miller Lodge
- 19 - Wild Kingdom
- 20 - Archery range
- 21 - The climbing wall
- 22 - Canoe hut
- 23 - Stables
- 24 - Mountain biking hut
- 25 - Mountaineering hut
- 26 - High ropes course

← Trails to  
Thunderhead







↑ Trails to Mountain Pastures

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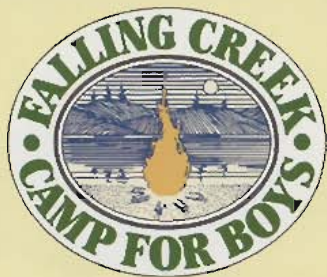
FALLING CREEK

↓ Trails to Green River Pastures and Outpost Cabins

### Welcome to Falling Creek!

**T**he Falling Creek experience revolves around the 150-acre main campus, pictured here. It is also surrounded by nearly 1,000 acres of forests and pastures full of outbuildings, trails, and opportunities for adventure.





## DIRECTORS

CHUCK AND JEAN MCGRADY  
AND FAMILY



DONNIE AND KIM BAIN  
AND FAMILY



# A dream becomes reality... and keeps growing

**W**hen Donnie Bain and Chuck McGrady were counselors at Falling Creek in 1979, they each dreamed of someday operating a summer camp.

Donnie had started at Falling Creek as a cabin counselor in 1972. Over the summers he moved up to mountaineering counselor, program director, and assistant director (1980-84). Donnie graduated from Davidson College in 1975, got his Master's Degree in Education from Georgia State in '78 and taught for five years at the Lovett School in Atlanta and five years (1984-89) in the Henderson County (N.C.) school system while returning every summer to camp.

When Falling Creek came up for sale in 1989, Donnie mentioned it to Chuck, who was then practicing law in Atlanta. Chuck had been a camper and counselor for many years at Camp Sequoyah and was on staff at Camp High Rocks. While in Atlanta, he had worked with various conservation groups, including the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy of Georgia. "Owning a camp was something I'd dreamed of doing," says

Chuck. "But I thought it would be years down the road."

He talked it over with his wife, Jean, who was a former scenic artist for Good Morning America and a staff member of The Wilderness Society. They met with Donnie and his wife, Kim, who had been a staff member at Falling Creek. Kim had also been a counselor at Camp Greystone for Girls in 1975, when she was a student at Converse College (and, not coincidentally, was dating Donnie). After graduating from Converse in 1977, Kim received her Master's in Education from Georgia State in '81. Jean McGrady, an avid horsewoman, was excited with Falling Creek's riding program and its many acres of trails.

All four decided to seize the opportunity. Chuck and Jean McGrady bought the camp and Donnie and Kim joined them as directors. It's a partnership of families held together by a commitment to continuing the rich tradition and philosophy of Falling Creek and maintaining it as one of the most exciting, fulfilling camps in the nation.

The McGradys have two children --Steve and Lisa. The Bains have three --Johnathan, Michael, and Betsy.





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