

HIGH MEADOWS HAPPENINGS

7-12-2024 camp@highmeadows.org 770-993-7975

Today was Water Carnival Day!



Special Visitors Highlight: American Camp Association

 Thursday of this week, we had three visitors from the American Camp Association (ACA) on campus for our reaccreditation visit, which occurs voluntarily every five years. The main purpose of accreditation is to promote best practices in camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff. The ACA standards provide guidelines for necessary policies, procedures, and practices that we are responsible for implementing continually.
 Additionally, ACA accreditation helps the public select camps that meet industry-accepted and governmentrecognized standards. We thank our staff for their collaboration towards facilitating a seamless visit.



Acknowledgement: Camp Kudzu



As you may have heard from your campers or noticed through additional cars on campus, we had a special group of people that joined us for this week. Camp Kudzu, a camp for children with diabetes, came with their own staff and 44 campers to enjoyed the magic that is our campus. While their direct interaction with our campers was limited, we appreciate our campers and staff for sharing our campus with them.

Tradition Highlight: Knighthood

The Knighthood Program allows Senior Quest and Legend campers the opportunity to challenge themselves individually in attempts to hone their skills in our program activities. "Requirements", as we call them, are set in place as guidelines for marking improvement and attainment of skills, techniques, and talents. In each camp activity, campers have the choice to progressively achieve levels of Page, Squire, Sentry, and Knight. The last and final overall level, Knight, is an achievement that few have reached in the history of High Meadows Camp. This level requires many years of work and demonstrated mastery in seven different activities. The requirements for the level of Knight are often very difficult, even unattainable by some. When this overall knighthood is achieved, recognition is given at the award ceremony where, following a reading of the Arthurian legend, the camper is given the opportunity to pull the sword Excalibur from stones in the center of Stonehenge and his/her name is added to a permanent sign hanging there. In a 2018 interview, Mark Warren, the creator of the Knighthood program, reflected on its legacy, stating, "When I first mapped out the Knighthood program at High Meadows, I liked the idea of our camp being connected to something so old and full of historical romance. Ours was an arcane theme, but it seemed to ground us in a world as old as the forest. The fact that it has lasted long enough to become a true camp tradition is very gratifying to me, but perhaps it also says a lot about the timbre of camp staff through the years. The great legends of knighthood from old England thrive off the idea of honor. I believe that human trait was the golden thread that wove through our staff in those days. It was a remarkable gathering of counselors. All were honorable. Though I seldom get to the camp these days, I am willing to bet that this same virtue is alive and well among the present staff. .., which, perhaps, is why the program still appeals. And best of all, if I am right about this, that sense of honor continues to trickle down through the next generation of campers, which is what this world needs." High Meadows is very proud to salute Lizzie, the first camper to be Knighted this summer, and the 84th in camp history!





Value of the week: EXPLORATION

This past week, our value was EXPLORATION. High Meadows Camp encourages curiosity and inquiry
as well as creativity and imagination. High Meadows campers have the confidence to try new things
and the skills to problem solve. High Meadows campers encourage their peers and appreciate those
who do things differently.





Grasshoppers Gazette (Richard)

- Grasshoppers had an amazing final week of 2nd session! At the Barnyard, we had fun riding the ponies and meeting the bunnies. We also showed off our talents at "Hopper-Stock" and got to shoot some hoops and draw chalk art on the basketball court. And to top it off, Water Carnival was a blast! Can't wait for 3rd session for more fun!
- Our Unit Choice for this past Wednesday 7/10 was Western Wednesday!





- Juniors had a fantastic final week of 2nd session. We had a great time dressing in different decades on Wednesday, using our creative side to make tie dye, and we finished the week with the most amazing time at the Water Carnival! We're excited to see what's in store for 3rd session.
- Our Unit Choice for this past Wednesday 7/10 was Decade Day!





Super Seniors Shout Outs (Steven and Jen)

- Super Seniors had a crazy-amazing week! We finished up our clay projects in Arts & Crafts. We worked on our song ("I Wanna Play Ga-Ga", a parody of Queen's "Radio Ga-Ga") and performed it for the whole camp at Livestock. Some of us completed the No-Screen Challenge to earn a special spirit feather. And in Sports, we played Capture the Flag and Ultimate Frisbee. We ended with a super fun Water Carnival on the high meadow, capped off with some time at the pool where our counselors swam with us. What a spectacular week!
- Our Unit Choice for this past Wednesday 7/10 was Camper-Counselor Switch Day!.





Senior Quest and Legend (Annie, Tina, and Matt)



Senior Quest Quips (Morgan)

 Senior Quest had a monumental final week of 2nd session. We dressed up in business suits and pajama pants for our Unit Choice of "Zoom Call Day" on Wednesday. We braved the Ga-Ga pit, battled it out in greasy watermelon, witnessed a spectacular Performing Arts Knight play, and bore witness to our newest overall Knight as she pulled the sword from the stone. We are looking forward to 3rd session with the hopes that it'll match this wonderful 2nd session!





Senior Legend Lore (Tyler)

 Senior Legend had an inspiring last week of 2nd session. Our campers squared off in social ball where both teams fought valiantly. For Unit Choice day, Senior Legend dressed up as their favorite piece of furniture or favorite appliance. We all got a laugh out of the creative costumes people wore. We ended the session with an amazing Water Carnival, some games of greasy watermelon, and we all gathered around to watch the sword get pulled out of the stone by our newest knight! We are super excited to see what 3rd session brings.





CIT Corner (Rey and Danielle)

 The CITs had a phenomenal last week of 3rd session. We served burgers and s'mores to the Senior Quest campers at their Late Night. On Wednesday, we did "CIT Swap Day" for Unit Choice where we dressed up as each other. For Water Carnival Day, we headed a pirate "invasion" that was thwarted by Guild class. Additionally, we had three CITs (Sadie, Kate, and Jonah) graduate from the program and we can't wait to see them as counselors. And we are excited to welcome more CITs next session!



Thanks for joining us this summer! We hope to see you again next year.

Discounted, early registration for 2025 will begin in December. Please keep us updated with any address changes.

Summer 2025 dates: Session 1: June 2-June 20 Session 2: June 23- July 11 (no camp Friday, July 4) Session 3: July 14 – August 1

Help us make camp better by completing this survey: <u>https://form.jotform.com/241704463342956</u>

Love Camp? Learn more about High Meadows School! Founded alongside High Meadows Camp in 1973, High Meadows School offers students in Pre-K through 8th grade the opportunity to learn in an environment that inspires adventurous learning, meaningful connection, and prepares graduates to thrive and influence positive impact in the world around them. If your child loves the experience of learning, playing, and growing on the High Meadows campus at camp, we hope you'll reach out to learn more about school! To schedule a tour and conversation, email Sharanne Johns in the office of admission at <u>sjohns@highmeadows.org</u>.

HIGH MEADOWS SCHOOL