



In the North Carolina Mountains
For Boys, ages 8 to 16



*"Now I know the secret of making the best persons: it is to grow in
the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth."*

Walt Whitman



The TrailRidge Philosophy of Camping: Learning . . . Growth . . . Fulfillment

In a real sense, those three words tell you how we feel about campers and camping.

At TrailRidge, learning comes from doing—your son's hands-on involvement in a range of activities and skills all designed to help him realize his fullest potential.

Moreover, since experience has shown us that personal growth comes from being given responsibility, we made the decision not to regiment our programs.

As a result, your son gets to plan his own program on a daily basis, rather than having everything scheduled for him. (Frankly, we think he's had enough of that during the previous school year.)

Naturally, if your son is too young to handle this or needs assistance, we're there to lend a helping hand. But we make certain he shares in the process. Because that's what learning is all about.

Pressure. Stress. Competition. No room or reason for these at TrailRidge.

In an age where winning has become the end-all, TrailRidge offers a proven alternative. For our boys don't compete against each other for medals, badges and cups. Rather, they work with each other toward achieving common goals.

For in the process of sharing, your son will come to learn the give and take of life. How to lead and when to follow.

And how to tell the difference between what works for him—and what doesn't. In short, the simple truths of day to day living.

Better he learn them now—than later.

You may not have heard of our name, but you probably know our neighbors.

Specifically, our two good friends: the Pisgah National Forest which lies all around us. And the Appalachian Trail that winds behind our property. TrailRidge is located in the community of Buladean, sixty highway miles northeast of Asheville, NC.

Our property lies at the base of Roan Mountain, one of the highest peaks in the eastern U.S. Our own elevations range from 3,200 to 4,000 feet. That means summer days that rarely exceed 75 degrees, and nights made for sleeping—something that comes easily to young bodies pleasantly tired out from a full day's activities.

If Daniel Boone were around, he'd approve of our programs.

With good reason, too.

You see, we believe in traditional camping. By that, we mean we're not a computer camp. Or a camp with emphasis upon tennis, chess or any other specific skill.

Sure, we teach a number of different skills and have a good time doing it. But more importantly, we teach your son positive values and judgment. We help him learn how to live with other youngsters—how to make decisions, how to share and how to care.

Equally important, how to gain respect for the wilderness. For by coming to understand and appreciate the simple, unadorned majesty of the forests and the principles of nature, he may leave us at summer's end with something that no computer can ever give him.

A surer sense of self.

At TrailRidge, we treat your son as a majority of one.

Let us explain.

To begin with, our sessions are limited to 50 boys—while overall, the ratio of staff to campers is 1 to 4.

Numbers tell only a part of our story, though. For we take special pains to assure that our staff is a well-rounded complement of youth and experience. Among them are college students, teachers and still others who have a genuine interest in working with youth in the unstressed environment of a mountain camp.

Our size is your reassurance that your son will not be lost in the crowd. And his reassurance that no matter the time or place, his voice will be heard.



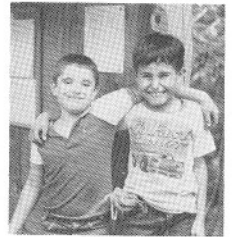
The First Day

If you've never lived in the mountains before, then getting here is half the fun. But there's a lot more in store for you at TrailRidge.

Meeting your cabin pals and getting to know your counselor. Lend a fellow camper a hand with his footlocker, then sit on the bunk and swap stories about home. (That's when you find out you're not the only one who didn't like your math teacher last year.)

Getting acquainted and making new friends is one of the best things life has to offer you.

And at Trailridge, it's also one of the easiest.



The Old Swimming Hole Brought Up to Date. Well—Kinda.



You see, at TrailRidge, we don't believe in being fancy. Of course, we've got everything you need to be comfortable, safe and warm.

Speaking of safe, you'll learn all about boat safety and life saving techniques. Who knows? They might come in handy someday. And even if you never have to use that knowledge, it's kinda nice to know it's there.

By the way, cue your folks: while you're swimming or boating, there's always a certified Red Cross Water

Safety Instructor in constant supervision. Okay?

TRAIL-
MOUNTAIN



Pull. Concentrate Aim. Whammo!

Okay, so maybe you don't want to grow up to be Robin Hood. That's okay. Because archery is only one of a dozen great things to learn and do. Some others are photography, volleyball and soccer, fishing, exploring expeditions and music.

Plus playing D&D with friends, reading a good book from the camp library or finding a quiet spot under a tree to write a letter home. (You know how parents get if you don't write. Except you don't have to tell them everything—like the trick you and Aaron played on that guy Herbie in number three.)

All right, guys, hit the trail!

This is real mountain country, and we teach you how to make the most of it.

That means day hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and lots of other exciting skills.

Maybe you'd like to come along on a three day backpacking trip into the wilderness, or, if you feel up to it, climb a 100 foot rock wall in Linville Gorge. (Okay, okay—maybe next year.)

We'll teach you survival skills, too. Things like first aid, map and compass, and how to use a knife properly and keep it in good condition. In fact, we'll even show you how to be a real trail cook.

Of course, we have one rule about that: whatever you cook, you have to eat. So it's best to pay close attention to your teacher.

BRIDGE CAMP
MOUNTAIN CAMP

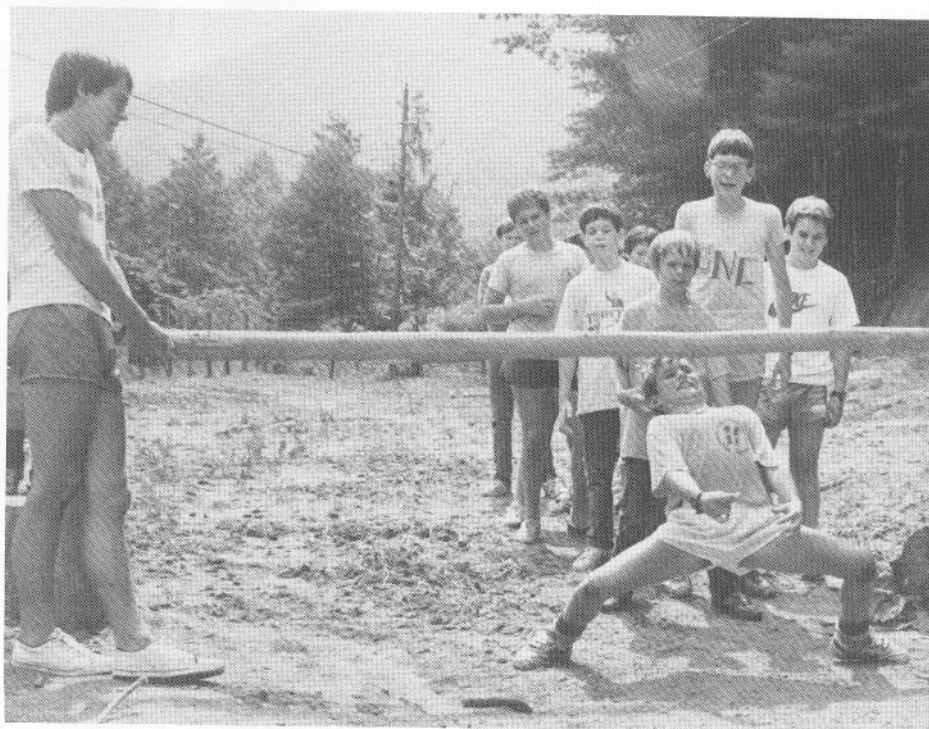




At TrailRidge, we bend over backward to make sure you have lots of fun.

That's why there are special activities happening all the time. Things like skit nights, talent shows, casino nights, campfires and gourmet dessert nights. Even a weekly movie. (Popcorn included.)

We also take special trips away from camp to places like Linville Falls, (wowie!), Sliding Rock, (whoopee!) and the Mast General Store. Yummy!



On the high road to fun and adventure

If you like cycling, you'll love TrailRidge. We've got some bicycles on hand, but if you'd like to, you're welcome to bring your 10 or 12 speed—especially if it's a good touring bike.

You'll have a chance to take day trips, plus some occasional overnights, and you'll learn some skills at TrailRidge that will come in handy later on. Such things as how to plan a trip, bike maintenance and repair, in addition to learning the do's and don't's of good, safe touring.



TrailRidge offers you all this—plus a whole lot more!

We forgot to mention things like woodcarving, all kinds of new games to play, and going to craft fairs, where you can see a real blacksmith at work. Or maybe you'd like to pick blackberries or mine for gems.

Probably the most precious thing you'll take home with you are the golden memories of a summer you'll treasure for a long, long time to come.

But you have to come here to see it. To feel it. To live it. To sum it up, being a TrailRidge camper is . . . well, it's . . . Listen, there's no way we can tell you what it's really like.

Come up and see for yourself. We guarantee you a summer you'll never forget.

Go for it!

Some straight talk about TrailRidge and camping

Mark and Bobbie Levin answer your questions . . .

You seem to place strong emphasis on the word "responsibility." Other than what you've said so far, how else do you put this into practice and how does it involve my son?

At TrailRidge, all campers participate in some of the chores that go into the day-to-day running of the camp.

To be more specific, each camper is expected to give about 3 to 4 hours a week to various tasks.

He may help set the tables in the dining hall, clean the bathhouse, straighten the library and so forth. We also do a few on-going community service projects in the community of Buladean, as well as service projects for the camp. For example, boys may help build trails at camp or assist in maintaining the Appalachian Trail.

Our son really needs help in reading. Do you offer tutoring services?

Yes. Remedial tutoring is available in most elementary subjects by experienced teachers, for up to ten hours a week.

Moreover, as far as possible, we'll try to schedule this so that it doesn't interfere with the camper's activity program. The charge for this tutoring is based upon a hourly rate that we think you will find to be fair.

I know from past experience that some "wilderness camps" turn out to be little more than a few tents in a clearing. Can you list the actual facilities that exist at TrailRidge?

Certainly. We have a dining hall (NC Certified Grade A), bathhouse with hot showers and flush johns; screened camper cabins attractively located in the forest, a barn, an office and camp store, an equipment cabin, an outdoor chapel, guest cabins, and the director's residence and a nature lab — "Mother's Place."

We would be remiss if we did not add that the camper cabins do not have electricity or running water, nor do we feel that they need this. Again, this is in keeping with the core concept of what a true wilderness camp should be. Also — within a day or two at the most, campers adapt to this with no inconvenience or difficulty whatsoever.

You mention an outdoor chapel, and this brings up the subject of religious services. I'd appreciate hearing your feelings in this regard.

TrailRidge is a private, independent camp where boys of all faiths are welcome and will feel comfortable. There is a short non-denominational chapel service on Sunday mornings that stresses the values of good judgement, friendship and the beauty of nature. Moreover, a blessing is said at each meal by volunteer campers and staff members.

If you believe as we do, and as the Bible tells us, that "the glory of God is in the creation," then please know that your son will never have a better chance to experience this glory and beauty first hand than while living here in the forest with us.

Since you are a wilderness camp, I'd like to know more about your provisions for health care in the event of illness.

Let me begin by saying that TrailRidge is a very safety-conscious camp, and prevention of possible problems in this regard is and has been our number one priority since the day we first started.

In the event of accident or illness, special arrangements have been made with neighboring doctors and hospitals to provide any medical care needed during the summer. Further, the camp has extensive first aid equipment and trained first aid personnel on the staff.

Finally, be assured that the personal hygiene of each camper will be closely supervised. And a point we touched upon above but one that deserves mentioning again: TrailRidge is proud of its Grade A rating from the North Carolina Department of Health.

A Word About Mark and Bobbie

Mark and Bobbie Levin are the owners and directors of TrailRidge. Between them, they have a quarter century of experience in organized camping.

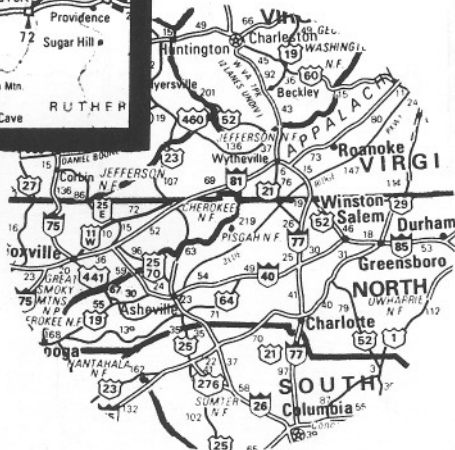
Mark is a photographer, an environmental educator-naturalist and an aspiring banjo player. He is also a Red Cross First Aid Instructor.

His wife, Bobbie, is an equestrian and takes care of all the animals at camp, including the feeding of the two legged species. She is also a certified lifeguard and plays the guitar for campfires. Mark and Bobbie make TrailRidge their home year-round.

Getting to TrailRidge

TrailRidge is located in the small community of Buladean—20 miles NE of Burnsville, NC, 25 miles SE of Johnson City, TN and about 60 miles NE of Asheville.

We gladly provide airport transportation from both Asheville and Johnson City.



Though the nearest store is 2 miles down the road, the nearest stoplight is 14 miles away. As you can see, life at TrailRidge does have much to recommend it—for youngsters and adults alike. Accordingly, we both invite and encourage a visit from you at any time of year.

If you are interested in having your son attend TrailRidge, please write:

Mark and Bobbie Levin
TrailRidge Mountain Camp
Rt. 2, Hughes Gap Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
704-688-3879

