Welcome to
Camp Country USA!
Henderson County Camp Trail

Henderson County in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina offers one of the largest concentrations of summer camps in the United States. The Henderson County Camp Trail Guide is designed to highlight the variety of overnight summer camps across the county and help parents find just the right one for their child. This guide is a joint effort between the camp industry in Henderson County and the Henderson County Tourism Development Authority (HCTDA).

The following link to the Camp page on the HCTDA’s website will take you to a listing and connect you specifically to each camp’s website:

www.visithendersonvillenc.org/business-categories/boys-and-girls-summer-camps

While on the Henderson County tourism website, check out the many kid-friendly activities to see and do in our area. A lot of parents line up a fun activity for the whole family before dropping the kids off at camp, or after picking them up. And there is so much to do in the Hendersonville region, parents are encouraged to stay a few days in our mountains for some “together time” while camp is in session. A complete overview is available at: www.VisitHendersonvilleNC.org
PACKING TIPS

The following is a generic list of typical items used by campers during their camp adventure. Each camp has its own extensive list that parents/guardians should follow when packing. Some items may or may not be allowed so check for specific items.

Toiletries:
- Bug repellant
- Sunscreen
- Deodorant
- Liquid soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Lip balm
- Baby powder
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Comb/Brush
- Hair ties/headbands
- Nail clippers
- Feminine products
- Contact lenses
- Glasses
- Cleaning solution
- Shaving Cream/Razor
- Tissue
- Antibacterial wipes
- Mesh bag for shower

Extras:
- Bandana/scarf
- Tennis shoes, water shoes, flip flops, and hiking boots
- Sleeping bag
- Fitted and flat sheet
- Pillow
- Towels/washcloth
- Laundry bag
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Flashlight & batteries
- Small clip-on fan
- Small backpack
- Stationery & envelopes
- Journal/paper with pen
- Sharpie
- Playing cards
- Swim goggles
- Camera
- Reusable water bottle
- Small amount of cash
- Any comfort from home
- Medication if needed

Clothing/linens:
- Swimsuit/Rash guard
- Sweatshirt
- Sweatpants
- Light jacket
- Raincoat/umbrella
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- Socks

Special Note:
Check the camp’s policy on the use of electronics by campers during session(s).
HISTORY OF SUMMER CAMPS
IN HENDERSON COUNTY

The earliest summer camps in America opened at the end of the 1800s. As child labor laws and compulsory education were legislated, play for children was advocated and social groups pushed for children to experience an actual childhood. Many urban parents wanted their children to attend school year-round and also experience the outdoors while learning about self-sufficiency.

As this societal change spread, the idea of summer camp became more attractive. As early as 1910, the Laurel Park Summer School and Camp for Boys, the first summer camp in Henderson County, opened, which was soon followed in 1912 by the first all-girls camp, Camp Minnehaha. At this point in time, Hendersonville was already known as "THE resort of the Mountains," according to the French Broad Hustler newspaper. So with its temperate climate, many lakes and rivers, open land and opportunity for a contained wilderness experience, Hendersonville was an obvious place for many groups to house summer camps.

The business boomed, and by 1921, the Asheville Citizen-Times called Hendersonville, "the center of camps in the South." In 1922, camps Greystone (for girls) and Mondarmin (for boys) opened in Tuxedo, both of which are still open and are the oldest camps operating continuously in the county.

In the early days, most camps drew their campers from the deep south, primarily from Louisiana and Florida, where parents wanted to send their kids away from the oppressive humidity of the summer. But these days, camps pull their campers from all around the globe.

As camps have come and gone throughout the years, the focus has evolved. The military style of camps in the 1910s has given way to what is offered today: a fun atmosphere where campers still develop maturity and self-sufficiency, while also gaining an appreciation for Mother Nature and learning social skills in device-free environments.

CAMP SELECTION

Pick the Right Camp For Your Child

The following points offer general guidelines to consider before actually starting the process of looking at specific camps for your child. There are a number of details that need to be factored in before making your choice.

1. Talk to your child about summer camp
   Have a conversation with your child. Are they interested in attending summer camp? Do you think he or she is ready? Is there a goal in mind? (ex: make new friends, learn to be more independent, learn a skill, etc.)

2. Day camp vs. overnight camp
   Day camp is a great option if staying local is what works best for your family. Kids are able to be social and still have a fun-filled, busy summer. This is also a great option if you and your child aren’t quite ready for the separation that sleepaway camp entails.

   For kids who seem to have no problems with sleepovers and being independent, sleepaway camp is the perfect option. Kids typically start overnight camps around 6 to 8 years old.

3. Local or distant?
   The closer to home the camp is, the more likely it is that you and your child will know staff and campers. In contrast, camps with a further commute probably have an environment quite different from home. Making this decision includes many factors such as wanting to challenge your child’s social strengths, adaptability to environment, convenience of transportation, etc.

4. What kind of camp is best for your child?
   These days, the variety of kids’ camps seem to be endless. There are more traditional summer camps with swimming, games, and other outdoor activities. On the flip side, there are specialty camps for kids interested in music, crafts, sports; you name it. This decision might be based on the balance you want between typical summer activities and specialized interests. It is possible to do both.

   There are boys camps, girls camps, and co-ed. Determining what kind of camp you want can help narrow down your options.

5. Do your research
   Go over prices, reviews and logistics. Contact the camp staff and get your questions answered. After all is said and done, you and your child can begin to prepare for a summer of fun!
CO-ED CAMPS

Blue Star Camps
179 Blue Star Way
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(828) 692-3591
www.bluestarnc.com
Jewish camp that is service-oriented. Traditional camp structure, but also has specialized sessions. Serves kosher meals.

Camp Bonclarken
500 Pine Dr.
Flat Rock, NC 28731
(828) 692-2223
www.bonclarken.org
Christian camp with traditional camp structure.

Camp Highlander
42 Dalton Rd.
Mills River, NC 28759
(828) 891-7721
www.camphighlander.com
Traditional camp structure, but with some free time scheduled in.

Camp Judaea
48 Camp Judaea Dr.
Hendersonville, NC 28792
(828) 685-8841
www.campjudaeas.com
Smaller-scale Jewish Camp with traditional camp structure. Open to people of all abilities. Serves kosher meals.

Camp Kanuga
130 Kanuga Chapel Rd.
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(828) 692-9136
www.kanuga.org
Traditional camp affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

Camp Pinewood
300 Orrs Camp Rd.,
Hendersonville, NC 28792
(828) 692-6239
www.camppinewood.net
Traditional camp structure.

Camp Pinnacle
1 Wolfe Lake Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(855) 378-1928
www.camppinnacle.com
Smaller-scale, non-denominational, traditional camp structure, with an emphasis on developing a love for the outdoors.

Camp Tekoa
211 Thomas Rd.,
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(828) 692-6516
www.camptekoa.org
Christian camp with a traditional camp structure.

Camp Ton-A-Wandah
300 W. Ton-A-Wandah Rd.,
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(828) 692-4251
www.camptonawandah.com
Non-denominational, Christian-based, with a traditional camp structure.

Green River Preserve
301 Green River Rd.,
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718
(828) 698-8828
www.greenriverpreserve.org
Intentionally small, non-competitive camp with a traditional camp structure. Low-impact, farm-to-table camp, with a focus on connection to nature.

GIRLS SUMMER CAMPS

Camp Glen Arden
1261 Cabin Creek Rd.,
Zirconia, NC 28790
(828) 692-6382
www.campglenarden.com
A traditionally structured camp, but with daily free time, rich in tradition.

Camp Green Cove
617 Green Cove Rd.,
Zirconia, NC 28790
(828) 692-6355
www.green covc.com
Non-competitive camp that is structured, but not regimented. Smaller cabin groups than other camps.

Camp Greystone
21 Camp Greystone Lane
Zirconia, NC 28790
(828) 693-3182
www.campgreystone.com
Christian camp that focuses on helping others.

Camp Mondamin
413 Mondamin Rd.,
Zirconia, NC 28790
(828) 697-0262
www.fallingcreek.com
Christian camp with a traditional camp structure, but also includes farming and other non-traditional activities. Is a Green camp.

Camp Wayfarer
1 Red Bird Song Rd.,
Flat Rock, NC 28731
(828) 696-9000
www.campwayfarer.com
Non-denominational, Christian-based, with a traditional camp structure.

Girls Summer Camps

Camp Bob
130 Kanuga Chapel Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(828) 692-9136
www.kanuga.org/camp-bob-kanuga
Christian camp that is free to children who could not otherwise afford summer camp through donations. Traditional camp structure.

Camp Joy
500 Pine Dr.,
Flat Rock, NC 28731
(864) 233-2491
www.campjoy.org
Christian camp for the mentally and physically challenged, has a 1:1 camper to counselor ratio.

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Christian camp with a traditional camp structure.

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Summer camp for children with autism, ADHD and other learning differences. Traditional camp structure.