

# look what i did last summer...

Dance camp. Surf camp. Horse-riding camp. Band camp. Meet the girls who spend their summers there and find out why they love it so much.

## What's a normal day of "boarding" school?

You get up around 7:30 a.m., get dressed, throw on sunscreen and pack your beach bag. Then you get on the Betty Bus, which is this cool pink bus and, when you honk the horn, it makes music or animal noises! We surf until lunch and afterwards we get a free hour when we lie out, get a tan and then surf more. We're pretty much at the beach the whole day.

## Why do you love surf camp?

It's totally kick-back! You don't have to worry about impressing boys—but there are still lots of really hot guys on the beach. And there are a couple of girls who I've stayed in touch with. We coordinate which week we're all going the next year. It's the highlight of my summer.

## Any advice for aspiring surfers?

You should try. I stood up on my board on the second day. The first time I caught a wave, I just thought, Wow! I hope I don't fall! Girls from all different experience levels can go to this camp—one summer there was an autistic girl who learned with us.

Teen readers get an exclusive 10 percent discount on the new Surf Diva swim and apparel collection. Go to [surfdiva.com](http://surfdiva.com) and enter "Teen Rocks" for this cool deal.

JUST FOR YOU

## rosy, 15

**camp:** Surf Diva Boarding School  
**ages:** 12-17  
**location:** La Jolla, California  
**web 411:** [surfdiva.com](http://surfdiva.com)

## rene, 14

**camp:** Pali Overnight Adventures  
Horseback Riding Camp  
**ages:** 10-16  
**location:** Pali Mountain, near Lake Arrowhead, California  
**web 411:** [paliadventures.com](http://paliadventures.com)

## What's it like at horseback riding camp?

We wake up around 7 a.m., have breakfast and then head off to the horses. We put all the gear on them, get the animals warmed up and go through the jumps or ride around. After lunch, we do our electives for the day. Most people pick swimming in the pond and jumping off the raft or climbing on the ropes course. We come back for dinner, shower time and then we have evening activities.

## What did you learn to do that you hadn't been able to before?

I learned how to jump. We were just kind of cantering around the ring and then they brought out the jumps. The instructors took us through it and then let us try. It's not that scary.

## How do they divide up the groups?

Beginners start on trail rides, just to get used to the idea of being on a horse. The intermediates do a mix of trail rides and staying in the ring. The advanced kids stay in the ring and learn things like jumping.

## Tell us your most memorable camp story.

I think the evening activities, like the talent show. Last year our cabin sang "Livin' on a Prayer." One of the counselors played Bon Jovi all the time, so we were like, "Let's do one of those songs!" Some of the other campers thought we were a bit insane because they didn't know what we were singing, but we had a lot of fun.



## lauren, 14

**camp:** Power Chord Academy's Music Camp  
**ages:** 12-18  
**location:** San Diego, California, St. Louis, Missouri, and New York, New York  
**web 411:** [powerchordacademy.com](http://powerchordacademy.com)

## pia, 15

**camp:** Brant Lake Dance Centre  
**ages:** tk 12-18  
**location:** Brant Lake, New York  
**web 411:** [blcdance.com](http://blcdance.com)

## What happens during a usual day?

I take ballet, tap, modern and jazz classes. You usually have a free time in the morning and another in the afternoon. After lunch, there are two classes and a waterfront time at the really beautiful lake where there's waterskiing, kneeboarding and canoeing. At night, we'll have socials with the boys camp or bonding games. Plus, every Thursday is trip day. We go to the ballet, an amusement park or do different fun things. We went whitewater rafting last year, which was probably my favorite.

## What are your instructors and counselors like? Are they cool?

They don't even seem like counselors! They become like your older sisters. I still IM and call them all the time. The dance teachers are great because they're really open to helping you if you need it and discussing what level you should be in.

## Take us through a typical day.

We have one or two seminars every day when we learn about different aspects of the music industry, like touring and recording. It's really helpful. Then we have five jam sessions for about 1 or 2 hours [each] when we play with our band and work on our songs. Sometimes we have free time at the end of the night. One day during the week a real band comes in to play and afterwards we can ask them questions. Last year it was Rise Against.

## How is your camp different from others?

If you really like rock, it's the best camp. My favorite part was having the concerts at the end of the week—we play one on Friday and another on Saturday. For the first one, you get to play a song with anybody from camp, it can be a cover or something original. On Saturday, they invite parents to hear you perform.

## What about the other campers?

They're all really nice. We make lots of friends and get phone numbers and e-mails.

## Do you have an "At band camp..." story?

The first time my friends and I went, we played a song called "Orange Julius." Everybody else was singing about love stories and we sang about a drink, so everyone knows us by that song. Whenever we go back now, people are like, "Hey, Orange Julius is here!" Last summer, another band played our song during the concert as a surprise.

## What are the other campers like?

Before my first year, I was nervous they'd be cliquey, but they weren't. I love that the older girls and younger girls really become friends. You can always hang out with everyone.

## Tell us about your most memorable or craziest camp story.

Every year the oldest girls throw a water fight, but you don't know when it's going to happen. My first year it was done so perfectly! We were at the waterfront and nobody really noticed the oldest girls were gone. When we got back up to camp, Kirstin, our director, and an older girl were yelling at each other. Then suddenly, from all directions, the older girls started throwing water at us. We had no idea it was coming, but it was so much fun!

