

# High Rocks Happenings



April 2013



## Appalachian Studies

A press release written by High Rocks girls



Three High Rocks girls took a trip to Boone, North Carolina with High Rocks Educational Corporation to the Appalachian Studies Association's annual conference the weekend of March 22-24, 2013.

The girls were able to attend a number of educational panels during the conference. "I went to a panel called 'Gendered Appalachia,' which discussed women's roles in Appalachia over the years," said Madi Persinger, a Greenbrier East High School freshman. "I liked the panel because it informed me of my history and role in my hometown."

Karessa McClung, a Greenbrier East High School senior, was interested in the films about political activists Anne Braden and Mother Jones. "The Appalshop film about [Braden] inspired me, and the history film about Mother Jones gave me an empowering background lesson," said McClung.

Pocahontas County High School freshman Caitlin Barnes described the conference as being an opportunity for her to learn about the issues that affect her region. "I learned about issues that affect our region," said Barnes. "I feel I can make more sensible opinions about these issues now."

In addition to attending panels, the girls were able to present on a panel about High Rocks and innovative education. "Having High Rocks girls on the panel where we talked about the High Rocks teaching model was so important," said High Rocks VISTA Megan Moriarty. "They are proof that the model is empowering young women and helping them become young leaders."

"The High Rocks girls were a wonderful addition to the conversation and offered their input as to how young leaders can be present and successful at next year's conference," said Tonya Purdy, a High Rocks Staff Member.

The High Rocks girls agree that they would attend next year's Appalachian Studies Conference. They are interested in making this an annual High Rocks trip.

## Making High Rocks Happen

High Rocks programs are provided through grants, private donors, and the support of the community we serve. We do not charge for our camps or year-long programs. The funding we receive supports our goal of making our communities stronger, richer, more vibrant places to work and live. Donations can be sent to: High Rocks Educational Corporation, HC 64 Box 438, Hillsboro, WV 24946. We also welcome help from those who would like to donate their time as volunteers. Contact us at 304-653-4891 to take part in making our programs possible.

## Women's Day



Twelve High Rocks girls traveled to Charleston, WV to participate in Women's Day at the Legislature on March 5th. The group was able to meet Tara Martinez, the Director of the West Virginia Women's Commission. Martinez was kind enough to organize the morning's events, which included High Rocks being recognized on the House floor with the other members of the WV Women's Commission, time to explore lobby day, and a chance for girls to speak with legislators at the State House. Later in the day, the girls participated in youth-specific workshops on subjects like dating violence and substance abuse. Sarah Riley was invited to speak on a panel at the end of the day, and many of the girls were able to sit in on the discussion. During the trip, they had a small glimpse into the inner workings of the West Virginia Legislature, offering them a new perspective on many of the issues that they face as young women in the region. Through this, they learned how influential their voices can be, and that they have the power to be the change they wish to see in the world.



## Upcoming Events

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### **West Virginia University Trip**, April 5-6, *Morgantown WV*

This college trip to West Virginia University will provide High Rocks girls with the chance to explore the school and what it has to offer, gaining information and insight on college life, academics, and the application process. They will also participate in a service event while they are in Morgantown. Contact Marlyn at [marlyn@highrocks.org](mailto:marlyn@highrocks.org) for more information.

### **Friday Night Flick: Matewan**, April 12, *Richwood WV*

The film dramatizes the events of the Battle of Matewan, a coal miners' strike in 1920 in Matewan, a small town in the hills of West Virginia. The showing will begin at 5pm and is open to the public. The movie will be followed by discussions about the themes and issues present in the film. Snacks and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Yvette at [yvette@highrocks.org](mailto:yvette@highrocks.org).

### **Free Creative Writing Class in Lewisburg**, April 20, *Lewisburg WV*

A free creative writing class will take place from 11am – 2pm on Saturday, April 20th, at the Greenbrier Public Library in Lewisburg, WV. Participants of all ages and experience levels are invited to learn new things and gain inspiration from readings, group discussions, and time to begin writing their own stories using various creative writing techniques with the help of guest writer Laura Usselman. Space is limited for this class, so sign up early. To register, contact Megan at [megan@highrocks.org](mailto:megan@highrocks.org).

### **Ramp Festival**, April 20, *Richwood WV*

The 75th Annual Ramp Festival will be held at Richwood High School from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. The festival will involve food, music, cloggers and an arts & crafts show. High Rocks AmeriCorps members will be participating in community service activities at the event. For more information, contact Yvette at [yvette@highrocks.org](mailto:yvette@highrocks.org).

### **Friday Night Flick: The Hunger Games**, April 26, *Richwood WV*

Katniss Everdeen, a teenage girl from District 12 (located in the coal-rich region that was formerly known as Appalachia), voluntarily takes her younger sister's place in the Hunger Games, a televised fight to the death in which two teens from each of the twelve Districts of Panem (formerly North America) are chosen at random to compete. The showing will begin at 5pm and is open to the public. The movie will be followed by discussions about the themes and issues present in the film. Snacks and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Yvette at [yvette@highrocks.org](mailto:yvette@highrocks.org).

### **Free Creative Writing Class in Richwood**, May 18, *Richwood WV*

A free creative writing class will take place at the Richwood Public Library in Richwood, WV. Writers of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to attend. To register, contact Megan at [megan@highrocks.org](mailto:megan@highrocks.org).

### **Free Creative Writing Class in Marlinton**, May 25, *Marlinton WV*

A free creative writing class will take place at the McClintic Library in Marlinton, WV. Writers of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to attend. To register, contact Megan at [megan@highrocks.org](mailto:megan@highrocks.org).

### **New Beginnings Camp**, June 16 – June 29, *High Rocks Campground*

New Beginnings Camp has remained the doorway for most girls to enter the High Rocks program. It also includes leadership roles for older girls, college interns, and draws staff from a network of professionals from around the country. For two weeks, adventurous and creative girls will take classes in horsemanship, math, science, and creative expressions. They will continuously be encouraged to seek out new experiences, challenge themselves, and explore new ideas. They will grow personally, emotionally and academically and make friends for a lifetime.

### **Camp Steele**, July 17 – August 1, *High Rocks Campground*

Camp Steele is our camp for older High Rocks girls where each girl chooses one area of focus for the entire camp. This year's tracks are food and nutrition literacy, media production, history of education, construction, and Appalachian identity and print-making. The tracks are academically rigorous and challenge the girls to build strong study skills and time management skills that they can carry into their personal and professional lives.

### **Alum Days During Camp**, June 23 and July 19-21

For more information, contact Courtney at [courtney@highrocks.org](mailto:courtney@highrocks.org).

