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CARROLL COUNTY YMCA | CAMP HUCKINS

camphuckins.org

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CARROLL COUNTY YMCA CAMP HUCKINS EMBARKING ON NATIONAL SEARCH FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

***New leader will transition in 2020 prior to girls' summer camp season,
succeeding current Executive Director Jody Skelton, who will retire after
50 summers at camp***

FREEDOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE – October 17 – Carroll County YMCA Camp Huckins has embarked on a national search for a new executive director to succeed Jody Hutchinson Skelton, who has announced plans to retire in 2020. The next leader will oversee Camp Huckins, a nationally recognized girls' residential summer camp on Lake Ossipee, and other initiatives throughout the year including YMCA programs for family and youth in the region. This full-time position will be based in Freedom, located in the heart of Carroll County, an area that stretches from New Hampshire's Lakes Region to the White Mountains.

Founded in 1928, [Camp Huckins](http://camp.huckins.org) originally offered a month session for girls and a month session for boys. In response to the growing demand for girls camping, Huckins became all girls in 1966. Today, nearly 1,400 girls, ages 8-16, attend one of four two-week camping sessions. Huckins also offers two Family Camp sessions and other programs with over 870 participants annually. During the peak summer season, its staff grows to 130 domestic and international employees, most of whom have an existing connection to camp, either as a former camper or returning staff member.

"When I first came to Huckins as an 8-year old camper, I fell in love with this special place and that feeling only grew in the 49 summers that followed," **said Jody Skelton.** "It has been an honor to support our campers as they establish independence and form lifelong friendships. I am especially proud that we continue to 'grow' our own leaders, by retaining and developing our most promising campers into counselors and staff. I am deeply committed to Camp Huckins' present, past, and future, and enthusiastic about finding an outstanding new leader who will leave a lasting imprint on the shores of Ossipee."

Skelton has served as executive director since 2004, after holding numerous staff and leadership roles over the course of her career. Under her leadership, Camp Huckins has flourished with strategic capital programs including the construction of a leadership division for older campers and counselors in training. Skelton has also been a pillar in Carroll County, serving on local boards including the Pequawket Foundation and the Eastern Slope Ski School, and delivering YMCA programs like Youth and Government at Carroll County's schools.

"Carroll County YMCA Camp Huckins is a thriving organization in large part because we keep the camper and program participant at the center of everything we do, and we are indebted to Jody Skelton for her 15 years as executive director and her five decades at camp, inspiring generation after generation with her energy and passion for empowering girls and young women," **said Board Chair Eleni Eliades.** "As we search for our next leader, we look forward to partnering with Jody and the team on a seamless transition that respects our heritage and traditions, while setting the stage for an exciting next chapter."

The board of directors established a search committee, chaired by camp alumna and parent Kristen Parthe Brown, who is a senior talent acquisition executive at Kronos, a global workforce solutions company, and comprised of board members, alumni, former staff, and parents. The committee retained [Conley Search Group](#) to manage the search operations.

"As we embark on this important leadership transition, we are mindful of Carroll County YMCA Camp Huckins' unique place in the girls' residential camping space, its talented team and the opportunities to advance the organization," **said Search Committee Chair Kristen Parthe Brown.** "Our approach to the search has been inclusive, tapping into perspectives from our diverse community, including alumni, current and former staff, campers and their families, the local community, and Jody. As we engage with prospective candidates, both internal and external, we are confident we will identify a leader who is passionate about the mission, as well as a skilled manager with a creative business mind to lead this beloved institution."

Candidate nominations will be accepted through October 31. Beginning in November, the committee will conduct interviews with candidates ready to move forward in the process, with the goal of selecting a new executive director by spring 2020, enabling the opportunity to work closely alongside Skelton and the staff in preparation for the summer camping season.

Visit camphuckins.org/executive-director-search/ to learn more about the search, view the job description, and nominate candidates before October 31.

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