

# FULL DISCLOSURE !!!

## Questions Answered about the GottaBeCreative Summer Program ~ Virginia!

### What is GottaBeCreative?

GottaBeCreative is a six day, five-night creativity program! GottaBeCreative provides a fast-paced adventure in problem solving. We fill our participants' days with hands-on learning and challenging activities offering plenty of mental muscle-stretching games and zany fun guaranteed to get their creative juices flowing.



### Where is GottaBeCreative?

In the summer of 2012, the GottaBeCreative Summer Program will be hosted by the Blue Ridge School, St. George, VA in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains! Blue Ridge School is located on 300 acres of woodlands and fields allowing GBC kids plenty of space to expand their creativity!

### Who Runs GottaBeCreative?

The director and originator of GottaBeCreative is Jill Schoonmaker. Jill (aka Queen Jill) holds a Master Degree in Education and has been involved in creative problem solving programs for over 25 years: as a teacher of gifted and talented youth, as the state director of Odyssey of the Mind and then as affiliate director of Destination ImagiNation in New Hampshire. Jill started running creativity day camps over 20 years ago and for the last eleven years has been the camp director of the overnight camp, Gotalikachallenge in NH. Summer programs have always been her passion!

### What is the GBC philosophy?

The GBC program focuses on helping each participant to develop his or her own creative potential. The ultimate goal is to empower our participants to approach life's challenges with confidence. We provide our GottaKids with the opportunity to hone their thinking skills, leadership skills, problem solving abilities, teamwork and they do the rest!

In order to foster our participant's creativity, GottaBeCreative creates a safe, structured, caring and supportive environment. GottaKids are encouraged to share their talents, to take risks, to recognize their similarities and differences, to be inclusive and to have FUN! In this idyllic place, our GottaKids often form long lasting friendships with their dorm and team mates

### What about the GottaKids?

Approximately 60 participants attend each session. GBC accepts students entering grades 5 through 9 who like to have FUN! No prior experience in creative problem solving programs is necessary, but participants should have an enthusiasm for group activities, curiosity, a sense of humor, and enjoy a challenge!

GottaKids are expected to treat one another with respect, approach activities with an open mind, and to contribute in a positive way to the GottaBeCreative experience.

### What about the Staff?

Gotta BeCreative is proud of our high-energy staff who is dedicated to making each child's experience thoroughly rewarding. The staff is comprised of adults, college-aged students and a few high school upper classmen. Most adult staff has a degree in education and/or an extensive background in creative problem solving. Our junior staff members have had lots of experience as team members and are well skilled in creative problem solving, too.

### What about meals?

Our GottaKids eat together in a central dining hall; they sit with their dorm at breakfast and dinner and with their team at lunchtime. Blue Ridge School meals are self-serve, cafeteria-style with a wide selection of foods. Blue Ridge School provides healthy food choices and plenty of fruits and vegetables! Participants with special dietary needs can be easily accommodated by the knowledgeable cafeteria staff at Blue Ridge. Please contact us with any and all questions regarding dietary or medical needs.

### What happens during the day?

Each morning, GottaKids work in teams of 10 with two staff members to create a solution to the week's Gotta-Problem as well as participate in shorter, out of the ordinary problem-solving activities that contribute to our overall atmosphere of zany fun! Every afternoon, participants are given a choice of activities – some sports, a splash in the pool, an improv workshop or one of many coach's specialties – a potpourri of stage craft techniques, arts and crafts, unusual projects and other offerings. Evening activities range from campfires to talent shows to skits and group challenges. Kids at GBC are very busy!

More questions about GottaBeCreative? Contact Jill ~ (603) 868-1797 or email -- [summer.creativity@gmail.com](mailto:summer.creativity@gmail.com)