

Testimonials Crew

My son joined Skyline Crew as a freshman during its inaugural season and he enjoyed his three years with the team. The sport and the excellent coaching exposed him to the value of teamwork and hard work. What most parents of team members find out is that there are a wide variety of the volunteer opportunities that crew provides that either match up with your skills or can be used as an opportunity to develop new skills - feeding the hungry mouths, coordinating transportation, assisting at the races, and helping build and maintain the facilities and equipment. Just like members of the crew team the parents volunteers benefit from teamwork and hard work. There is also the camaraderie that comes with helping out, and with a sport that is so teamwork oriented, this has helped me reach out and make connections and bonds with extraordinary people. Besides, who can pass up spending weekends near the water.

Mark TenBroek

We're so glad to have our son involved in crew! As a sport itself, it is a great choice. It involves cardiovascular work, strength, and flexibility, making it an excellent lifelong form of exercise. Crew has all the benefits of a healthy workout schedule without the risk of concussions. As a person who has had 6 concussions I know the life long negative effects of them. I know our son is with good kids and great coaches who are looking out for each other's well being. The coaches are dynamic and skilled and develop a true sense of team. Families are highly involved through regatta support and other activities, so they get to connect with each other and their student athletes on a deeper level. Plus, what beats watching your child in a regatta on a beautiful day!

Jenine and Jeff Grover

I do crew because I love being on a team where everyone has a goal, and everyone works so hard to beat that goal. We have an amazing coaching staff who genuinely care about their athletes, and the athletes care greatly for each other! We can have fun but we can also get down to business when we need to. Crew is such a different sport from the "usual" running/ball sports, and it's fun to stand out! I feel that I am appreciated and I'm there to work hard for myself, and the team! I love to be at practice, and I look forward to going everyday. I love this team and the sport!

Julia Showich

To many, the continuous repetition of taking strokes seems tedious and boring. For me and many other rowers, however, we find that this repetitive action symbolizes more than pushing a boat through a stretch of water. In essence, the great coaches at Skyline High School emphasize the idea of excellence as our foundation of work ethic, as Kit repeatedly states "We are what we repeatedly do therefore excellence is not an act but a habit." Like many sports, crew is based on the philosophy that if you work hard you will be rewarded. This rigorous sport not only works your body physically but also mentally which challenges rowers on many different levels. As a whole, I have no regrets about both mine and my parent's decision to join the Skyline crew team.

Persevering is a lesson learned from a stroke that also emphasized working hard in my daily lifestyle. A stroke is more than gliding up to the catch, prying off your legs, and pacing yourself up to the finish. A stroke is the accumulation of the time, effort, and dedication you put in at practice to achieve a powerful push that will move the boat forward. Likewise, you see this in life. In life you work hard in school, create valuable connections, make lifelong friends, and acquire valuable pieces of knowledge that will create a stable and healthy future. At practice, the coaches strive to have rowers push their limits. As a team we have come to realize that everything we do is "mind over matter". A simplistic "no" is never the correct answer. We are placed in situations that make us realize that we need to complete the task at hand and then prepare for the next one. The idea of pushing our limits to prove that we can do anything is a valuable lesson that our society seems to forget about. As a rower, I have learned that pushing yourself to your full potential everyday is very important. In life I see the same thing, sometimes I think I'll remember what the teacher says and not take notes. But when the test comes, I am at a complete loss. Crew has reminded me that every day I need to work hard to reach my goals.

Along with working hard every day, I have had the chance to enjoy the social aspect of crew which includes connecting and creating lifelong friendships with rowers, coxswains, and coaches. The Skyline Crew team is made up of an eclectic group of high school students. Our team brings together a wide range of ages, interests, and groups of students that work and bond together. If I did not join crew, I would have never been able to interact with high school students of other ages, groups, and interests who, at the same time, have become my best and lifelong friends.

As a whole, I have no regrets about participating in crew. I am constantly reminded that I need to work hard every day to accomplish my goals, I have made lifelong friends, and I enjoy rowing on a regal stretch of water and passing many other prestigious crew teams. As a rower I have to thank the coaches for their endless love and perseverance. Without them our team would not be what it is today. I also appreciate all the parents' constant help at regattas. Crew is more than a simple eloquent stroke. In many ways crew is defined by the experience one receives from making friends, working hard, and completing a goal. With the friends I have made and the lessons I have learned crew is more than a sport, it has become an integral part of my life.

James Bee

Being a part of the Skyline Crew family means a lot of things. For our son, we saw a transformation from a shy, scrawny kid to a fit, Captain in a leadership role. He learned tangible things like boat maintenance and rigging, dock management, nutritional support. He learned that he could increase his speed through technique without having to be tall and 180 pounds. Most importantly though, he learned the intangible things like camaraderie, and depending on your teammates - that sometimes it's more important to do something for the team or your boat than to do something for yourself. We're proud to see him maturing into a young man who enjoys teaching and helping others learn about his passion.

As parents, we learned how much grassroots support is needed to make our team as great as it is. From feeding and travel management to fundraising, we know that we can find other parents who are willing to give their time and energy to a great high school experience. We highly recommend Skyline Crew for both the athletes and their families.

Keli Smith

As a parent you want your children to be exposed to new experiences, and to learn additional life skills through school and after school activities. The transition from Middle School to High School is one of those critical points in life where your child begins to learn how to manage their time, interact with new groups of people, and to begin to focus on what life will bring at the next level. Our son decided to join the Skyline Crew team as an incoming freshman, despite the fact he had never experienced rowing and didn't know anyone on the team. We as parents had some reservation due to the lack of awareness the coaches and program. We immediately became comfortable with the coaching staff when we saw the organization of the practices, their commitment to academics, and the work ethic that they instilled in the team. We immediately saw our son transition from teenager to a focused, organized, mature young man. I give a ton of credit for our son's successful transition to High School to the values and work ethic that were instilled by Kit, and the entire Skyline Crew program. In our opinion the combination of our child's personal development, the fun environment instilled by the coaches, and the success the program has earned on the water has made the Skyline Crew Program the most positive experience our family has had with any of our children in school/sports!

Tim Force