

Stone Mountain Adventures

Camper & Staff Reflections on Session 1, Summer 2012



A Note from the Camp Directors:

Greetings from camp to everyone in our Stone Mountain Adventures (SMA) family. It is hard to believe that another summer session has come and gone so fast. It seems like only yesterday we were dusting off the windsurfers and sailboats and now first session and the summer of 2012 is already in the history books. The rest of the summer at SMA was great, but we often found ourselves playing “remember that time in 1st Session... that was awesome!” during our down time.



To the campers, we miss each one of you so much, and it's just not the same without you around. We hope you have recovered from the craziness and have had an awesome end to your summer. How has the first month of school been?

Parents, thank you so much for sending your son or daughter to Stone Mountain Adventures for the summer. Each member of the incredible group that was SMA 1, 2012 had fantastic qualities and helped to make the group so special. Some groups come together at the end better than others, and 1st Session, 2012 received star status!

To that end, on the last full day of the session we asked each member of our group to take a few moments and reflect about his or her experience at Stone Mountain Adventures this summer. Enclosed you will find these entries. You also will find a brief description of many of the activities that we did at camp this summer written by our stellar staff.

What an incredible summer! We will be sending a CD slideshow in October. As we were going over the photos we kept smiling; so many silly costumes, 'go fast' activities, and quality friendships. What an incredible summer!

We hope you enjoy these reflections as much as we have.

Best wishes on the school year ahead,

Jud, Anne, Wyatt, Molly, Pam, Biff, Comet, Sula, Frisbee, the Cats, the Horses, the Rabbits & other random farm animals!

Camper Reflections on their experiences at Stone Mountain Adventures Session 1, 2012

Ben Garwood: Davie, FL

What makes this camp different then so many other sleep away camps, is that the freedom of choosing your activity each day. Whatever you do is always fantastic. Even getting a snack and walking around the lake is always an adventure. I have also learned so much from the different activities. It was my first time rock climbing, wakeboarding, and whitewater rafting. I learned a lot about team work with each activity. I really glad I got to be in these new and exciting activities.

Max Mines:

Wyndmoor, PA

This year, SMA was a very different experience. As one of the few 3rd year campers, I was looked upon as one of the kids with more experience. This was very different from my previous years here where I was just a little kid. This seniority provided me a more complex experience at SMA, making it



my best summer yet. In the beginning of the session, I was nervous. Most of the campers were new and so I was sure it wouldn't come anywhere close to the excitement of last year. By the end of the first week, however, I learned that both the campers and the counselors this year were amazing. I had one of the best summers of my life this year and I look forward to next session.

David Geron-Neubauer: Wyncote, PA

This year at SMA, just like my previous 3 years, has been one of the best times in my life. Going to Hershey Park and the Youghiogheny River are only very small events compared to how much fun and excitement the regular day life contains. I have made so many friends that I will remember for my whole life. I will never forget my experiences like swinging on the swing talking to my

friends or riding in the van getting psyched for the activity. One thing that I love doing and I look forward to each year is giving out free lemonade to random people for the benefit of Alex's Lemonade Fund. I love how the counselors encourage you but not hassle. Every day at SMA is another experience. Time does not factor in at SMA, one can have the amount of fun like it has been three weeks, and wake up and it has only been three days.

Jeremy DeYoung: Ridgewood, NJ

One thing that I enjoyed about camp was mountain biking, I like this because it was a good work out. It was great to be able to challenge myself in many of the activities. Rock climbing, wakeboarding, mountain biking and whitewater rafting were all activities that challenged me. Being able to go out swimming when the weather was really warm was refreshing too. I met so many people and being able to do the activities with my friends was great.

Matt Lebowitz: Philadelphia, PA

This session was unique in that I enjoyed the increased responsibility of being a fourth year camper among mainly new campers. Wake master program was, as always, a blast. I loved being able to teach people wake boarding techniques. Rafting in the double ducky was an incredible rush. As much as I am looking forward to 2nd session, I will miss and keep in touch with all of the great friends I have made.



Sacha Cluis: Marseille, France

These three weeks was very cool. I loved the activities. I was able to go rock climbing, whitewater rafting, wakeboarding, and much more. The campers were very funny. It was great meeting so many people this session. Whitewater rafting was a great experience and I loved the chance to go. I will miss SMA but I will remember all the friends I made. I love ice cream!

Jacob David: Lafayette Hill, PA

This year was my second at SMA. I enjoyed it even more than last year. Each session, the experience is unique. Though activities are similar, all the kids, even returners, are different. In Tussey, this session, all of the kids were returners, and we all got along very well. There were many new boys and girls who I was able to meet and befriend. I ran the firecracker 4K in State College once more. I did so much better. That morning, I got to know Justin, Haley, Carla, and Kyle a lot more. Also, there were plenty of pranks this summer. Between chairs and Axe bombs, Tussey got into some trouble. This year, I really impressed myself with rock climbing. I climbed "The Book" and "Shark's Tooth." They both were very challenging, but kissing the carabineers was such an accomplishment. I also reached outside my comfort zone and tried waterskiing. After a few times, I got up. Now I'm slightly decent. I have an awesome time at SMA every year. There is so much I do here that I can't at home. Hopefully, my sister can come next year as well and experience SMA.

Jin Yu Hirsch: Larchmont, NJ

This session I was part of the horse master program. I loved horse masters because I got to work with horses all morning. We got to do so many different things with Pam and Carolyn. I also loved wakeboarding and rugby. Those are just a few activities I took part in this session. The talent show was a fun evening activity. During the session everyone got a secrete friend, I really enjoyed doing small things for someone else without them knowing. Hershey Park was soooooo much fun. I loved going on the rollercoaster, there are so many there. We also brought home a lot of chocolate. I had a great time at SMA and got to make so many friends.

Julien Freret: Boulogne-Billancourt, France

These three weeks at SMA were just awesome and it's a very good experience for me; French and at a summer camp in America. I enjoyed everything, the wake master program is so cool and I really liked all the activities; climbing, canoeing, hiking, swimming, and all the different overnights. It's very good for me to meet new people and speak English with everybody! Moreover, it's a very good thing to do different community services like Alex's Lemonade or the Bike Trail where I had a lot of fun. This summer camp is great and I found it cool to have evening activities after all the sports we did during the day. I loves everything; disco roller skating, ice cream,



Talent Show, Dance, and of course....Jud Games!!! ☺ With this camp, I could try sports I've never done before and it was very cool...Rafting, rock climbing! Thank you so much for this first session which I loved. It had awesome campers and counselor!

Zoe Bataillard: Marseille, France

This summer with you was awesome! I loved rock climbing with Nate and Beth, wake boarding overnight with Alex and Sarah (and Craplegate of course). For my first time in this camp I met so many fun and cool people, with who I've laughed a lot. I met so many great people from the campers to the staff. My favorite all camp activity was Hershey Park and Disco Roller Skating. See you soon. xoxoxo

Mason Eiss: Weston, FL

I enjoyed this summer. I met many new people and experiences many new things. The camp had so many activities; I got a chance to experience all of them. I was also part of the horse master program. I rode horses, learned to clean through crew duty. I learned how to work as a team to get things done whether it was through activities or chores. I enjoyed all camp day because I got to wear a dress an organize skits. We used the variety of Bunk Junk for these activities. It was a great time.

Phil Winicov:

Devon, PA

This year at SMA has been great, most likely my last year, this was definitely one of the best. I feel that every year gets better; the people this year were awesome! The staff was definitely one of the best. Always full of energy and enthusiasm, the staff made the activities fun. Getting to see familiar faces and meeting new ones also made this year great. Although I did not get to talk to everyone and the



ones I did meet I got to know very well. Overall, my experience at SMA this year was amazing and I will always remember it. Heather is the most amazing person, our water fights made my day. Alex on the boat was so much fun chilling all day. This year at SMA was awesome!

Kim Escobar

"Penguin":

Arlington, VA

My time here was amazing and it was the best summer I ever had. Everything I did was new, challenging and amazing. I went rock climbing for the first time, and it was great being up so high. Biking was challenging and even though I flipped over my bike, it was awesome. Swimming in general was fun and the people dunking were a high point. Overnights were incredible and super fun; especially the awesome mountain pies. Wake/Knee boarding was epic even though I am awful at



wake boarding. I was really excited with the bunnies and loved taking care of them. Art studio was really chill and tie dye was fun and messy. Even though I didn't really like basketball, knockout was fun. All the sports like soccer, rugby, Frisbee and especially Gaga were a blast. The fourth of July was awesome and the fireworks were cool. Secret buddies was a huge highlight, it was fun trying

to figure my buddy was fun. I enjoyed getting gifts for my buddy too. All evening activities were different but fun. Ice cream was fun and delicious. The dance was crazy along with the talent show. All the activities were fun but my favorite two were Hershey Park and whitewater rafting. Hershey Park was fun and I got over my fear of Fahrenheit. Whitewater rafting was my first time ever and I fell/ was pushed out of the raft many times. Overall the best part of the camp was just all the people and awesome friends here. This was the best camp I've ever been to and I want to come back!

Emma Bachelerie: Dubai, UAE

This is my first year at SMA and I had a great experience at the camp. I met a lot of people and I hope I'll

come back next year to see everyone again. I loved every activity at this camp especially wake boarding, climbing, and horse riding. Every day was a special time of my life. The whitewater rafting was an awesome day! I liked every evening activity including all



the games, the ice creams, the talent show, disco skating and every dance party in the barn!!! The secret friend was a great idea and I enjoyed giving those gifts, hugs, and high fives. I love this camp! Good Bye SMA, counselors, campers, and thanks Jud for everything!

Kyle Griffin: Levittown, PA

SMA is one of the best experiences of my life because I have been here for three years and it has been the greatest time ever. I have learned about so many people this year. I knew some faces this year but a lot of the campers and staff were new. It was great getting to know everyone. I had so much fun going in a single ducky down the Yough for whitewater rafting. Another thing that was great was the three day canoeing overnight. I had a great time making many new friends this year as well as getting to know all the new counselors. I had a great session at SMA!

Hadley Couch: Weston, FL

As the years keep going, camp here at SMA keep getting better. New kids come in making the camp even more unique. From horse masters to riding the wake, I love this camp more each year. For my goals this session, I conquered the fear of injury and facefulls of water. I attempted

wakeboarding, which was eventful. Rock climbing was fun and I learned how to belay. Ale's Lemonade stand was an amazing event; it was crazy to watch Zoe go all day without a break to raise money for a good cause. Even in the bunks, the girls are amazing. From gossip to heart warming advice, they are there for me. I love SMA and can't wait for more fun experiences in my next two or three years at this wonderful place.

Rachel Lipkin: Weston, MA

This summer I pushed myself out of my comfort zone by trying new things and surprising myself in some of the activities that I was able to succeed in. I have made so many new friends here and the past three weeks have gone by so quickly but every second of it I enjoyed and had fun growing as a person. The activities challenged me and pushed me beyond what I thought I was capable of. The activities helped me grow as a person but also helped me become even closer to the counselors and campers. I had a blast at SMA!

**Haley DeGraff:
Northbrook, IL**

This summer was amazing! I had so much fun. I wish I could have stayed for 2nd session. I really enjoyed all the activities that were offered; from wakeboarding to Frisbee. I loved all the fun excursions from Hershey Park to Disco roller skating. I really enjoyed going

whitewater rafting. I loved SMA. I would love to come back next year. Everyone here was so nice and caring. Making friendship bracelets and giving gifts to our secret buddies; these just made everyone so close. Lastly, I loved the dressing up in bunk junk, this was a time we could just be crazy!



Sivan Yohann: Osprey, FL

This is my second summer at SMA and it was a completely different experience from the first. Even though it was different, it was still just as great. The new campers and counselors here were amazing and they were all so perfect for SMA. At SMA you make friends that you are closer to than at home and you keep in touch for a long time even after camp is over. Everything we do here from whitewater rafting to invention convention is full of fun and a ton of laughing. I will never forget my summers here at SMA and I hope I can come back next year!

Michael Wong: Bryn Mawr, PA

This year was far from ideal for me; however throughout it I looked forward to coming here. This summer was the best time I've ever experienced here at SMA and returning to this sanctuary was very calming. This most likely being my last year here, I attempted to be as present and engaged as possible. I think I succeeded and for that I'm glad. I really enjoyed all the activities from wakeboarding to mountain biking. The time at Hershey Park and going whitewater rafting was a blast.

Noah Hoffer: Media, PA

One word.....AWESOME!!! I've never been to a better camp and I hope every past camper has as much fun as me and all future campers as well. Fellow campers are nice, the counselors are amazing, and activities are fun. I enjoyed wakeboarding, canoeing, tie dying, and much more. I absolutely loved this camp and will come back for more years to come!!!

Sammy Keiler: Boalsburg, PA

I loved whitewater rafting and working on the bike trail. Whitewater rafting was a great experience, so many people ended up in the water at some point during the trip. Community services are a great thing, I realized the little things can make a big difference. I loved going to Hershey Park with the campers. All the activities were challenging and exiting. I really enjoyed SMA.

Aaron Needs:

Stoughton, MA

BEST CAMP

EVER!!! This is my fourth year and my last, as I turned 16 this year. I couldn't imagine it any better, from wakeboarding to biking to climbing and everything in between. The daily experience



here is like nothing I've ever seen before. Even the staff was incredible, enthusiastic, and was best so far as I'm concerned. VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!

Nick Duell: Greenwich, CT

I really enjoyed SMA. We went whitewater rafting down the Yough River! It was an amazing time! We raced at the end to shore and my raft won!!!! I had fun jumping from raft to raft during the trip. I enjoyed wake masters; we had a lot of fun out on the boat. I had some funny times on the

boat wake boarding. I actually spilled my drink on Sabrina...it was kind of funny. I enjoyed meeting so many new people and making friends with the campers and counselors.

Liz King:
Newtown
Square, PA
Coming to this
camp and
being here has
definitely
changed me. It
has helped
build my
confidence. I
mad many
friends and
did many
things that
have helped me
grow as a



person. I came here looking for a place to simply spend my summer and not just sit around at my house. I was looking for a place where people could accept me and I could have fun. I got so much more... This place is awesome and I doubt I'll ever forget it. It will live in my memories forever!!!

Brooke Shostek: Sharon, MA

My experience this summer has been amazing, mainly because I got to experience so many new things. Before I came here, I had never been wake boarding or real rock climbing. It was so nice to finally try new activities. I liked being able to get up on the wind surf sail and learned how to control and keep my balance on it. I really enjoyed the disco roller skating, skating around and being pulled around was exciting. I enjoyed all the activities. Hershey Park was a blast; I was able to ride a lot of the roller coasters. I was not there for a while so it was great to be able to go with so many fun people and have a great time. I met so many amazing people I will never forget!

*Julia Ritholz: Port
Washington, NY*

*This summer I
went on many
overnight, such as
wakeboarding and
rock climbing. I did
mountain biking and
fell, but still had a
great time ☺ I did
other sports like
soccer, tennis, and
Frisbee golf; it was
a lot of fun. The
Dance was fun
because I got to
dance silly with my*



friends. Secret friends were a lot of fun even though I found out who my buddy was early. The fireworks in State College were amazing, I am glad we all went together. Hershey Park and whitewater rafting were my favorite activities, and everyone got to do them together. Lastly, community service projects were so much fun especially Alex's Lemonade. This session was something I won't forget.

*Anthony
Rogers:
Bridgeport, PA*

*I loved the
Talent Show.
The song I sang
was Justin
Bieber's Baby. I
did an awesome
job singing and
dancing.*

*Another thing I
enjoyed was the
fireworks. They
were big, loud,*



and beautiful. Music was playing while the fireworks were going off. I missed home at times but I am going to miss everyone here at camp. I enjoyed everything about camp.

Olivia Gellis: Manhasset, NY

I had an amazing time in camp this summer! I loved spending time with the horses every morning and in the afternoons; I enjoyed wakeboarding overnights, canoeing, and tie dying. The fireworks were also great this year! Even though I did not get a lot of gifts from my secret friend, I still had fun buying stuff for mine. In the evening we got ice cream, dances, talent show, and what was the best was... Jud's games! I did community service, like Alex's Lemonade Stand and Bingo. We also left camp and went to Hershey Park which was a lot of fun. Whitewater rafting was another great activity we all took part in. I can't wait til next summer!!!

SABRINA SCHWARTZBERG: ARMONK, NY

THIS SUMMER, MY EXPERIENCE WAS LIKE NO OTHER. EVERYTHING WE DID WAS AMAZING, WHATEVER IT WAS; HANGING OUT ON THE SWING DURING POWER HOUR, OR GOING DISCO ROLLER SKATING WITH THE CAMP. THIS SUMMER HAS GONE BY SO FAST. IT'S HARD TO PART WITH MY NEW FRIENDS, BUT I KNOW THAT OUR MEMORIES WILL LAST FOREVER AND THAT WE'LL ALL BE BACK HERE NEXT SUMMER. AFTER MEETING SO MANY NEW PEOPLE AND LEARNING SO MANY NEW THINGS, I CAN NOW TRULY APPRECIATE AND LOVE THIS CAMP AND EVERYONE HERE. THIS WHOLE SUMMER WAS A BLUR BUT THE MEMORIES WILL STICK WITH ME FOREVER!

Carla

Stachchenko:

Neuilly sur

Seine, France

When I came in this camp I was very nervous because it was my first time in America even if I already spent one month in Canada (I'm Canadian) and it was also y first



summer camp. The welcoming was very impressive, I couldn't speak English; I think that was

because of the jetlag. So, now it's the last day of camp and I don't want to leave tomorrow. I realize that I spend the most three amazing weeks of my life at this camp. I took part in activities that I had never tried before like

canoeing, rock climbing, skiing, and rafting... All these activities were awesome! I discovered America and a little community: Amish people. This population is very strange from my point of view. Also, I've made lots of beautiful friendships with American and French guys. I hope that I'm going to see them again. I went on two overnights which are memorable at this time: wake boarding and canoeing overnights were just perfect. It makes you closer with the little group of the camp for one night! Finally, I think that my English is much better than before coming here. That was my first accomplishment! Now, I'm good (even if I could be better) at it! I am very happy I got to be here this session! Thank you for everything, it was just perfect to begin my summer with SMA ☺



*Our Start Staff Team of 2012
take time to tell you about the
awesome activities of
Stone Mountain Adventures!*



White Water Rafting

The highlight of the summer is the white water rafting trip down the Youghiogheny River. Campers must wake up before dawn to make the 11 am put in. With sleep still in their eyes, the campers embark on a 3 hour van ride to the intense white water of the Youghiogheny. As the vans drove closer and I could finally tell the campers that we were less than 20mins away from the river (if campers ever ask me “how much longer?” I would always return with “about 20mins”). Then we met Zane the river guide--that Nate, one of the Staff, now mimics in any of our staff skits. “ALLL RIGHT GUYYYSS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO GUYS IS KEEEEP PADDLING GUYS

AND NOW REMEMBER GUYS TO KEEEP PADDLING GUYS!!!!” After the talk we began the voyage down the river with rubber rafts that navigated through the river with manageable difficulty. The main event that brought the most smiles were the raft wars. All of the campers enjoyed tossing their fellow campers into the refreshing Youghiogheny. After the guide told me to stop throwing campers off the rafts for the 50th time, I said, “Alright,” and finished skipping my last camper across the water. Zane then gathered the whole group, and we had a shot-gun start race to the end. This was one of the most exciting activities that SMA campers and Staff got to experience in session one.

Art Studio

Thinking back over the past three weeks art studio was a time that allowed campers to be creative. Although the name didn’t seem to stick around for long, the MAICS (Mega Amazing Imagination Creation Station) was a place with a more laid back atmosphere and a time to get crafty and maybe even get your hands a bit dirty. From painting picture frames, or other people, to making acrostics and building kites, the most famous of all would have to be friendship bracelets and tie dying. Whether you were making bracelets for others in your bunk or for a secret friend this activity was one that could surly pass the time. As for tie dying, taking the rubber bands off your shirt to see how awesome of a design you made seemed to never come soon enough. Everyone’s artistic ability came out during different times this summer such as at the dance when the decorations were made and face painting occurred. Later that night an explosion of colors covered the barn and even Comet got in on the paint party. Overall the art studio this session was a great activity to be a part of and the time spent in the art studio will be moments I will never forget.

Evening Activities:

Every evening we do some kind of activity to help entertain the campers and kind of wind down the night. A few of the evening activities we did during this session were: playing Silly Jud Games, campfires, 4th of July fireworks, capture the flag, Disco Roller Skating, movie night, Invention Convention, the Dance, and candle meetings.

This group of kids made the evening activities an absolute blast. The Invention Convention and campfires were just hilarious. The Silly Jud Games were very fun, especially Poses, in which Sivan and I reigned supreme! Capture the flag was epic, especially when it became full contact. The fireworks were beautiful and proved to be a very romantic setting. The dance consisted of neon paints and black lights, need I say more?

However, the most memorable evening activity for me, were the candle meetings. This is a time where we would get into smaller groups, where we could open up to each other and get personal in a safe friendly environment. We talk about our highs and lows of the week, what’s happening in our lives both at home and at camp, our fears, problems, hopes, and plans for the future. It was an amazing, and very special experience. I felt like I got to know everyone in my circle a little better at the conclusion of these meetings. I know I’m not the only one who will always remember these candle meetings as a very special and powerful experience.

Amish Market:

If you’ve never been to the Amish market before, think of a combination of a flea market and a stroll through the past. We take the kids to the market so they can experience some of the Amish culture in central PA, but also so they can load up on junk food and trinkets. It’s also where we buy the bunnies!

I think I can safely say that everyone had an excellent time walking around eating great food, home baked goods, and of course all the candy that \$20 could buy. I know some of us counselors had a ton of fun confiscating all the contraband the braver campers tried to sneak by us.

For me, the most memorable part of the Amish Market was the bunny auction. I had the pleasure to sit and chat with three very excited campers (Haley, Hadley, and Annie) while we waited for the bunny auction to start. By the end of the auction we were able to secure 18 bunnies for less than \$2 each! Thank you ladies very much for your help and your company through that long day, I couldn’t have done it without you! And I know everyone else was so excited to get their bunnies at the end of the day.

Fishing

Fishing was a blast during session one. There were plenty of fish caught in the Juniata River and Raystown Lake. Some campers did not know how to hold a rod at the beginning of a fishing session. By the end of that session, the campers knew how to cast brilliantly. Some of the fish caught included sunnies, rock bass, bluegills, smallmouth bass and trout. The campers learned about the different baits for catching different fish. Sometimes, if the fish were not biting, we got to go swimming in some gnarly rapids. It is always fun to try to catch crayfish too. There is nothing better than fishing on a sweltering afternoon. If it gets too hot you can jump in the water!

Mountain Biking

Blood, sweat, and gears; mountain biking here at SMA is a true test of bravery, skill, and commitment to excel. From mild to wild, the riding this session was amazing. Our mountain bike masters showed true grit, putting their well being on the line, shredding the world class Allegrippis Trail system with tenacity, speed, and technique. For the lower end of the adrenaline-seeking spectrum, our less experienced riders enjoyed the beautiful rail-to-trail pathway along the Juniata River. Perhaps the most important aspect of this sessions biking program is the initiative to rebuild and add to the SMA bike trails, located right here on the farm! We saw significant progress in the trails, as well as the skill of our riders who used them to train, develop skills, and put grins on faces!

Music Jam

The first session of 2012 held great promise for our music jam program. All of the jam members were returning campers and have had extensive experience playing their instruments and being a part of a close-knit group. These passionate musicians created an incredible group dynamic. We were fortunate to have such talent in our presence. Our group was comprised of three wonderful musicians-a guitarist, bassist and a jazz saxophone player. After weeks of practicing together, the “Flying Zebras” put on two spectacular shows at the end of our three-week session. The first show was performed on the night of the dance. We played our own rendition of “Mary Jane’s Last Dance” written by Tom Petty, a funk jam in the key of G, and finally we played “What I Got” written by Sublime. We had the whole camp clapping and shaking the floorboards of the old barn as they jumped up and down. Our first show ended as the crowd cheered for an encore. Our second and final performance took place during the talent show. We played “Why Georgia” by John Mayer and played John Mayer’s version of “Free Falling” including beautiful harmonies and impressive synchronization. We also played one of Jud’s original tunes about the daily life of the Stone Mountain camper. Being an experienced musician makes it easy to spot talent in others and the group that came together was unbelievable. The three musicians that were here during the first session are staying for the second and new musicians have arrived. I look forward to watching their skill improve and playing in a new group and most of all I look forward to being apart of another magical session at the untouchable Stone Mountain Adventures.

Waterskiing & Wakeboarding

Waterskiing and wakeboarding this session was incredible. All campers made unbelievable progress at their chosen watersport, and for some multiple watersports. Campers who have never been on a boat before were skiing and wakeboarding by the end of the session. Campers who could only ski on 2 skis were successfully taught how to slalom on one ski. Boarders with little experience were clearing wakes by the end of the session, and the pros continued to progress their skills to extremely high levels as well. This sessions campers were highly motivated and eager to learn and try new things out on the water. All in all, the watersports this session were an absolute success, full of never ending fun and memories that will last a lifetime.

Overnights

Overnights this session were some of the most fun you will have at SMA. There are three different types of over nights: Wakeboarding, Rock climbing, and Mountain Biking.

Wakeboarding overnights are crazy fun. We all head out to the lake for a day of wakeboarding and skiing, and as the sun goes down we head back to our campsite. We cook an amazing dinner over the fire, make mountain pies, and eat smores. We have tents set up for sleeping but many prefer to fall asleep under the stars. The next morning we wake up early and hit the water while its still smooth as glass. There is nothing more fun than being the only boat on the lake, especially on the size of Raystown Lake. We play all morning on the water, listening to loud

music and trying to get big air on the wakeboard. When its time to come back to camp everyone begs to stay out a little bit longer just for one more run.

Rock climbing overnights are fun yet challenging experiences. We start out during the day and spend most of the day climbing Bilger rocks, going caving, and repelling. We usually spend all day out climbing until it gets dark then we head back to our campsite where we make mountain pies and smores and tell stories until we all fall asleep. The next morning we make breakfast over the fire and spend the rest of the day climbing and repelling off Bilger rocks. The campers are amazed to see how much they have progressed in skill and technique while climbing. Also campers encouraged to take on harder climbs and challenging themselves on these overnights. They are always surprised with themselves when they accomplish climbs they never thought possible.

Mountain Biking This sessions overnights are full of great experiences and amazing stories that are sure to stick with campers for a lifetime.

HorseMasters

Teamwork, dedication, and energy are the best words to describe Horse Masters this session. Everyone did their best to reach above and beyond to achieve personal goals and excel in their riding. Each morning, the Horse Masters worked together to care for the horses--cleaning the barnyard, filling water buckets, and grooming their horses until they were sparkling clean!

In each lesson, riders were able to discuss areas of their riding they wanted to improve, as well as take on new challenges by trying new things. This session, the Horse Masters had the opportunity to try vaulting, trail riding, lunge lessons, and even bareback riding! At the end of each lesson, riders were asked to journal about their lesson, mentioning the positives and the challenges, and what they looked forward to trying the next lesson.

While some rides were more serious than others, this session definitely took time to laugh and have fun!

Horseshoes were decorated with wire and beads to be given to the therapeutic riding program, and one day even the horses were finger-painted with colorful designs and phrases to make for an entertaining ride full of games such as musical cones and egg and spoon!

Overall, this session was a memorable experience for both staff and campers, and hopefully an experience that they will be able to look back on and smile about in years to come.

Community Service

Being silly, having fun, laughing, playing and working hard, challenging yourself and learning as you go are all important components of an SMA summer, however the SMA experience continues to extend beyond the farm and surrounding activity areas and into the local community. Each Saturday the campers and staff head out into the community to take part in service activities, teaching all involved the importance of giving back to a community that gives so much to them. The service we perform allows for better relations with our neighbors and campers feel a sense of achievement and pride in their community having completed their projects.

At Alex's Lemonade stand I was blown away by the campers enthusiasm, their confidence, their smiles and their creativity – making up and singing songs to support the cause and raise awareness around the lemonade stand. The campers put in a huge amount of effort – handing out free lemonade and explaining our aims in raising money (donations) to combat pediatric cancer and their signs read 'by kids, for kids'. The campers should be extremely proud of themselves and all of their achievements.

Other campers worked on the building of the new amazing mountain bike trail Bingo Bike trail.

Canoeing

Canoeing activities and overnights provided some great fun this session. The Raystown Branch of the Juniata made for some nice leisurely floats while the Little Juniata served up some exciting rapids. We worked on improving our paddling techniques, how to read a river, and most importantly our rap skills. It was great to see first time canoers learn the strokes alongside more experienced returners. We also always enjoyed working to clean up the river and the beautiful wildlife along the way.

ROCK CLIMBING!!!

First session SMA rock climbing proved to be an amazing hit with a new climbing staff and exceptionally eager campers. After the first few days of belay school where campers learn how to control the climber's ropes, our climbing adventures began. Climbing was offered nearly every day and often in both the morning and afternoon sessions. Our most popular climbing spot was right down the road from camp at what we call Donation rocks. Here the campers tackled a climb called Triceps and then worked up to Camel's Head, Africa Wall, Sharks Tooth and more. Our climbs ranged in difficulty from beginner/intermediate to advanced offering a good challenge for all. Away from the farm we had the opportunity to climb at Huntingdon rocks where each climber made it to the top of a 100 ft. climb off the valley floor with the beautiful Juniata River in the backdrop. Hopefully we all can remember the great success and fun we had while at the rocks and we hope you all continue to climb. We can all take something away from the climbing experience such as our patience, courage, overcoming of fear, and trust and bring it home with you to use everyday. With much thanks from the climbing staff... Belay on, Climb on, Rock on!

Sports Activities

At SMA we do many different athletic activities including soccer, volleyball, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, and Frisbee golf. Greenwood Furnace has a great huge field where we play soccer and ultimate Frisbee. We then cool off in the FREEZING freezewood lake. If we were not having a waterfight in the lake, we usually were playing pole barn or wah. I remember some quite competitive games of wah that took place, which ended in chaos. Even though SMA is supposed to be a non-competitive place, the campers play as hard as they can to score the winning goal, even if it takes tackling a player for the ball or for the Frisbee. I remember the sweltering heat, although, the campers remained positive knowing that after playing hard they could go swimming.

Volleyball was an awesome activity as well. We played at either Greenwood Furnace or Whipple Dam. Despite not being able to get the traditional bump, set, and spike perfected we had a great time and did not really care as long as the ball made it back over the net. We not only played volleyball in the sand, but also in the water and in the grass in a passing circle. I remember the ball constantly being hit 30 feet outside of the court, but always being able to laugh about it and try again. Volleyball was not fun until everyone was covered in sand from head to toe. After a few games, we all jumped in the lake for a cool off/rinse off.

We played tennis at Juniata College. We had all ranges of skill level, but everyone enjoyed playing king of the court. Frisbee golf takes place right behind camp at our very own Frisbee golf course. The goal of the activity is to throw the Frisbee through the woods into the Frisbee golf pot. The hardest part of this activity is to find the Frisbee in the woods when it is thrown of course. Luckily everyone was able to avoid the copious amounts of Poison Ivy. Remember the big bear we saw? That is what sticks out most in my mind from this session for Frisbee golf.

Wake Masters Reflection Season 1

The Wake Masters program is held on the beautiful Raystown Lake. This program is provided for the kids who wish to improve their water sports abilities. It's amazing to be able to have one set group of kids who are out on the boat as much as possible, and to watch them improve over the three weeks. It's an incredible experience to be apart of the development of the kids that make it on to the wake masters program. In season one the change of abilities with in the kids was amazing, to see them improve in such a big way. To build relationships with the group as we spend so much time on the water together. I loved how much the kids wanted to be involved and try new things every day. To learn to get the boat ready and to help keep it running. It is a fantastic feeling when i manage to get some one new to the sport up on the skis or wake board, to see the big smile on there face. It makes the job worth while and i look forward to improving as many people as I can for the rest of camp.

Hiking

To many people hiking is just a glorified walk, but what a walk it was. As teams of brave campers and staff set off on long journeys through rivers and up thousands of stairs, a real sense of when hiking is loved by so many started to develop. An activity that really challenged the campers to succeed and help each other through, a place they could chill out and chat while walking, a place that they could test their physical limits. The Hike that stood out the

most was the 1000 steps hike; this was a challenge to all of the campers and staff that went. Leg wobbling, sweat and tears drove everyone to the top, all with a smile on their face.

Windsurfing and Sailing

This is a unique afternoon activity for the campers in the sense that it offers a variety of new things to try or skills to learn. A small group of about ten campers and two counselors head out to beautiful Raystown Lake where campers can kayak, windsurf, sail, or just paddle around on our paddle boats. The small group allows for a really nice afternoon getting to know each other.

Windsurfing is a skill that most campers grasp in about fifteen minutes and are zooming all over the lake by the end of the activity. The huge grins on their faces are usually a tell-tell sign that they are not only enjoying the activity but also proud of themselves for learning a new skill. Sailing our sunfish is usually a popular option due to the fact that it is a skill easily picked up in addition to the fact that two or three people can sail at once. Kayaking around the lake is a nice relaxing option that gets the campers really excited to paddle the Youghiogheny River where we go white water rafting. I really enjoy this activity and the opportunity to really get to know the campers better as well as teaching them something new they may never have thought they could do.

