

# Stone Mountain Adventures

Camper & Staff Memory Book  
Session 1, Summer 2013



# ***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 canoes and tuning up the mountain bikes and now the summer of 2013 is in the history books. The remainder of August was great, but we often found ourselves playing "remember that time in 1st Session... that was awesome!" during our down time.



**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 had an awesome end to your summer. How was the first month of school?

**Parents**, thank you for sending your son or daughter to Stone Mountain Adventures for the summer. Each member of the incredible group that was SMA 1, 2013, possessed fantastic qualities and helped to make the group so special. Some groups come together at the end better than others, and 1st Session, 2013, receives 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. Enclosed you will find these entries that we call "reflections of the summer." You also will find a brief description of many of the activities that we did at camp written by our stellar staff.*

We will be uploading the **First Session Slide Show** to our web site in the weeks to come. As we peruse summer photos we can't help but smile; there were so many silly costumes, 'go fast' activities, and quality friendships. What an incredible summer!

We hope you enjoy this SMA Memory Book and 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, 2013

## **Jin Yu Hirsch, 13, Larchmont, NY**

SMA is my summer home. I have made so many new friends here this summer. My favorite activities this session were the talent show, white water rafting, disco roller skating, and overnights. I thought that everyone who preformed in the talent show was great, and many of them were funny. When we went white water rafting, I did not fall out of the raft, which I was proud of. I also loved the evening activities which always made me laugh. I also enjoyed making new friends from all over the world.



## **Johann Ollu, 14, Paris, France**

This is the best camp I have been to. I love sports and the activities that I participated in allowed me to stay fit during my summer holiday. I really enjoyed the Hershey Park trip and the White Water Rafting. It was one of my best days at camp. I did not expect that I would be so good at wakeboarding. I made a lot of friends at camp and I am going to miss them when I leave. SMA is my new home away from home in the summer!

## **Diego Ortega, 14, Coral Gables, FL**

At first I did not want to come to camp and I thought that it was not going to be that much fun. After just a few days, I was having an amazing time. I had a lot of new friends and was really comfortable at SMA. The second week and I was still meeting people. I was learning new things, like wakeboarding, and other things that I would love to do at home. By the third week of camp, I knew everyone here pretty well and I felt at home. I was having a great time, even though I did not expect it at first. I am really sad that I have to leave SMA and I am going to miss everybody that I met.

## **Riley Murphy, 14, San Juan Capistrano, CA**

This year at camp was a blast! Hershey Park has really fun rides, white water rafting was incredible, and seeing the fourth of July fireworks was exciting. The people here are always fun to be with. Hanging out during power hour after some fun activities was great and the activities were always awesome. Camp does not last forever, so it will be sad when I go home. I will make sure to come back next year!



## **Emily Peck, 15, Mt Airy, MD**

On my way to camp, I was really excited to meet new friends. When I got to my bunk, I was happy to find out that most of the people in my cabin were doing the Horsemasters just like me. I made friends really quickly. I rode two different horses, Max and Jasper, and had a blast during Horsemasters. At first, I was unsure about riding a horse other than mine own, but the horses I rode at SMA and I worked well together. All the trips we took were fun, like Hershey Park and going white water rafting. The food is good and our evening activities



were fun. I especially liked going to see the fireworks in State College on the Fourth of July. Everyone made friendship bracelets for each other. The counselors are amazing and the camp is a really small and family like community. I love it here and I will definitely be back.

**Hannah Soifer, 14, Stanford, CT**

When I was leaving home to come to camp for three weeks, I really did not want to go. I thought I was not going to have any friends or have any fun, but I was 100% wrong. I have made so many friends and I have had an absolute blast! The Horsemasters program was on the top of the list for things that I loved and enjoyed greatly. I am going to miss riding every single day, as well as the horse that I rode. Another activity that I really loved was white water rafting. It was so much fun and when the end came, I really wanted to stay on the river and continue to raft. I have made so many close friends that I am sad to say goodbye to, but I know that we will be friends for life. One of the things that I love about this camp is that every night everyone gets together and talks about the good and bad things about their days and then we all participate in evening activity. I have had an amazing time at camp and I am definitely coming back next year!



**McKenna Shaffer, 15, Hanover, PA**

I am so glad I came to camp. Meeting all of the new people and making so many new friends was great. Lindsay and Kelsey made the experience even better. I am glad I did Horsemasters almost every morning. Jumping Gator was my favorite. I was afraid that I would die white water rafting, but Lindsay and Kelsey saved us and made it so much fun. I can not wait for third session.

**Ally Sobola, 14, Arlington, VA**

I thought being away from for three weeks was going to be very difficult, but once the first week of camp was over, I totally forgot about my parents. I really loved doing the invention convention. White water rafting was my favorite thing that we did at camp! Going down those crazy rapids, not falling out, and seeing a bald eagle was amazing. The dance was really fun and I loved dancing with all of my friends. While at SMA, I learned to more confident and to be myself.

**Mitch Hart, 14, San Juan Capistrano, CA**

I did many activities at camp and I enjoyed all of them. When we first did laundry, I thought it would be extremely boring, but it was actually fun. I made many friends by coming to this camp and it was a great experience.

**Kat Flanagan, 13, West Chester, PA**

This session was a great experience for me in that I made so many wonderful friendships. I also tried a bunch of new





and exciting activities that I never thought I would do at home. The Amish market was very fun especially since I was able to walk around independently with my friends. Bunk Junk was really fun because it allowed me to express myself in a silly way. I really bonded with my cabin and became really close with everyone who was and still is in Little J. ☺ SMA is definitely the best camp I have been able to come to.

**Ana Hilton, 14, Brookline, MA**

I have loved this camp so far. I have learned that I am good at some sports and making friends. I also am good at making people feel good about themselves.

**Noah Hoffer, 14, Media, PA**

As a second year camper, I was look forward to seeing all the friends I had made last year, but when I came to camp, I saw that not many people had returned. Then through wakeboarding overnights and fun activities, such as sports and swimming, I made friends with everyone. I can not wait until next year when I am able to make new friends and do more wakeboarding.

**Nine Pradal, 14, Neuilly Sur Seine, France**

During this session, I tried a lot of new activities, food and had many great experiences. I canoed, rafted, rock climbed, and tried a lot of “American” food for the first time. I loved Hershey Park where I rode a roller coaster for the first time. I loved white water rafting, Horsemasters was great and I really enjoyed the horse that I was able to ride. The canoeing overnight was great with James, Hillary and Chloe.

**Quidire Jackson, 15, Philadelphia, PA**

I enjoyed going roller skating, the overnights, making new friends and having a good time. I look forward to coming back to SMA.

**Tony Jackson, 14, Philadelphia, PA**

At SMA, I got to do a lot of things that I did not know I could do. White water rafting and the trip to Hershey Park were a lot of fun. I had a lot of fun at camp and I was able to meet a lot of good people. The staff is great and the camp was just a great experience for me.

**Daniel Cohen, 12, Philadelphia, PA**

I think that the big activities that we did, like Hershey Park and white water rafting, were the major high points for the entire camp. I can not wait to do these again next year, especially white water rafting. I thought that Horsemasters was a really great experience, especially for me being a beginner. I think some of the major evening activities, like the dance and the talent show, was a great time for each camper to learn about each other. Overnights were definitely a great time. I think besides all of these, my favorite activity was trying wakeboarding. Favorite counselor report: Ali Sanzo and Tim Bailey

**Jeremy DeYoung, 13, Verona, NJ**

I enjoyed making many new friends and trying new things at camp. My favorite things that we did were Hershey Park and white water rafting. I will always remember first session 2013.



**Alex Sayre, 13, Bethesda, MD**

Some of my favorite activities were wakeboarding and Hershey Park. I also liked just hanging out in the cabins and talking about random things. I think that the time I spent at SMA for the first time was a lot of fun and was very exciting.

**Sigapi Muthiah, 13, Chennai, India**

I had a great time at SMA. I had a blast everyday. The activities were very fun and interesting. SMA teaches you a lot of things. I am going to try and take those things home with me. My favorite activities were white water rafting and rock climbing. SMA felt like a family. I got to experience wakeboarding and windsurfing. I am definitely looking forward to coming here next year with my siblings and friends!



**Lucas Friedson, 14, New York, NY**

I loved this camp so much. Even though it is only my first year, I feel like I have been here longer. My favorite things at camp were playing pool with my friends and white water rafting. All in all, this camp is pretty chill and I will be coming back next year.

**Antoine Stachtchenko, 14, Neuilly Sur Seine**

My favorite activity was the disco roller skating. That was really fun because there were some games. I fell a lot of times, but I still really enjoyed this moment.

**Brooke Shostek, 15, Sharon, MA**

This session, I made many great friends and I got to see so many old faces. I became really close with my bunk and even people outside of my bunk. I enjoyed being in wake masters because I was really looking forward to learning how to wakeboard. The overnights helped me get closer with other campers. I enjoyed bonding and creating many memories with the people on the overnights in a little tent. I enjoyed all the activities such as white water rafting, tennis, capture the flag, art studio, rugby, and so many more. Coming to this camp made me become a more adventurous, active person. I was willing to try anything. I am looking forward to a whole new session of new friends and activities.

**Abriel Markowitz, 14, Bound Brook, NJ**

This session at SMA was amazing. My favorite part was wakemasters and white water rafting. I can not wait until next session and next year to get better at wakeboarding, as well as try all the activities again. Running around Hershey Park with Rothrock was so fun. This year I had the best secret friend and they gave me so many gifts.



**Kayla Bleich, 13, Westfield, NJ**



This session of SMA was amazing. I made so many new friends and tried new things that I never thought I would do. Some of these things were mud biking and wakeboarding. Along with these awesome new things that I tried, I also enjoyed Hershey Park, white water rafting, and the talent show. Here at SMA, I tried things I never expected to do and pushed my comfort zone. SMA is an awesome place that I will always love.

**Olivia Gellis, 14, Manhasset, NY**

This session at SMA was amazing. I met so many new people and did so many fun activities. My favorite activity was white water rafting. It was still my favorite even though I could not do the duckie with Sivan. Disco roller skating was also amazing, even though I kept falling. Overnights were really fun. The wakeboarding overnights were the best. Since this was my third year here at SMA, I was able to help prepare the dance. I am so glad that I came back this year and I hope I can come again next year.



**Sabrina Schwartzberg, 14, Armonk, NY**

So far this was my favorite session. Of course I miss my old friends from SMA, but it is great how so many people came back to camp. I love being able to reconnect with my friends while making new friends as well. I had an amazing time making paper plate awards with the other third year campers. It was also great decorating for the party. It is great how open everyone is here and how nobody is afraid to try new things. I hope I can come back next year.

**Brooke Cherry, 15, Wilmington, DE**

In the past three weeks, there have been a lot of great things that have happened at camp. Being a first year camper, I found that there is a lot of interesting things that occur at SMA. I honestly found all the activities at this camp very fun, but overall I found that the overnights are the best. During the overnights, you get to know the people better and I love the outdoors. I especially loved the wakeboarding overnights because I love being in the water. I also liked the activities that involved animals because I have a huge obsession with them. I also loved the white water rafting trip because I like anything that seems kind of dangerous. There are a lot of things at the camp that I have enjoyed and I can not wait for more fun at SMA.

**Emma Bachelerie, 14, Dubai**

This camp was a great experience for me. It was my second year here. I made new friends and it was awesome to see my old friends again. I improved my English by speaking it every day. I was learning a new thing every single day. I was amazing to do all the activities and the overnights. I loved all the evening activities like roller skating, the camp fire, skits, and the talents show. White water rafting was especially fun. Thank you very much to everyone!



**Liz King, 14, Newton Square, PA**

Home is where the heart is and my home is here, at SMA. I came back with the expectation of having a similar summer as last year, but this year was completely



different and better yet. I know that when I have to leave at the end of second session, I will not be ready to say good bye to all of the new friends I have made this summer, as well as the friends that I have become closer to. I could have never guessed that the new friends that I have made this year, as well as the surprise of new friendship could be so special. The friendships and trust from those friendships is what made this year so special. I can not wait for next session and I will definitely miss those leaving this session.

**James Mazaris, 17, Leesburg, VA**

Well, this session was good. I had fun wakeboarding and I got pretty good at it. I enjoyed going to the retirement home and helping them out. It gave me a real moral payback and made me feel really accomplished. It is something I plan on doing a lot more of! I also enjoyed a lot of the down to earth staff and campers I met here. It has been a good experience.



**Molly Biddle, 15, Huntingdon, PA**

What a session! This being my first time going to first session, I was not sure what to expect. As usual, SMA exceeded my expectations. Mattawanna was a great group of girls for both the first and last two weeks. We had so much fun getting to know each other. It is hard for me to believe that I am one of the most senior campers. It feels like a few days ago I was attending my first session; now, I am a fifth year and acting as a “camp mom.” But, what can I say? SMA has such a comfortable environment and has greatly influenced who I have become. I never know how to explain what makes SMA so magical, but I thank Pam, Biff, Jud and Anne who attract an incredible group of counselors and campers every year.

**Sivan Yohann, 15, Osprey, FL**

This was my last year at SMA and it was an awesome summer to say goodbye to. There were many activities that we have done for years and then there were some we have never done before. What I love about camp is that you can keep all the old traditions and then you can also start some of your own. In my opinion, the best activity at this camp is secret friends. Secret friends are just like



secret Santa, but you get gifts or hugs for the friend you receive. At the end of one week you reveal everyone's secret friends. For the past two years, I have been in a special activity call wakemasters. This is a small group of people who get the chance to go out on the boat multiple times throughout the session. It gives you a huge chance to practice wakeboarding or skiing. I have loved all three years that I have been here and I am so sad to leave, but I feel like it is definitely time to say goodbye. I have made so many close friends here and I know they will stay close to me forever. As one of the counselors, Lindsay, always says..... BAAHHHH!



*Our Start Staff Team of 2013  
take time to tell you about the  
awesome activities of  
Stone Mountain Adventures!*



### **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!

**Canoeing-** First session 2013 was filled with some awesome canoeing! The adventures began during staff training with our bonding-filled canoeing overnight, and continued through the next three weeks. Highlights from the first



canoeing overnight include rock-star Rothrock girls, lots of flipped boats, a silly skit and swimming. The second overnight featured an awesome campfire built by counselor Beth, huge appetites and sleeping under the stars. I will always miss my awesome campers from the past few weeks, and can't wait for future adventures!

**Session one Art Studio** was an absolute blast. While some campers expressed their creative sides through painting and drawing, the clear crafting winner this session was friendship bracelet making. Kids got creative by mixing up traditional patterns and adding beads to their bracelets, and some even took it upon themselves to carry around clipboards for bracelet-making on the go! Tie dye this session was also a hit - campers practiced their spirals, bull's eyes, v-patterns, and dip dying. By the end of the session, almost (if not every!) camper had something creative to bring home, be it a bracelet from a friend or a pair of mis-matched tie dye socks. Campers and counselors alike loved the feeling of drifting away to our cozy, upstairs barn studio where we could let our creativity run wild.

**The Amish market** is a sight to behold, it's a place where you find yourself lost in stalls offering everything from freshly made cakes to music, trucker hats and trinkets from across America. It's a great place for campers and counselors to spend a morning exploring whilst experiencing the unique Amish culture. For me the Amish Market will always be special place because it's where I had my first whoopie pie and witnessed the sights and smells of the livestock market. A morning spent at the Amish Market is a great activity to have; campers get so excited it makes the staff even more enthusiastic to go. I'll always remember the Amish Market not just because of the whoopie pies but because it gave me an insight into a different side of American culture I never thought I'd experience.

**Fishing** was quite a blast at SMA this session! Afternoons were spent splashing around the Little Juniata trying our hand at the great sport of fishing. Many campers were able to snag a fish or two, and we were always proud of a catch, regardless of the size. When things got heated we would parley with the fish and go for a swim to cool down. We had a few run-ins with some water snakes, but they would slithers away scared with a splash or two. Although some days few fish were caught, the campers got reel hooked on the activity. Given our respect for nature, we through the fish back, but always held onto our fond memories.

**Hiking-** I was lucky to go on several incredible hikes, made even more incredible with all the campers who joined! Some of the bravest took the 1,000-step-hike challenge up the side of a mountain. We were rewarded with gorgeous views of Big Valley and the opportunity to walk in the shoes of those who would hike this every morning to mine at the top. Another day, some adventurous folks went to explore waterfalls and "balance rock," as well as take great pictures. Other hikes included strolls along the Little Juniata River and all sorts of adventures.

### **Horse Masters:**

What a wonderful, fun-filled session this was for the 2013 SMA Horse Masters! So much laughter, commitment, hard work, and horse-bonding took place over the past 3 weeks. The average day in the barn would begin with the morning poop-scooping, tack room sweeping, and barn cleaning followed by, everyone's favorite part, hanging out with the horses. The lovely ladies and fine gentleman who participated in Horse Masters would prepare for their morning of horse-human bonding with a thorough grooming followed by tacking their individual horses up for each lesson. Every rider was matched specifically with horses that challenged them as riders and horsemen/women. As riding instructors we worked together with the riders and horses to facilitate an environment where they could strive to reach and accomplish their personal goals as well as enjoying their time in and around the barn! The riders had the opportunity to work on a basic balanced seat, practice skills such as posting trot, half seat, and vertical far, and work on their jumping technique using multiple obstacles. Some of the other fun activities that the Horse Masters participated in were riding bareback, lounge lessons, and trail riding. Of course this session wasn't all about sweat and hard work! We also made a trip to a local tack shop and a visit to Penn



State Equine Facility where we were able to see foals, including a beautiful set of twins, mares, and stallions. With all their hard work, team-work, cooperation, and positive energy, this session was definitely one of the most memorable and special.

### **Evening Activities – Session 1, 2013**

From the day we arrive at SMA evening activities are set to a high standard with the infamous 'Jud Games'! Silliness and high energy madness leads the way for awesome nights ahead...from watching movies during quiet over-night evenings to the craziness and stellar drama displays of the camp fire, evening activities never fail to round up an awesome day at SMA with a sparkle. Some high lights this session would for sure include invention convention when people got creative with their skits as well as their wardrobes, and capture the flag was as pumped and intense as an Olympic semi-final! There was some serious commitment to freeing captive teammates whilst tactfully edging that flag back down the field! And of course, there was the spectacular talent show. The endless enthusiasm and support, not to mention the buckets of talent and the creative goofiness made the talent show the ultimate round-up to our time together as SMA Session 1, 2013...best summer ever!

### **White Water Rafting!**

Arriving at the Lower Yough, we were greeted by clear skies and warm weather, excited to begin our float down over 7 miles of rapids. After receiving paddles, helmets, and life jackets and being divided into boats, each captained by a counselor, we hit the water. The first task, a seemingly straightforward ferry across the river, proved



surprisingly difficult as boats struggled to remember left from right and what straight lines looked like. But everyone soon got the hang of it, shooting through the waves and avoiding rocks. A few campers sometimes found themselves swimming the rapids instead of rafting them, but they were quickly picked up by their raft or by our river guides. After lunch, driven by a Nutella-induced sugar frenzy, we came to Dimple, the most technically demanding rapid on the river. Everyone made it safely down, most people managing to stay in their rafts. We had several stretches of calm water where we could jump out and swim, waging inter-raft splash wars, and some intense games of "King of the Boat". We reached the end of our stretch of river in what felt like half an hour, although we had been rafting for closer to 4. The final rapid was a mad dash to the take-out, an intense race won by the boat captained by Jud.

### **Reflection on Community Service**

Every Saturday during the first session, SMA would join together to work with the local communities surrounding Stone Mountain. This is a good opportunity for campers to come together and complete projects such as: playing games with the folks at the Westminster woods retirement community and raising money for Alex's lemonade stand and Clay's camera fund. Working with the retirement community, we traveled to a nearby retirement home and spent the afternoon playing scrabble, cards, and washers with the residence. The campers were able to teach the elderly certain games and learn some new ones at the same time. Alex's lemonade stand is a fund to raise money for pediatric cancer research that was started by a 4 year-old girl named Alex who eventually passed away from her disease. Now people all over the country have lemonade stands in her honor to ask for donations to her cause. Our campers dress up and travel to State College to host a lemonade stand in order to raise money. Similarly, we travel to Raystown lake to host a lemonade stand to raise money for Clay's camera fund, a local effort to purchase an under water search and rescue camera for the lake.

**Sports, sports, sports,** and you guessed it, more sports! Session 1, 2013 had some great games of ultimate frisbee, softball, soccer, rugby and many others. Everyone really enjoyed the afternoons at Greenwood Furnace where we threw the frisbee around and then jumped in to the river and immediately understood where the name "Freezewood" came from.



We also had some great times playing softball, teaching the international counselors and campers our nation's past time. It was the other way around the days we played soccer and rugby as some of our English counselors really took charge and taught everyone a lot and yelled at us for calling it soccer, not football. We can't wait for the rest of the summer and games to come the next two sessions!

### **Wakeboarding, Waterskiing and Belly Womping, Oh My!**

I was so excited to find out that I would be instructing wakeboarding and waterskiing out on the boat at beautiful Raystown Lake this summer. It is one of the most popular activities at camp. Some of the kids who came out to try their hand this session were first time skiers or wakeboarders, while some were seasoned vets. Either way, just about every person that we put in the water had huge success. It was amazing to see the smiles on their faces whether they had finally gotten up for a few seconds or had attempted a big jump before wiping out. Overnights were some of the best times that the crew had out on the boat. Getting that flattest water out on the lake in the evening, tent camping over night, and then waking up early in the morning to catch more wake was awesome. We had more rain than usual this summer, but often times we stuck it out and ended up with the water all to ourselves. Multiple campers improved their skills and were able to slalom ("one ski"), jump on the wakeboard, or belly womp epically by the end of the session.

### **Climbing session 1**

There has been much opportunity to get involved with rock climbing this session, with climbing at Donation, Huntingdon cliffs and the overnight climbing trip to Bilger's Rocks, Grampian, offering climbs for all abilities and challenges for all. All campers took part in Belay School at Whipple's Dam where they learn about the basics of rock climbing: the figure of eight knot, the figure eight follow through, belaying, commands and safety at the rocks. We put all this to practice at Donation rocks where climbs have included Damnation – Frosted Flakes and Camel's head; Africa wall, The Gully Scramble and Sharks tooth; Triceps – The Book and alternate climbs either side. The weather, not always on our side, challenged climbers mentally and physically with damp rock faces and a couple of times we were, unfortunately, rained out. Climbers were brilliant – demonstrating and developing their skill set throughout the session. Campers' perseverance and determination despite conditions were absolutely fantastic. The Bilger's Rocks overnight fell on two days of heavy rainfall and storms, this included lots of laughs and the excitement of getting the van stuck at the camp ground and cooking and sleeping in the amphitheatre, huddled together in a line like caterpillars to ensure warmth and dryness! The kids were awesome and although physically a bit damp, the rain did not dampen their spirits. We explored the rocks and caves adjacent to the camp site and we managed a climb and repel in the Pine Coffin during a sunny window in the morning of the second day – which was great fun! Toward the end of the session we ventured to Huntingdon cliffs where we hiked in up top on a beautifully clear and warm day, taking in the views whilst the climb was set up; this was followed by a



scramble down the hill to the bottom of the climb. Each camper excelled and had the opportunity to climb way above the trees and absorb the outstanding scenery. A fab session and a great time was had by all involved!!

### **Overnights – 1<sup>st</sup> session**

This session offered wakeboarding, climbing and canoeing overnights, where campers left camp shortly after lunch in high spirits in anticipation for the activities and all the excitement and antics that come with camping and being away from camp. After a busy afternoon of activities we set up tents and tarps as some overnights reaped benefits of fine weather allowing campers to sleep under the stars. Others were very soggy but campers made the most of it and spirits were high! The evening and setting of the sun brings bubbling conversations around the campfire, whilst tucking into burritos or getting involved in the making of mountain pies, and then – the perfect smore, graham crackers, Hershey chocolate and marshmallows...mmmm. The next morning there's plenty of time for more activities before returning to camp. Overnights are wonderful for developing skills in that particular activity, small group bonding as well as learning about the logistics of camping, how to set up tents, build a fire and work as a team.

### **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.