

Stone Mountain Adventures

**Camper and Staff Memory Book
4th Session Summer 2015**



A Note from the Camp Directors:

Greetings to everyone in our Stone Mountain Adventures (SMA) family. It is hard to believe that the summer of 2015 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 this incredible summer is in the history books. The remainder of August was great, but we often found ourselves playing “remember that time in fourth 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 here. We hope you have recovered from the craziness and had an awesome end to your summer.



Parents, thank you for sending your son or daughter to Stone Mountain Adventures. Each member of the incredible fourth session of SMA 2015 possessed fantastic qualities and helped to make the group so special. We had incredible experiences as individuals and as a group – it was truly a memorable session.

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 are the written reflections of campers and staff.

We will be uploading the **Fourth 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 do!

Best wishes on the school year ahead,

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

Jin Yu Hirsch

Thinking back on the past 2 weeks I realize that the only thing I did was have fun and that's all because of the new friendships and bonds I made this session. Some of my favorite memories have been from when I did Allegrippis for my service project and how much fun we had even though it was so hot out and everyone was tired. I also had a lot of fun during invention convention because even though some campers didn't like it as much as others they all found something to do that was fun. I also loved watching everyone in the talent show have so fun, everyone who performed was great. As this session comes to a close I hope that everyone has a great year.

**Hannah Soifer**

Session 4, 2015 of SMA was amazing and I had a blast. The friends I have made will stay in my heart forever and will keep in contact with as many as possible. This session was awesome and Horsemasters with Pam and everyone has impacted me in so many different ways. SMA has impacted me in ways that words can't even explain. This camp has helped shape the person who I've become and has really helped me appreciate being in the now and not focusing so much on the future. I love this camp so much and don't know how I'd be without it. So thanks to everyone for making my camp experience amazing!

McKenna Shaffer

I couldn't have asked for a better last session of my SMA experience. The cuddle puddles, outdoor adventures, Horsemasters, SUP and Sail and the forestry project

made 4th session a blast! Canoeing with Demi in the first week of camp was so funny. I'm so proud of us hitting pretty much every rock in the river. It was awesome to see Demi love Snoopy as much as I do! Riding Daisy was one of the best decisions Pam and I made. The bareback activities were the best days even when it was raining or my grey breeches turned beige. Waking Demi up the last two nights in the cabins made my mornings, maybe not hers but it was still fun! White Water Rafting with Melissa, Ducky, Demi, Nick Blue and Sydney on the Red Barrel was so much fun. Mattawanna was amazing. I'm not sure how often we slept on the floor vs. our beds. When Virginia sang us to sleep the cabin was so relaxing. Thanks to Chase for the awesome dread too! This place has literally done so much for me. It has helped me be such a better person and be more confident, outgoing and happier person. To think that next summer I won't be here is a nightmare. I'm thankful to Jud and all the staff these past 3 years for absolutely everything. I'm going to miss this place so much, words cannot describe. SMA will always be one of the largest parts of my life and I will always be grateful for all of the experiences SMA has given me.



Emilie Montanelli

This 4th session 2015 at SMA was amazing. Camp hasn't changed since last year. I had a really good time at camp this year. I could do a lot of activities here that I

don't get the chance to do at home very often. My favourite activities are canoeing, wake boat fun and sports (volleyball, soccer, tennis). I did one canoeing overnight and a wakeboard overnight and both were really fun. The counselors were awesome; Tom, Simon and Felice on Canoeing; Ali, Josh Love and Simon on Wakeboarding.

I love the overnights because we can be with a little group of people, having fun and stargaze around the fire eating marshmallows with chocolate.

Evening activities were great, Invention Convention, talent show, Jud games . . .

All the campers are pretty amazing, camp is the place where I can be myself, I love SMA and I hope I will be able to come back next year as a super camper.



Lisa Wegner

Coming back as a 2nd year was honestly better than I could ever imagine. Seeing everyone again was amazing and the way SMA welcomed me back was just a feeling of coming home again. While Horsemasters every morning was great again, I really took advantage of all this camp has to offer with both the canoe and wakeboarding overnights. I also tried things that I wouldn't have tried if it weren't for SMAM (ask Tom and Simon about my natural talent as a rock climber). 4th session was a great session to come back to because of the small number of campers

which created a smaller, close-knit community of old and new friends. Mattawanna hasn't changed since last year with its nightly cuddle-puddles and late night talks. It felt like I hadn't missed a beat.

I'm really sad about the fact that I can't come back next year, but I think I made the most of these 2 weeks. The counselors this year were amazing and made this last year just as amazing as them. As I'm writing my reflection surrounded by my friends, I realize I'm going to miss this place so very much and I hope I come back to this place sometime in my future.



Emily Fichandler

I have been at SMA for six years and can't begin to describe how much this place means to me. My first year I arrived nervous but hopeful and I arrived feeling exactly the same way this year. I never know exactly what to expect from an SMA summer because every experience depends on the people – the new campers, old friends, and especially yourself. I have learned that what you get out of SMA directly reflects the effort and energy and love you bring. At camp this session I have started noticing tiny things that bring me the most joy – quiet moments in the van, the ground clouds on an early morning run, the secret smiles thrown across the circle at evening meeting.

Most things we do here at camp could possibly be done out of camp, but the feeling would be nowhere near close to

the feeling achieved here. The people here bond to a point where anything shared is fun; from compost, to a walk across the lawn, to an egg toss. Somehow SMA always seemed to be filled with such amazing and truly good people. I have learned how to become more tolerant and understanding and have seen how great a person I and everyone around me has the potential to always be. Here I am the best possible me. Here is how I think of myself for the rest of the year and here I am the person I love myself to be. SMA has done this for me. It has built me up and supported me in just the right ways and pushed me when I needed it. It has given

me the time to dance around crazily to old hit and time to sit huddled around a candle safely sharing. SMA is the perfect balance of adventure and comfort. Whenever I think about leaving I have to stop myself from crying because of all my happy memories I have had at this very place. I think about Jud throwing the shoe and wish I could sit in evening meeting forever.

I know this place so well it hurts me to think I won't have it as my safe haven for the rest of my life. The pure bliss this place has brought me is immeasurable and far outweighs the pain of leaving. SMA has made me who I am and who I love to be. When I think of happiness I picture myself running to the van with a lifejacket on, my Amish market hat, my hair in a braid, my bracelet filled hands holding a sour apple and a water bottle, and comforting music drifting from speakers holding me in a perfect moment. I have SMA to thank for this. Jud has made this the perfect place it is and I am so thankful to him for these six years and all of the memories it has given me. SMA is my second home. SMA will be with me forever – it is my happiness and who I am. I love everything and everyone here. Thank you SMA ☺



Alice Breene

This summer has been different but in a good way. I have made a few new friends and kind of came out of my bubble. I would have to say that I had the BEST summer ever/ It's been a long time since I have had this much fun. I hate that the 2 weeks have gone by so fast and tomorrow we have to leave, but I will always hold SMA close to my heart. I have done so many new things like White Water Rafting, wakeboarding overnights, and kayaking. All the camp counselors were amazing and fun, especially Simon. He is fun and grumpy but he is the best counselor along with Rory.

**Annalia Arndt**

I have had to re-write this reflection about four times now because I don't know how to put into words how much this place, these people, and this experience means to me. I have so much love for everyone at SMA, and I want to specifically thank Palma, Paula, Megan, Beth, Tianna, Demi, Lina, Jake, Jonathon, and Griffin for making this year so special. Leaving this year is especially hard because it means leaving all of the supercampers that I have know for so long like Emily, Jeff, Lisa, McKenna, Sarah, and Nick. Thank you all for all that you have taught me, camp will never be the same without you. I also want to mention how special Little J was to me. I cannot explain the love I have for all of you, thank you for one of the best cabins and sessions that I have had the pleasure to be a part of. Lastly, I want to

thank Ali, Alyna, Rory, Simon, and Tom for cheering me up when I'm down and for making every activity enjoyable. This session was special in so many ways, I love you all, please please please keep in touch!

Arek Simpson

The last four weeks I spent at SMA I have had soooo much fun. All the new friends I have met throughout the summer have made my experience at SMA cool. Session 4 went by so much faster than session 3 because I had an amazing time and also had a blast. I tried so many new activities this year and I was more open to trying new things instead of doing the same activities. I had a great summer and the memories will never be forgotten! #SMAROX



Paola Dubois

First session at SMA for me, third time in America. After an 8 hour plane ride and a 3 hour van ride, we arrived at the camp. I was so tired but everybody was smiling and laughing. Since that moment I knew that the two following weeks would be sick. I think my favorite activity is definitely wakemasters. I love Little J more than anything and I know that I can count on Palma, Annalia, Beth, Demi, Meghan, Tianna, and Lina for anything. When one of us is sad, we all cry together and everybody is better then. Jonathon is my bro and Olivia is my girl and everybody is so special to me here. The rap battle between Tom and Deshaun was definitely the

funniest thing of the talent show. My favorite counselors are Ali, Tom, Simon, Josh Love, Rory...I love all of them <3 Here, everyone is friends, that's the SMA spirit. It's awesome. I love it. Thank you.

Palma Price

I have never loved anything as much as I love SMA. I love waking up to the doors slamming and Melissa yelling in my ear. I love seeing Ali Sanzo every morning in the First Aid Room. I love yelling 'MOM!' and hugging Alyna as hard as I can. Wake Masters with Rory and wiping out on the skis. I lived in Little J for a month and never once did I feel alienated or alone. I am so thankful for the tight knit group of girls that formed both this and last session. I love speaking French with Paola and Emilie. I love my jam sessions with Tianna and morning cuddles with Beth. I love awkward stories with Little J or stories with Alyna. I love our last night cuddle puddle. The talent show was the funniest and most emotional thing, with the rap battle and lip syncing with Chase and singing with Tianna (who I am so proud of for performing). I am going to miss Virginia singing the cabin to sleep, but most of all, I'm going to miss Rory and Alyna who adopted me as their SMA child. I will miss Tom's amazing hair and Chase's dreds and Eliza greeting me with a "hey beautiful" every time I see her. I am so grateful for my time at SMA. I have grown more in the past month than I thought was possible. Finally, I will miss Jud's harmonica playing us to sleep, and the shoe throwing, and Jud games. I love SMA. I can't wait until next summer.



Eliza Cash

This year I found myself in more ways than I ever had before. I figured out the kind of person I wanted to be and what kind of people I want to surround myself with. I learned how important it is to be there for not only the people you love but people you just met. I realized that just because I'm nervous about something doesn't mean it won't be the best experience of my life. This session was filled with experiences where I needed to push myself further than I have, and what I got from that was two weeks filled with love and happiness. It's hard to believe that the month I was here is now over. I can't thank every single person here enough. Thank you for the best summer of my life.

P.S. to all the supercampers, I love you with all my heart and can't wait for the chance to see you all again.

**Demi Marchello**

These past two weeks have been nothing but fun. The first 2 or 3 days was a little awkward for me but then I made a bunch of amazing friends who I am now closer than ever with. I have done many awesome activities but my all time favorite was Horsemasters. Being in the barn every morning was perfect. The trainers and campers in the barn made it even better. I have become very close with everyone in Little J and other people as well. Every night Little J has the BEST talks right before we all passed out. We got into very deep and meaningful conversations and it was such a bonding experience for us. I can't pick a favorite counselor because they

were all amazing in their own ways. This whole camp experience has been life changing and I can't wait to come back next year. Thanks to SMA I learned many valuable lessons about life and friendship <3.

Tianna Pistone

The first couple of days at SMA were hard. I didn't have new friends and I hung out with Demi because I knew her before camp. Being in Little J, we all bonded after the 3rd day! Every night we would all vent in the dark before bed. Those friends became family. Meghan, Paola, Palma, Demi and Beth - thank you for always being there for me. I will always love everyone at SMA. Hopefully I will see you all next year, LOVE YOU ALL! Xoxo



Sydney Waterman

SMA session 4 2015 couldn't have gone better. Every year just gets better and better. I love you all. The memories I've made will never leave my mind. I thoroughly enjoyed cuddling and hugging everyone on the canoeing overnight, and I especially liked sleeping under the stars for the first time. I will never forget candlelight meetings, party music in the vans, getting ice cream on activities, going down Dimple rapid in the thunder and rain, laughing while watching some acts in the talent show, playing bingo with the elderly, the barbeque at all camp day, shopping at state college, the dance, failing at invention convention, cabin "fights", receiving

friendship bracelets from a few special people, bonding during crew, playing fun games, and soooo much more I love SMA with all my heart <3.

Jonathon Crist

I will miss camp so much. I have been here for 8 weeks and everybody has changed my life in some way. When I leave here I will always remember the memories we had here and SMA will always be in my heart. I will miss Alynna, who always put a smile on my face, and Tom, who always pushed me to my limits.

Meghan Lewis

I love SMA so so much. This camp is very special to me and I cherish everyone moment and friendship I make here. I had the best time at the dance and on the van ride to the Yough. I am so blessed to be able to come to this amazing place. I am going to miss every single person I met here. I hope to come back many years in the future.



Beth Lewis

This past summer has been by far been the best one of my life so far. Being at SMA for a full month meant that the days were full of stand out memories and laughs. The van rides and music constantly playing made me dance non-stop. The summer was filled with things I could only dream of doing back home during the rest of the year. The Trough Creek hike waterfall in the sun was probably one of the

most beautiful things I have seen. Our ultimate cuddle puddles during the climbing overnight, canoeing overnight, and on the floor of Little J.

White water rafting in the pouring rain added to the atmosphere and made everyone's spirits lift. Also, sliding around in the drenched soccer (football) field was so so so much fun. Getting to the top of the rock walls, improvising invention convention and getting up on the wakeboard are just some of the proud moments that I have from this session. This summer has been filled with new experiences and I'm sad to say goodbye to SMA until next year (hopefully I'll be back!) I love all the counselors and animals here and I'll miss you all from London <3.



Nick Blue

One of the thing I am most grateful for in my life so far is having found and attended Stone Mountain. The activities, camaraderie, friendships, and the overall atmosphere here is simply unmatched anywhere else. During my four years at SMA I have found a passion for the outdoors, made some amazing friends, and have truly grown as a person. Also, SMA has taught me how to be more responsible and considerate of others. I will truly miss camp after I leave tomorrow, but I am so grateful for everything I have accomplished and the amount that I have grown over the past four summers, and I will always remember and cherish this place.

This session, I continued to enjoy my experiences rafting on the Yough river, waterskiing on Lake Raystown and rock climbing. I most enjoy these activities because I have an awesome time doing them, and I mostly don't have the opportunity to pursue them outside of SMA. The evening activities were also a highlight of my time here this summer. I really liked the camp dance and its fun and laid back vibe, Jud Games and the Invention Convention. During these past two weeks, a couple of things stood out to me were; my experience on the rock climbing overnight, and this session in the furnace, and how everyone in the bunk was able to pull it together by the end of the session, and how everyone tried their best to make everything work out. Additionally, I am very grateful for being able to reconnect with some old friends, and getting to know some new campers and counselors this summer.

Overall, these past two weeks at Stone Mountain have been incredible in so many ways. I loved being able to come back for another summer and have another amazing experience here. I am extremely grateful for everything that I have accomplished and learned, and everyone I have met here. Thank you so much SMA for an amazing experience, and I hope to come back and visit soon!



Anna Kauffman/Marshmallow

This camp is the best thing in my life. I was so happy I came for 2 sessions. The overnights are always so fun, especially having cuddle puddles under the stars. Everyone bonds so closely in this small amount of time. I have made so many

friends that I will never forget. The counselors stay so close to the campers and bond with us just as much. I wish I could stay all summer because its so hard to leave.

Jeremy DeYoung

Sesh 4 2015 was my last sesh at SMA and I had a great one. I met lots of new people and saw some old friends. I had a great time at every activity we did, especially white water rafting in the rain. Overall I had a great last session and it couldn't have been better in my opinion.

Jacob Bader

I guess that my favorite part of SMA was white water rafting. It was so much fun going through the rapids. I also really enjoyed climbing. I'm going to miss camp.



Antony Huth-Eleftheriou

What I enjoyed most about this session: mountain biking the most, followed by canoeing and rafting. My favorite activities were mountain biking, canoeing and rafting. I felt that I was friendly with most of the camp and closest with the counselors Declan and Tom. Rafting and all of the mounting biking rides were very standout memories.

Griffin Lee

I had an awesome session here at SMA. Some things I loved about the session were all of the new people I met. Some people were Jeff, Annalia, Chris

Thompson, Tianna, Jonathon, Deshaun, the whole staff, Mia, Marianna, and some other people. Some of my favorite activities were climbing, white water rafting, and wakeboat fun. I thought that the invention convention was amazing. White water rafting was so fun. I don't have any favorite counselors because I loved all of them. I am hoping to come back soon! Love, Griffin.

Deshaun Scott

I really enjoyed my stay here at Stone Mountain Adventures because of how welcomed I felt when I arrived. When I first came, I was greeted warmly and I instantly felt at home. My favorite activity would be basketball or soccer because it's very competitive and I am great at both. I enjoyed having everyone treat me very nicely and respectfully. I enjoyed meeting new friends and being able to really connect with everyone.



Isabel Kruse

This session at SMA was really great! I loved all of the people and all of the activities. I really enjoyed going to horsemasters every morning and getting to be around the horses because it gave me something to look forward to each morning., I also was able to see everyone I knew last year like Annalia, Meghan, Sydney, and many others. I also felt like Sydney and I became good friends! Some of my favorite

memories were white water rafting, van rides to white water rafting, dancing with Sydney, the Talent Show, Invention Convention, cuddle puddles in Rothrock, and basically everything else. I also loved being in Rothrock and witnessing everything that went on like our nightly talks, listening to music, and Phoebe and Marianna fake fighting. Also it was a lot of fun being able to meet all of the new counselors like Simon and Felice and being able to see the returning counselors again like Tom, Ali, Melissa, Fish and everyone else. Being at SMA was so much fun and such a great experience and I can't wait for next year.

Olivia Vella

My first session at SMA was an extremely eventful experience. I had no idea that my first two weeks at a sleepaway camp would be so influential to me. I was nervous, but as soon as I arrived I was welcomed with cheers and introductions. The two weeks following were filled with fun and new adventures. Even falling out of my raft at the Yough will be forever considered as one of my favorite memories. As this summer comes to an end, all I can think of is the friends and memories I made and the ones I plan to make next summer.



Spencer Stingley

This year has been one of my favorites at SMA. It was amazing seeing all of my old friends again and even better getting to know new people. Leaving this year has been very difficult because I know I will not see some of my friends again, but it

is a bittersweet feeling because I'm glad it happened. I also got to experience new things as well, which was surprising as it is my fourth year here. The amazing thing about this place is it never ceases to impress and entertain me. And it's the constant love and entertainment I feel here that keeps me coming back.

Mariana Pennybacker

When I was in the car on my way to SMA, I was anxious. It was going to be my second year there and I was worried that none of my old friends would want to hang out with me or something. However, when I got out of the car and saw some of my old friends (who were happy to see me) I instantly felt better. I guess that's just the affect that this place has on you. I ended up making many new friends and now I can't wait to come back next year.



Nathan Schultz

This was an awesome session at SMA. My favorite part of this session was white water rafting when it started pouring down rain right before Dimple, making it so hype. Canoeing, SUP n Sail, and soccer were all really awesome activities. Simon, Rory, Tom, Ali, and Chase all made this session so much better.

Jacob Hileman

I came to SMA and got nervous. Then I became very comfortable and made many friends. They became family. I've been having a good time at camp here. I'd say Chase is my favorite counselor with his awesome dreds. I loved all the activities but most favorite was rock climbing. Almost everyone was my friend like family. The Yough was so fun. I loved it so much it was awesome. I am definitely coming back next year.



Mirena Medina

Hi. I'm Mirena Medina. I've been at camp for 6 weeks. 42 days. 1008 hours. 6040 minutes. And roughly 362880 seconds. And every moment of those weeks, days, hours, minutes, and seconds has been absolutely wonderful. Magical, even.

Over that time I've done so many great activities such as wakeboarding, horseback riding, and an assortment of sports. Wakeboarding was an especially important part of this session here considering I was a wakemaster. It was great getting to spend days on the boat.

Throughout that time, I've also met some amazing people from all over the world. From England to France to Northern Ireland, people from all over come here. It's been awesome meeting all these different people and getting to know everyone.

As my time here comes to and end during this final session, I'd just like to say this is my home. And for everyone whose last session every this is that this place

will forever be your home and I love and wish every one of you the best luck wherever life may take you.

So, so long sweet summer. You've been great. XOXO Mirena

Phoebe Simon

This session has been a new experience for me. I've met a lot of new people that were really great to be with for 2 weeks. I loved the overnights the most this session. My favorite activities were soccer, tennis, and swimming. Tianna and Demi were amazing friends to have. This session's talent show was a night I was proud of. This is because I decided to sing in front of more than five people for the first time ever. Funny bunk stories are when me and Mariana were faking fighting and I tapped out many times. My favorite counselors are Rory, Declan, Salty Simon <3, Tom, Josh Love, Chase, Virginia, Felice, and Babs.



Chris Thompson

I couldn't have asked for a better summer at SMA. Even though this is my second year it felt like my 8th year. My favorite part of this session was white water rafting. Right before the Dimple rapid it started to pour which was awesome. I made a lot of new friends this summer as well which I thought I wouldn't. My favorite activity this session has to be wakemasters. Waterskiing for me is so easy. I can't wait to go home and show my dad what I can do. Saying goodbye this year is going to be very hard but I can't wait until next year!

Jeff Dobkowski

As my fifth year as a camper is coming to an end, I feel like it is impossible to put these feelings into words. This is my favorite place on Earth and I can not believe that tomorrow I may be leaving for good. But enough of the sad stuff. This has been a wonderful last year. I have made so many great memories and friends like I do every year. Some of my favorite things I have done this session include: reconnecting with and making new friends, mountain biking for the first time, and having the best (secret) friend I could ask for.

The thing that makes this place so special is the group of counselors and the community that they are able to create every year. Jud has a real talent of finding great people. Every single counselor has taught me a life lesson and helped me grow as a person. There is honestly nothing I would change about this place. Goodbye, SMA.



Mia Beahm

This session is one I can never forget. Especially because I might not be coming back next year. As the summer ends and school starts, the memories I will never forget are the ones spent with the people who I'd least be likely to hang out with. I loved cuddling with the Rothrock bunk captains and the random conversations.

I would like to say that everyone is my friend. There aren't any specific campers that were my "best friends". And as far as activities are concerned, I really liked Horse Care and disco rollerblading. But the absolute best memory this session had to be the talent show. It just reminded me how much I'll miss their presence when I'm in school.

I am going to miss everything about this place. I'll think of everyone every day. And remember all of the counselors and how they hung around camp talking to us. For all of the people (campers and counselors) who are leaving and will not be back next year, I love you and I am going to miss you. When you're feeling down, just think back to the magic in this place and trust me, you'll feel better!

Our SMA Teen Summer Camp All Star Staff Team!



Rory Bannon

We had half of the number of campers stay from 3rd session into 4th session, so there was a very comfortable vibe around camp and the new arrivals were eased in by the campers from 3rd session.

It was a much smaller group this session, which made it much easier to get a close relationship with everyone. The energy round camp was high from day 1, everyone was really excited to be at camp and it felt amazing.

We had the county fair in town this session, which is always good fun with the campers and it's just a really good night. The overnights this session, which were two wakeboat, one climbing, and one canoe overnight, were so much fun. The campers and counselors were on form and everyone brought something to the table, which made them some of the best overnights this summer with some fantastic dinner choices.

It was one of the best white water rafting trips I have ever been on. A great fun and amazing energy all toned off with an incredible thunderstorm. This was one of the best sessions of the summer even with the sadness of the end of camp.

Virginia Masland

I feel as though fourth session was over and gone in the blink of an eye! We had a very small session with 39 kids, more than half of them girls. Having such a small session was so different from the last one! I really enjoyed it though.

There were so many highlights of session four 2015. I'd have to say the first being the talent show. So many people signed up and I genuinely enjoyed every act. We had lots of singing, a rap battle, and a fantastic poem. Another highlight also had to have been the Yough. Simon and I captained a boat together with the most awesome group of kids to help us. Everyone went in several times between getting thrown out at rapids and by Simon. It also started downpouring right before Dimple Rapid, which was an extremely cool experience, being on the river in the pouring rain.

I was also lucky enough to spend some time in the barn with Pam and the horsemasters this session. Seeing fellow counselor, Declan, get on a horse for the first time was another highlight of my summer.

The goodbyes this session were very difficult and it was strange knowing we wouldn't have any more kids coming for a new session. I sincerely hope to come back next year and relive this experience.

Ali Sanzo

Fourth session – what an incredible end to another incredible summer. I can't believe how quickly this summer has flown by! This session was a little bit smaller

than the past three, but the campers impressed me every day with their energy and level of enthusiasm for all that we do here. We even had two campers REQUEST to do compost every day! One of my favorite memories of this session is when the whole camp cheered on Chase as he reached the top of the rock wall at the Huntingdon County Fair...I'm not sure the people of Huntingdon were ready for our craziness! Also, captaining a raft on the Yough with Maintenance Mike was an absolute dream – Sweater Oar forever! Looking back on it all, I don't think we could have had a better session to close SMA 2015.

I wake up every day so thankful for this opportunity to work at the best place I've ever know with a group of the best people I've ever met. I found myself stopping often in the middle of activities to appreciate that this is my 'job'...playing with amazing campers and genuinely enjoying the adventure of every day seems too good to be called a job. Stone Mountain Adventures has absolutely changed my life for the better and I won't ever be able to thank Jud, Anne, Pam, Biff, my fellow counselors, or all of the campers enough for the positive impact each one has had on my life.

Ellie Phillips (Babs)

Session 4 was the smallest of the summer but it brought with it as much enthusiasm and craziness as all the others. I was on the DC van trip and arrived in the evening of opening day. We were greeted by kids running from their bunks straight towards us. All the new campers introduces themselves and the already at camp campers helped with their luggage. As the session rolled forward, we did some new things like the Huntingdon County Fair and going down the Yough in the pouring rain. We had awesome weather apart from that day and it made everyone smiley and happy and the activities so much fun! As it came to a close, there were lots of tears but it really does show how much SMA means to us all! Thanks for a great summer! X

Josh Love

Session 4 had a different vibe. It was a smaller group of kids, which I think helped everyone get more comfortable. It was an incredible session to end the summer with many highlights. I feel like I say this at the end of every session, but once again white water rafting at the Yough was my favourite memory. There's just so much excitement and fun. Not everyone loved how it rained at points but I enjoyed it so much, it created an atmosphere that's hard to explain. I also had the best raft ever, not one camper fell out, but that's to be expected because I'm an outdoor professional and excellent raft captain.

This session I was a bunk captain for The Furnace. It was honestly so much fun. I would laugh so much when I stayed the night in the cabin. Another highlight

for me was being on the boat with Wakemasters. I really enjoyed watching the campers improve significantly at wakeboarding and waterskiing. Session 4 was awesome and there is so much more I could write about, but what a way to end the summer at this magical and awesome place that is Stone Mountain Adventures.

Melissa Mooradian

Although this session was smaller in size, it was one of the best we had all summer. With a nice mix of new and returning campers, we jumped straight into the fun and craziness. The session started off with a great night at the Huntingdon County Fair. Following that the session was filled with awesome activities such as canoeing, soccer, wakeboarding, and SUP n Sail. Halfway through the session we had an awesome all camp day BBQ at Raystown Lake. During the second week this group really came together and we had a lot more crazy and awesome activities. We had a special wakeboarding overnight out at the lake filled with lots of boat fun and great food. We were lucky enough to have Wyatt and Jud join us and even roasted a pineapple over the fire. The next moment that stands out this session was our amazing day on the Yough. Thanks to an amazing boat for powering through the rain and making it one of the best days at the Yough ever! The final days of camp were nothing but fun with an awesome canoe trip in the rain, a few great days at the lake, and an amazing talent show. Thanks to everyone for so many fun activities, lots of van dance parties, and an overall great session!

Chase Cloward

This fourth session was amazing with all the campers and staff being pumped for the Huntingdon County Fair and to get the session started off with a bang! We all had a blast at the fair and the highlight for me was making it to the top of the rock climbing wall with the entire camp cheering me up the wall. The rock climbing overnight was also amazing like it always is, we bouldered around on the rocks when we got there then made it back to the cabin for some tasty grub. We then set out next morning to do some top roping where everyone had a stellar time getting to the top and kissing those carabineers. I'm so glad we had everyone climbing because it's amazing to see people get to the top who didn't think they could. This was an amazing session and it was great to go out with a bang!

FELICE OLTUSKI

It's crazy to think that the summer is already over. I can't even begin to describe how meaningful it was to be back at stone mountain on staff this summer. This place is so incredibly special to me. As a camper, Stone Mountain helped me grow into the person I am today and I feel like I've continued to grow this summer and learn so much more about myself. This place just really has a way of helping

you figure out who you are and help you become the person you want to be. I have so much appreciation and admiration for everyone here. I think my favorite memory from fourth session would have to be the talent show. There were so many wonderful acts – some beautiful songs, hilarious skits, and of course our amazing staff music video. I also really enjoyed our canoeing overnight. It was so lovely stargazing and making smores with a small group of campers. After being away for a number of years, it's great to see that the magic of Stone Mountain Adventures lives on and still feels like my home away from home. Thanks for another amazing summer, SMA!

Declan Fitzharris

My last session at SMA in 2015 was a blast. This session's activities were awesome like 1st, 2nd, and 3rd session, and with a smaller group of only 39 kids it was less crazy.

My highlights this session were the Huntingdon County Fair, where I had my first corndog and I saw Chase win \$100 rock climbing, as well as the Yough in the thunder and rain which was the best one yet. I also had the chance to ride a horse for the first time this session, where I felt like a character from Game of Thrones, which was brilliant lol.

It was hard saying goodbye to the kids at the end of the session, especially those who were here for the whole summer. However this session and the past week especially were an awesome end to the summer, and I have SMA to thank for the best summer of my life.

Alyna Malyniak

Even though session 4 was a much smaller group, we still went out with a bang! I have so many highlights from the last 2 weeks it's almost impossible to list them all. One huge highlight would have to be my first wakeboarding overnight with a gourmet feast thanks to Chef Rory – and it was also my first time roasting a pineapple over an open fire.

This session's Yough trip was definitely one for the ages – I never knew White Water Rafting would be so much fun in a thunderstorm, and the fact that the storm began as we were pulling up to Dimple Rock will forever stay with me – not to mention a fantastic raft crew. Go The Floater!

From the Huntingdon County Fair to cuddle puddles in Little J, this session was incredible. I'm not sure if I'll be back next year, but I'd like to thank every single camper and staff member for making this summer absolutely amazing. You will all forever be in my heart.

Tom Prolze

So session four was a smaller session, very chill. We had beautiful weather throughout. I was lucky enough to be involved in two camping trips, a climbing overnight to Shafer rock and a canoe overnight on the Little J. We had fun at the Huntingdon County Fair.

I held a candle light meeting midweek with 6 campers, 3 of which have been at SMA for longer than I have and for them to realize it would be their last ever candlelight meant a lot to me to be a part of it. It was beautiful. My highlight was beating Deshaun AKA Chocolate Thunder in a rap battle at the talent show under my alias White Chocolate! Thanks, Tom X

Simon Lefevre

What a way to end the summer!! Session 4 was the perfect way to conclude SMA 2015. Although there were fewer campers than the other sessions, their energy certainly made up for that fact.

There was a really good mix of returners and new campers. They all greeted each other as if they had known them for years. By day 2 you couldn't tell who was a 1st and who was a 6th year.

There were quite a few unique elements to session 4 and my personal favourite was the camp trip to the Huntingdon County Fair. I had never been before and had heard some very good things. There were more food stalls than you could wish for and so many games for everyone to play. The entire camp was there, including the staff who were off. We all cheered Chase on as he climbed the wall and won himself \$100. He didn't manage to do it last year but with literally the entire camp willing him up the wall he did it at the second time of asking.

The Yough was as interesting as ever and with the reduced numbers it meant that there were two staff in nearly every raft. Maggie and maintenance Mike came along which meant almost every member of staff was there. It was a really good trip down the river and just as we were approaching dimple the heavens opened and the rain began to fall very heavily. The atmosphere it created was spectacular and will stay in my memory for a long time.

I went on two overnights during the session, a wakeboarding and a canoeing overnight. Both were amazing and I had so much fun with two great groups of kids. On both occasions we sat around the camp fire and made mountain pies before sleeping under the stars.

The activities with the campers were genuinely so enjoyable and their enthusiasm (most of the time) made for some really memorable moments. Some of my highlights were playing volleyball and soccer in torrential rain and not one person complaining or asking to stop. Evening activities were equally as enjoyable. My personal favourite was the talent show, which was one of the best to date. The

array of talent on display was phenomenal and the confidence with which some of the campers performed was so good to see.

I couldn't have asked for a better end to the summer. I have genuinely enjoyed each and every campers company and will miss them all so much. Lastly, I just want to thank every camper, member of staff and, of course, Jud for making my time at SMA so thoroughly enjoyable.

Sarah Fisher

This session at SMA was absolutely incredible! With such a small group I felt like I really got to bond closely with more campers. It was extremely special to me to be a bunk captain for Mattawanna - a cabin that I spent three wonderful summers in back when I was a camper. Those girls are so funny, thoughtful, and beautiful individuals who remind me why this job is so amazing. But that really goes for all of our campers this session. Since it was our last one for this summer, I felt like everyone was really giving it there all. Whether it was finally earning that SMAM water bottle, or trying an activity they've never tried before, or talking to that camper that they've always wanted to say hello to, the pressure of summer coming to a close brought the best out of everyone including myself. One of my favorite memories from this summer was going mountain biking for the first time ever on real trails. I was always a little scared in the past, but I ended up loving it and I want to go back so much! Doing that inbetween days on horses and white water rafting, I don't think my legs have ever been so sore - but I absolutely loved the feeling of being so involved. I also had an amazing time helping in the barn this session more than others. So many kids wanted to try riding a horse and it was awesome to teach them.

To get down to the sappy, serious stuff: this place means the world to me. You kids are special people who create a special place for everyone who comes through. The amount of trust you have in the staff and each other is unbelievable and I thank you all everyday for that. Because of our strong bond, we have the most wonderful summer experience. And you may find yourself trying to explain what SMA is like to your friends or family back home and ending with, "you kind of just had to be there". That is what is so powerful about SMA. There's no place quite like it. I love you all and miss you all so much! Have an amazing school year!