

## **THIRD ANNUAL ACT SUMMER CAMP REPORT**

The third annual summer camp sponsored by ACT was a ton of fun and a big success. Twelve campers and 11 volunteers spent four sunny and active days together at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. We began our adventure by white water rafting. This year we had two great rivers to choose from with some folks rafting the wild Nantahala and others having a great time on the Tuckaseegee. Everyone got wet, voluntarily or involuntarily (water fights are just part of the fun). We were entertained that evening by our own music making on an assortment of drums. Everyone got to bang away and be noisy and creative.

Early, as in 7 am, the next day we were off to find our fortunes at the Sheffield Mines. Mud, sun, water and riches!! What a great combination. A lucky camper found, then lost, a ruby, but no was came away without gems and fun. We then hurried off to tube the Deep Creek. Though the water was a bit low, we were able to float, wiggle, push our way down the creek for the afternoon. Back to camp we did what appeared to be the most popular activity of the trip, go shopping! Then it was time for dinner and the evening activity. We were treated to wonderful stories about the Cherokee Indians and their way of life by a Cherokee man who taught us how to say, "See you again", in Cherokee. Anyone remember?

Another early morning found us preparing for our big day on the ropes course. I have to say that I was very impressed by the effort everyone put forth on the ropes. Not only did we have campers going where they never have gone before, (safely I must add), but we also had a lot of spirit and group support going on and that was great. Everyone did something, including getting into another water fight. After a hot long day on the ropes some of us went to rest up for dinner, and maybe even clean up, and some of us went to the river to let the river do the cleaning. It was COLD!

The evening activity consisted of movies, games, and chatting with new friends. Finally, it was time to call it quits and we had to convince the youngest campers that it was way past bedtime. They could have kept going... and going... and going...

We packed up Sunday morning and said good-bye to a few campers who were not returning to Knoxville with us. Then we made the journey home over the most curvy road in America, 318 curves in 11 miles. An eventful ride. Tired campers arrived in Knoxville to met anxious parents, friends and ACT members. We were treated to a spectacular afternoon of activities at UT, including lunch, a tour of the sports facilities and hoops with some very gracious football players. Boy, those guys are BIG!!

I can't wait to see you all next year. It was a great time. Thanks to everyone!!!