

ACT

AMPUTEES COMING TOGETHER

P.O. Box 31437

Knoxville, TN 37930-1437

☆☆☆ACT HAS ITS FIFTH WONDERFUL SUMMER CAMP ☆☆☆

We did it again!!! Another summer camp has just ended to rave reviews from campers and volunteers. This year was the not only the biggest camp but it also has the distinction of being the most spectacular. That seems to happen each year. Campers came from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, Alabama, Virginia, and (the biggest group) Georgia, to share in the fun. A wrap-up of our activities follow and the memories should get you ready for next summer!

We converged on the Nantahala Outdoor Center on Thursday. Introductions and unpacking and lunch were hurried as we had to get out to the water. We split into two groups: Tuckaseegee Tumblers and Nantahala Nuts. Some people like Chris E., spent more time then others in the water! We made in back in time for dinner and Slaim was a big help to the kitchen staff. Daniel, JJ and James found a common obsession with Pokeymon, and boy could they talk about it. Then we had a campfire and stories and songs (remember the crocodile!), and S'mores; a sticky, delicious mess. By now we were pooped and it was off to bed. No complaints were heard.

Friday morning we had a pleasant visit to the Onocoluftee Indian Village. As we now know, everything took two to three days to make: a bow, pottery, a beaded necklace, and a canoe. Well, maybe not the canoe. I wonder if Carr or Kate, or anyone, can anyone still name the seven tribes of the Cherokee? A picnic lunch was followed by a drive to Fontana Lake. Piling into our three pontoon boats we headed out. Gabriel gave us driving lessons because he told us he was "a champion"! We played around in the water and tried to dunk each other, again and again. We seem to have some campers who are part fish (Delicia, Stephen, Jana to name a few). We got back to camp just in time to do some very important shopping at the River Store and then a magician entertained us through dinner. His show continued after dinner. Even as

close as we were sitting to him, it is still a mystery as to where the bird and the rabbit went. Abby did a great job connecting and disconnecting the rings and Ashley can move at the speed of light (when a snake is chasing her). ☺

Saturday we woke to rain. The first rain in all our camping years. I should have known it would not deter the Nantahala staff or the campers and we marched right off to the ropes course. Though we got soggy in the early morning, the day turned out to be spectacular in attitudes, challenge, companionship and pure fun. Matthew, Jamie and Chris R. showed their skill again on the course. They are veterans. Michelle did a fine job for her first time on this course. Abbey finally took a swing and even thought it was fun. When not climbing the 20-foot or 40 foot ropes course some folks splashed in puddles and tried to balance on the big rocker board. A few campers went looking for gems and came back with some lovely stones. Barely enough time to shop, AGAIN, before dinner. As if that wasn't enough, we packed into cars and drove off to the bowling alley. With disco music blaring and the mirrored globe shining, we got down to the business of bowling. Artie was bowling much to his surprise and quite a few people were jumping around after spares. Did anyone get a strike?

Sunday it was time to clean up, pack up and head our separate ways. Some campers left from NOC. ☹ The rest of us braved the VERY windy road again and had a great afternoon at UT. We got to meet, talk to, get autographs from and toss footballs with, those National Champions, The University of Tennessee Volunteers! ☺ Megan and Cliff looked tiny next to those guys and had fun touring with them in the weight room and the stadium.

Finally, tired campers and volunteers said good-bye and headed home. We are already planning for next year and hope to see you again.