

ACT

AMPUTEES COMING TOGETHER

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NINTH ANNUAL AMPUTEE KIDS CAMP IS FULL OF FUN AND SUN!

With campers from as far as Michigan and Florida, another year of camp was fantastic! And wasn't the weather just perfect!

So, what happened this year? After a frantic lunch, quick change and introduction to each other and to the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC), we went down to the river to play. We rafted the Nantahala River (which was quite exciting this year due to the higher water level) and the relaxing Tuckasegee River. In the evening we relaxed, watched a movie and played games.

Friday was a great day on the ropes course where all the campers participated in climbing the ropes course or alpine tower. Before the climbing began the campers and volunteers played some team building games. One memorable one this year was trying to pull apart a t-shirt that had been folded up and frozen solid! Out on the high ropes and the Alpine tower, many of the campers reached new levels of the ropes course and a number of them braved the giant 40-foot swing. We all waited in anticipation of the reaction as they "fall" from the platform and then swing out into the trees. As is tradition, the staff of the NOC were excellent and encouraged the campers and volunteers every step of the way. In between the challenges of the ropes course, small groups of campers went gem mining, a short drive from the NOC. Everyone who went found something from the mountains of North Carolina; quartz, ruby, sapphire, and of course, Fools Gold.

Saturday was a beautiful day on the lake. Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center in Knoxville, the Knoxville Ski Club and the UT Ski team, once again, were out in full force, and provided all ranges of water sports for the campers. Campers had the opportunity to sit-skiing, tube, knee board, get a jet ski rides, kayak, and swim, swim swim! This was a new experience for some of our campers and they all seemed to be enjoying it. Some of the campers spent so much time in the lake we couldn't get sun screen on them fast enough! The full day at the lake was concluded by a delicious dinner that was catered by Buddy's restaurant of Knoxville. They drove a smoker all the way down to Fontana Lake and we all ate barbeque to our hearts content. There couldn't have been a better end to a great day.

A big congrats goes out to everyone (campers and counselors) who tried something new this year. It was wonderful to see campers and counselors alike do things that they thought were not possible. I guess we all learned something new.

On Sunday, 17 campers made the annual trip back to Knoxville to go to the University of Tennessee and spend part of the day with those famous, and very big, UT Football players. We were treated to lunch, autographs, and some play time on the

field of Neyland Stadium. Next time you see the Tennessee Volunteers on TV you can yell, "Go Vols!" and remember that you were on that field!

All the campers have stories of their individual experiences, adventures, attempts and triumphs and hopefully you have shared them with your family and friends. If you are able to do any fund raising, don't be shy, be creative! We could use any support you can give us. As always it was awesome to share the four days with you. Can't wait till next July!

Found: One multicolored beach towel.

Lost: Two beach towels with sea shell designs.

Written by Annette Dusenbury (counselor) and Missy Burke (Camp Director)