

Geneva Glen Program Outcomes

Summer



2013

This document contains all of the results of Outcomes Program from the summer including Goals and Outcomes Narratives, Session "Fruitage," ACA Youth Outcomes Analysis, Parent Satisfaction Survey Results, Outcome Program Design, Staff Program Evaluations, and other program resources.

The "Fruitage"
of the 2013
Summer

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Youth Outcomes Battery

YOB Introduction

From Overview of the ACA Youth Outcomes Battery V2

The second edition of the ACA Youth Outcomes Battery (ACA-YOB) provides camps and other youth programs with measures that focus on eleven common youth outcomes. The statistically tested scales are age-appropriate, short and concise, easily administered tools that can be individualized to a camp, afterschool program, or other youth programs. While the battery was designed with the camp setting in mind (e.g., nature-based context, residential nature, small group living, youth focused) the measures are focused on strong youth development outcomes that are not predicated on particular settings.

The YOB can help camp and youth program staff:

- Evaluate program goals
- Document the changes in your youth so that information can be shared with key stake-holders (parents, funders, staff, etc.)
- Demonstrate your commitment to quality programs that make a difference in people's lives
- Meet expectations for trust-worthy instruments (high reliability and validity statistical checks prove the scales accuracy)
- Can be combined to measure socially relevant concepts (Ex. Environmental Leadership could be measured by combining the scales for teamwork, responsibility, independence, problem-solving, and affinity for nature)

Specific Youth Outcomes Measured by the YOB

The YOB focuses on eleven outcomes common to many camps and other youth development programs.

- Friendship Skills (i.e., make friends and maintain relationships)
- Independence (i.e., rely less on adults and other people for solving problems and for their day-to-day activities)
- Teamwork (i.e., become more effective when working in groups of their peers)
- Family Citizenship (i.e., encourage attributes important to being a member of a family)
- Perceived Competence (i.e., believe that they can be successful in the things they do)
- Interest in Exploration (i.e., be more curious, inquisitive, eager to learn new things)
- Responsibility (i.e., learn to be accountable for their own actions and mistakes)
- Affinity for Nature (i.e., feelings of emotional attraction toward nature)
- Problem-Solving Confidence (i.e., believe they have abilities to resolve problems)
- Camp Connectedness (i.e., feeling welcomed and supported at camp)
- Spiritual Well-Being (i.e., having purpose and meaning in life, transcendence)

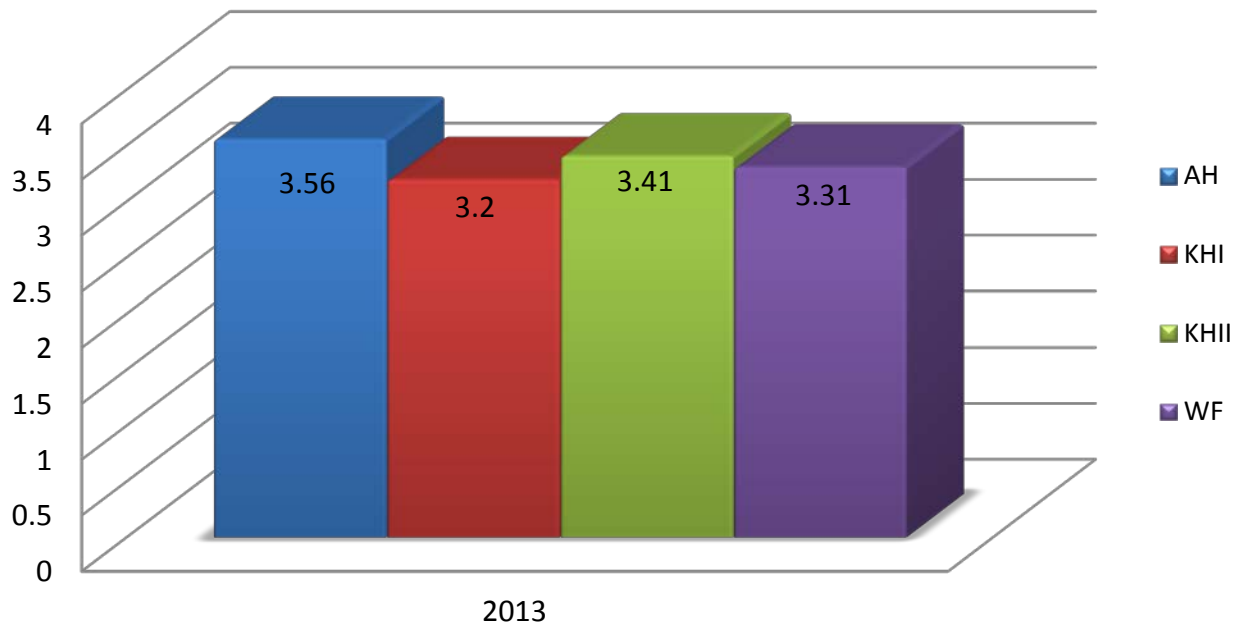
YOB Result Analysis

Young Camper Survey Analysis

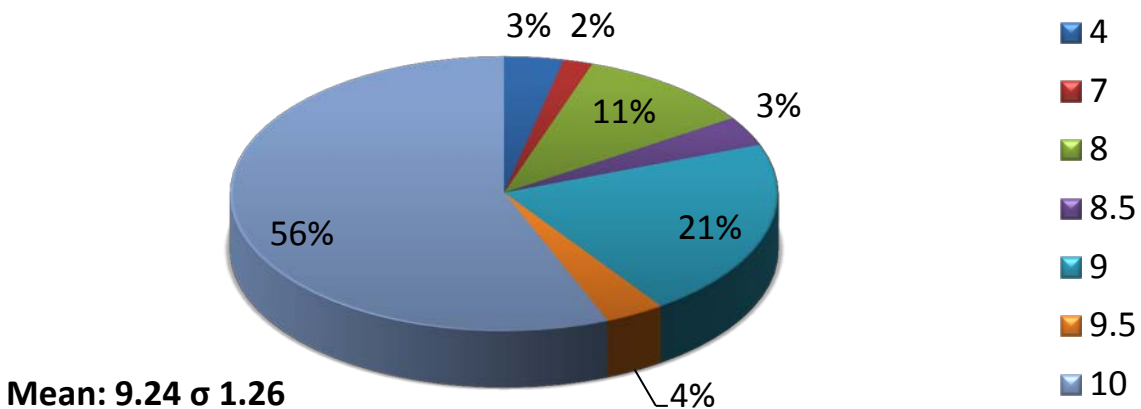
- 57 Campers were interviewed representing approximately 20% of that demographic (288 Campers)
- 14 Question Survey Yields a “Total Result” (not module/outcome based)
- Grades 2-5
- σ of .30 on Total survey (Compared to .39 in 2011)

82.46% of the campers surveyed felt that they learned “a little” to “a lot” about friendship, independence, teamwork, family citizenship, perceived competence, interest in exploration and responsibility. (-2.86% from 4 year average)

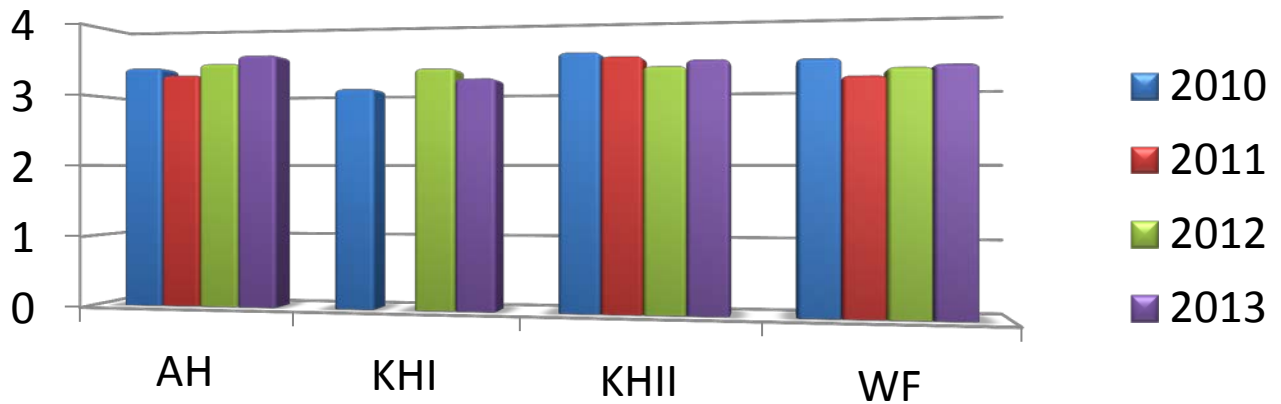
Average Scores by Session - 2013



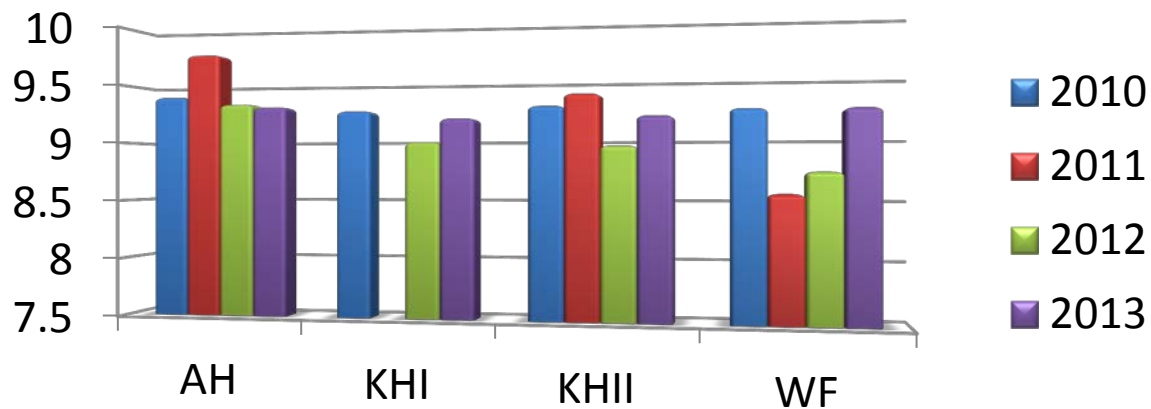
Satisfaction Results - 2013



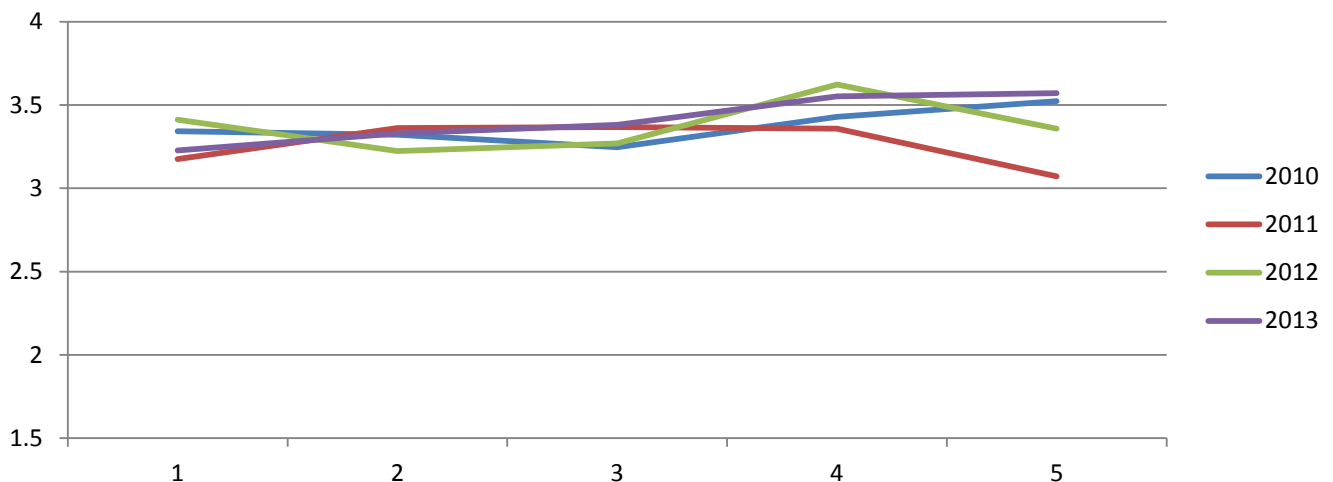
Average Score - Yearly Comparative



Satisfaction Comparative



Year at Camp Comparative



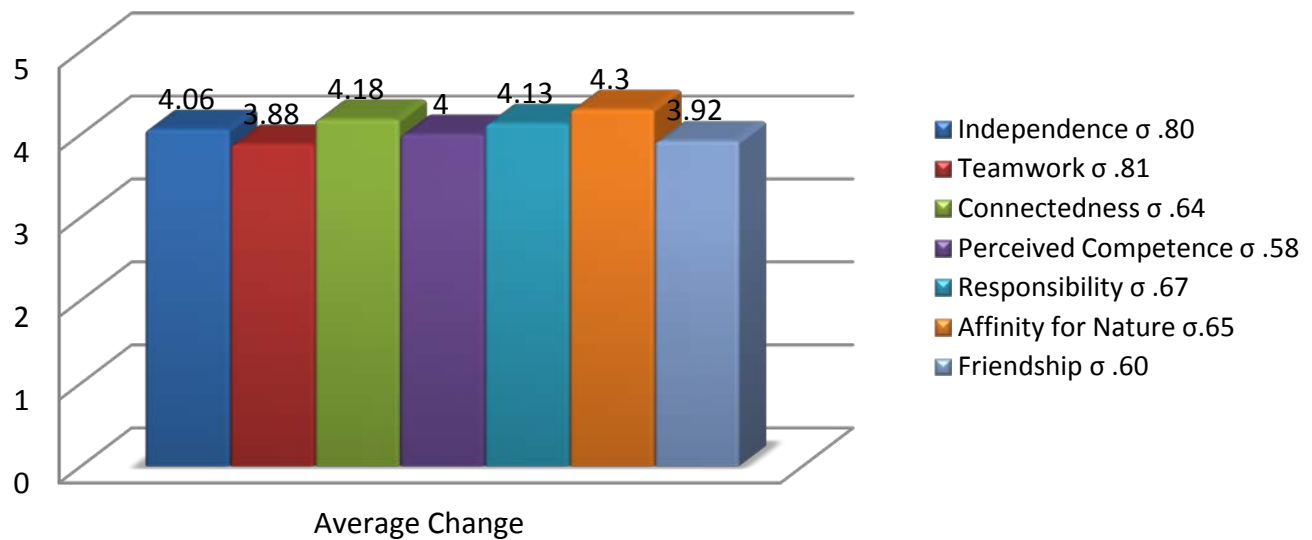
Basic Older Camper Survey

Basic Older Camper Demographic

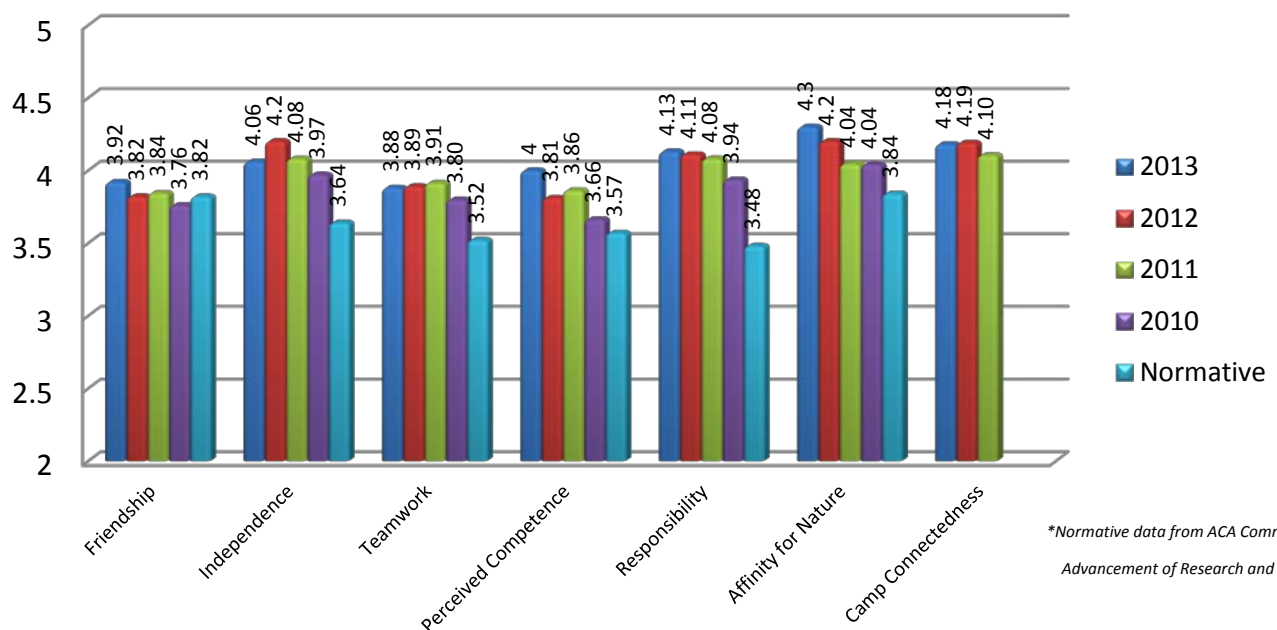
- 80 Campers were interviewed representing approximately 28% of that demographic (285 Campers)
- Friendship, Independence, Perceived Competence, Responsibility, Teamwork, Affinity for Nature, and Connectedness – 64 Questions
- Excluded Family Citizenship and Interest in Exploration
- Grade 6-8; Cabins, 14, 15, 10, 9; Dorms G, B, H

Basic Older Camper Survey Analysis

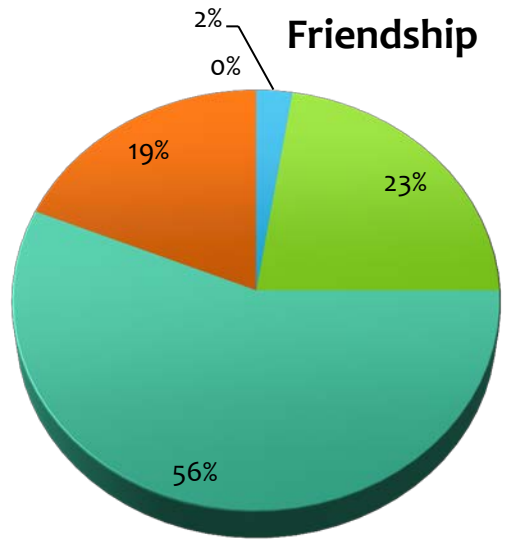
Average Scores by Outcome



Average Scores by Outcome



*Normative data from ACA Committee for the Advancement of Research and Evaluation

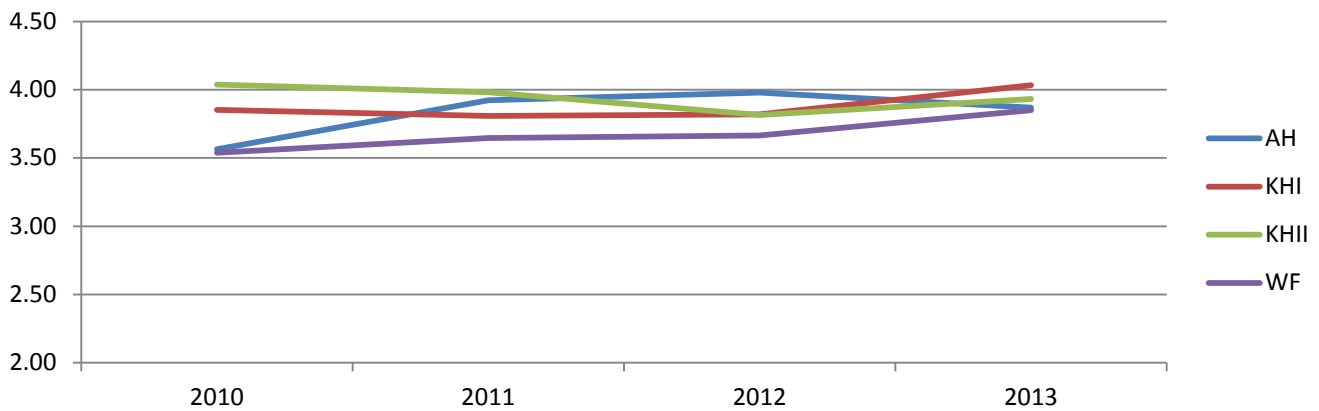


- Decreased
- Did not increase or Decrease
- Increased a little bit, maybe
- Increased some, I am sure
- Increased a lot, I am sure

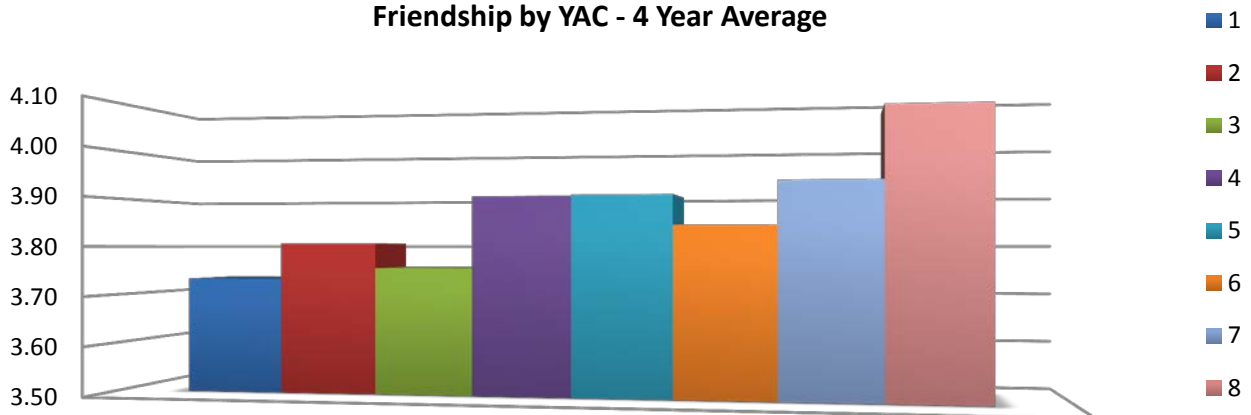
Mean: 3.92 σ .60

- 98% felt that camp helped increase their friendship skills (5% increase from 2012)
- Error in the last 4 years of data analysis
- Strongest in Knighthood I; Knighthood is strongest over 4 years
- ACA Normative Values: 50th Percentile

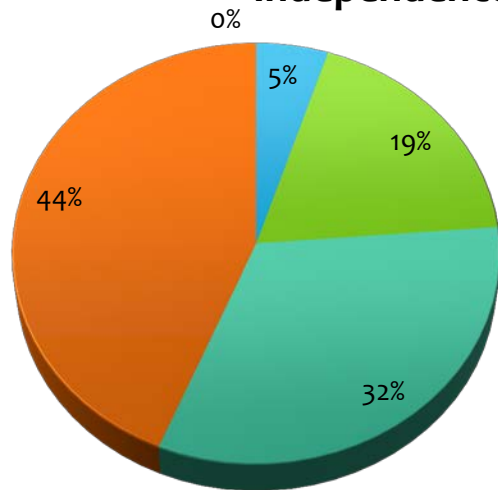
Average of Friendship by Session



Friendship by YAC - 4 Year Average



Independence

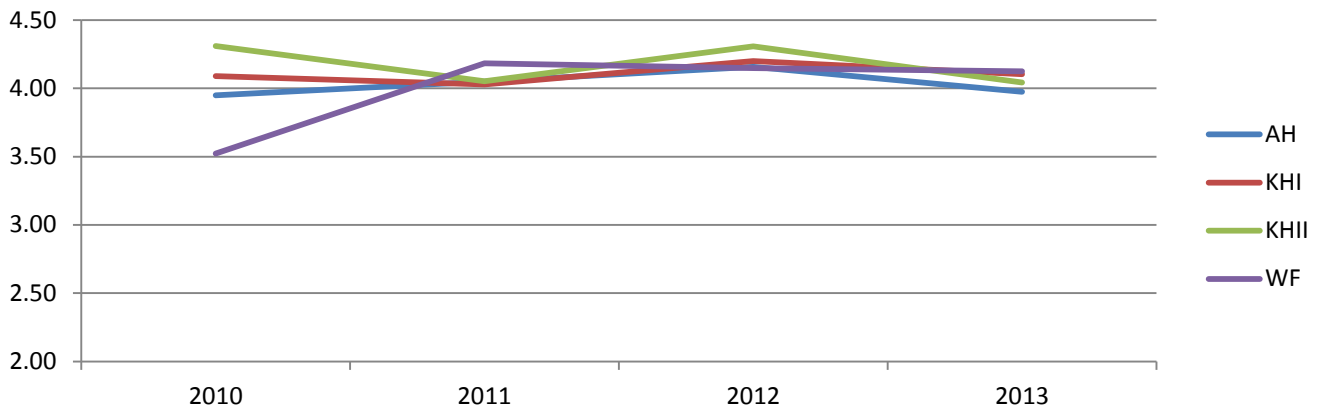


- Decreased
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- Increased a lot, I am sure

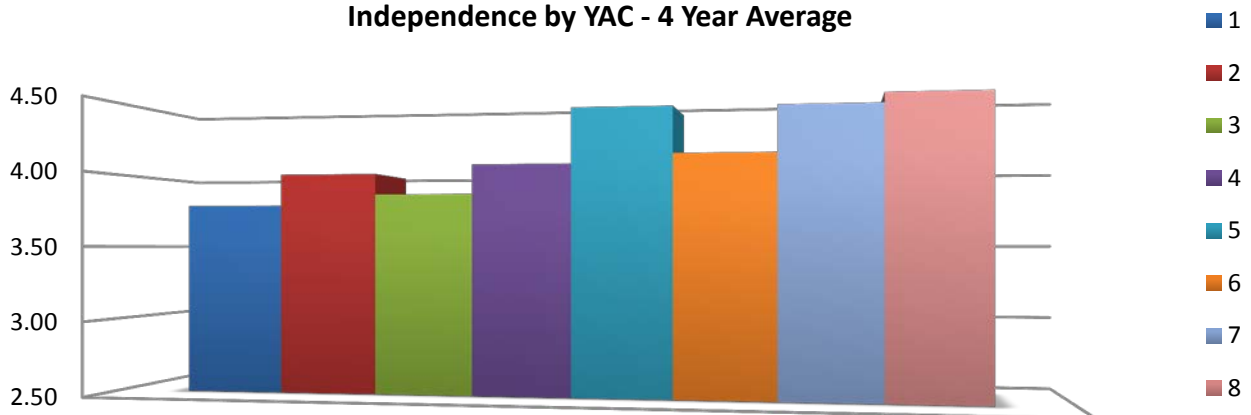
- Error in last 4 years of data analysis
- 95% felt that camp helped increase their independence (Even)
- Females score consistently higher than males (4 year average)
- ACA Normative Values: 60-70th Percentile

Mean: 4.06 σ .80

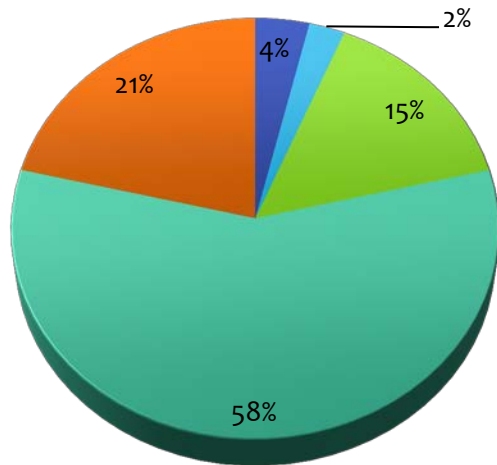
Average of Independence by Session



Independence by YAC - 4 Year Average



Teamwork

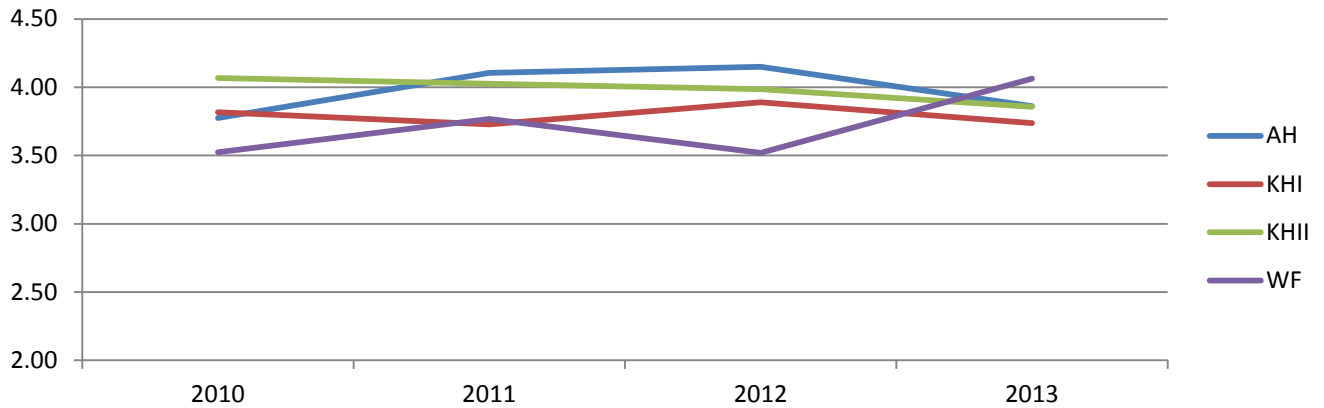


- Decreased
- Did not increase or Decrease
- Increased a little bit, maybe
- Increased some, I am sure
- Increased a lot, I am sure

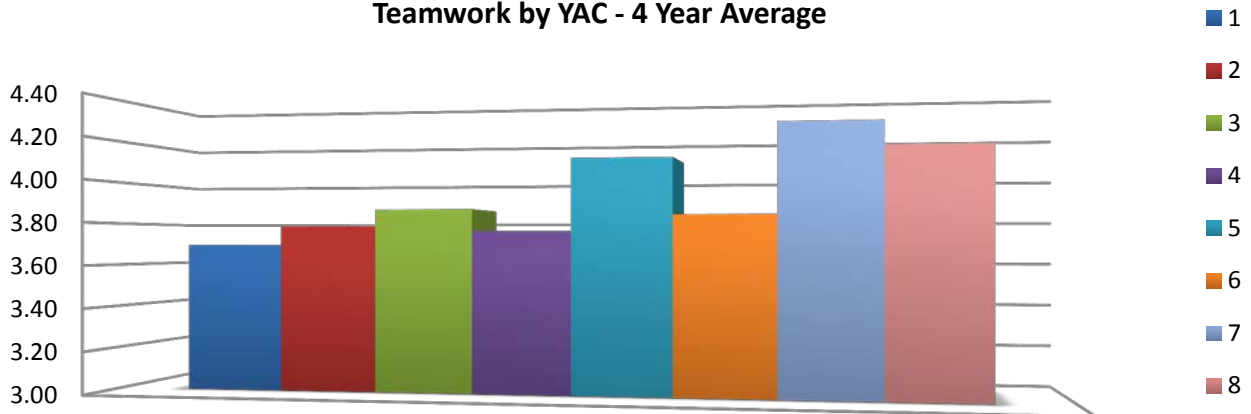
Mean: 3.88 σ .81

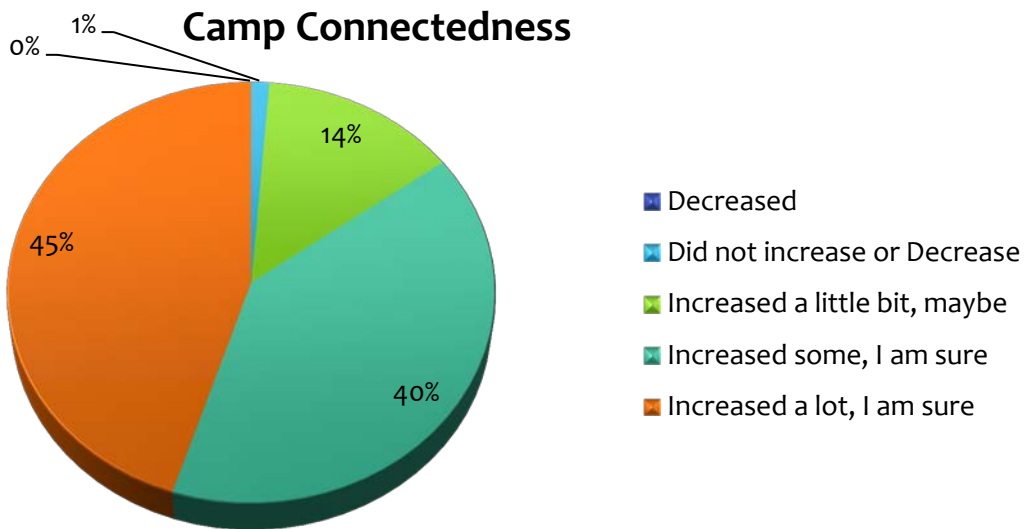
- 94% felt that camp made them better team players (+3% from 2012)
- Highest during World Friendship (Olympics?)
- ACA Normative Values: 60-70th Percentile

Average of Teamwork by Session



Teamwork by YAC - 4 Year Average

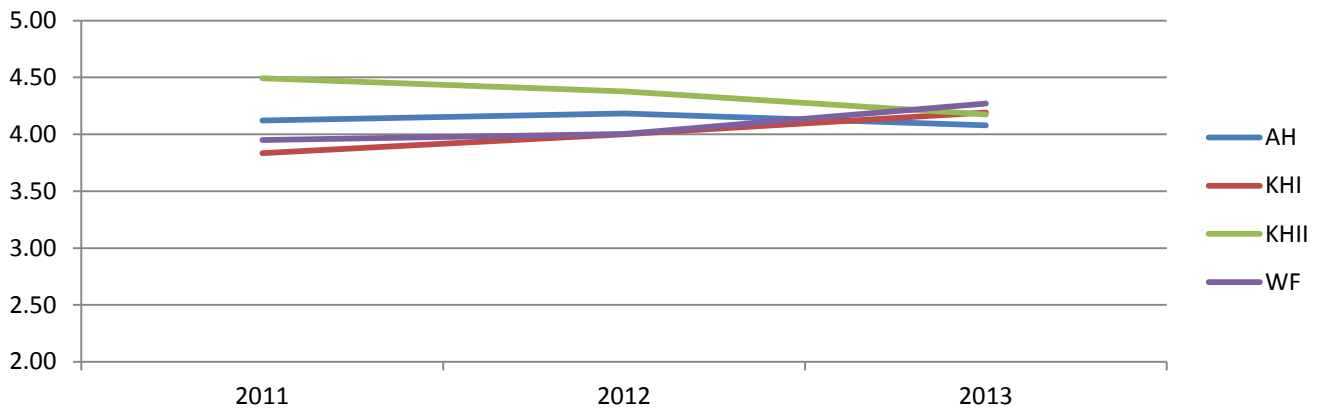




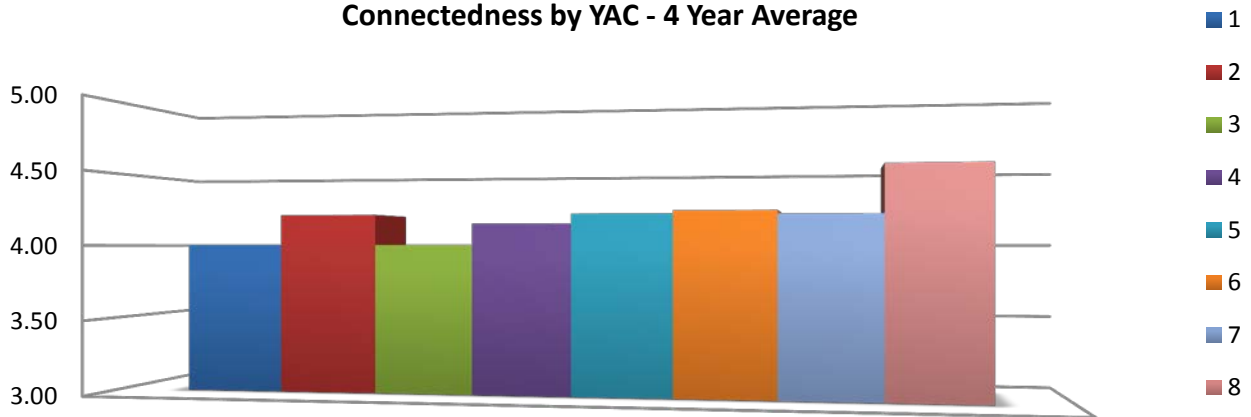
- 99% felt welcomed and supported at camp (+6.1% from 2012)
- No National Norms
- Been very consistent – 4 year overall average

Mean: 4.18 σ .64

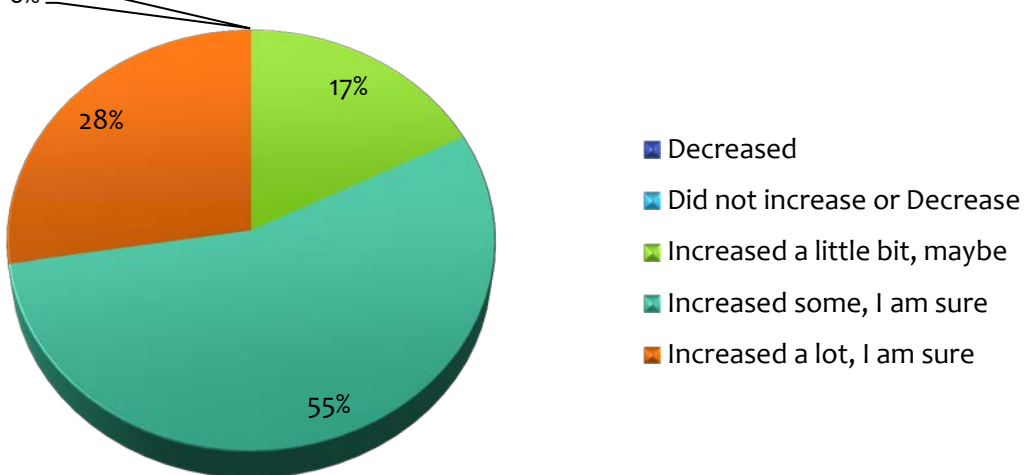
Average of Connectedness by Session



Connectedness by YAC - 4 Year Average



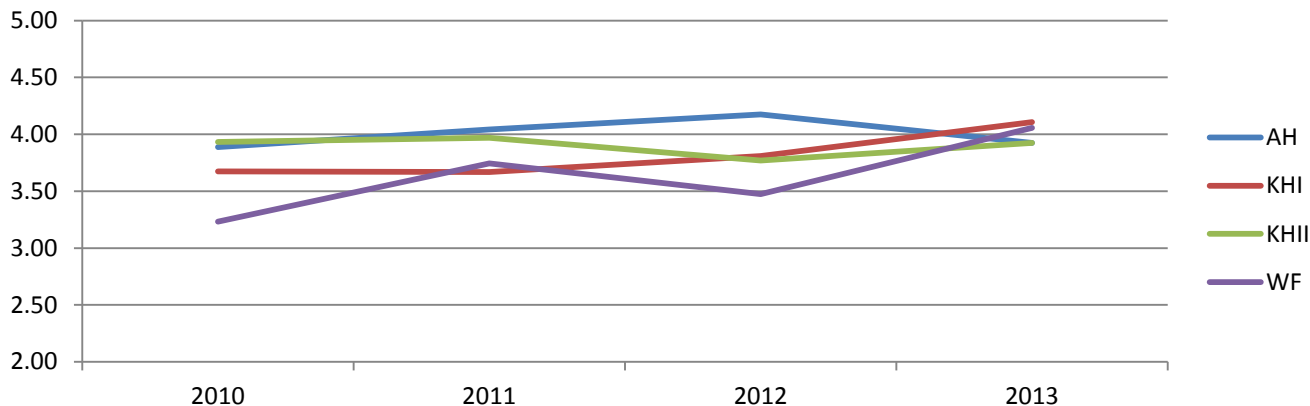
Perceived Competence



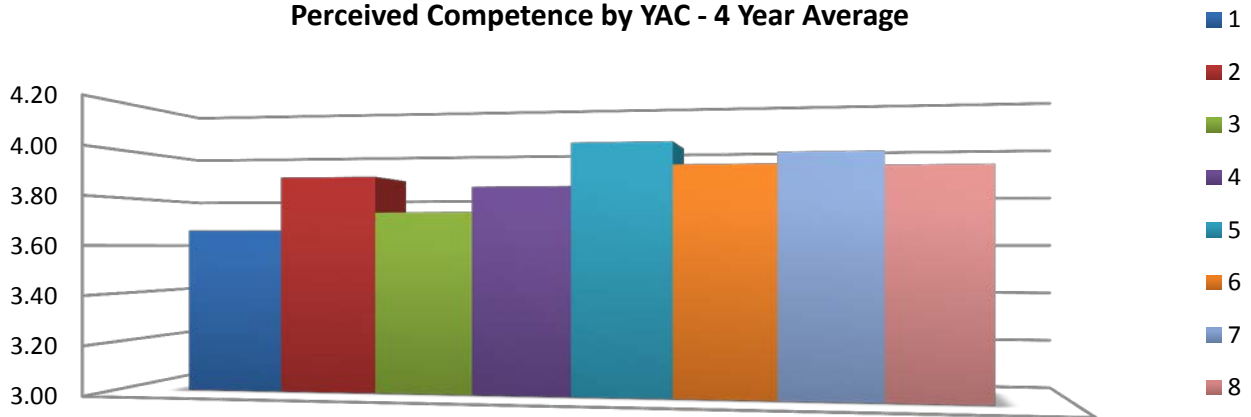
- 100% felt more confident about themselves after camp
- 10% Increase in mean scores from 2012
- ACA Normative Values: 60-70th Percentile (Increased from 2012)

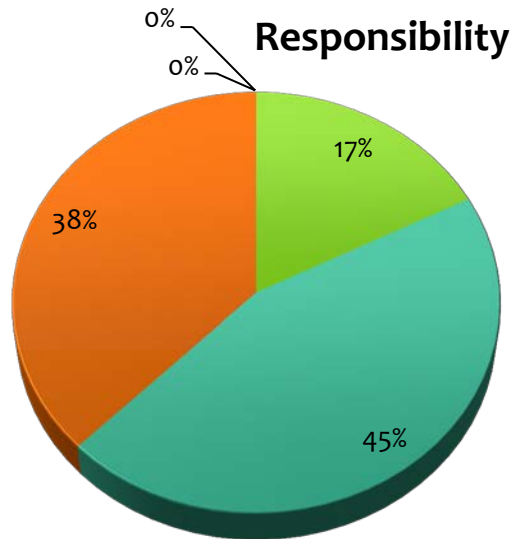
Mean: 4.00 σ .58

Average of Perceived Competence by Session



Perceived Competence by YAC - 4 Year Average



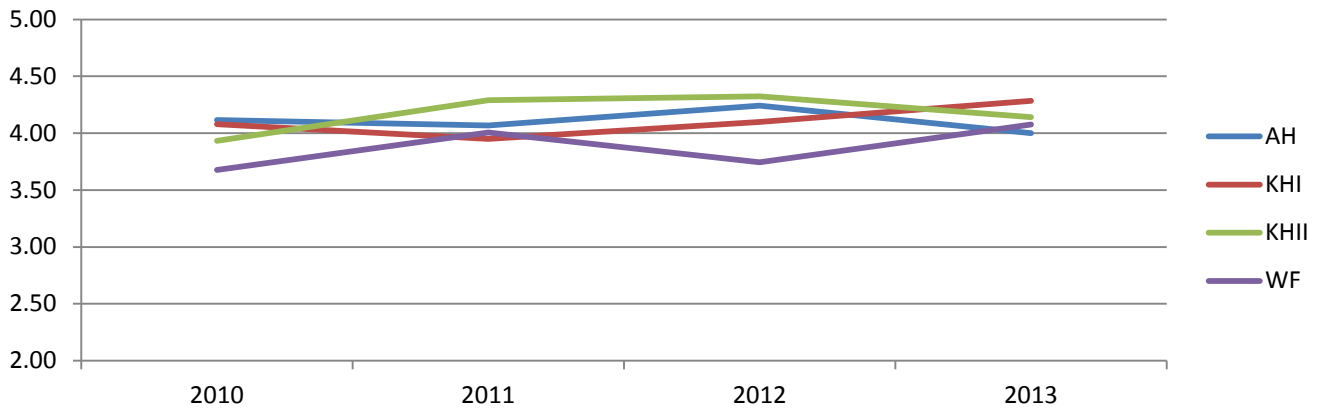


- Decreased
- Did not increase or Decrease
- Increased a little bit, maybe
- Increased some, I am sure
- Increased a lot, I am sure

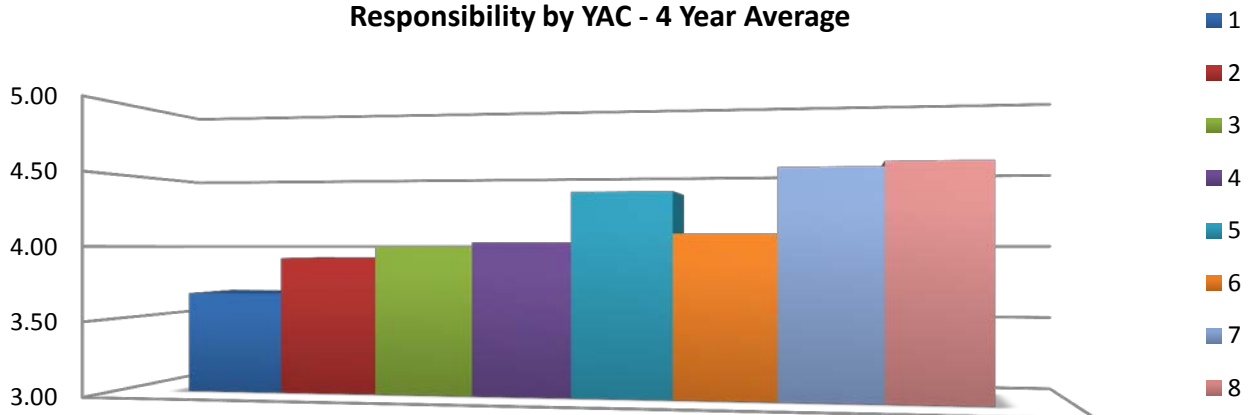
- 100% felt more responsible after camp
- 8.3% Increase in mean scores from 2012
- Standard Deviation improved from 4 Year Average
- ACA Normative Values: 60-70th Percentile

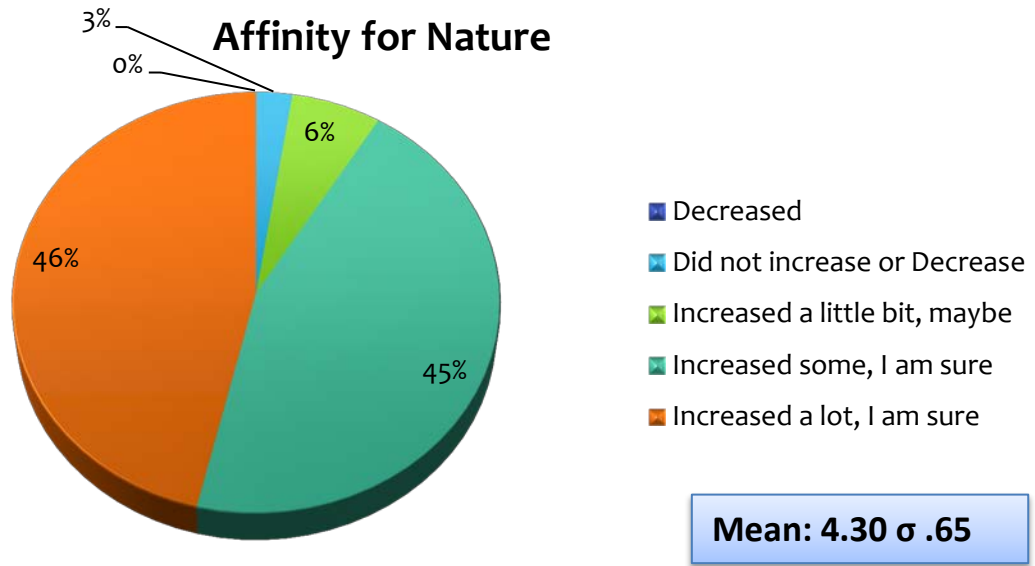
Mean: 4.13 σ .67

Average of Responsibility by Session



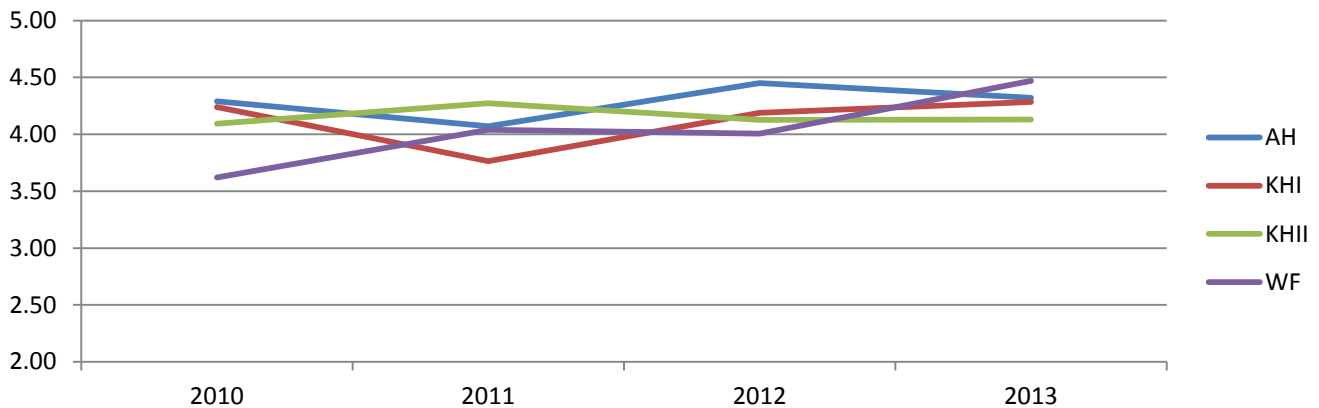
Responsibility by YAC - 4 Year Average



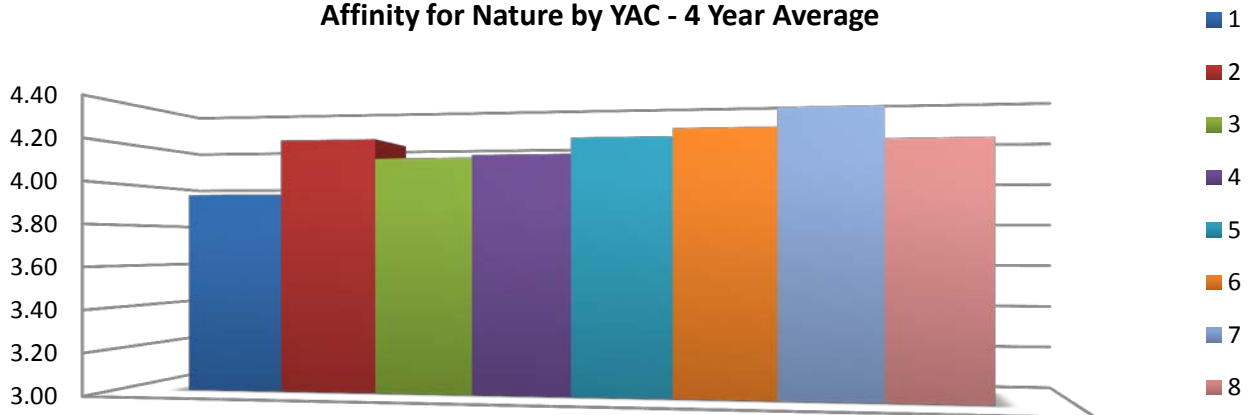


- 97.5% had a greater appreciation for nature as a results of camp (+8.7% from 2012)
- World Friendship rated highest in 2013 (American Heritage is typically rated highest)
- ACA Normative Values: 50-60th Percentile

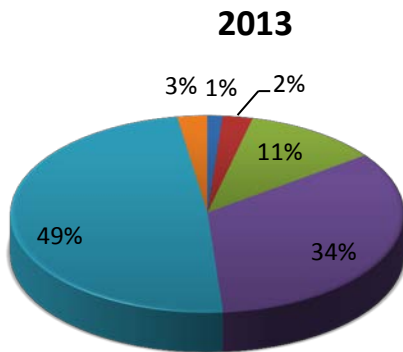
Average of Affinity for Nature by Session



Affinity for Nature by YAC - 4 Year Average

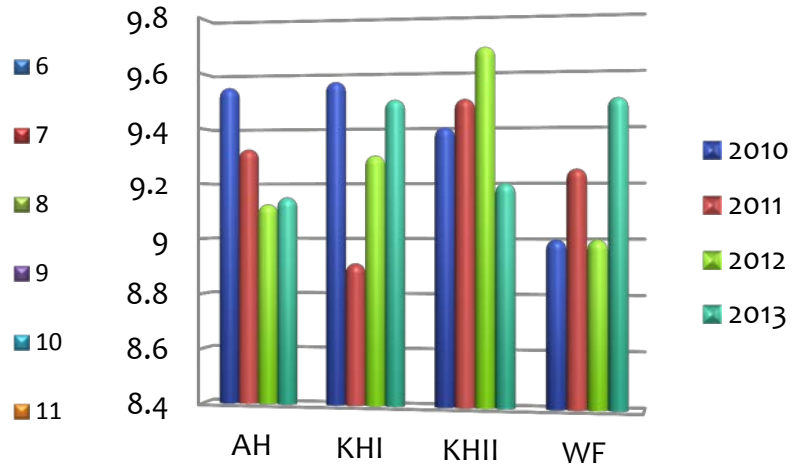


Satisfaction Survey Results and Other Analysis



Mean: 9.34 σ .90

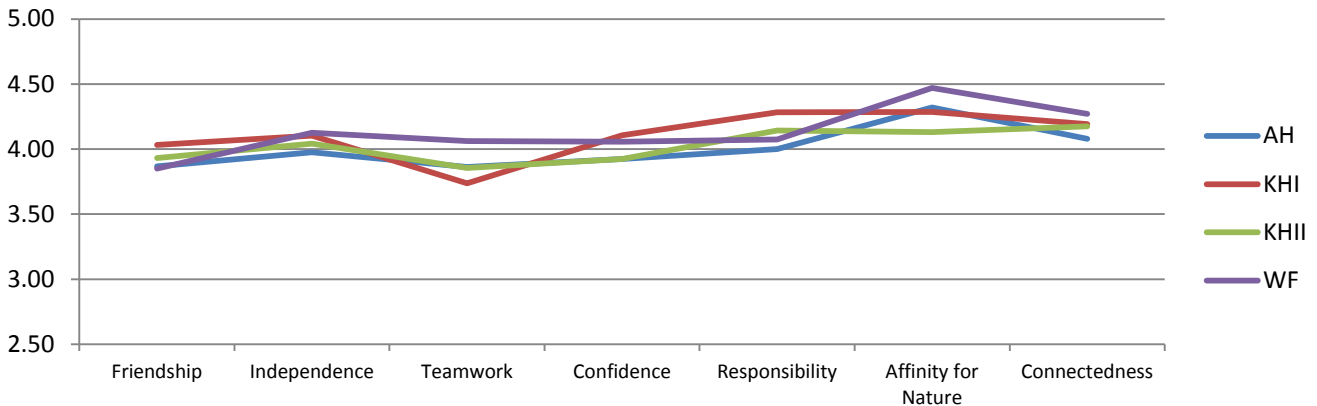
Session/Year Comparative



- Satisfaction rating of camp increased less than 1% from 2012
- Satisfaction is consistent with 4 Year Average (9.30 σ 1.044)
- World Friendship had the greatest effect on campers and was the highest rated (Tied with KHI 9.5)
- American Heritage had the lowest effect on campers and was the lowest rated
- Girls rated slightly higher than boys in every outcome (4 Years Now)
- Favorite Activities: Barn, Archery, Pool
- What did they NOT LIKE about camp?
 - #1: Nothing – It was great (21%)
 - #2: Cabin Placement (8%)
 - #3: Barn (7%)
 - #3: Overnight (5%)
 - #4: Food (5%)

What else should we know?
 “Keep camp the same” or “It’s perfect the way it is.” **38%**

Average of Change by Session

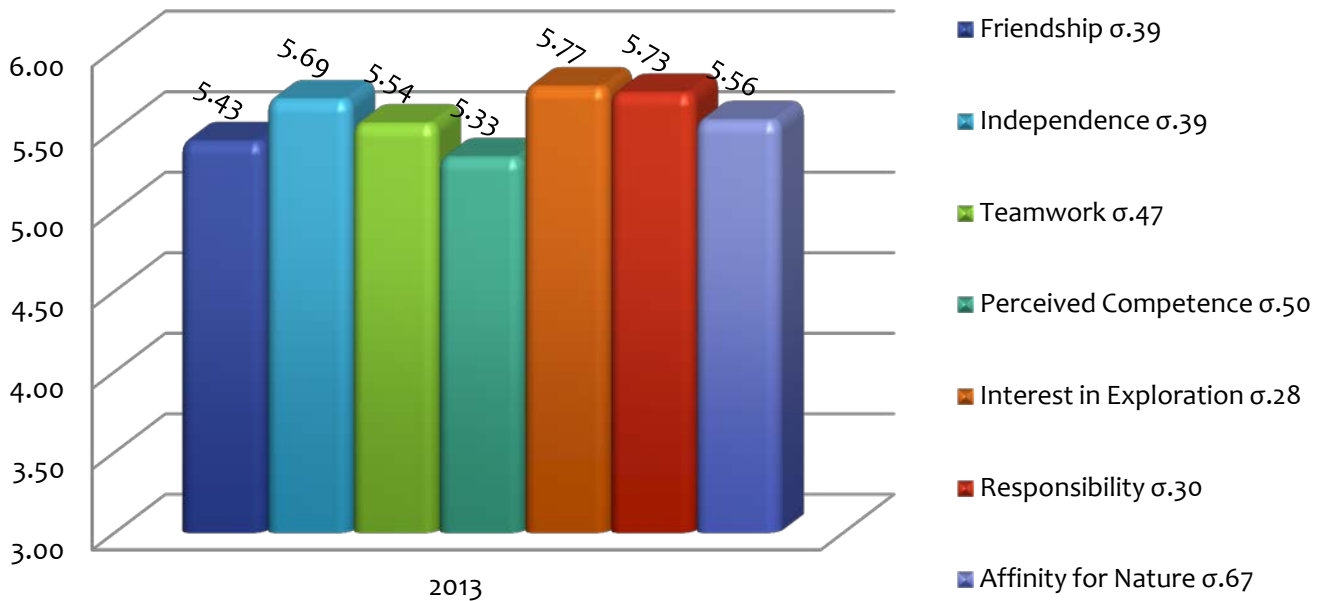


Detailed Older Camper Demographic

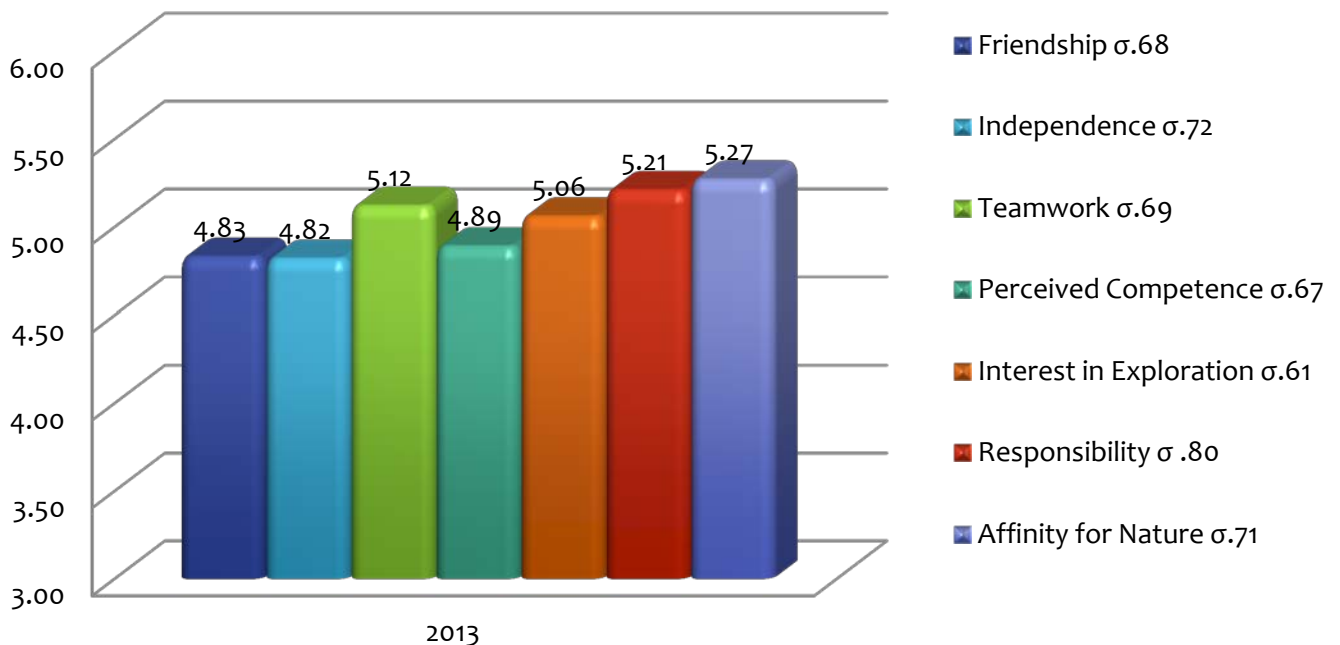
- 76 Campers were interviewed representing approximately 23% of that demographic (332 Campers)
- 7 Outcomes were surveyed: Friendship, Independence, Teamwork, Perceived Competence, Interest in Exploration, Responsibility and Affinity for Nature
- Grade 8-11; Cabins 2, 4, 5, 7, 6; Dorms A, E, F

Detailed Older Camper Overview

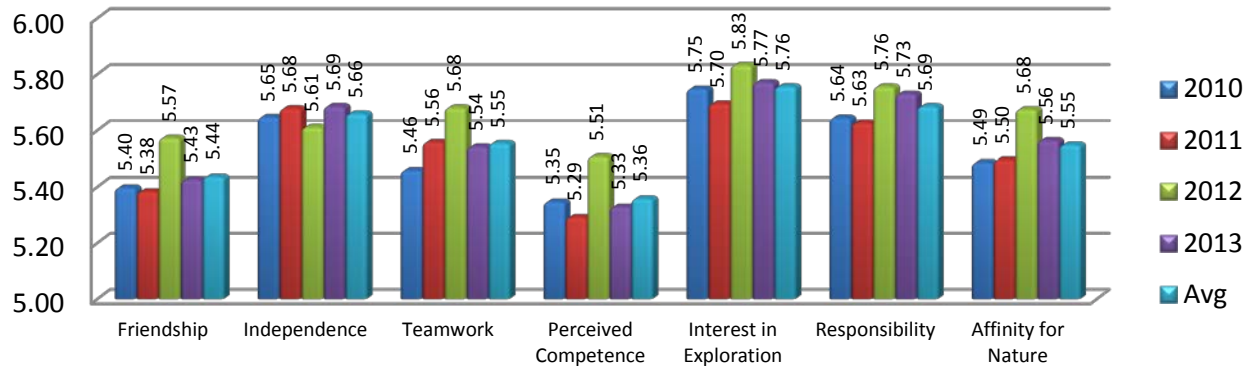
Average "Status" by Outcome



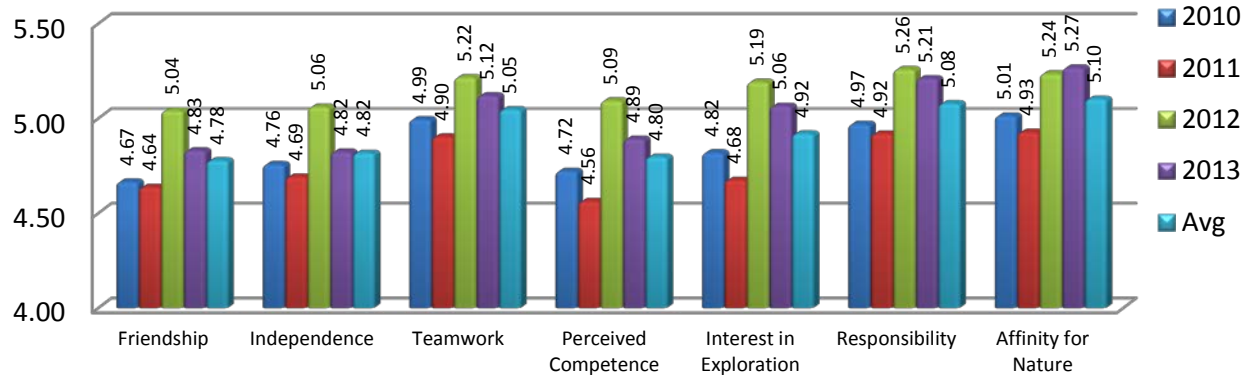
Average "Change" by Outcome



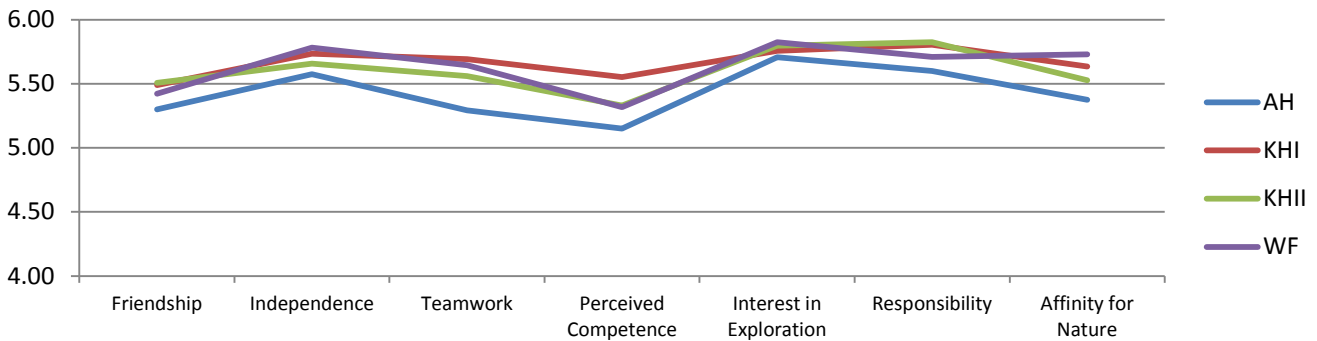
Average "Status" by Outcome



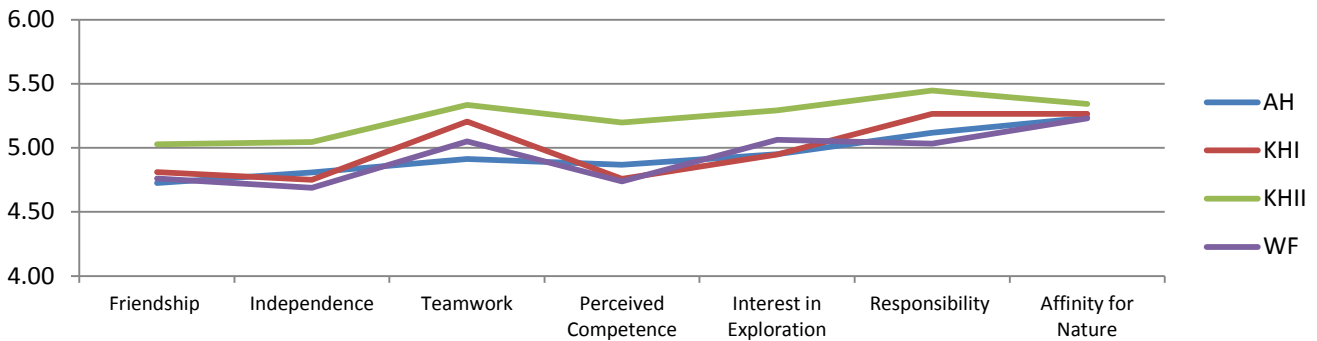
Average "Change" by Outcome



Average of "Status" by Session - 2013

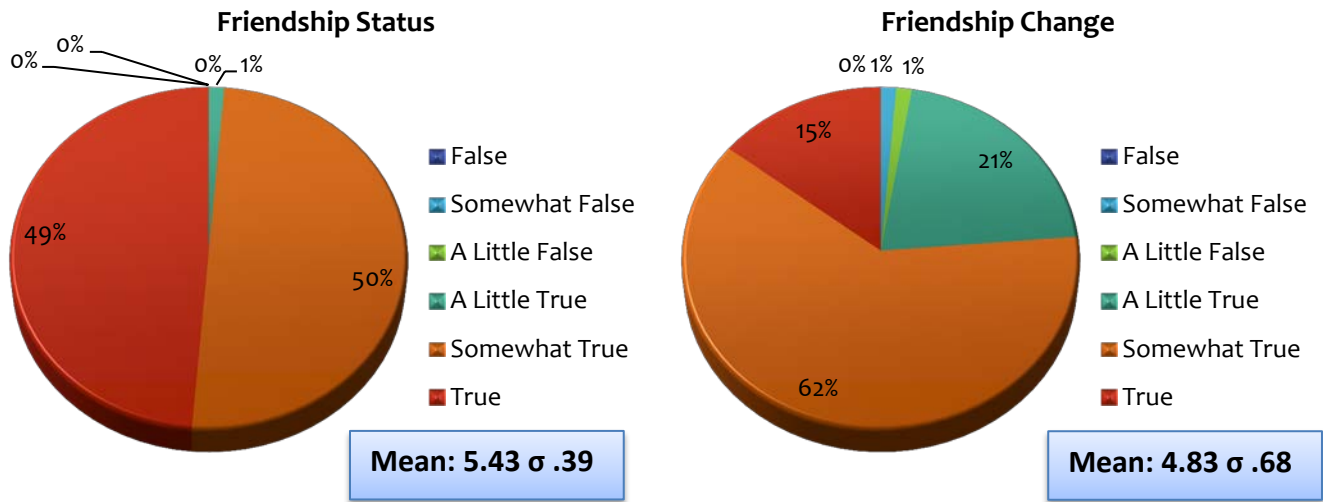


Average of "Change" by Session - 2013



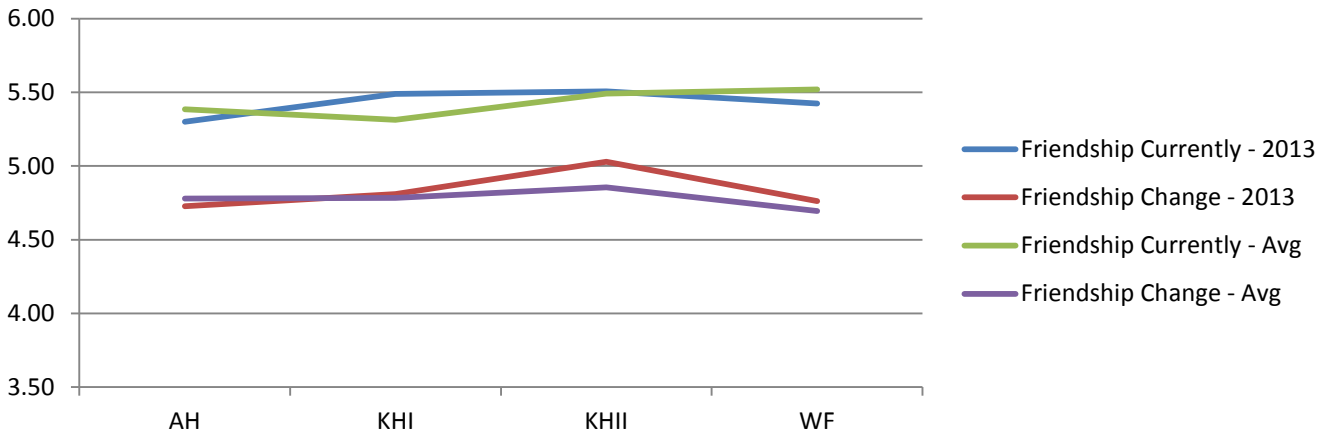
Detailed Camper Survey Analysis by Outcome

Friendship

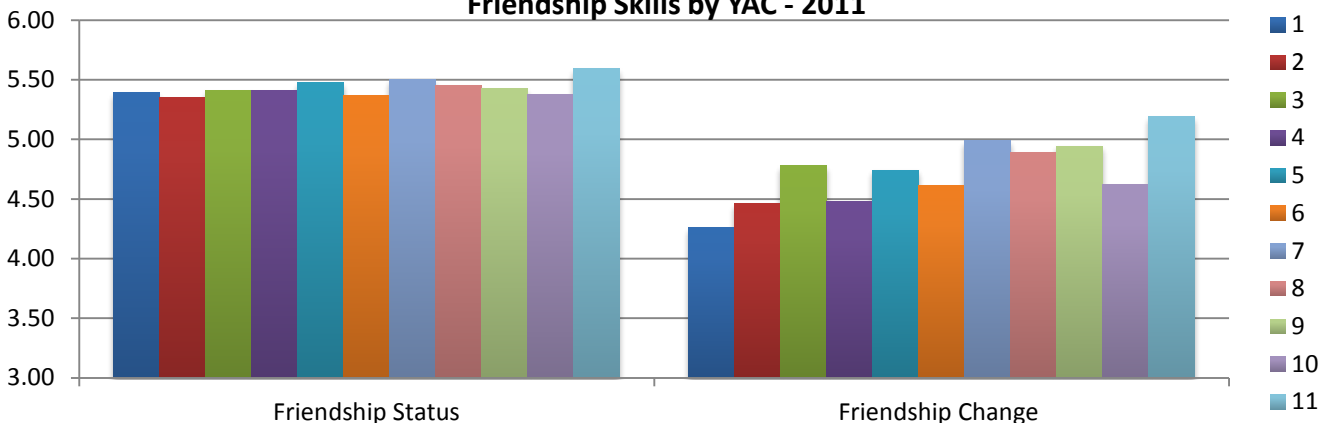


- 100% felt “I have good friendship skills” was a least a little true
- 76.3% felt that camp significantly improved their friendship skills (.6% Decrease from 2012)

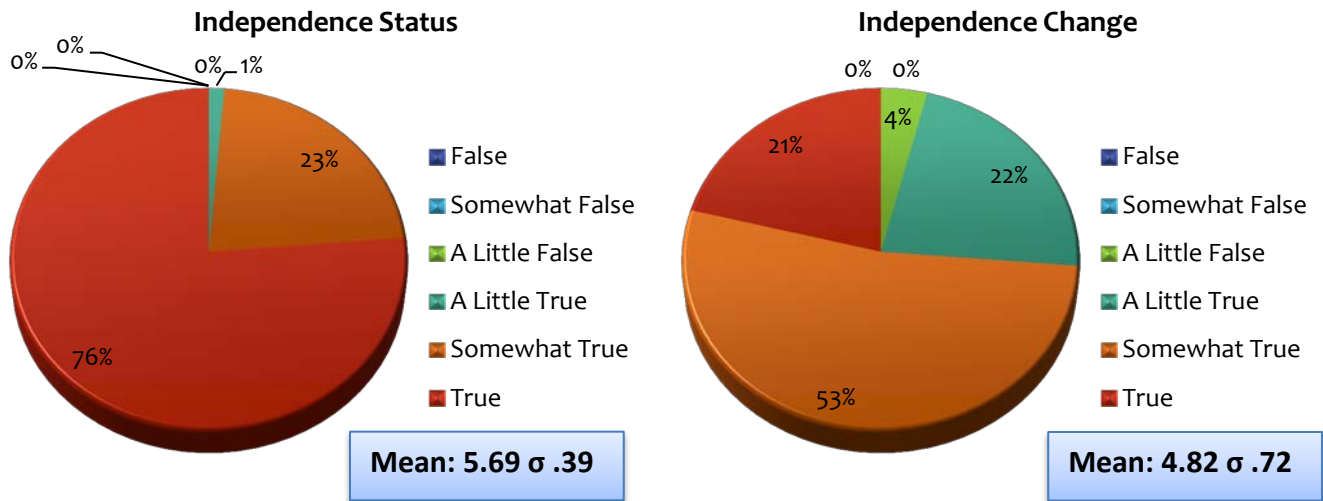
Friendship Change & Status by Session



Friendship Skills by YAC - 2011

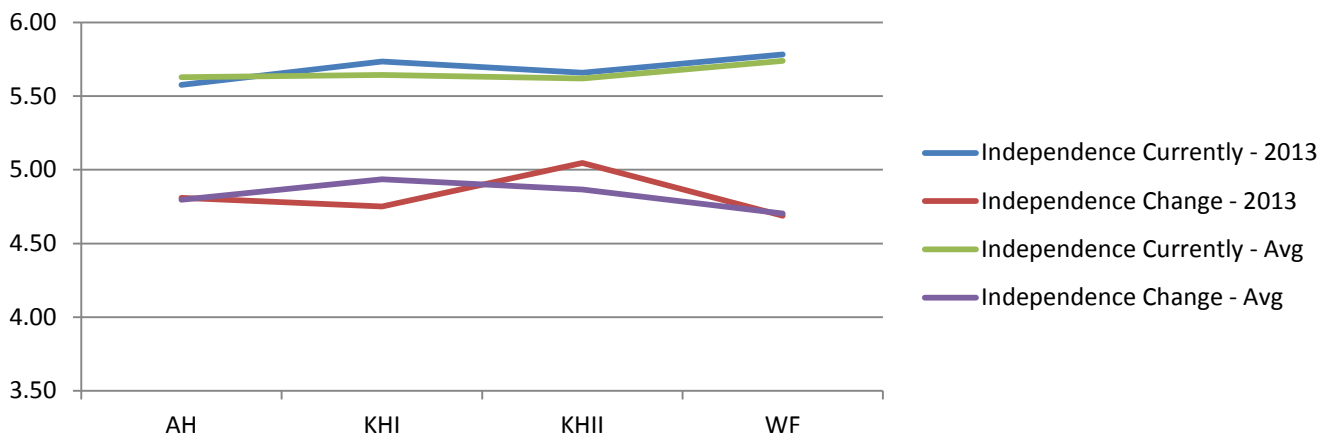


Independence

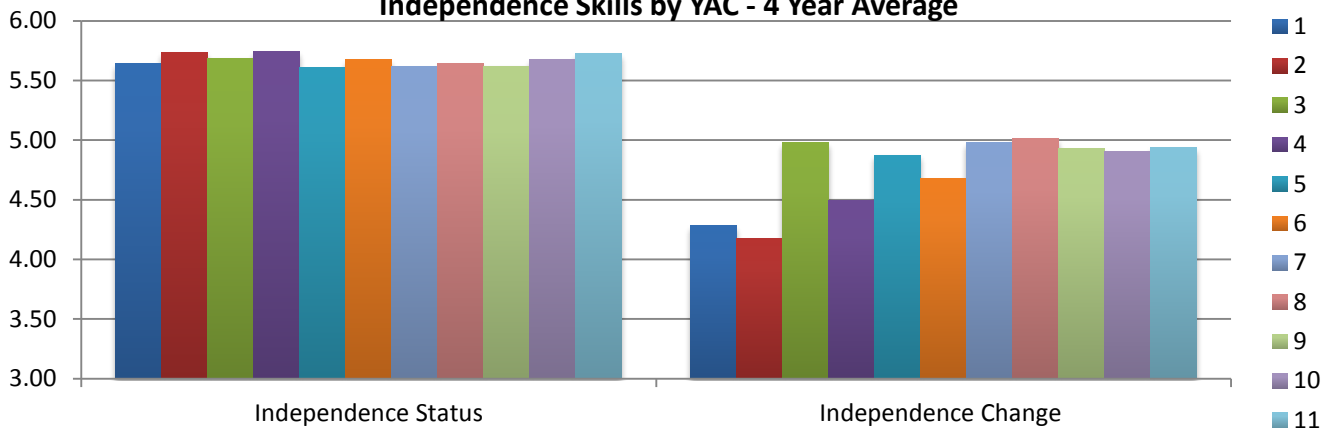


- 100% felt "I have good independence skills" was a least a little true
- 73.7% felt that camp significantly improved their friendship skills (8.3% decrease from 2012)

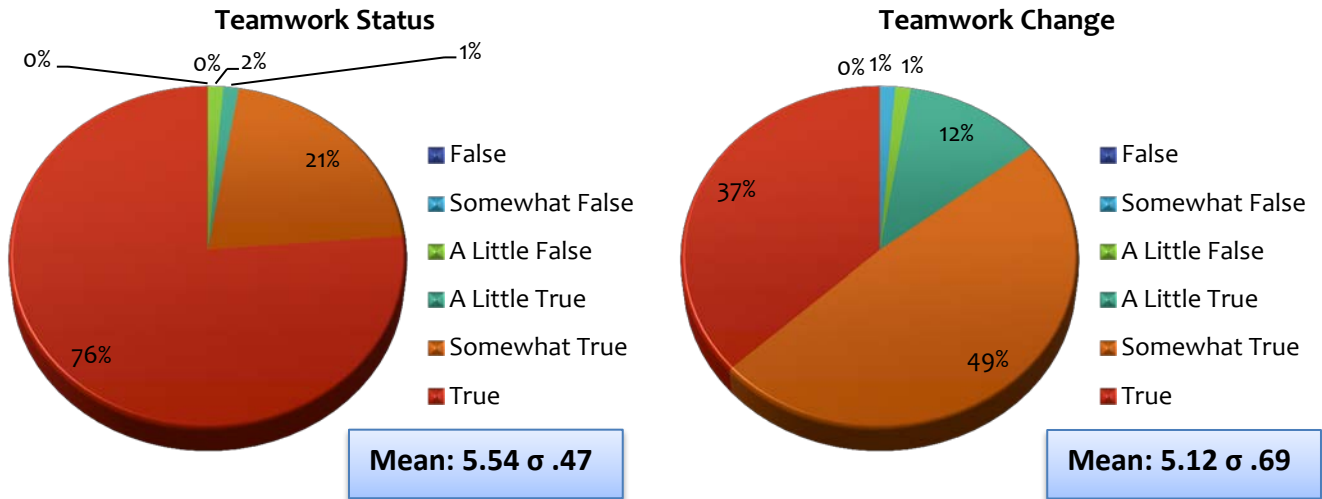
Independence Change & Status by Session



Independence Skills by YAC - 4 Year Average

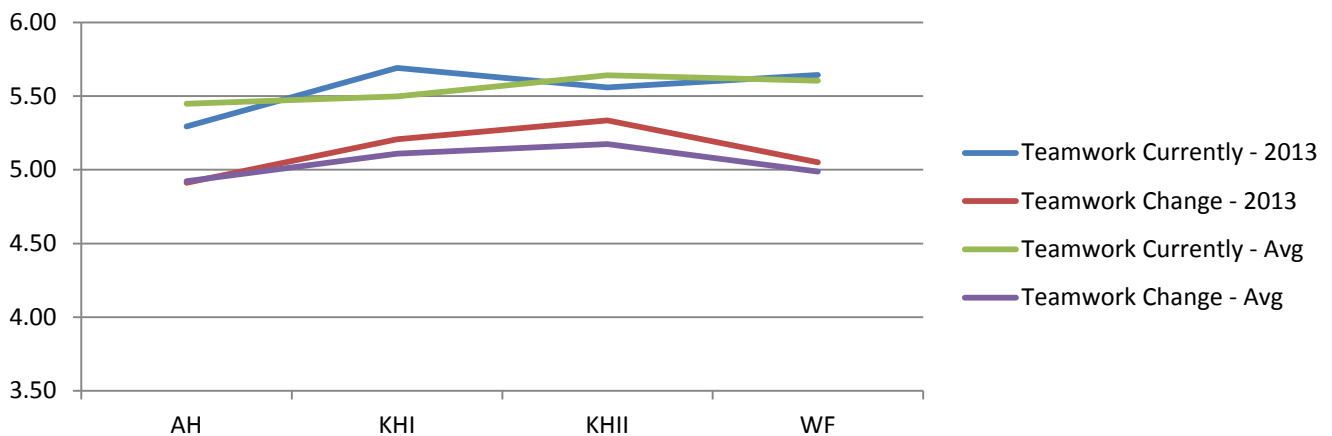


Teamwork

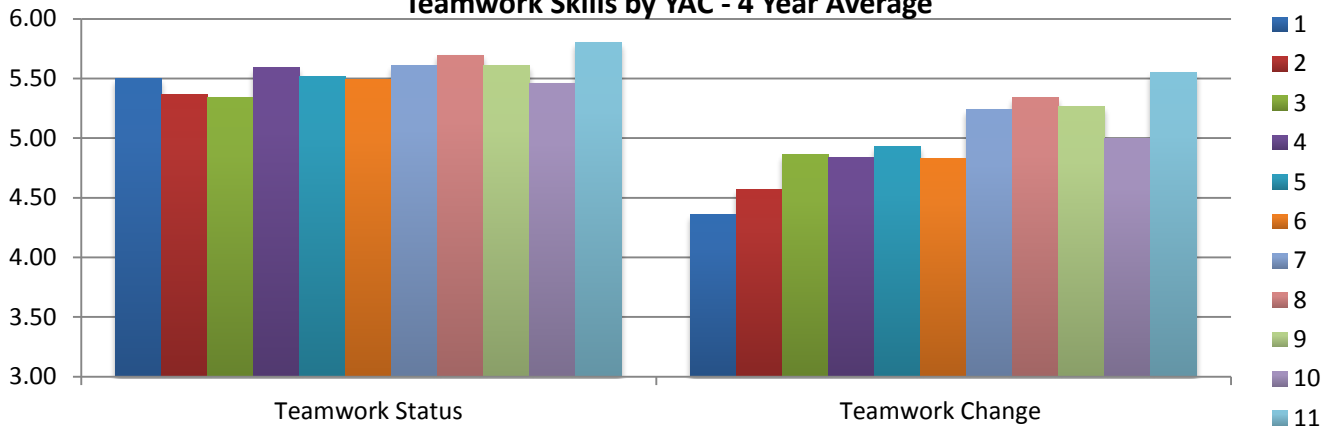


- 97.4% felt “I have good teamwork skills” was a least a little true
- 85.5% felt that camp significantly improved their teamwork skills (1.9% increase from 2012)

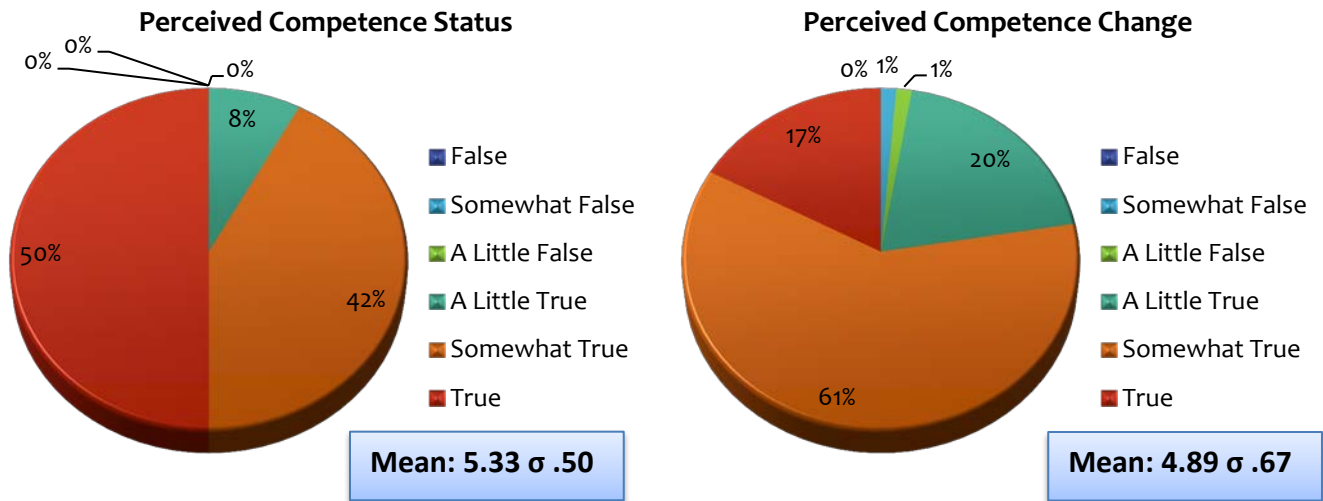
Teamwork Change & Status by Session



Teamwork Skills by YAC - 4 Year Average

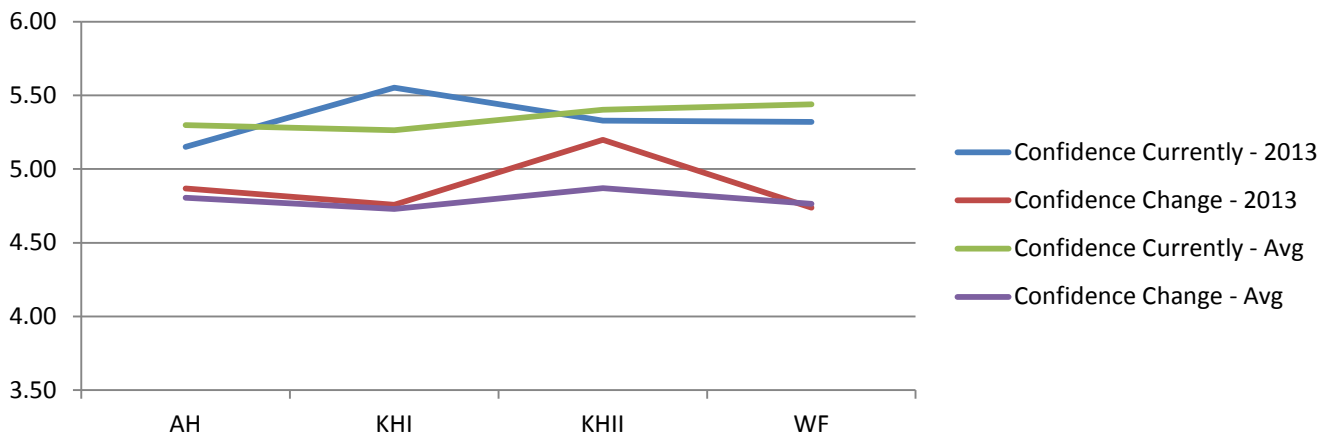


Perceived Competence (Confidence)

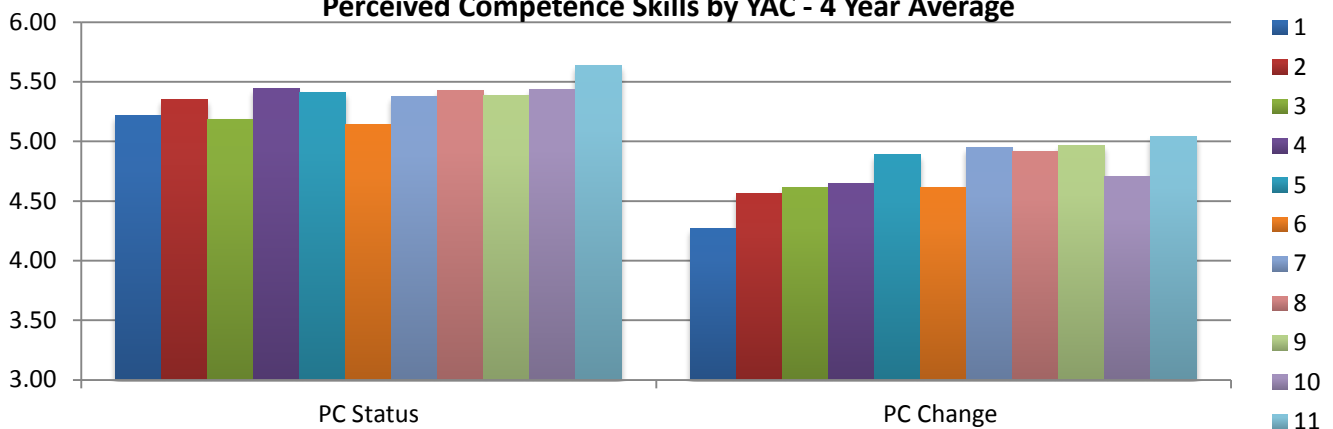


- 97.4% felt “I am confident in myself” was a least a little true
- 77.6% said that camp made a big difference in how they feel about themselves (9.4% decrease from 2012)

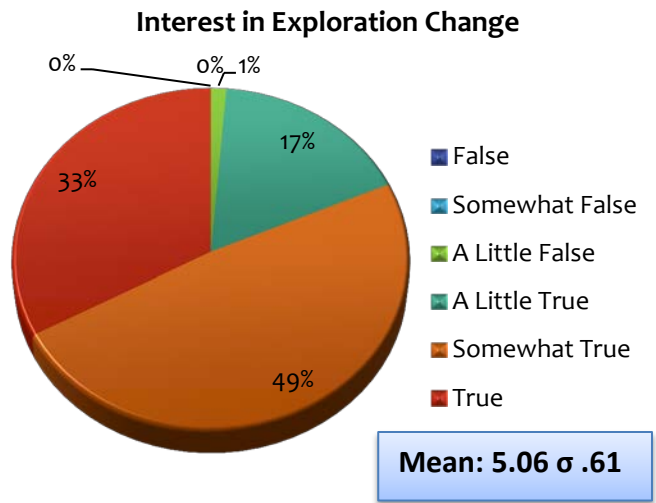
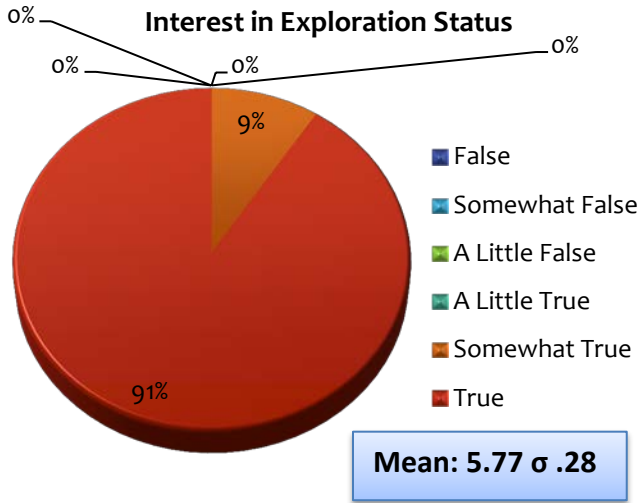
Perceived Competence Change & Status by Session



Perceived Competence Skills by YAC - 4 Year Average

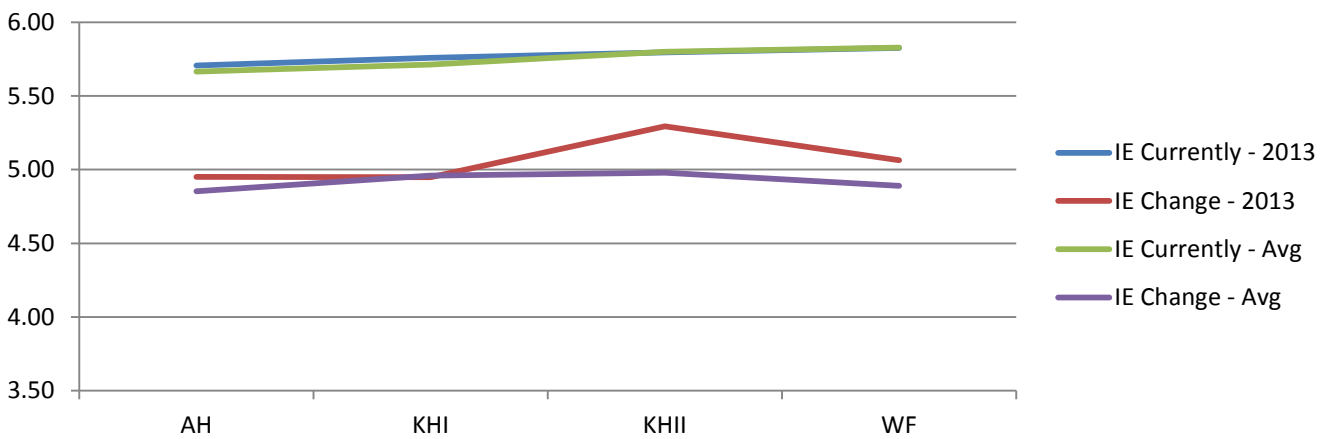


Interest in Exploration

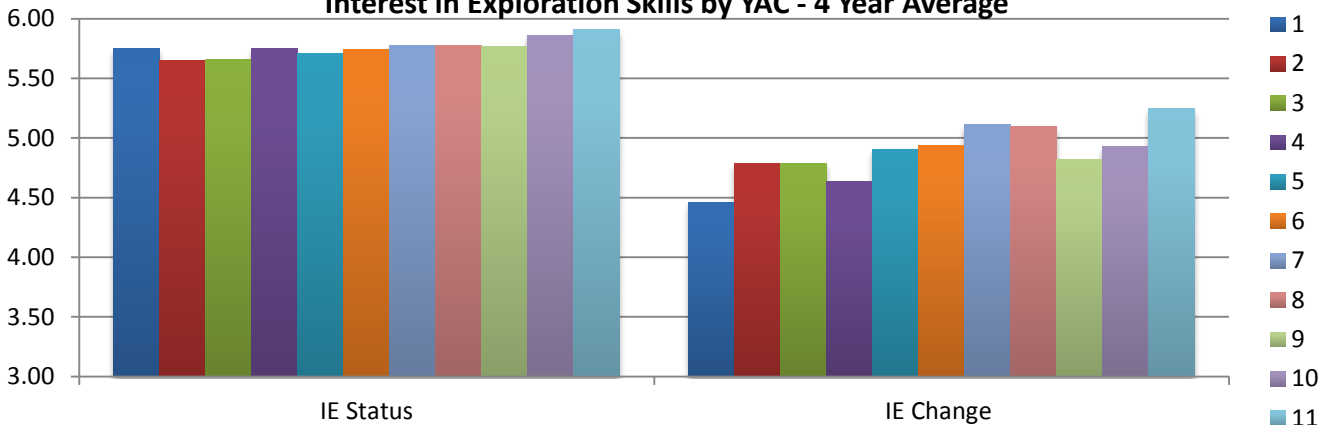


- IE defined: Learning Skills, Citizenship Skills, Nature and Outdoor Adventure
- 100% felt "I have an Interest in exploration" was a least a little true
- 81.6% said that they far more interested and prepared to learn and try new things as a result of GG (.7% decrease from 2012 – Still 6% above 4 year average)

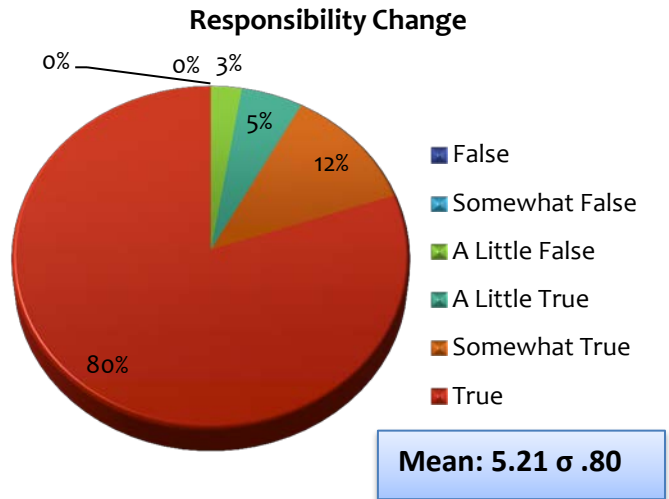
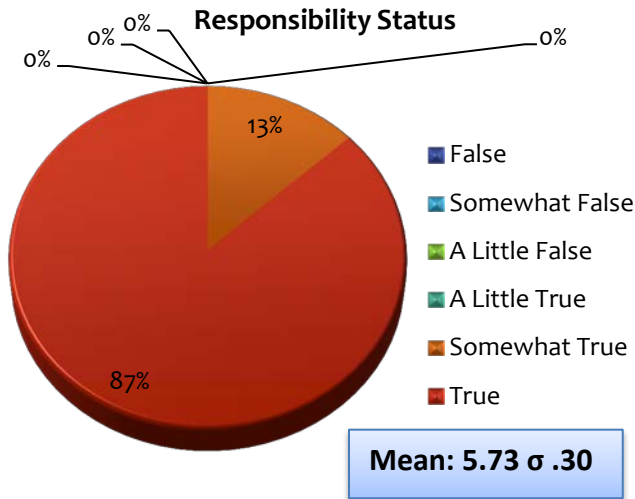
Interest in Exploration Change & Status by Session



Interest in Exploration Skills by YAC - 4 Year Average

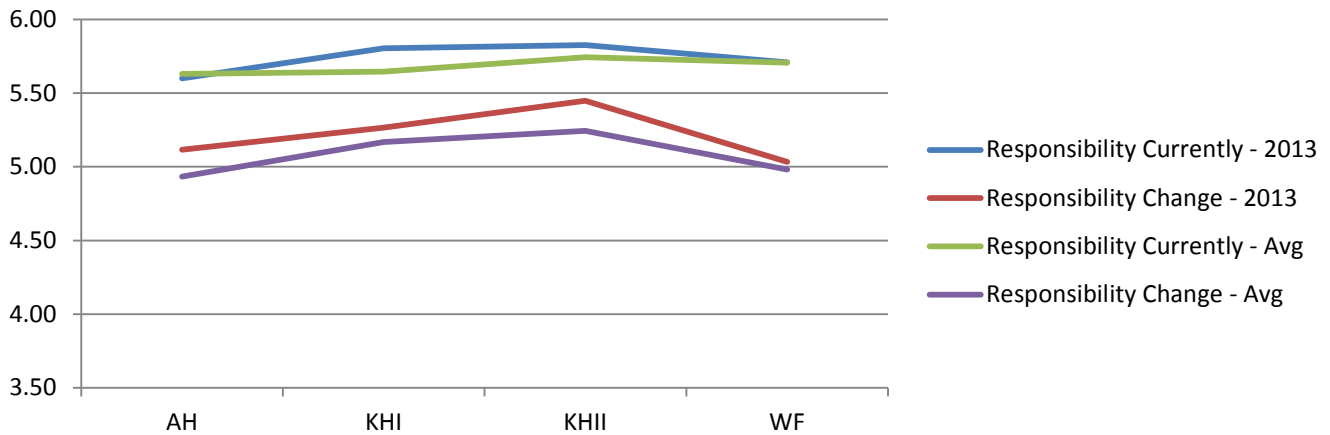


Responsibility

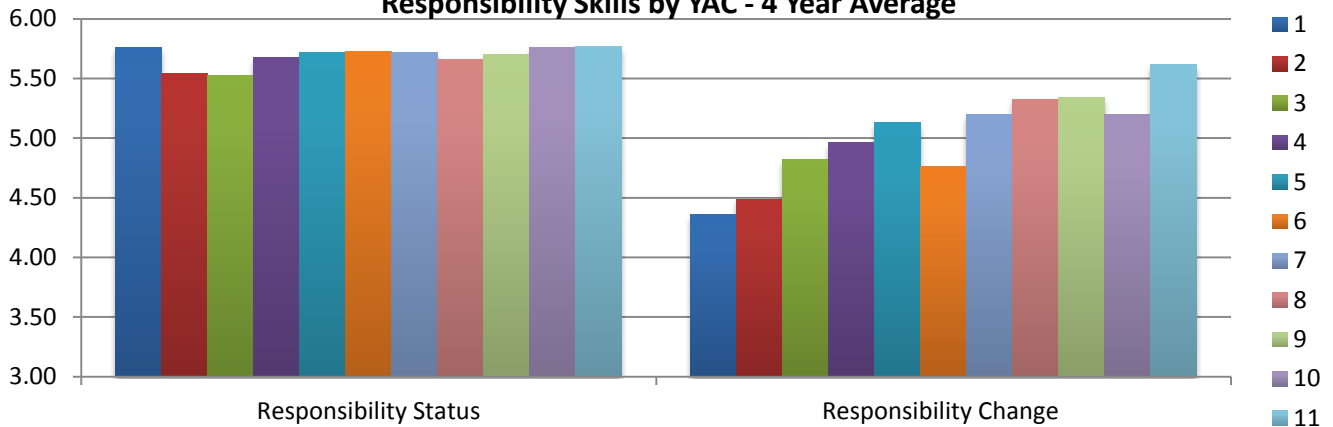


- 98.7% felt “I am responsible” was a least a little true
- 81.6% said that camp has made them considerably more responsible (.7% decrease from 2012)

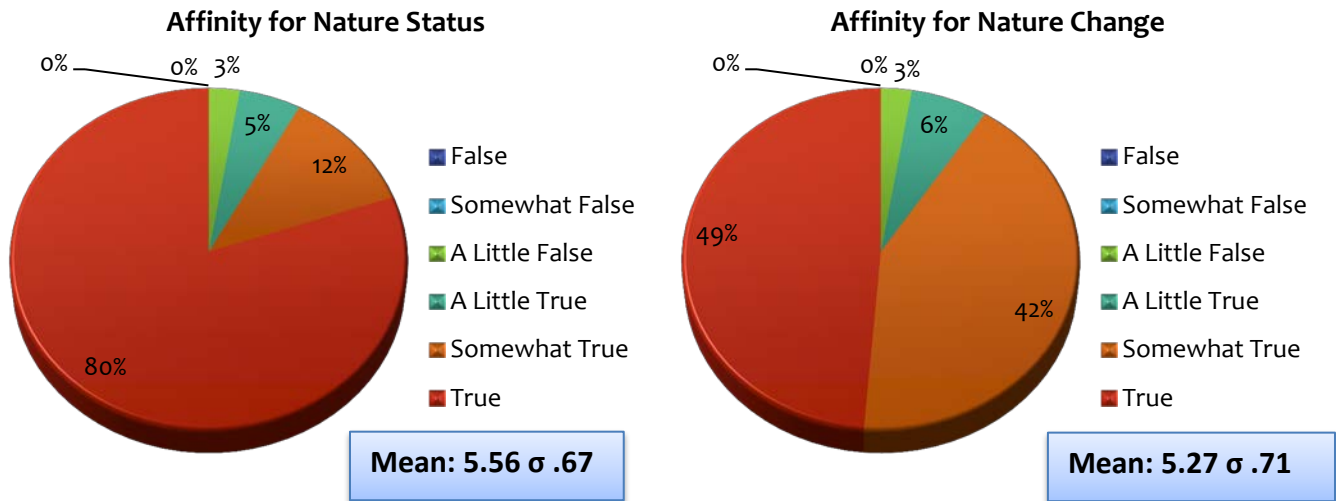
Responsibility Change & Status by Session



Responsibility Skills by YAC - 4 Year Average

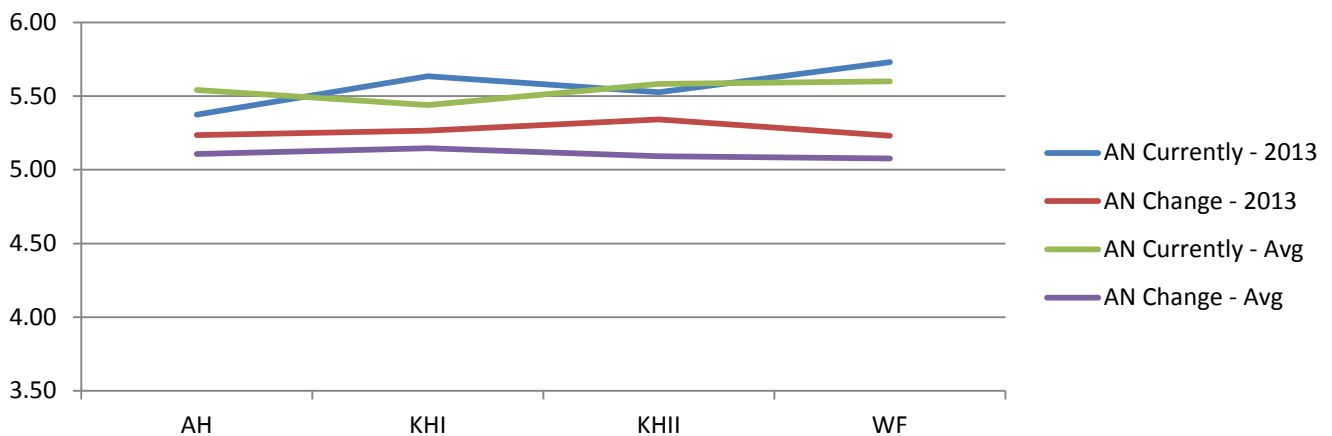


Affinity for Nature

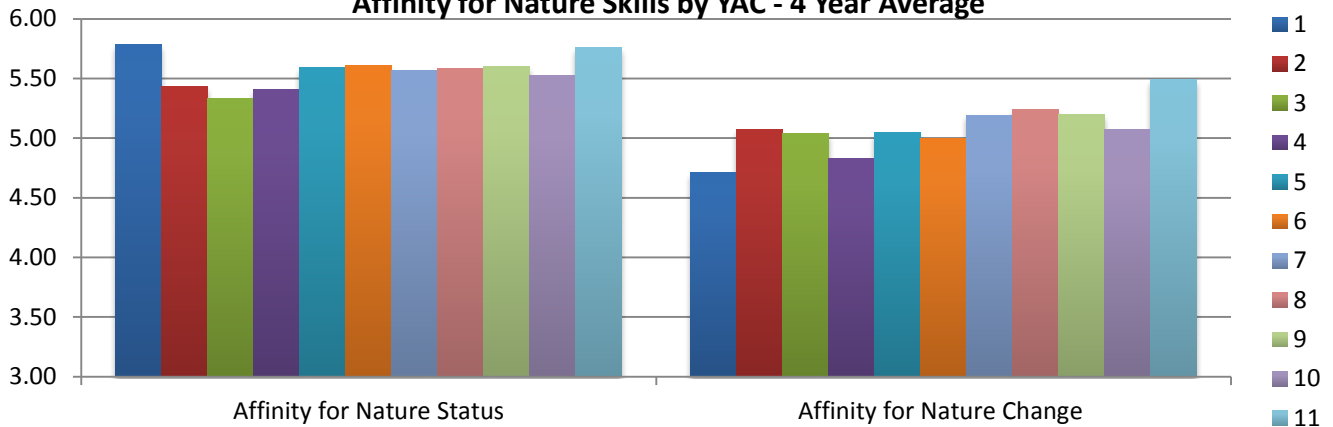


- 97.4% felt “I have an affinity for nature” was a least a little true
- 90.8% have a better affinity for nature as a result of Geneva Glen (10.5% increase from 2012)

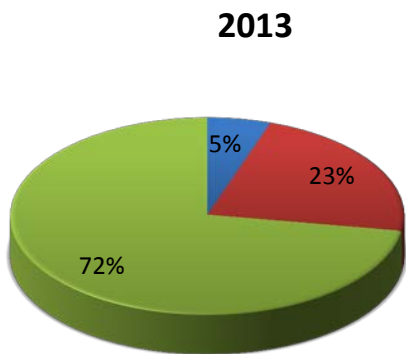
Affinity for Nature Change & Status by Session



Affinity for Nature Skills by YAC - 4 Year Average

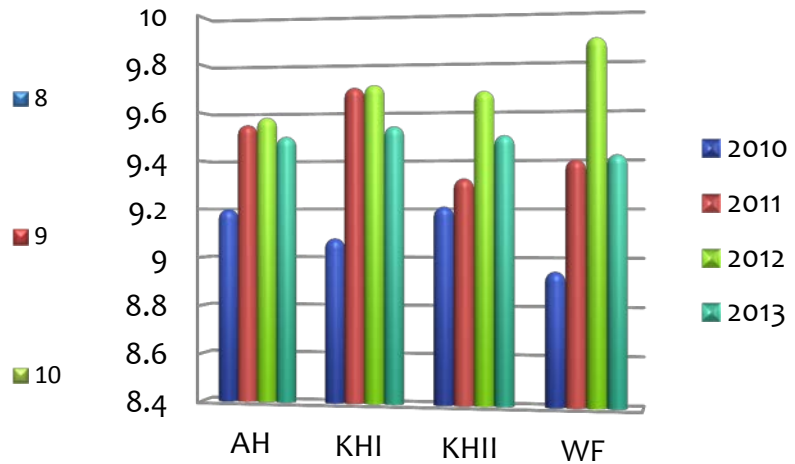


Satisfaction Survey Results and Other Analysis



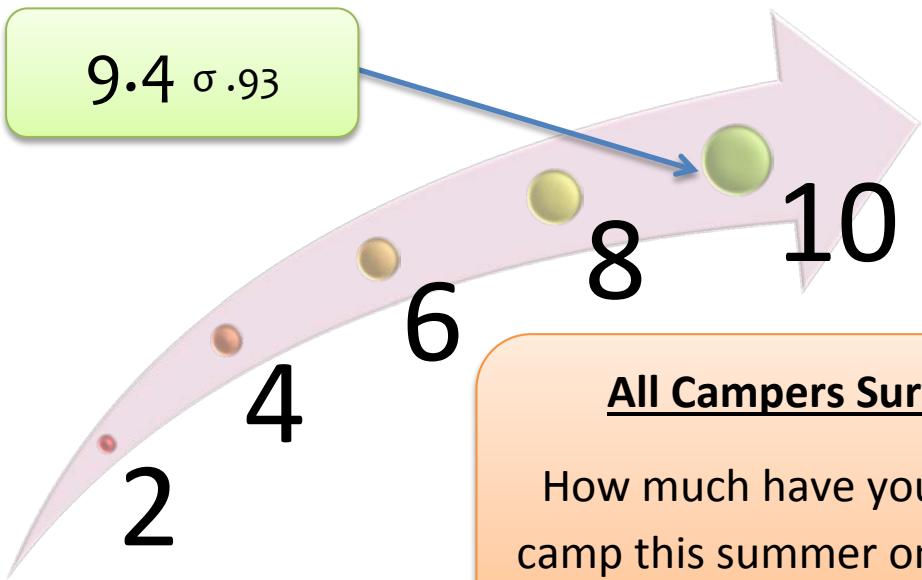
Mean: 9.67 σ .54

Session/Year Comparative



- Satisfaction rating of camp decreased 0.4% from 2012 (1.9% higher than 4 Year Average)
- Knighthood I was the highest rated – Knighthood II has the highest effect on campers
- World Friendship had the lowest effect on campers and was the lowest rated session
- Girls rated slightly lower than boys in both change and status (.2% change, .9% status)
- Favorite Activities: Ropes, Friends, Trips
- 14.7% has suggestions for changes to the program
- 1 kid said the worst part of camp was this survey 😊
- What did they NOT LIKE about camp?
 - #1: Nothing (14%)
 - #2: Food (11%)

What else should we know?
 “Keep camp the same” or “It’s perfect the way it is.” **50%**



All Campers Surveyed
 How much have you enjoyed camp this summer on a scale of 1-10?

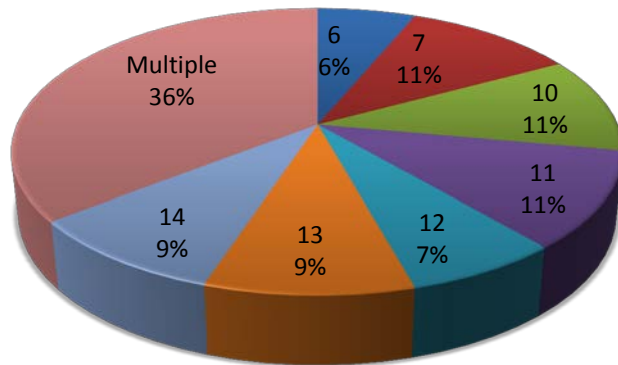
Parent Satisfaction Survey & Feedback

Overview

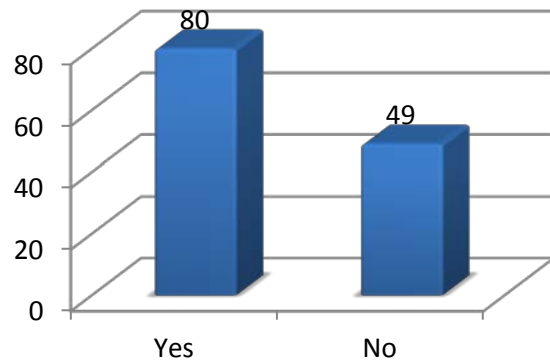
- Online form sent via Constant Contact after the end of each session
- Included both statistical and open comment questions
- A little over 129 Parents responded (close to average)

Demographic

Age of Children

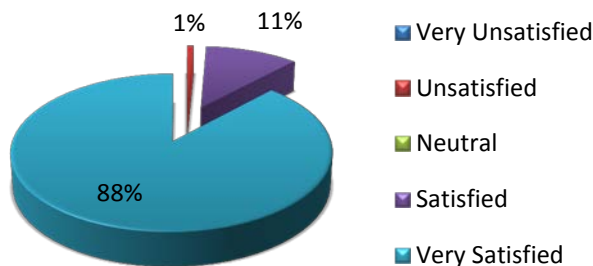


Veteran?



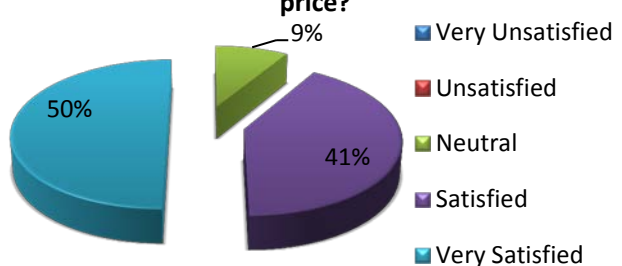
Statistical Results

Your Child's Experience



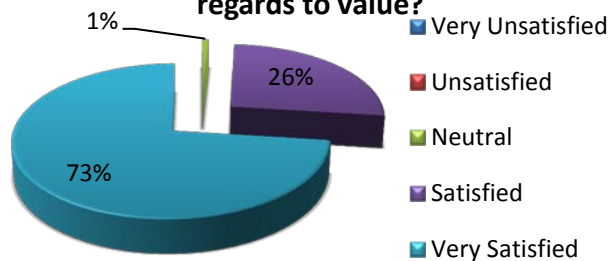
-1% Positives

Satisfaction with Geneva Glen in regards to price?



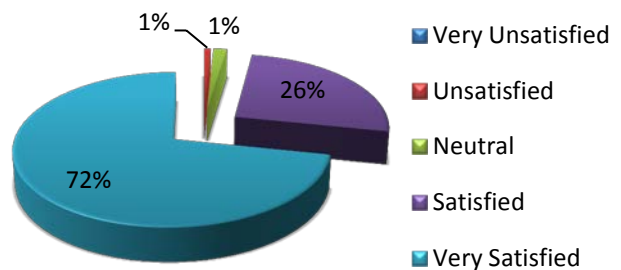
-3% Positives

Satisfaction with Geneva Glen in regards to value?

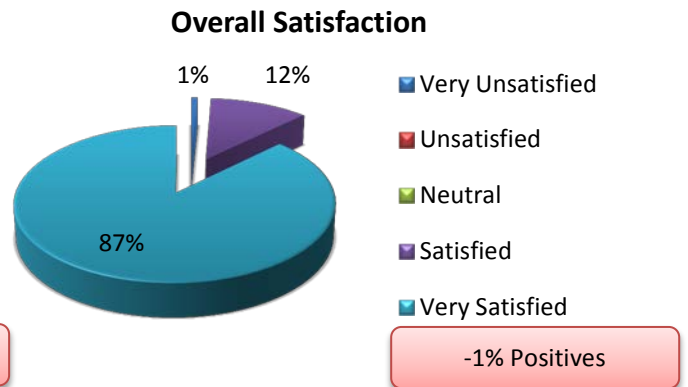
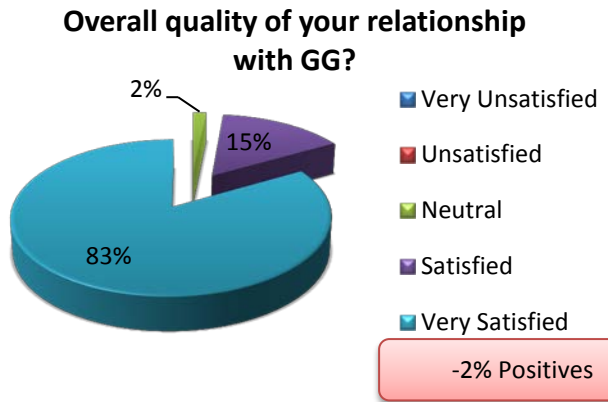
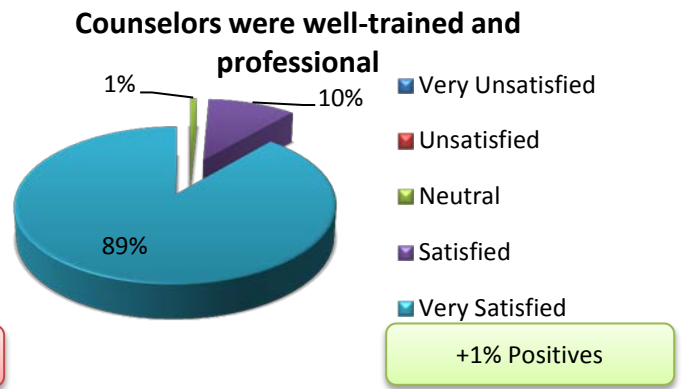
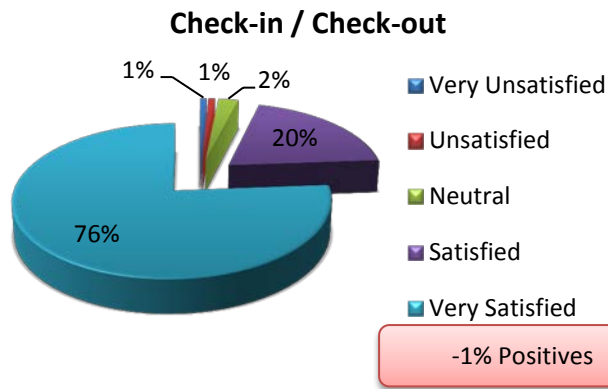


+2% Positives

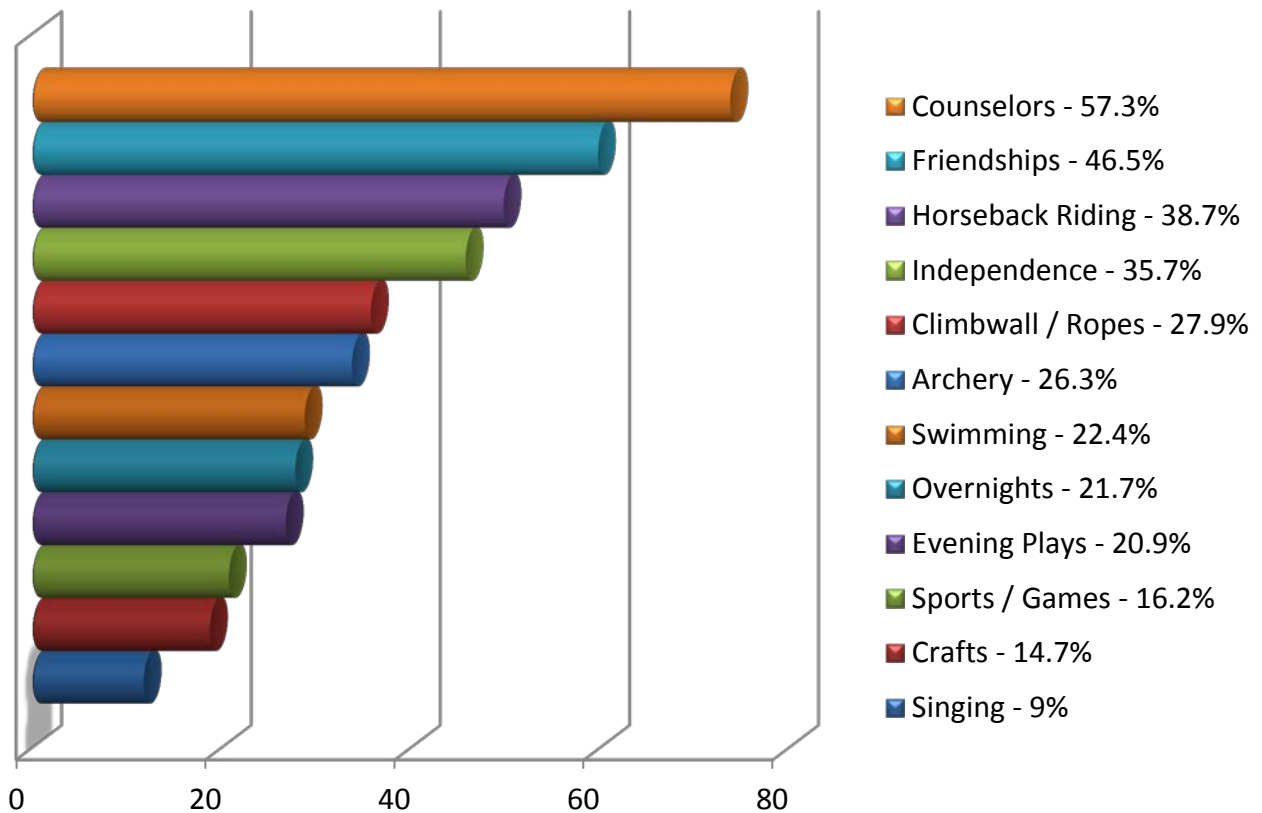
Registration Process



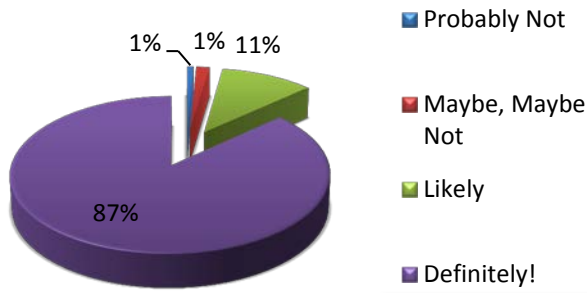
+0% Positives



Counts of Favorites Things from camp this summer

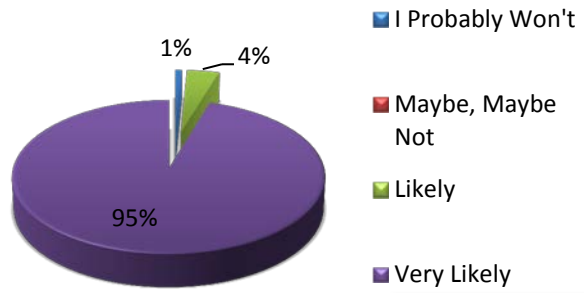


Will you sign your child / children up for Geneva Glen next year?



-2% Positives

How likely are you to recommend Geneva Glen to a friend or relative?



-1% Positives

Parent Feedback

Trends and other notes

- Very pleased with contact from the counselors (post cards, interactions)
- Generally they would change “nothing”
- 23% had comments / suggestions related to food
- 16.7 % had comments / suggestions related to check-in
- Only 1 parent indicated that their child’s counselors were not a good model

Feedback Wordles

As a parent, what do you value most about your child's camp experience?



What specifically are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Geneva Glen from the list above?

"I am writing this feedback with the knowledge that my son is not always a reliable historian. Upon returning home, he reported that he, while at Myths and Magic, was ""treated"" to two daily visits to the store each day (netting one piece of candy each time) as well as a daily soda, usually caffeinated.

Be forewarned that I am a pediatrician and that is the lens through which I view the world. On a weekly basis, I see the epidemic of childhood obesity face to face. I am constantly trying to get my patients to drink more water, less soda, and to refrain from candy other than an ""every once in a while"" basis.

I would love to brainstorm with you on ways that kids can have occasional treats while still being presented with nutritious options for both snacks and meals. I worry that providing this degree of access to non-nutritive calories sends significantly mixed messages about what is good to put in your body. I am not on the side of total deprivation, just on the side of healthy choices, with the hope that, as our kids move into the future, they will understand that food can taste yummy and still be good for them.

Clearly, you all have far more experience running a camp than I do in sending my child there. Overall, my son LOVED his GG week and is dying to go back. But when I contemplate two weeks of daily access to candy and soda, I'm just not sure my public health brain can wrap around that. I would love to learn more about your reasoning behind the camp store as well as your thoughts about nutrition at camp. Thanks for reading!"

"I was very impressed with the number of people working and how friendly and welcoming everyone was when we arrived and departed. My son said his favorite part of the camp was the counselors. He was in the Tin Man cabin.

His very least favorite part was being forced to sample foods he really dislikes, for example, tomato soup, and grilled cheese. "

I loved that when I picked Dawson up from camp that he wanted to show me all around. He loved camp so much and can't wait to go back next year! This was definitely the highlight of his summer!

Maclaren had a blast and says she can't wait for next summer!

Levi had a fantastic time! The form you distributed that listed the activities to talk with your child about was very helpful. Highly recommend the experience and will definitely be back.

I was nervous about my daughter's first year at camp and worried she would be homesick. I was so happy to see that when I came to pick her up, she was begging to stay longer! She had an amazing experience.

My son had a great time! It was his first time to go away to camp and he said he was only a little bit homesick. We look forward to a two week session next year!

I am most satisfied with my child's experience - she came away with a stronger sense of self and I have seen her demonstrate more self-confidence since her return home.

"It is so well organized! I felt so comfortable leaving him....especially after attending the strawberry pancake breakfast. I love how it feels new but honors tradition. It made me miss it!!!

Thanks to all for keeping it alive.

xoxoxox

Jen Tucker Visitacion"

The magic continues!!

"A wonderful experience due to incredible staff and directors!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you"

"GG is awesome. Our 5-year-old, Eliza, can't wait to attend Myths and Magic. We would have loved for her to go this year (she was five at the time of M&M and will enter first grade in fall 2013...but because of her age she wasn't allowed--bummer!).

One other comment: it's a lot to take off a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon in the same week to drop off and pick up. Have you ever considered a Sunday check in? Perhaps camp from Sunday to Thursday?"

The professionalism and reputation of GG. Kira had an experience of a lifetime. She can't wait for next year!

The medical check in process is too long and cumbersome. There should be a separate line for basic medication drop off. The process has been so frustrating in the past that we did not send our son with meds this year and "hoped" that he wouldn't need them.

"Our son had lots of fu. Only issue: be more clear about care packages. Your literature seems to suggest that you discourage parents from sending them. Yet you enclose info from a company that sends them. We chose not to send one and apparently many other kids got them, leaving our son sad. Be clear - either allow them or forbid them

Online registration, payment might be a nice option, with electronic reminders

Geneva Glen always makes us feel like we belong there. The counselors treat us like family, and Ken and Nancy and so welcoming. It is absolutely delightful that we were told about GG Camp. Our daughter LOVES it!

The only thing that I can think of is the long line for medication check in.

We like everything!!!!

"I'm neutral on price because I know all camps are costly.

As a first time parent, I have to admit I felt left out of the loop, but that's the point. I would love to have/see a web cam, perhaps on top of the main building looking out into the field so we can maybe get a glimpse of our child from afar. Even though I have faith you're all not axe murderers, this would definitely make me get a sense of what goes on during the day. A 10 year old's descriptions after-the-fact only go so far!

My son LOVED the camp. LOVED it. Wants to go back every year and has said he wants to be a counselor. Everyone we met were amazingly friendly and am impressed his counselors had been at the camp for 14 years. It really shows how much it is beloved.

Thank you for 2 great weeks. We will be back!"

My daughter loves it!

We were most satisfied with the counselors. Both of our boys (one in Myths & Magic and one in American Heritage) had counselor Nate A., and we were incredibly impressed with his energy, professionalism, dedication and kind-hearted nature. We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to him for a job very well done, and also for the beautifully written letter about our camper. We will cherish that letter. We also want to extend a very big kuddos to Slide! He was a wonderful counselor and our camper is crossing his fingers to have both he and Nate next year as counselors.

"This was the first summer for Hayes, 6, who attended M&M. Miles went to A.H., after 2 years at M&M.

For both kids I can say we are most satisfied with the counselors! They are energetic, imaginative, humorous and obviously patient.

I know both boys had an incredible time at camp this year. Both also told us they were very homesick. But for every comment about missing us they have 20 other stories about camp experiences, counselors and their friends. This shows me the counselors do a good job of helping them cope with missing home.

I am always impressed at how quickly and seamlessly the check in/out process goes, considering all the moving parts!

Wonderful, understanding and supportive counselors...great role models for teenagers!

The time and effort given to ensure the staff is well prepared and well trained with emphasis on professionalism and respect for each child and their differences.

My only issues have been that I've now had two injuries with my kids that in my opinion have resulted in reckless behavior from other kids and could have been prevented with better supervision. Two years ago Brody was being thrown in the air by another camper, which in my opinion should never have been taking place. And the older camper didn't catch him. He ended up breaking his arm and had a full cast on his arm for 8 weeks. This year Connor ended up catching a rock in being thrown by another camper with his front tooth. We just ended up having to have a cap put on his tooth, which will likely end up with a lifetime of dental work resulting from this. Tuition is quite expensive, and ending up having medical/dental procedures thrown in on top of that camp becomes VERY expensive. The other thing that really upset me is that I wasn't notified when Connor had his tooth chipped. I think this warranted a call home given the discomfort he was experiencing. I know he was seen by the nurse, but this should have been a decision by the parent as to whether he should have been seen by the dentist or not and not to get a letter by my son telling me about this episode.

Our son loved his time at camp. He was barely homesick and the counselors were great. Thanks for the mid-camp postcard from the counselors. Much more informative than the one-sentence letters we got from our camper!

The staff go out of their way to assist you and make everyone feel comfortable. They give 100% all the time.

GG is a fantastic experience for our daughter. The activities and character building experiences that go along with two weeks at GG will benefit her for a lifetime.

My daughter loves this camp!!!!

"The list is so long for my compliments!

Ken & Nancy - such a pleasure to meet you both. Thank you for being so accommodating to us with regards to the finances this year. We had some unexpected events and you all were so wonderful helping extend the time for us!

Christa, Anne and Johnny were also sooooo patient with my lack of timeliness and I wasn't fair to them putting them in that position. I will be MUCH more timely with my paperwork! Also, I will now have very few (if any) questions - any time I called everyone was soooo helpful!!!

Our girls had a FANTASTIC time! When I dropped them off I didn't shed a tear b/c I felt such peace, serenity and security all at the same time. They were in the BEST hands I could have EVER imagined!

I can't wait to bring them back next year!!!

Thank you for not only being there for my little angels, but for me as well - I needed some hand-holding and you were all INCREDIBLE!!!

My child had a wonderful time. However, she waited an hour in line for the aerial park and then was allowed to do it for only five minutes because the period ended. It seems like there should be a better way to plan the aerial park. She was also disappointed that she didn't get to do tie die. Also, she had heard there was going to be an overnight on horseback, but there wasn't.

The cost of camp is challenging for our family. We recieved a half Campership and were allowed to make payments which made camp affordable for us.

Our daughter always has s wonderful relationship with her counselors.

This is the first time my children have returned from a camp and immediately said they wanted to attend the following summer.

We had another wonderful year at camp! This was the first year our daughter, Maia, went for 2 weeks. She was a bit homesick the first few days, but the counselors did a great job working with her and she had a very positive experience. We love Geneva Glen! It has been so much fun listening to the stories about all that they did at camp - truly inspiring! Thanks to the great team of staff and counselors!

"I am tickled that Braden is really working toward goals that have a moral compass. I love that he was proud to attain a new status and what it took. I love that there is a concrete sequence and that he can follow. He is looking forward to ever summer at camp.

I am a firm believer that kids need something to belong to, and this is a healthy, positive entity which I wholeheartedly endorse.

Thank you."

"love the counselors- its clear you spend time finding right matches and looking for quality young folks. Its the main reason we chose this camp. We wish you had a lake but..

registration is a bit chaotic with the timing- I don't have any suggestions but I get a bit overwhelmed with it all.

I do wish they ate more fresh fruits and veggies. If you are not familiar with it I would suggest looking into Live Well Colorado for a grant for this. "

My son's counselors have been great the last two years. They have been encouraging and skilled at creating a sense of belonging and pride in the dorm. My son comes home from Knighthood as a kinder, more thoughtful teenager.

Geneva Glen has made such a difference in the lives of my children. We value all of you greatly and appreciate everything you do to give my kids a rewarding and character building summer. I do think the prices have gone up significantly in recent years. I understand it takes a lot to run such a camp but it does sting in a way it didn't in the past.

My son's experience has been incredible and I believe he is a better person from his camp experiences! As he goes out into the BIG world, I know that he will draw on much that he has learned at GG and as a mother, that makes me feel more comfortable. I think that he will make better decisions than most his age and I believe a great deal of his confidence and goodness comes from ALL his years at the Glen!!

We wish that the rules were more clear about campers bringing electronics i.e. our son left his iPod at home but found that many (according to him) others in his cabin brought either smart phones, iPods or iPads. He felt at a disadvantage that others could play their games, share w/each others relative to what they were doing and our son felt left out and missed his iPod as others had theirs w/them. Would be great if the directions were something like We STRONGLY request that campers leave their electronic devices at home. Additionally, it would be helpful if the camp counselors held the campers accountable if they brought electronics and are using them during free time.

"I am most impressed with Geneva Glen programming. Both my daughters were intrigued, excited and with the stories, music and drama of Knighthood. Most importantly, teachings about the charms, their meanings and how to live those teachings in the world. There are no sufficient words to describe the value.

Both my kids experienced a lot of growth in their confidence and independence. They also feel like they really get to be exactly who they are - "I never have to feel embarrassed when I'm at Geneva Glen." Paul also really loved

"The staff is absolutely amazing and the breadth of activities offered is wonderful. My son was extremely homesick because it was his first time away at camp.

We will definitely return and recommend this camp to friends because the environment, people and activities make GG such a special place!"

Loved the whole experience! The counselors were wonderful and she is already talking about coming back next year!!

As always....just the best time ever! We are reliving the experience nightly as more stories surface. Thank you Dorm C counselors..Danny, Nick and Austin for an amazing week of nurturing our son's spirit!

"My son had a fantastic time at camp! He is talking about making friends, how great his counselors were etc.

My daughter didn't attend this year. She tried another camp and said the counselors were nothing compared to GG. She said at GG, they are interested in her and create a little community whereas at this camp, they were all about enforcing rules. She plans to stick with GG from now on!

One note - the experience for the boys at Knighthood II as they are able to progress from Page to Squire on up is very powerful and motivating. My son loves working towards a goal with his behaviors and attitudes. I think it's a shame that the girls' program is not the same. My daughter was disappointed in the bracelets ("Everyone gets a bracelet whereas you have to work to earn a rank"). I think it would be fantastic if there were a similar option for girls (or if they could chose to work towards a rank or get a bracelet - or both!). I know at that age, I would have felt less valued because the boys got to do something so cool and we didn't. Is that something you have considered? I know tradition is important, but so is changing when it makes sense and keeps up with the times."

Food-there needs to be more effort to make the food both gluten free and vegetarian meeting most needs. The stew recipe was simply substituting corn starch slurry for a wheat flour roue. Catering to ADA dietary needs is something the camp should be looking at. In today's world there is no excuse.

Our son has had great camp experiences. I was VERY happy to hear that the kids brushed their teeth this year. My son said "they had to this year". I was very happy about this. He always says showers only happen a couple of times over two weeks (which I've learned to live with) but the teeth brushing always really bothered me. Thank you for implementing!

It goes without saying that our kids have greatly benefitted from GG and far be it for us to advise you on camp activities. It is so impressive what you all do up there. In talking with a number of kids here and there about GG, the only constant I hear is they wish there were more opportunities for outdoor water activities. Perhaps an open space trip to learn to raft, sail or kayak on a nearby lake or river? Also, more vegetarian options is always mentioned. Crafts is always a HUGE hit especially those crafts that they typically wouldn't learn otherwise, i.e. cheese making, sewing, sushi, wood crafts, etc. Council ring is always a hit too. They also love the open space trips and how different they are. And this year, they have talked a lot about the character development you do at GG. It has really hit a cord with both of our kids and they really learned a lot from those "sessions" and liked the discussions a lot.

"My daughter loves camp, this was her 5th year! She starts thinking about next year the day she gets home.

The only problem I encountered this year was during registration my card did not get a stamp and I was sent back to the beginning after I reached step 3. Slight hiccup."

We are so happy with GG! He loves coming and his only complaint when we pick him up is that he could have used another week!

How much my child learns. And how she has become a better person because she lives her life using the 13 charms

Really everything. It's the highlight of the kid's year!

This is our 6th year and I bring 3 kids out to camp. UNfortunately, I come alone and sometimes it has been tricky for me to find someone to help with the heavy trunk up and then back down from the girls side. I think there

should be possibly a designated person (s) to help on the girls' side. IT is sometimes awkward to ask, as everyone seems to be so busy running around! On the boys' side, it is never an issue because the male counselors are all strong!!!

I am so thankful that both of my daughters have experienced the same things I experienced as a kid at GG. All the traditions, values and magic remains a constant up there!

My son loved GG. I think this camp was build just for him. He was as happy as can be.

We love the fact that our daughter has such a positive experience at Geneva Glen.

My son flew in unaccompanied and was picked up at the airport so we did not go through the normal check-in process. Although I had informed you that he required daily medication, this was not followed up on and accordingly he did not take his medicine the entire time he was there. It sat in his suitcase. This is very disappointing and the type of medication he takes should never be stopped cold. We are concerned that this could happen again next year if we send him back.

My son has been going to GG for 10years and I think he waits all year for camp to come around again! We love the values it instills in him and what a caring citizen it has helped him become. I am sure he will be real knight one day in modern clothing.

We had a little mix up with our daughter's medical history/allergy information at check-in. It looked like allergy info from a different camper had been written on her medical card, so it was saying she was allergic to some things that she wasn't actually allergic to. We caught it so it was okay, but it's something for the staff to be aware of.

The counselors and administration make all the difference. My son came home and said that Nick and Adam are like older brothers to him. During the year, any touch I have with the office staff is warm and friendly and fun. Fantastic experience.

Our daughter Maya DiGiacomo related some things to me that concerned me and Leeanne when she got home. She said a boy spit on a girls forehead and I believe she said it was in their cabin. She said the counselors made them drink so much water at one time that three girls threw up and the counselors laughed. She talked in terms of 15 pitchers and as many as 30 glasses for some of the girls. This could actually be a serious issue if true. She said there was a 5-6 year old boy who was used by an older boy as a dodge ball target and when asked to stop he didn't but eventually got in some trouble. This is the first time in her many experiences that we have heard things that concern us. She also mentioned that one of the girls in her cabin was very disagreeable and she had to ignore her. Maybe not something that can be addressed but I am wondering if the counselors saw this issue and worked on it. We have usually been very satisfied with her experience but my confidence is a little shaken. One other thing, she said the counselors (I don't think that these were counselors from Maya's cabin, but other counselors) had the girls going to a male counselor to ask for his prosthetic leg (he doesn't have a prosthetic leg, but the campers didn't know) and the counselors thought this game was funny. dave digiacomo 303 931 2554

Ella and I both were disappointed she "didn't have time" to do Oh Mama. I would have thought in 2 weeks, she could have done that. She was bummed about that.

"Our daughter had a wonderful experience and we could not be happier with Geneva Glen. Your staff is wonderful.

Registration remains a mysterious process. Everything always works out, but lots of unknowns (and possibly unnecessary waiting). "

Perhaps it was because they were at the end of their summer, but our daughter's counselors seemed very tired and one even commented on her fatigue. Also we didn't receive a letter from the counselors as we have in the past. Having said that, our daughter had another memorable and wonderful two weeks at GG! She absolutely loves it.

"The boys had a great experience at Geneva Glen! They can't wait to come back next summer. They loved all of their counselors. (I enjoyed the postcard update that the counselors wrote.)

I should note that I appreciate very much the communication and updates from the clinic staff regarding my son's ear infection.

Thank you!

Organized process for families. Fun for kids!

The kids said this was the best camp ever and it is their 5th year to attend.

"Our daughter had another wonderful session at Geneva Glen. It's a truly magical place. I have just one comment/suggestion on making a GG parent's life easier.

Re registration, our packet was lost in the mail last fall. By the time it occurred to us that it was kind of late to not have received anything from GG, the time period for returning the materials was over. Luckily, our daughter was still accepted for the session she wanted. But it occurred to me that it would be very helpful if GG sent out an email alerting parents that the registration materials have gone out and to look for them in the mail and when the deadlines are. You send emails about lots of other stuff, so this doesn't seem like it would be too much of a burden. Then a parent will know to get in touch if the mailing doesn't arrive and will still be able to meet the deadline for returning the materials. An email last fall would have avoided a whole lot of angst at our house about whether our daughter was going to miss a season at Geneva Glen."

Mia always comes home in a fantastic mood from camp! Thank you so much!

Tess had a fabulous experience at Geneva Glen. Thanks so much for another great year. We are very satisfied with the way in which campers develop character and maturity at GG. Somehow you instill great values that probably will last a lifetime.

I would love to see water sports at camp like canoeing, kayaking, etc.

"Our boys had a fantastic time at GG and it is honestly the most important and valuable thing they do all summer. This summer camp is such a gift to our entire family and we are so grateful to everyone who is a part of the team. Thank you!!

The only two small things I will mention: I never got a letter from Luke Boris's counselor, and that was a disappointment. Also, Luke's dorm was a complete disaster when we went to pick him up. Trash and dirt

everywhere, dirty clothes strewn everywhere...It would have been great if the boys had done a bit of pre-packing or just tidying up before the parents got there. "

"Overall, all of our encounters with GG staff were wonderful except for one important situation. We were disappointed that our newbie son did not get put in a cabin with the one and only friend he had going to the camp. However, we do understand that not all requests can be met. Where we felt very let down was that after we left him he was incredibly sad, worried and upset. I communicated to the director about the situation and to please be aware that our son had already been anxious about homesickness and the situation would be very challenging for him. I never heard back from the director or had any acknowledgement that my email was even received which made for a very long two weeks on our end. A simple check-in would have made a world of difference.

Additionally, our son was required to go to the local urgent care to receive 22 stitches in his leg. The situation was handled well by the nurses, and I thank them for their care and concern for our son. However, the ""no-talking allowed"" rule seemed a bit over the top. To need the director's permission to talk to your child on the phone after a traumatic experience seems far more detrimental than helpful for both the camper and the parent.

From a positive standpoint, both of our sons enjoyed camp immensely and they hope to return. It will be a far easier transition for all of us knowing that they will feel safe, secure and not devastatingly homesick. If only we had known they were thriving this time around, it would have been the perfect experience. Zero communication for the first 9 days was very hard to handle. The counselors' postcards were nicely done and very much appreciated and allowed us to finally relax and know everything was going well. "

"My child said that the food was very poor. He said ""they took all the food kids like to eat and made it crappy"".

With the prolonged check in with medications, our son was one of the last to get to his cabin. Would suggest that you offer an early check in time for families with meds to ease camper adjustment. I felt like I made a tremendous effort to get both my child ready for camp and to prepare you all for my child. I continue to wonder if the counselors in my son's cabin truly understood my son's needs. I think a phone call earlier in the week may have helped minimize my child's distress. I doubt I will ever be able to get him to consider over night camp again."

Do have any comments or suggestions on the camp activities?

"Counsel ring / fire

Dirty Derby"

Loved Dirty Derby!

Dirty derby

He loved the zip line.

Nothing comes to mind

He loved them all

He LOVED Dirty Derby

Dirty derby

No. We've been very pleased.

Harry Potter Theme

He liked Cre8

My daughter has a wonderful time every year with no complaints!

Rifles

They are busy and occupied in constructive activities from dawn to dusk. Good work!

Loved alchemy.

He loved camoflague (sp?), dinosaur (?), bb guns as well.

All the imaginative fantasy stuff. The Dragonology, the dragon's tears, the fairy places.

The food was a favorite!

"Miles loved when middlers spent time learning a craft/skill with senior campers;

They've both loved M&M Dirty Derby"

although at the senior level they do have independence, they still need supervision.

It would be fun if they learned some card games - poker, hearts, gin.

All the activities at GG are fabulous, but it's the people that make the experiences memorable!

My daughter missed Jurassic Park this summer. It was one of the highlights of last summer.

I have NEVER seen my children's eyes light up like they do when they talk about ALL of the activities!

Hard to limit to only 4 choices above!

After picking three items he told me that he liked them all and does not have any favorites.

Just keep up the good work!

The Hunger Games were a hit. And Dinosaurs.

Really liked Capture The Flag, Counselor Hunt, Merlins Mask, Jurassic Park and Barn.

Loved Hunger Games. Both felt that Jurassic Park wasn't nearly as good this year. Continued opportunities for non-seniors to have "special" camp experiences.

Love camp activities. Jurassic Park seems to be the most talked about activity!

Dirty Derby!

Please see my comment above re girls at Knighthood.

Oh Mamma and zip line

Swords solila queen and council fire

Our son enjoyed everything.

She said it's hard to choose 3 or 4. They like so much about the camp.

LOVE that new things are added every year...this year, blowdarts!

More Ropes Course beyond Oh Mama and Zipline for younger kids.

My son loved shooting BB guns this year.

He loved the "store" and the available pool table.

No

My daughter (8) did not shower other than to rinse off (no soap) at the pool and did not wash her hair once in two weeks!

None.

Our son would love to have more Barn. He really enjoyed the horseback riding.

My daughter was very nervous and was afraid she wouldn't make friends. She came back confident and happy.

love the activities~

Water sports

I'm still not sure what "G-Smash" is...but it was our senior's favorite!! Also, it's great to still hear the boys sing songs together.

Were the counselors good role models for your child/children?

Absolutely.

Yes

My son really liked his counselors.

yes very much so!

Yes

Yes!

Absolutely

Definitely

Yes!

Yes, they were very kind and he loved them.

Yes

They were great

Yes, very much so.

I think so! Hard to know since we weren't with them. But he seemed to enjoy them a lot.

Yes!!!

absolutely, the best part was that they were all "real ninjas!"

Wonderful!

Yes, it seems like it. Our daughter has commented that she wants to be a counselor someday!

Yes. My daughter loved them!

They are great!!!

Yes, they appear to be -

Yes they were great

YES! Grace and Bridget were delightful.

Yes, he liked that he was treated as an equal

yes

Yes

Impressive. I like that they are young enough to remember being a kid, but big enough to see values in action.

The best...very professional and truly authentic!

Yes

Yes, I believe so.

As far as I know!

Jessi Garhardt

Most definitely

Great

Yes, they were great.

Yes!

yes

The counselors are fantastic. There is such a wide range of interests and skills plus it seems the majority of them have been associated with GG for a long time.

Yes, my daughter loved her counselors this year.

Yes - absolutely!

Ben loved his counselors - missed them when he got home!

Yes - Madeline learned a lot from her counselors

Yes. Very motivated and inspirational!

Yes.

wonderful!

Yes,definitely.

I believe they were.

Most definitely. I love the theme of Knighthood and how developing character is such an important part of the experience. The counselors are key to modeling this behavior and coaching the kids. It's one of the only places that I can think of where kids receive that kind of honest feedback on how they can be a better person.

The counselors were terrific--so friendly and helpful. Braden mentioned that one was particularly funny. How great.

They were great.

yes

Yes. Please see above.

Absolutely!!!!

Absolutely!

Absolutely--the majority of counselors have been campers, and thus they love GG and are able to pass on their wisdom and passion for what they have learned--it is a tight knit, wonderful community that you have built!

My son really enjoys his "attachments" for knighthood. I think it's great that he has a chance to talk with other guys who he both admires and likes. Someday, it will make him a better father.

Yes

Yes. Both felt that their counselors were respectful, approachable and good role models.

Counselors exceeded our hopes and dreams as role models. They, not only, were role models for the kids but also offered feedback, were friendly, open and seemed truly happy to be at camp. Both my daughters speak often of their counselors. Haley, who was not a counselor in either of my girls cabins this year, had a profound impact on my 11-year-old. I could feel the connection and love in their relationship.

YES!

Slide & Sterling were the two favorite counselors for my son, but he loved all of the counselors. They were kind, good role models, fun, encouraging, etc.

absolutely!

yes

Fabulous!

Yes! His counselors seemed great. It was nice for him to have the same counselor (Sam) for 2 years in a row. He was talking up a storm about studying King Arthur as soon as he saw him.

Yes

yes

Yes

Very much! Our son loved his counselors. His only complaint was that Taylor Swift was his favorite musician-ha.

Absolutely

YES! You do an amazing job at selecting and training your counselors.

Yes

Yes

Yes.

Yes!

Fantastic

Yes, Tess LOVES Kendra.

We received an amazing card for his head counselor. It made us so proud of your son.

Absolutely! We have been very lucky with the counselors.

Yes!

I believe so, I haven't heard anything negative. We received a very nice, and well-written note from one of our son's counselors. This was a very nice touch.

Yes

Yes, each counselor made my son feel very welcomed and safe.

As far as I know

Absolutely.

I think so - I just love that Andrew loves it so much. He asked yesterday morning when he goes back.

All feedback is fantastic about Nick and Adam! Will had them two years in a row, and LOVE them.

One of her counselors wrote a beautiful post card message to us-I can't remember her name, but it starts with a K.

Yes. Our daughter came home a better person and her counselors really helped her learn and experience lots of new things.

Yes, they were wonderful!

Yes

Yes! Sounds like they handled everything wonderfully. This may seem trivial but the boys have been very good about saying "please" and "thank you" since their return. (The one bad habit they picked up was pop songs - kidding - kind of).

They were awesome! They couldn't have been more helpful in teaching responsibility, caring, and respect. They inspired the entire Dorm, and taught lessons that will have a lasting impact.

From what I can tell/what I hear--yes.

Yes, as far as I heard.

Absolutely!

Excellent role models.

Yes

Yes

Jack was so thrilled with his counselors!! He learned so much from them, and still talks about them every day. I didn't sense that Luke had the same connection with his counselors, but they seemed very nice.

From what I can tell, yes! We had hoped that the counselors would work hard to aspire to the fantastic bios they wrote. It was very nice to receive that information on the first day since we left our children in their hands for 2

weeks. Strong role models are very important to us and we trusted in your rigorous selection process for hiring counselors. The long history of their camp attendance speaks volumes.

As a parent, did you receive adequate information before camp started? Any comments on the registration process?

Yes.

Very smooth

Yes

Very good information once I found out that my son was not on the waiting list. It took awhile to find out that they had space for him and there was not any contact letting me know the status of the waiting list.

The entire process was a great experience!

Yes

Yes.

Yes, very thorough

Yes.

Yes, very adequate. It would be nice if more could be done online.

Excellent communications. Thanks for the e-mails.

Yes - no extra comments

Yes - very organized

Yes!

yes...great!

All great

yes

It was fantastic.

Yes

Yes. However, even though this was Delaney's (our eldest's) 3rd year, we forgot to pack a fitted sheet for her bunk--is this mentioned somewhere in the packing materials? If it is, perhaps it should be more prominent. We've neglected to pack one every year! ;)

Yes

No

yes, liked the important information section on the website as a reminder of specific times, etc.

No it was very well run for as many campers as you all had to process.

Checking in with meds is tedious but I'm not sure how you can change that. :)

yes

Good process

Perhaps more specifics on the financial aid. Is there a specific salary amount or life situation? What happens if your financial situation changes over the year? etc.

Yes

Yes.

Yes

Yes

Yes, I liked the e-mails.

Yes

yes

Yes

Yes. It would be helpful to have an itemized list of things to bring. For example, 8 pairs of shorts, 4 pairs of pants, etc. It was also helpful for my daughter to bring hand wipes to clean off her feet before bed.

A specific packing list might be helpful for the neurotic parents like me. :)

Yes - felt like I got all the info I needed to prepare my son for camp.

Yes

Yes

I didn't realize there would be any off-site activities (which was fine, but I would have liked to know). Also, my daughter said there were other opportunities to do longer-offsite trips (like backpacking), but she didn't know about them in advance. If she comes back next year, I would like to know about those ahead of time so she can plan for them if she wants to do them.

Yes perfect!

Information was excellent.

Yes, we did.

I need a serious reminder to get him signed up. Email is helpful to me. Almost didn't get him registered.

Yes.

yes

yes

yes

Everything is always a smooth and informative process.

yes

Excellent and seems to get better every year!

Nice that you pre-filled the forms this year :-)

Yes

Yes. The paperwork seemed more streamlined this year.

Great communication via email! Everything was smooth for us.

I had a hard time finding the "what to pack" list

yes!

yes

No issues.

yes

Yes I did get information

Make the forms so that you can "submit" them directly from website- especially the travel form.

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes and the registration process is as simple as can be.

I received lots on information before camp.

Yes.

Yes.

yes

Yes

Yes, I am impressed with the organization.

All very thorough.

yes

Yes

Yes

It would have been good to list "water bottle" on the packing list (or provide to the children or allow them to purchase at the store). By the time I got the letter from my daughter stating that she needed one, it was too late to send.

Yes

yes - you do a great job here

Yes.

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes, it was great.

yes

See my comment above on the registration process.

yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes. Good information and good communication...thank you.

As a parent, what do you value most about your child's camp experience?

Fostering independence in a loving, caring community

The independence and confidence they gain

I want him to have a lot of fun in a positive and caring environment.

Safety and fun/happiness

That she had fun and had a chance to meet new friends. Also, that she could be independent away from her family for the week.

Independence

The opportunity for unparalleled personal growth.

Independence, trying new things, love of the outdoors.

Learning independence, new skills, making new friends.

Independence, trying new things

He loved it and it's great for his independence

The overall experience at GG. It is a magical place.

The encouragement of exploration and developing a sense of "wonder" and independence. Also...just the love that is shared in this group setting.

"Hearing her talk about all the things I remember living about camp. She is independent already and I love opportunities that allow her to experience that in a safe, caring environment.

foremost is their safety and second is their happiness. our little guy, above all, had a blast!

I feel that my son gained so much confidence. Going to a new state to a camp where he didn't know a soul, and not only surviving but thriving. That happened because of the amazing space and thoughtful planning that Geneva Glen provided. I'm thrilled with his experience.

A time to learn about independence, friendship and exploration

The independence, self-esteem, and growth we see when she returns home from camp.

Her opportunity for independence, making new friends, learning more responsibility and the memories she will have forever.

That he had fun, gained some maturity, was able to be away from us without being homesick

independence, lifeskills, friendships, sense of community

My daughter is becoming more and more confident in herself. I thought she really grew a lot this summer, and made good friends, many of whom she is emailing.

I love the working together in the cabins, and that kids can be independent. The best is just being out in nature and letting them be kids!

Great values. Fun with rules. Independence with responsibility.

"His respect and admiration for his counselors.

He learns new things and is always busy at GG."

independence in a safe, nurturing environment. I want him to learn values and follow through on them all on his own. also, to learn to solve life issues with others without the ability to 'go home'.

Safe, caring, nurturing environment where my child is understood, empowered, and supported in being themselves

Feels safe, has fun, makes friends, gains independence, grows confident

I value the opportunity to give them independence while still being in a safe environment.

I love that they make friendships in an environment that discourages cliques, etc. I recall this when I was at GG -- the culture is one that challenges kids to step outside their comfort zone, be that performing in an evening play or doing the zipline the first time. Other favorite aspects: independence, hearing messages about responsibility from people other than their parents!, overnights and and pushing their imaginations.

The subtle and not-so-subtle ways that GG instills good, solid values in the campers. Couldn't ask for a better environment for this kind of life learning!

The personal growth I see in them year after year when I pick them up from camp.

emphasis on character

Independence, learning new things, getting to be with counselors.

I just want them to have fun. A kind of fun that includes new friends and experiences. A kind of fun I can't give them at home.

time to be independent, but would like him to be with the same kids each year and that does not seem to happen in American Heritage

I value the ability of the children to be independent and have time to be kids and not be drilled with academic skills as in school. Nature and activity is important to our family.

Independence, friendships and safety

The entire experience = but mostly the independence they both learned beyond what I as a parent can teach them.

Independence, outdoor skills, creativity

That my child felt a welcome part of the organization

She had a great time, made new friends, & had a positive experience being away from home.

I know that he is going to build lasting friendships. It also allows him to experience new things that he would not otherwise experience.

Our son came home with much more independence. Before camp our son told us he did not want to sing any songs. Now I cannot get him to stop singing camp songs.

I value most that my children felt safe and were trusting in their counselors.

The growth I see in the kids after camp.

That he comes home as a positive, purposeful young man.

Safety, allowing for independence and growth!

Independence and sense of self

independence/ friendships

I like that he mixes with kids he is not normally drawn to at school (he is not friends with what he calls "preppy" kids at school). His experience at GG has taught him to appreciate and value kids that are not like him.

The confidence, independence and sense of adventure our daughter has gained since starting to come to camp.

Role models, friendships, culture, makes him feel special, challenges him to be a better person, wonderful memories, fun atmosphere.

The life-time friendships, the values that are instilled and the mentoring from attachments and counselors

That he aspires to learn and grow. That camp is "different" from the regular world: he really enjoys the chance to be himself.

The absolute joy he had attending and how his manners are improved for immediately after returning.

Personal growth, independence, diverse friendships, increased self-esteem

I value most that my daughters spend 2 weeks with young women (cool, fun, energetic) who value the same qualities we teach at home. Both daughters came home connected to themselves in a new way. I also appreciate the absence of technology and connection to nature.

Ability to experience independence and leadership and confidence - I love that it is a values / character building environment and experience without the kids even being aware of it!

The simplicity, getting away from electronics and enjoying the outdoors and having good solid FUN!

A celebration of childhood and a love for my child! He comes home independent and aware of others.

That he is getting out into nature and doing a wide variety of activities that he normally wouldn't do, experiencing some independence and making new friends.

Independence, new experiences

The independence they learn when they operate away from me.

Yes

The role models of young counselors - friendships and the experience of being independent for two weeks. Learning new skills, being outdoors and the overall acceptance of affection and happiness everyone seems to be comfortable showing.

That they get to be who they want to be or can try something new without any limits

Their independence and learning to be comfortable away from home. Learning new things and meeting new people but connecting with the same kids each session

She is in "good hands" while having days full of activities with friends her age.

Being outside for two weeks with no television or screens, meeting new people each year, experiencing horseback riding and archery (things our family does not do), and feeling independent.

How much fun she has. And how she has learned to take care of herself

The independence and core values they gain. It sustains them through the school year and helps them deal with every day challenges they encounter with friends at school.

The friendships they make..and keep for years!

Independence, making new friends, experiencing new things

The independence that our daughter has and the friendships. I think most importantly the counselors as such fantastic role models for these girls.

Independence, new experiences, branching out from her parents.

That they learn to grow into responsible adults.

His ability to be independent and yet learn to interact with a group of new kids.

see above

He had a chance to meet a lot of new people and try many new things.

The independence to play and make choices in the safety of camp...I don't have to worry that Jack is left behind or left out of each experience.

Learning independence, relationships with others, and the values which are promoted

I value knowing that she will build incredible confidence and respect for herself and others.

the independence it engenders

Meeting others and singing together.

The long history of Geneva Glen is comforting (well established track record) -- staff is reassuring -- I am thrilled with the mission of learning to care and respect and better one's self -- this truly comes across.

Them learning to navigate the world around them.

It seems to be a place where she can be herself and try new things in a safe environment

The confidence and independence it helps instill in kids.

Our son came back more mature and self-confident and had a wonderful 2 weeks. He aspires to be a counselor. I feel like we have found a wonderful community.

yes

That they enjoy it so much

They have so much fun and they are away from electronic and screen time, the devil of our youth's society the relationships with others, the down to earth environment.

Independence, chance to make new friends

The retreat like experience. A fun break from everyday life, technology, stress and pressures--the independence as well.

Learning independence and personal growth

The VALUES that GG leaves our children thinking about. Jack has told us that he wants to be a better brother. He is more mature and confident. He has learned a lot about sportsmanship. It's just so invaluable!! Thank you!!

This was our first "letting go" experience and I wouldn't have had the faith to do it with any other camp. Since I attended World Friendship as a child, I was confident that this would be the best possible experience for our quite sheltered children to seek independence. The fact that they not only enjoyed it, but thrived while they were there, was incredibly valuable for them and for us.

If you could change anything about camp, what would you change?

I have nothing that I would change, but I know my son would say get rid of the tomato soup!

nothing

Nothing

The food. It would be great if you were better able to accommodate food sensitivities. If so, I would be able to send my other child.

While it was difficult to have no feedback while Levi was away, I actually appreciate that there is no information during that time. I look forward to seeing pictures.

Nothing!

nothing - love that it is a good old fashioned camp

nada

nothing!

Stop letting parents send ridiculously large care packages. We think the experience is the gift and there is plenty of treats to be had at marathon

Nothing

More rural

I don't know that I would change anything - except maybe online registration.

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

Nothing

The kids should take a shower every day.

Add a web cam.

I would have a water element there. But it's drier-by-the-minute Colorado! When I was a camper I think we used to go to Evergreen Lake? Loooong time ago.

I definite "No Food" policy in care packages. I follow the request of the camp administration not to send food in care packages or to not send campers to camp with food. In doing so, my children feel bad when they have to go to "Bear Locker" with all of the other campers whose parents send food anyway and my kids have to watch them eat candy. I know there is a sharing policy but it really isn't the same as getting your own box of candy and not every kid will be willing to share his/her candy. I think the administration has to choose whether to allow outside food or not and not be wishy washy about it. If you say you prefer not to have outside food some of us will respect that request and from what my kids told me they felt left out because I was one who did respect your request not to send food. Your approach to discourage outside food yet still allow it and have the kids whose parents respected the request watch the kids whose parents did not go to the Bear Locker is unfair and hurtful to some children. By having this policy you are in effect encouraging people to send food because as a parent who would otherwise not send food I may send food next summer so my kids don't feel bad when they are forced to go to Bear Locker.

Nothing.

He would be able to go with a friend

An email with cabin photo at the beginning of camp with an update on the new friendships my daughter is making.

NOTHING!!!!

None

Wouldn't change anything - daughter said she thought 3 cups of water was a lot for a 9 year old to drink:)

Better quality food (I don't mean preparation of the food, the actual food, itself). More vegetables. Maybe a salad bar option. Seems to be all carbohydrate/starch and unhealthy.

Nothing

Allow local kids to attend back-to-back sessions having to come home between sessions.

N/A

"a lake.

more fresh fruit and veggies (not canned)"

Nothing

Nothing!

Nothing

Add a lake??

Have access to a lake where kids could fish and be more clear about no electronics allowed for campers so it's a level playing field for all campers.

I would like the knights program to be better explained and the expected concepts/ behaviors reinforced with younger campers not just at the beginning and end of the session, but throughout. I think the boys going for higher ranks get more of this attention, but not at the lower ranks.

It would be great if the kids could have snacks during the day. Both spoke of being hungry.

Nothing

See above re Knighthood II for girls. It really bothers me that my son is getting a superior experience to my daughter and I'd like them to be able to attend the same session.

Make more food from scratch being able to provide more nutritious meals and easily be able to accommodate special dietary needs that are health related.

My daughter said the food this time wasn't as good as in previous years.

My son gets sick at the end every year from getting run down- I think it's from staying awake until 2:00-4:00 in am? Not a big deal, but I wish he were a bit more rested.

ummmm NOTHING

Water activities.

Nothing...it perfectly suits us!

Incorporate a 2-week session for adult alumni! :-)

Let the kids go on trail rides.

The medication handling/policy for kids not going through the normal check-in process.

I think the boys bathrooms are terrible.

Not a thing!

the cost

Nothing...it's amazing.

cost a little less

Registration. It is silly to not have more advanced notification of receipt of paperwork.

Peanut allergy friendly cafeteria

I wish the kids would take showers more often. She comes home sick every year

Nothing - we love it!

We wish our daughter had gotten in; she was wait-listed.

Few more adventures that push them--esp as seniors.

Nothing

more vegetarian options!

A lake

The food could be better--perhaps partnering with a local farm or starting an organic garden at camp might be something to think about looking ahead.

Adding water activities

Just have the kids do a little pre-packing before we pick them up to minimize the chaos. Also maybe provide a way for the kids to share contact info so they can easily keep in touch.

Again...for first time campers (and parents) I think it is crucial for more open communication between the camp and the home. Not all kids are "homebodies" - we have one that is and one that isn't, and I wasn't the least bit concerned for our more outgoing son - I knew he would be fine. But some children are more sensitive, like our oldest, and I really needed to know that he was happy and healthy. I understand that it can be detrimental for parents to check in on their kids, and, with restraint, I respected your policy - no phone calls, etc... But perhaps you could offer a couple of very concise, quick updates from the counselors to the parents via email for new campers. I had no peace of mind until we received the counselors' postcards and I felt very let down to have no answer from the director about my seemingly appropriate inquiry. Again, next year this won't be an issue and I won't expect updates.

Food and communication

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

It was my son's first camp experience and thanks for making it a fun and memorable time for him.

Thank you for giving our daughter such a wonderful experience!

Such a great experience!!

My son can't stop talking about the Dirty Derby. That will go down in the books as one of his greatest days ever!

We have loved you for generations and will always hold GG in our hearts as a home away from home.

We have our fingers crossed that both girls are able to attend next year. Delaney was wait-listed this year (even though, if memory serves me, we sent our materials in as soon as registration for returning families opened)...but fortunately, she got off of the wait-list.

This is an amazing camp. I wish every child had the opportunity to experience a camp like GG.

This was our son's last year as a camper. He hopes to stay at Geneva Glen next summer on the work crew.

Thank you! Exceeded our expectations

We are so grateful for the experiences Chelsea is having. Thank you all so much.

Keep up the great work!!!

"Perhaps we missed this step, but I'd like some kind of note from the sick room if my son went there. He told me he had a sore throat and got cough drops. Super easy, but I'd like a little slip saying when he went and why.

Not a big deal, but if something came up tied to the sore throat after we left, it would be nice to know past history.

THANK YOU--THRILLED WITH THE EXPERIENCE!"

"Thank you!!! Thanks to all of the staff, and especially our kids' counselors who provide the guidance, humor and role modeling that ultimately frames their experiences' at GG. Yea!!

Thanks for a great experience. See you next summer.

My daughter also loves the food at camp!

AGAIN, YOU ALLLLLL ARE INCREDIBLE!!!!!!!!!!

This was Ben's first time at camp and first time away from home, so wasn't sure how he'd fare - he loved every minute of it and then cried when he got home because he missed camp so much!

Love this camp!

Great camp!

Our son loved camp. He cannot wait to go back next year. The first night he came home his two sisters, who also are former campers, went into his room and they all bonded over their common Geneva Glen Camp experiences. I am glad they all have had the same wonderful and magical time at camp. Thank You!!!!

Thank You!

thanks for staying open for so many years!

You run an amazing camp! Keep up the great work!!!!

Thank you and enjoy the rest of summer!

My son has grown through all the experiences at GG, both good and bad and has become a better person for it. The tradition and ceremony that occurs is so rare in this day and age, and it is a true godsend! I believe all children should have this opportunity and I feel that my son is blessed because of his many years at GG! Thank you so much!!!! I do hope that he can be a counselor at the camp he loves so much, just so he can pass on all that he has learned to others!

My son's only complaint was that the girls cabin associated with his dorm had girls that were "a lot" (his words) younger than he is. He claims they were 11 (he is 14.) Just thought I'd pass that along.

Our most expensive camp so would love it if the miracle ever happened and prices decreased.

"As the parent of a boy who was held on probation as a squire last year (2012), it was hard to watch the fear and anxiety with which he approached camp this year. While I think the Knighthood programs have great value, it is hard to see a young boy be afraid of returning to camp. I am not sure if we will continue to send him to Knighthood as he gets older.

Since we also have a daughter who loves the KH program and feels empowered by it, I wish that there was some discussion about whether the Knights program should in any way be modified now that more boys are attending for many years and seem to get ""held"" in part so that they won't be Sir Knights at age 12. I would love for my young son to feel empowered and not defeated by his camp experience."

Our family had a challenging year. Ella (Crimson Cross) had spent the year working on being herself, learning to support others without worrying excessively, being confident and allowing for new and possibly uncomfortable experiences. I am thankful that Nancy and Geneva Glen honored our request to allow her to practice all her new skills in a cabin of new friends. It made a huge difference in her experience. Ella loved her counselors and has given me example after example of ways she was able to let things go, to try new activities and to have fun the entire time. She loved Lauren, her counselor, and has spoken of many things Lauren reflected to Ella. Ella received the charm of courage which brought me to tears as I feel that this year has required courage beyond what most adults can muster up. We are forever connected to Geneva Glen and Ella is more grounded and thriving...prepared for a new school year.

Hire a full time videographer, to produce a DVD each session. Then feel the DVD's to the parents. There is definitely a need, and I think Geneva Glenn could make a profit!!

Thank you!

I love that fact that many of the counselors have been at GG for years and create a wonderful sense of community. Their enthusiasm and commitment are wonderful!

At check-in at about 3:00 people were being admitted to the nurse individually to discuss medications. There was a long wait. The process was quite cumbersome and even though you had stationed a very sweet counselor

at the door to engage them in conversation, my children were anxious to get to their dorms. It's a minor point but if you could expedite that process it would improve the initial impression of camp.

It was our son's 4th year and we've been very pleased and appreciative each year! The most important thing for me is that the counselors are good role models, moral, positive, etc. these kids look up to them very much and notice what they value, etc. and I just always hope my son gets a neat kid. Although I encourage him to be open minded and form his own opinions, etc. I realize he's influenced by these young counselors. Last year his counselor exposed him to the Avett Brothers which we thought was great. So far, every counselor we've met (or that our son has talked about) has seemed like a really neat kids!

Geneva, my life has been bettered by you!

Thank you for teaching her the charms, because she uses them in her everyday life

Thank you!

Your paperwork indicates that candy should not be sent as part of a care package. My son tells me that everyone, except for him, received candy in their care packages. If candy is allowed, you should remove that language from your paperwork.

I think that better bathrooms and better cleanliness of dorms would help prevent illness. My son gets sick every year, comes home with rashes.

Have more long weekends that we parents can overnight with our kids!!!!

Thanks for giving my kids a great experience. I am grateful that they were well cared for and had a wonderful time.

We loved the postcard from the counselor (Emily). It obviously took a little time and effort, but was really appreciated.

Thank you for the wonderful experience!

I can see why it is so hard to get your child enrolled; everyone wants to come back!

Great experience

thanks again for a great summer--

The experience has been fantastic for our girls and makes up many of their fondest childhood memories. Thank you for all you do, and keep up the great work!!!

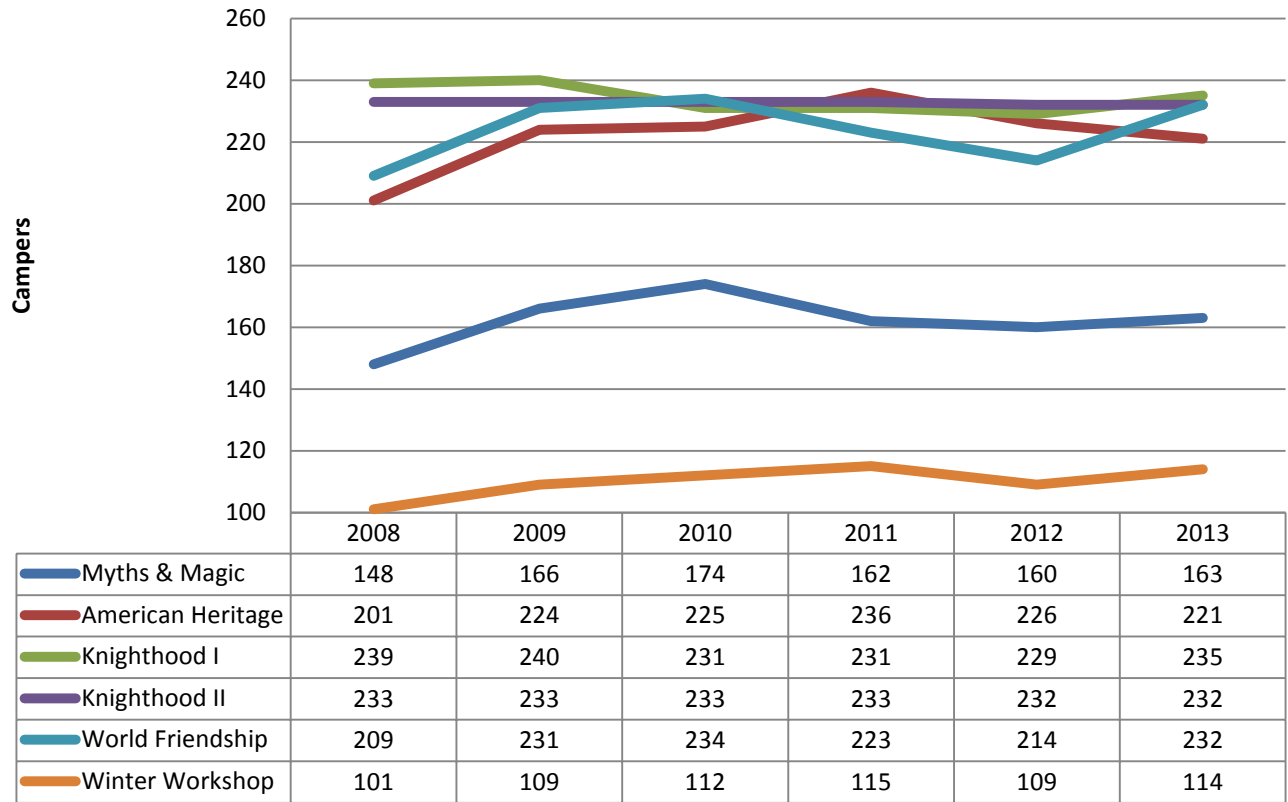
Great job and thank you again and again!

What it boils down to is that our boys had a tremendous experience -thank you for that! We, as first time parents, did not have a great experience, merely due to poor communication. However, we are thrilled that it was everything we hoped it would be and considerate very worthwhile. They both desperately want to go again next year and we will heavily consider it, but need to look at budget and schedules.

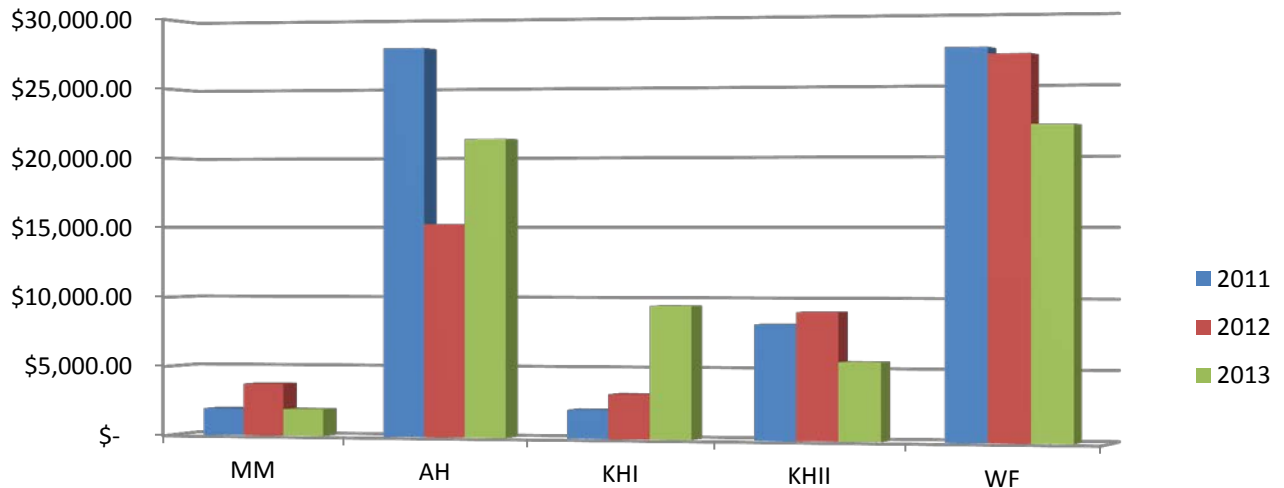
Alumni Parent Emails

Registration Statistics

Session Counts

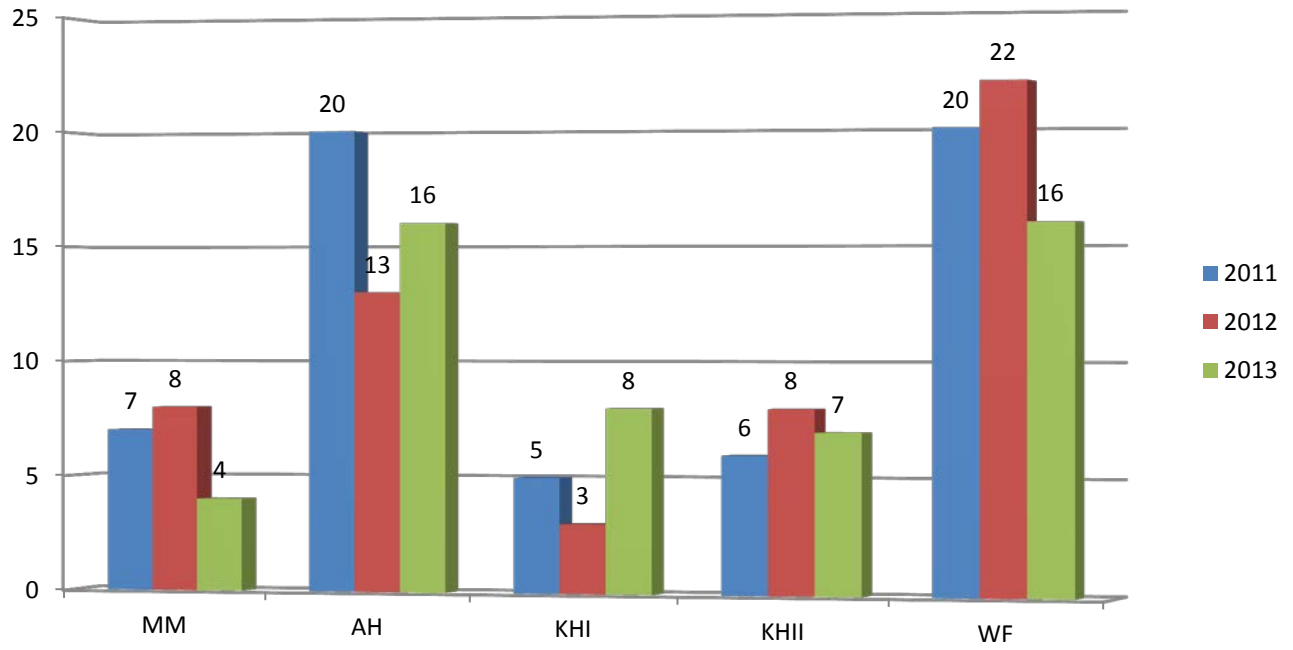


Campership & Tuition Assistance Dollars by Session



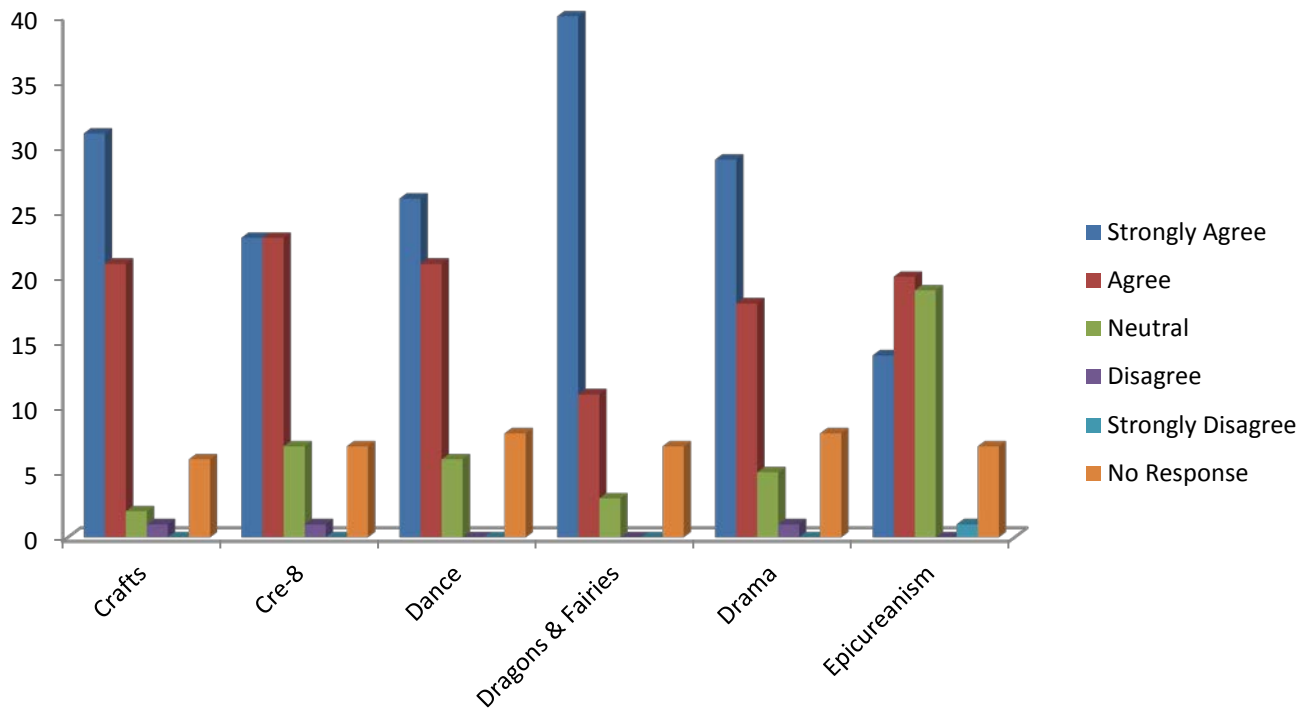
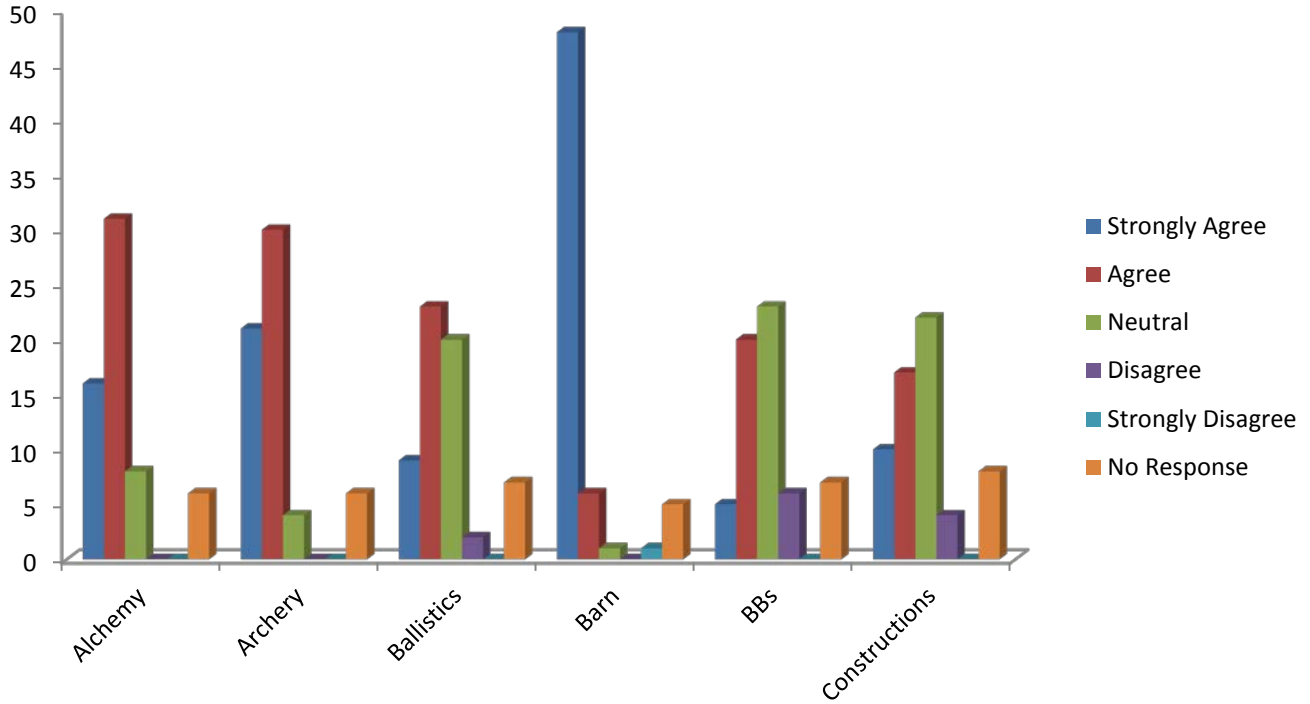
	MM	AH	KHI	KHII	WF
2011	\$1,927.50	\$27,840.00	\$2,055.00	\$8,202.50	\$27,562.50
2012	\$3,730.00	\$15,225.00	\$3,190.00	\$9,075.00	\$27,099.00
2013	\$1,920.00	\$21,317.50	\$9,475.00	\$5,585.00	\$22,179.65

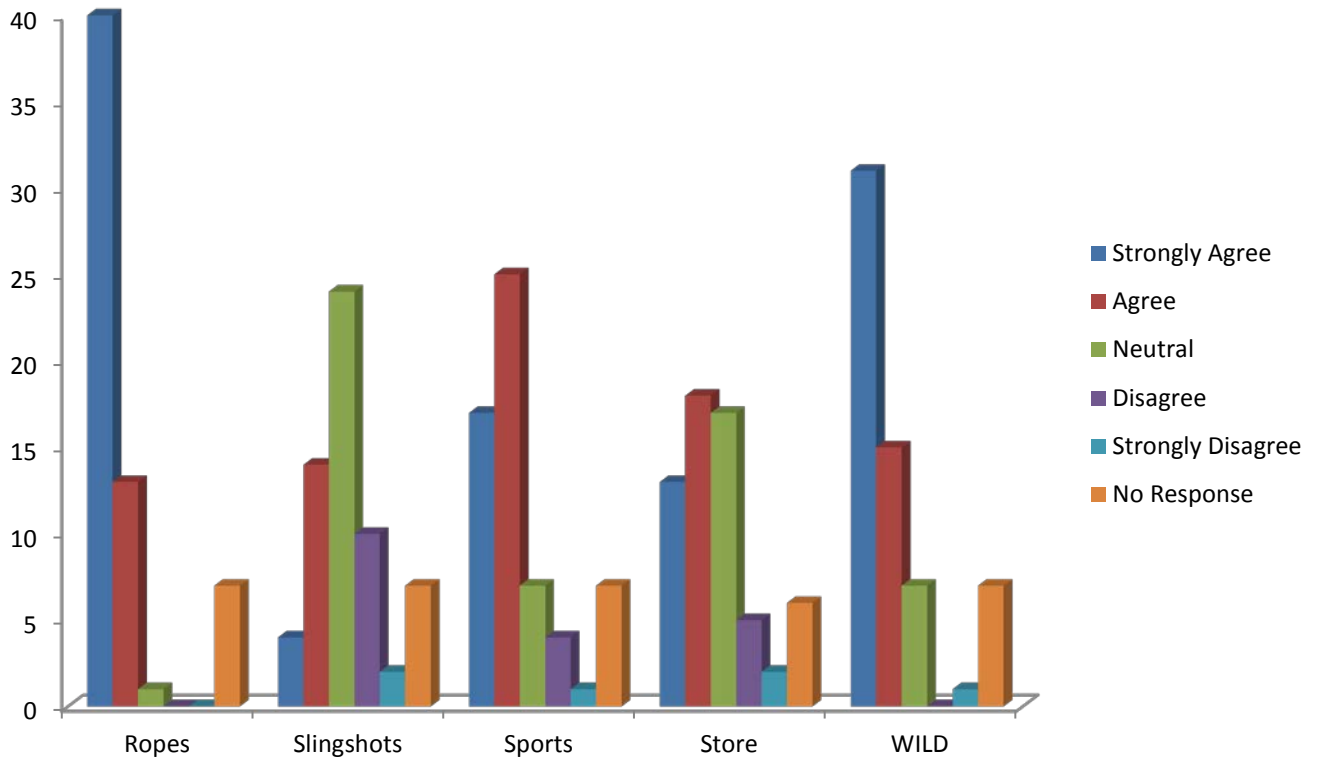
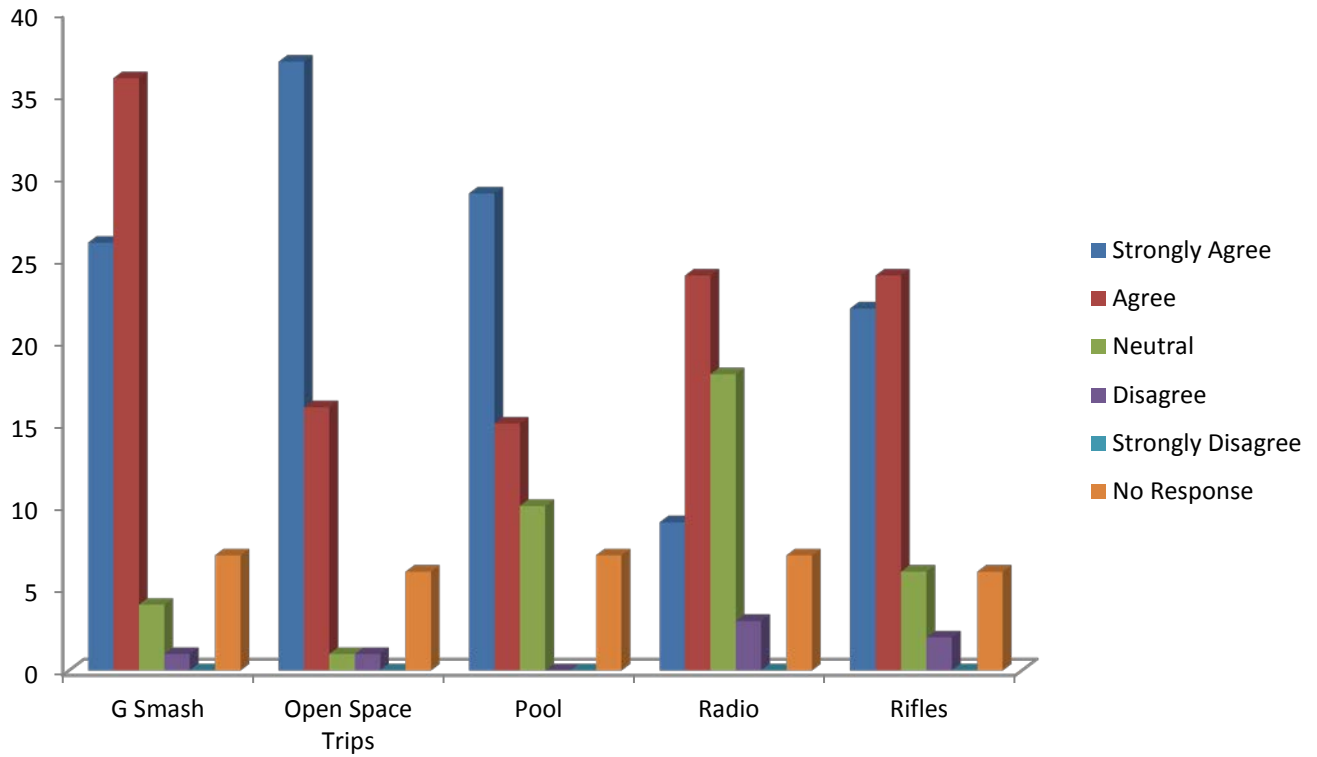
Campership & Tuition Assistance Counts by Session



Staff Program Evaluation

Please rate the areas at camp on their effectiveness, relevance to camper interest and the camp mission, as well as enthusiasm the campers have for the area.





How were the trainings you attended helpful in preparing you for the summer? What could be improved to make the trainings more helpful?

"CPR/First Aid training was better than any training of that kind that i've ever had before.

Ropes & WILD were more informative than ever and i learned a ton. i felt very prepared to run these areas. however, i wish that there would have been more hands on learning in the WILD portion."

Barn was wonderful in making my riding better and knowledge of horse behavior. I think that if you attend the 3 day barn training prior to camp you should get some kind of better treatment than those that only went to the hour long training.

I felt that having the experience in being trained for CPR and First Aid was not directly applicable, but came with a certain reassurance that I could help in an emergency situation, and proves to continue to be a beneficial life skill.

Wonderful don't change them.

I liked being taught and surrounded by my peers because it helped me to feel more comfortable learning and in coming into this summer

"I ran ropes... It went pretty well.

I do think that maybe splitting up Ropes & W/E would be useful. I've found that a lot of what has been taught at the joint training recently has been asynchronous. These days, ropes doesn't depend on w/e and vice versa. As such, people won't be able to attend all 3 days of training so they attend one day of ropes and one day of w/e. Because of this, they miss a day of ropes - often when we teach the most."

The overlap of some of the trainings made it difficult for those who wished to be trained in more than one core area before camp started.

The LGT training was very helpful with Kim Merkel. She was kind and supportive. It was long, but that may be necessary. I think it would be cool if there was better planned night programming to encourage staff to stay up at camp between days of those trainings. It may make the trainings not seem like day jobs.

Allowed for me to get a better understanding about saving someone's life. CPR certification made me feel a lot more comfortable around children knowing that I could, if I was put in the situation, potentially save their life.

I'm glad I had an opportunity to get my certifications out of the way before camp started.

Very helpful overall, covered material that I wouldn't even have thought of.

They more than prepared me.

They were very helpful in making me feel confident in what I was doing!

Got me ready and prepared for anything I might encounter during the summer.

Barn was helpful but a little long. I learned a ton.

Not much could be approved, they taught a lot in a very little amount of time. It was efficient.

They are all always very helpful.

The training I went to was great, very helpful.

N/A

"Camp CPR/First aid training was WAY better than the one I had that wasn't at camp.

I learned a lot at the ropes training and felt very prepared to run the area.

I wish we could have done more hands on stuff during WILD training."

Yes, trainings were helpful and prepared me for the summer.

Great!

They were definitely helpful! I met a lot of the new staff members and was able to form relationships. I also really liked going to the Ropes training because it allowed me to get used to the different areas and practice a lot before actually working them. I don't think they need improvement.

The CPR/First Aid training is more for peace of mind (for parents, board members, and even counselors) than for any practical use. And peace of mind is incredibly valuable.

They were very helpful and a good refresher of what I knew from previous summers.

All of the trainings helped prepare me to serve camp to the best of my abilities wherever I was needed. I feel like the trainings are all helpful, and easily accessible which was important.

I ran the WILD training alone, without Haley Mirr- that was frustrating, considering her circumstances of the summer.

Very helpful! I enjoyed being a certified trip leader very much!

some trainings like barn were very helpful. I think area training in general are pretty generic and that is ok and it is important to do them, especially the ones on how to bring your kids to an area- although as a veteran staffer they seem pretty redundant but for new staff they are very helpful.

I sometimes worry that the CPR/First Aid training is too vague, but I know that the instructor uses the conventional guidelines and that she didn't have a ton of personal choice in what was taught. The skill set learned/ refreshed for me, though, is deeply important. The same goes for the van driving training; I was glad to have the chance to go over the list of do's and don'ts and to be able to drive the van with just Pete before I ever drove with kids.

The CPR/First Aid training was really helpful for the summer. I felt as if I was really prepared in case anything bad were to happen.

What were your campers' favorite activities & areas this summer? What did they enjoy most about them?

"Pool: they could shower and hang out with the members of the opposite sex.

Store: Candy DUH!

Radio: got to listen to music that they wanted, unlike many of the other areas.

G-Smash: They liked the different games played there, mostly the zombie ones.

Rifles: they liked shooting their own stuff."

My seniors had a consistent schedule of Pool, G-smash, archery, and rifles. They enjoyed shooting things as well as having fun as a group. My Jrs and Middlers enjoyed Pool, Barn, Dragons, and Archery/BB's. They particularly liked imaginative places and projectile weaponry.

"Senior campers- archery, crafts, pool, alchemy

Junior/middlers- ropes, pool, barn, store"

The kids I sat with certainly made it clear that they loved Crafts, and Barn almost consistently. They also loved Middler day.

Working hard. Let's say barn

The campers that I sat with always raved about barn and ropes because these are both activities that kids cannot do at home, only at camp. They also enjoyed Castastrophe a lot, and I know that was new!

"During the Olympics my boys were obsessed with G-Smash, and while I think that the idea of beating the shit out of each other was cool enough to get them to try I, there is no doubt that Adam Gribas was the main reason why they went.

During Knighthood II my dorm C boys enjoyed pool and skits.

During KH I my dorm A boys hit up the usual Pool, Store, Rifles, but loved the Think Tank

During American Heritage the dorm F boys kinda just roamed around."

Barn and Archery- because both were activities they can't participate in at home and they make the campers feel in charge and build their esteem when they can direct a horse or hit a target

"My campers all loved ropes. They couldn't get enough of ropes. Ropes must have been really great! I'll bet the heads of ropes were really pretty, too.

With older campers, they appreciated WILD, radio, open space trips, and crafts much more than my younger campers.

However, both younger and older campers alike loved pool, store, BBs/rifles, ropes, archery, etc.

They enjoyed store because of candy. They liked the challenge of ropes, rifles, archer. Pool was a good way to relax and have fairly unrestricted fun.

"G Smash was an easy favorite for seniors and middlers alike.

The kids were a bit hesitant about the new or different areas but I feel that the counselor enthusiasm had them very excited about them afterwards."

Campers loved two types of activities: The common ones that everyone loves and those, newer, special activities. Every camper I had loved, pool, G-Smash, archery, and store. Though, I had a lot of campers who also loved areas like Sam I Am and special clinics.

They loved barn, crafts, pool, oh mama/zip line, and of course store. They loved the activities that they were really being active.

My campers loved having the opportunity to do things at camp that they would never be able to do at home. They have plenty of time to play sports at home, but Alchemy and Oh Mama and Barn are things they really looked forward too because those were things they never got to experience at home. I know they loved the special clinics and often struggled with choosing which among the many activities to sign up for - a good problem to have.

My kids loved barn which I believe is because they were able to learn and demonstrate skills as well as take ownership of their learning.

The seniors enjoyed store, rifles, barn, crafts, etc. Areas in which they could spend time with each other as I felt that was the main focus for them.

It varied with age group. My juniors and middlers like barn and store mostly. My seniors liked crafts, archery, and store mostly.

The kids that I sat with loved Barn and crafts the best. When I sat with Hilltop they loved making rockets and shooting them off. They also really loved making those pillow monsters that Cass would make.

almost everything!!

A lot of them loved Barn and Pool. Had a bunch during KH2 that went crazy at archery. Myths kids loved dragons this year and some loved ropes.

My campers enjoyed store, sports, open space trips and rifles.

My campers loved Gsmash, Drama, Pool, Rifles/BBs, Archery, and most every special activity that was planned, and I think this is largely because my boys loved to either be challenged (shooting a gun, playing a sport), or to relax and not have any pressure on them (pool, senior boys). I think Sam did a particularly good job of running clinics (Sam I am, Radio, etc) and though the area or clinic might have not been the most interesting, he made it not only fun, but also productive for the campers

"Open space trips and hikes. They loved getting out of camp and going places with their friends and different counselors.

Hikes were great because they gave the campers a chance to do something they don't normally do at home and see the beautiful parts of camp.

Crafts. My girls went pretty much everyday. They went to socialize more than to make things. Crafts is the area where I have bonded with my campers the most.

Dance is a great opportunity for campers to feel big and truly feel like they have accomplished something important in the two weeks they come to camp. I love seeing my campers' faces after they perform. They are excited, proud, and exhausted. It's awesome. "

My campers really enjoyed going to the pool, and the younger boys really enjoyed BB's and Ropes.

I saw kids at barn I thought I'd never see there. Older kids are trying new things each year they come because they love this place so much.

Barn, because they all thought it was really fun and cool because they got to ride horses. Pool, because it was always hot, and it's a fun place to Hang out and play ladders. Archery, because who gets to shoot archery every day, and it's always a good feeling when you shoot it in the yellow.

I found my campers favorite areas often times included barn, pool, ropes, and g-smash.

From what I heard at meal times the campers loved the creative clinics, and pool they always wanted me to go to pool with them.

"Pool: to socialize with members of the opposite sex.

store: for the candy DUH!

archery: they got to do the activity many times in one period.

G-Smash: it has violent undertones and lots of people can play at once.

Rifles: they loved getting to shoot special stuff and getting to keep them."

G-Smash is every (vocal) boy's favorite, for every age. I found a certain group of my Dorm H campers quite fond of crafts, where I could usually find them while I was on dorm. Pool for the little ones is of course a favorite. Contrary to popular opinion, my Dorm C and Hilltop never seemed to get bored with BB's. As long as there are targets to color and bullet shells to collect, the boys are happy.

My younger campers were most interested in barn, ropes and dance. The older campers were more interested in branching out and doing open space trips, drama, dance and extra activities offered, in addition to the traditional camp areas such as crafts.

"G-Smash - loved the opportunity for teamwork and to do something they don't get to do at home!

Ropes - offered a fun level of physical activity taking part in unique-to-camp experiences.

Open Space Trips, when I could actually get them to sign up - engendered appreciation for nature.

Barn, Pool, Crafts, Store, Ropes, Open Space Trips

All my campers loved pool, and I think it's a great area for camper-counselor interaction because you get to engage with each kid individually and also facilitate group interactions. They also really liked Cre-8 and I think Rachel did a great job of engaging the kids and thinking of really cool projects that the kids hadn't gotten to do before. Also whenever we went to WILD and Elle was working she always had a really creative activity planned that would get the kids involved and excited.

Every camper's interests were different. Some really enjoyed the creative areas like Crafts, Cre-8, and Radio. Some were performers and spent most of their time working on productions like Merlin's Masque or Swords Soliloquy. Almost all my campers loved pool and store. Some of my seniors were addicted to the open space trips and would sign up for every one they could. They seemed to love the areas in which they could be engaged for the entire time they were there.

"Barn had excellent programming, especially special programming such as the overnight or adventure race. I think campers like the uniqueness of opportunities like that, as they are only available at camp.

Often the favorite memories of campers looking back over the session was evening plays. My younger campers seemed to enjoy the staple camp activities more such as barn or pool while my older campers seemed to enjoy special programming like philosophy hikes that challenged the way they thought.

Pool, barn, and ropes are always favorites as they are the most substantive programs run at camp. My campers this summer really enjoyed any open space trips they went on as they got to see a new part of the world and be in nature. My little ones love fairies, of course, because it helps their imagination and allows them to see beauty in the world.

They loved barn, store and ropes mostly

This summer I saw kids gravitate towards G-Smash. I think they enjoyed the competitive aspect of it, as well as plating with friends, and having fun. I also saw an increase of kids signing up and going on hikes on the camp property through WILD. I think kids enjoyed exploring the wilderness and being with friends.

"All campers love barn and alchemy.

It is interactive and engaging."

A lot of the Senior campers enjoyed Cre-8. I think that the uniqueness of the program and the readiness of the materials allowed for a great deal of creative expression.

Many of my campers enjoyed rifles and archery quite a bit, with some taking an enormous amount of interest in WILD. They generally liked these activities because they seldom get to do them outside of camp.

Hiking and pool because they could go as a dorm

My campers' favorite areas were mainly barn and crafts. They like barn because it was a chance to interact with animals and a place to show that they could do something that seemed like a challenge. It gave them self confidence. They also liked the evening plays that were interactive like the dance or Kokopelli.

they loved barn of course. many of my middler girls were very sad not to get to go to cre8. sometimes it is hard to motivate them to do archery and bbs etc but as long as you are willing to play endless camouflage its all good. they all loved alchemy and pool. for the middlers they always love seeing something new on the schedule- emagination, epicurianism, etc

Krew

My campers always loved ropes! Every cabin I had was always excited about doing any activity up there. I also always had girls who were crazy for barn and girls who loved crafts. Younger girls also loved fairies and scheduled time to go to the fairy garden was always nice.

Many of my campers really enjoyed Barn, Epicureanism, Pool and Ropes. All of these areas allowed them to challenge themselves in a safe and supportive environment. They could all participate to whatever level they were comfortable with and were fully involved in the area.

"I was a wrangler this year at barn and all the campers who came down to barn were very enthusiastic or very excited to get over a fear that they may have had. Many campers got on horses who were afraid and left the barn with a positive experience. In addition older seniors really enjoyed polocrosse and in depth lessons. The little kids liked polocrosse and trotting in the arena because it was something more advanced and that they didn't get every time they came to barn. The trails were always a big hit no matter what! The Barn overnight was an activity that many kids wanted and looked forward to as well.

This summer there was a scavenger hunt that incorporated doing activities at barn such as a whole cabin lunch ride, or riding 5 of the trails, or playing polocrosse tournaments. Adding those activities increased the amount of participation at barn and camper/dorm/cabin bonding at barn. I thought it was a brilliant idea and should definitely be incorporated in 2014 summer program."

"My older female campers loved pool, store and crafts. They also loved anything that involved food or decorating their clothes. They loved the very practical and relaxing creativity.

My younger female campers loved pool, barn, ropes and store. They were much more adventurous and wanted to try new things they could not do at home. "

They absolutely always loved barn, pool, and store. I think they forged some of their strongest connections at these areas. They also gain so much confidence through the drama and dance departments. The encouragement and inclusion can do so much for them.

N/A

My younger campers loved pool, epicureanism, crafts, barn, catastrophe the most. They enjoyed these areas because they were able to be active and get to know their counselors well and these areas provided them with things they didn't get to do everyday if they were home. My older campers loved barn, crd-8, crafts, and pool the most.

What were your campers' least favorite activities & areas this summer? How can they be improved to be more fun and relevant to their needs and interests?

"My junior/ middler dorms REALLY didn't like barn. I have no idea how to make it better.

Alchemy was complained about a bit but that could have been because the workers running the area didn't have much prepared. "

Seniors: Barn, Wild and Ropes. I think my children wanted to do things that didn't take a whole period or that they wouldn't have to exert a lot of energy to go to. JR's/ Middlers: Crafts. They didn't seem to like areas that didn't take the whole period. I have no idea how to improve these areas. I like them.

"junior/middlers- constructions/egg drop/ ballistics: these areas tend not to take a full period and can lose the kid's interest fast, which makes it boring for them and hard for the counselor on cabin."

The campers I sat with didn't seem to enjoy ballistics or construction as much as the others. I'm pretty sure a big reason for this was a lack of a set program or definition of what they were doing. Even as they asked me what it was I couldn't real give an answer. I would suggest having a set plan of what will happen during these programs specifically.. perhaps a list of new ideas for construction? when I went to construction with my girls we made small houses out of stuff found around the chimney, and during ballistics the egg drop off of the lodge was always to be expected. im sure they would have loved to have a varied schedule for those specific areas. This is merely from what I have picked up on through mealtime conversation and limited interaction, I could have a misperception as to how these areas are run.

bb's you can't just how it is.

WILD went both ways, they loved it when they got to play fun outdoor games, but didn't like "boring" hikes. The same went for sports; they liked it when there were fun games, but not so much when they were just told to play dodgeball for a period because they get to play dodgeball during meadow time anyway!

As a staff we need to start focusing on the chunks of time when we are at areas, but our kids are just sitting there waiting to do something for 58 minutes. I just feel like many of the areas juniors and middlers go to are like Archery, Ropes, and BB's, where they are literally sitting there, and I understand the argument of 'Free Play' but it seems like we've been using that as a crutch and an excuse to not entertain our kids.

sports- it was hard for them to get excited about things they would normally do before meals anyway, especially for an hour and when it's hot outside

"My older campers disliked WILD a lot of the time because a lot of the activities at WILD have been done the same year after year, or because they were lazy teenagers.

My younger campers disliked slingshots because it was difficult and there wasn't much reward or recognition for doing well. BBs was often disliked because, similarly to slingshots, it was difficult with little reward, and huge waiting lines. Constructions is often disliked because there are limited supplies, a narrow-scoped goal, and because they often lack technical knowledge about what they are trying to construct."

My campers this summer tended not to like activities that lacked enthusiasm or programming. Areas like WILD and Slingshots often lacked the creativity to make kids interested. Even Barn often left campers sitting in the corral, waiting to be entertained.

Slingshots. Having slingshots with ten 7 year olds is a huge challenge. They also struggled with sports because a lot of the girls didn't see themselves as being athletic so they would shut down and barely participate.

The younger kids complain that they wish they had more variety in their schedule like the seniors do. They know all the regular areas and get jealous when they hear all the announcements in council ring that don't apply to them.

BB's and WILD were disliked by my kids. I think being outdoors more and eating candy less would help kids appreciate nature and be less intimidated by a 10 minute hike.

Really depended on the group, at least someone in each dorm I had really enjoyed each activity we went to.

My juniors and middlers did not particularly enjoy slingshots or sports, but I don't know that much could be done about it.

Slingshots

A lot of the younger ones had poor attitudes when going to alchemy but when they went they enjoyed it. A lot is about eh perception. BBs runs a little slow and some kids love it and the others hate it so maybe another lane for them to shoot from and someplace for a fort to be set up or something like that nearby (I know we have the treehouse but that makes it hard to watch everyone at once).

No areas were truly disliked

All of my boys really didn't like crafts, but I think it becomes more fun for the boys when there is either an element of competition involved (craft contests with counselor enthusiasm backing this) or its more of a group activity to show pride. After saying this, I realize that its almost like crafts for a military troupe; very successful if you focus on expertise, will to win, personal mettle, and pride.

"Slingshots. Kinda boring and awkward. It's more fun to walk around, hike, and shoot things. Sitting at the course and shooting cans and signs gets old.

The boys just aren't fans of crafts, but I think once they start participating in the area, they forget they don't "like" it.

Didn't have campers.

Rifles, maybe have some other fun things to shoot at besides targets.

I was not around them long enough to know of any constant dislike of an area.

Barn: they get really bored waiting there really fast and it's usually hot at the arena and there isn't shaded for them to wait.

crafts: for younger kids there HAS to be more organization of what is being made (don't wing it) and the craft should last better so they don't break when the kid tries to take it with him.

epicureanism: it turns into the counselor making it and the kids not helping."

The Dorm C boys thought alchemy was silly, and I would (erherm) perhaps run more serious/effectual cooking or discovery programs for juniors and middlers. They also thought an hour of slingshots was dull, but they did love to groan about such things.

WILD. Although it is engaging, they complained when having to go on hikes. I believe they learned from the hikes and it is very important to continue WILD as an area. Maybe some scheduling differences like making sure kids don't have WILD and barn back to back would be helpful so they don't have to hike in riding boots.

Photography hikes could be more interesting for older campers than a general hike.

Alchemy is still a tough sell to boys but has gotten better - and once a few went and enjoyed it the rest of the dorm seemed more open to it. Not much can be done with the programming, male counselors just need to keep pushing their boys to try out the entire range of camp activities.

Slingshots and BBs - little girls just don't really enjoy these areas but I don't think there is much we can do about it. Some of them do and I know the boys like them.

Their least favorite area was probably BBs just because there is so much sitting around. I think it's really cool that we moved it up to Rifles and that helped because there was room to do activities with the kids, but they still complained about it a lot. Slingshots was also in the same vein because it's difficult to fill an entire period with it, so the kids spend way too much time looking for rocks and then sitting waiting to shoot.

I think every area at camp has the capability to be very engaging and fun. In my opinion, areas rely about 20% on the area itself and about 80% on the staff running it. A relatively basic or simple activity can become the best area at camp with enough creativity and enthusiasm. I think that the specific area training during orientation could be beefed up. This might mean more guidance for Area Heads concerning what should be addressed in these training sessions. I don't think that the expectations are being set high enough at the beginning of the summer for how to run an area successfully, and those expectations start with the area heads.

BBs was always a hard one. There needs to be something else for campers to do while waiting in line and also guns that are more intuitive and easier for them to operate.

Things like BBs, ballistics, and constructions can be difficult with little girls, especially depending on who is running them (when creative and enthusiastic people with strong activities ran them, it was awesome).

Constructions

None comes to mind. Maybe slingshots, but that's probably due to me not seeing the campers participate in it much, due to it not being heavily scheduled.

BBs, the kids barely have enough time to all go once.

I think that WILD is difficult for jrs. and Middlers. At a certain point in the session they have run out of things to do. There also seems to be overlap in the the Alchemy and Wild activities.

Oftentimes it was hard getting younger kids excited for barn, but with older kids no trouble were present.

I would think that the sling shots was the least favorite because it didn't take up enough of time during the period.

A lot of my girls really didn't like archery because they didn't feel like they were good at it and it didn't hold their attention for an entire period.

for middlers mostly bbs archery. some loved it some weren't so interested but i think both areas could do some special like shooting something different.

They didn't like challenge as much at first but they normally warmed up to it. I think it was hard to keep their attention for the whole period so they normally ended up having free play. A lot of the girls didn't like sports very much but I feel like that's inevitable.

Areas such as Constructions, Slingshots and BB's were less popular with some of my campers. I found it harder to keep young kids entertained for a whole period at these areas because the activity itself is so short with long waiting periods in between. Maybe better planning for areas like Constructions and more games or fun targets for BB's and Slingshots.

Many kids liked the trails, however, I know many seniors liked to know the level of difficulty of the ride beforehand. There are many campers who are good riders at Geneva Glen however, there are also a lot who haven't ridden horses since they were middle age which for some was like 5 years and were scared to get on. I definitely know that those campers liked to know when the beginner trail rides were going out and a bunch of them would come down to the well house ready to improve their skills.

"My older female campers did not like WILD or open space trips. I believe that these could be improved by doing different activities instead of only hiking. Even though I believe hiking should be sufficient enough to have fun, maybe having theme hikes or involve cooking interesting foods would attract more campers.

My younger campers did not like that crafts were restricted to one craft for the whole cabin."

My campers didn't really seem to enjoy slingshots too much. Even though the people running the area and the people with their kids tried to make the kids seem enthusiastic for the area, I found that my campers got bored easily and didn't want to do the activity. I found that we played a lot of outdoor games instead of doing slingshots.

Any comments or suggestions to help improve other scheduled activities or the camper program in general?

a more diverse schedule for the juniors and middle schoolers would be cool. They very quickly realized that they had some on the main areas more often than some of the more special ones.

I think the special activities have become incredibly creative. A big portion of my time was spent wishing I could check out a couple of clinics. I would also like to note the organization of the musical this year was fantastic and smoother run. I also would like to applaud the idea for a day long hunger game special activity. It was unexpected, fun, and incredibly creative.

All of them are great. Just keep things clean.

The schedule looked great to me!

"First and foremost, I'd like to point out that the Hunger Games has never and absolutely will never work at camp. This summer for some reason we decided to make an entire day out of the Hunger Games, when the year before it didn't even work as an evening play. It was a waste of the kids' time and I'm surprised that more of them didn't realize that the entire day was comprised of nothing whatsoever. I just think it's time to move on to something more creative.

Secondly, I don't think there is any reason for us to have 'Catch-Up' on the last day of World Friendship. The day is depressing enough as it is, but this year there was nothing going on. I even saw counselors moving some of their clothes down from girls' hill in preparation to leave. We need to figure out a way to make the last day of camp more fun for the kids. On that note, I think that Chataqua needs to be run more like Pow Wow in the

sense that there needs to be one main 'Nancy' who knows exactly what every dorm and cabin needs to do, and they will be in charge of making sure that the kids are ready to actually perform something of quality on the last day of camp. These kids should all take pride in what they get to do, not look forward to getting it over with so they can watch the 'Russian Ballet.' ON that note I think someone this would be a perfect position for someone like Jeff Ellenoff or Andy Schultz who are very creative but know how to get the job done.

Lastly, I think that we should give a little more leeway when it comes to the drama department. During his toast to Reid, Ben Brasch made a comment on how camp has been in a phase of staying true to our traditions, but recognizing when things need to be changed for the better. I think that it would be great if the Head of Drama were given the opportunity to at least edit the scripts of Merlins Masque and Pageant, and honestly Ben Brasch was the perfect man to give that challenge to."

no

The variety in programming was awesome this year. I think it may be a good idea to have the schedule looked over by a counselor or other staff member to ensure very few lulls in the programming.

I love giving my campers a variety of options about what to do, however it clearly frustrates them when we do the same activities day after day. I know variety is always the goal, but I think it's important to keep it in mind for the younger kids too. I also wish we had a better system for keeping track of the older kids when they are going around to areas. It's frustrating when I'm on senior cabin and spend most of the morning just trying to find where my kids are.

I feel as if having Open Space Trips on the first Monday or the last Thursday of a session is a mistake because the kids won't sign up for it. They want to enjoy being at camp for the first and last regularly scheduled day and won't leave camp until maybe later in the first week.

Less store! Open space trips were always great when I took them. Pete does great work with the schedule.

Honestly can't think of anything now....

None

It's honestly doing great and also in great hands with Pete.

More junior middler clinics.

I felt that the variety of programming this summer was STELLAR. Pete did a wonderful job pushing counselors to submit unique activity requests and scheduling things well - though there was still the occasional 'dead' morning or afternoon.

"I think something should be done to radio. As an area, it tends to just be a place for wafering and doesn't really serve much purpose when someone without the musical/creative skills that SamRo has runs it. I had a really difficult time running it because even when you try to do something more interactive, the space only allows for a few kids to participate and the WiFi was so terrible it was difficult to play camper requests.

It would be nice if juniors and middle schoolers were scheduled for lovely hair late into the first week. I know this can be difficult timing wise, but it is easy to get so wrapped up in camp you forget to wash your kids' hair."

I thought it went very smoothly this summer, and many counselors went above and beyond in organizing clinics, open space trips, and being creative in set areas.

I think that Cre-8 should be on the schedule more for juniors and middles. I think that even though it gets chaotic it teaches them useful skills like learning how to sew. If it is on the schedule more for juniors and middlers two people should be working it so that there are more hands to help/teach.

especially for the jr middler getting new things on the schedule is fun for them as well as the counselors and lets be real when the counselors are having fun the kids will be no matter what! maybe some special days like craft wars, or bake offs, sam i am is great

The only thing that comes to mind is to maybe try to include juniors and middlers more in things like Merlins Masque and Swords Soliloquy. Maybe by trying to include more small parts that they can try out for.

I thought the camper program this summer was extremely strong and well executed this summer.

"Taking an all day trip exploration on horses would be fun. A group of 10-12 campers that would take lunch out and go explore the back bowl trails would be fun. We did do some of those during World Friendship this past summer and it was a new exciting event for campers that loved barn. End of the session catch-up was good to catch up on chores, but also a great time to do last time in depth lessons for those older campers that asked.

Polocrosse and the barn overnights brought down more boys to barn!"

This may put too much pressure on already busy counselors, but maybe make it mandatory for a group of counselors to have a clinic one week and another group another week so that campers throughout the summer get to have fun clinics.

I think balance in scheduling is important. Often for seniors, there'll be afternoons where, without a top-notch counselor to help them be creative, they're forced to wafer. Too many sign-up clinics and not enough areas open at one time can create a serious boredom problem.

The scheduled activities should just always mix it up and do different activities.

Do you have any ideas for new activities, areas or programming to add for next summer?

I would love to see something similar to the hunger games day.. perhaps draw from another best seller or movie and spend a day of fun. I would like to see the area of video being given a second wind. (let campers write scripts and perform them. camper can create movies to premier during movie night). That would be so fun and empowering to campers who are involved.

Not that I can think of right now, but if I do I'll be sure to let you all know.

I would love to talk about the WILD program - bringing in fresh activities, incorporating lower elements at ropes, and engaging in a progression of learning with the campers. This progression would start with a challenge or goal at the beginning, activities to achieve the goal, and then a debriefing at the end. I envision this as a fusion with the Challenge, but it requires preparation, and more importantly, intention. Every activity and discussion must be led and explained with intention towards the ultimate goal.

I have a million. I will be in touch this year. I've thought of one main one thus far: week-long activities.

These kids love tradition. They like being able to finally participate in the programs they have grown up hearing about.

Trash with Brasch should definitely continue

"Maybe a garden for the older kids to maintain throughout the summer and work with to eventually use?

Kids also love being able to help decorate or maintain little things in camp they jump at and love."

Blowdarts instead of slingshots, and they alternate?

YES. Yes I do, I have a billion. Such as a laser obstacle course, taking the junior/middlers through the strenuous training many of the counselors and my self go through to become a spy. A web of red yarn you can't touch and a timer trying to get your best time and at the end of the clinic they all get to be SITS (spies in training).

more informational clinics that are themed for the sessions. especially during knighthood and world friendship.

Open Space Trips to view the Arts would be lovely, and cultured. If we could get discount tickets to a play, concerto, or even opera, that would be so cool! And it would make us look really broad-minded and worldly!

Attachment talk, or some similar programing for girls. I think the attachment talk idea is wonderful and extremely helpful to the young men, but I think girls would also benefit by being paired up with a female counselor to discuss their life and get some built in one-on-one mentoring.

Maybe we could identify the campers every session who brought instruments and make music with them instead of only during he World Friendship Musical!

If we could do more clinic-style activities for the JMers I think that would be really cool! For example, someone could be working "Zumba" all morning but it would be different JM groups that would come. Or it could be a Rangoli clinic but the younger kids would get to do it too.

Staff always has wonderful requests.

Im curious about the new marathon. If completed by next summer and if a kitchen is included, it might be really cool to have a camper culinary program.

themed hikes, more think tanks about relevant issues in high school and middle school.

craft wars, or bake offs, scottish games

The fox trot was an activity that I would have wanted to try out. I also think have a couple barn overnights throughout the summer would have been fun for the kids. It is a lot of work but it is nice when we switch it up in the program.

Once the new marathon is built, cooking as an area is going to be great. The kids and counselors would all love it.

At the moment, no, but I'll shoot you guys an email if I think of anything!

New things like castastrophe are always exciting for the kids!

Any comments or suggestions to improve evening play?

They always seem to come through amazing even if they look like no one knows what to do. awesome job.

Bring back air band. Some of my fondest camp memories are from this.

Evening plays were tight this year. I am always a fan of adaptations of old favorites, and bettering the evening lays we already have. I loved the detective evening plays! Although I would've liked to see some kind of interactive learning/ simulation during vespers like in past years. I know as a camper I learned so much and felt so strongly about it. I still tell people about the revolution simulation. Those were so powerful and interesting.

Evening play was great all summer. But the 4th of July evening play was kind of like sitting through a U.S. History class, and the kids were not into it. Also I loved having Nostalgia stuff in council fire; however, I think that council fire should be more for kids to have fun and do skits and songs. That being said, I loved Nostalgia Night when I was a senior camper, so maybe that could be a thing again.

From what I've heard, the 4th of July night was a flop. Kids like engaging in evening plays and they love competition. For example, during Luau, the kids' favorite activities were the seashell hunt and the fish hot potato game. They had a goal and a tangible 'trophy' to work towards. A lot of times, the younger kids lose interest in evening plays where they have to sit and watch. Perhaps we could incorporate interactive elements focused towards the Jrs/Middlers.

We need to re-evaluate how we are planning evening plays. I think we've become over programmed in the evening play department. Since Jurassic Park, we've put serious effort into changing evening plays. But, in truth, campers love capture the flag. Campers loves counselor hunt. The issue is not one of making new and better evening plays. We simply need to put our creative effort into the themes and rules of already established evening plays. No need to reinvent the wheel.

Evening play is great!

Active games and evening plays are always a favorite among the kids. It's also helpful to wear them out before they go to bed.

More of the fun ones! It seemed we had a lot of already scheduled evening plays and didnt really get to play the capture the flags, or counselor hunt ones. As well as while some of the ways in which we changed the fun ones were very creative, I feel as if having the capture the flag not having a serious theme or not playing scrabble during counselor hunt is more enjoyable for the kids. The silly themes such as jedi vs sith or hatfields vs mccoys are the most fun in my opinion.

Evening play is most of the kids favorite part of the day and I think that they really are fantastic. I can't think of anything I would do to improve them.

Something way more fun for 4th of July. We don't need to be school for these kids. Camp is fun!

At least once a session get to play jurassic park or capture the flag or counselor hunt. Active games that the kids can really get into.

"My kids were always wanting to play capture the flag, I almost think we could do a quasi color war where they do american gladiators style thing for points.

Also WF Sr. Vespers should be done more often. Cas KILLED that"

Planning further ahead will help but I understand how hard that is.

Stick to the traditional games, the kids love the traditional capture the flag and counselor hunt, spicing it up isn't necessarily required.

Don't ever do long boring lecture evening plays especially teaching kids on the 4th of July what presidents did or said for two hours. We all go to school for a reason avoid using school at camp.

The 4th of July evening play speeches were a little long and had issues keeping the kids attention.

Nope, it always turns out well if the counselors are in to it, which they always are.

they seem to go so well even if people have no idea how to run them. so i would change anything.

Evening play is, on the whole, all perfect. For events such as Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiago, Circus, Scrabble, and in general any activity in which campers collect points-- make sure the point system is standardized for the counselors so that the game is logical and fair for all the kids. I.e., institute a point scale so that counselors know whether or not to make themselves 5 or 500 points if they are caught.

Some kids were very disappointed when they didn't get to play Jurassic Park...I understand how difficult it is to fit in evening plays (especially during the knighthood sessions), but some kids are feeling cheated when other sessions' campers get to be chased by imaginary dinosaurs and they don't.

Themes and activities should be announced earlier than dinner announcements. It offers kids a chance to get excited all day for events like the dance, capture the flag, etc. In order to do this, those running an event need to know earlier than that day/day before. A schedule of who is running evening play should be put up with the regular schedule.

Evening play was great this summer

I was impressed with certain counselors getting involved in evening plays, as well as the new and diverse evening plays that were brought to camp this summer.

I think evening play this summer was awesome. During American Heritage the evening play seemed to be focused around games like Jurassic Park or Capture the Flag and I think other session could have used more of those types of games.

Better Organized, and better communicated to campers

I think Chautauqua took a huge step in the right direction this summer with much better planning. I really liked the addition of dances and global cultures. I think It could still continue to improve through more involvement of the campers and more engaged staff.

I loved most evening plays. Council fire was by far my favorite do keep doing what you are doing with that.

There was an awful lot of sitting and listening this summer, which I've realized can be really boring for the kids even if they are listening to something cool. I think the dances were especially fun this year, and I love the variation and new additions, but maybe a couple could be tweaked for a little more kid movement.

Banjo Man outside!

Any comments or suggestions to improve special events (Rendezvous, 4th of July, Hunger Games, Carnivale, Chautauqua?)

No more hunger games. the first half works well with the tributes and stuff but the cornucopia is never fair and gets a bunch of kids mad at each other for not doing what they are suppose to.

4th of july evening play was rather boring. I could hardly keep my kids still and awake listening to speeches.

Special events were incredible this year. I liked the creativity we had in all of the special events, we should definitely continue to improve our classic special events and keep creating more!

Be clear with Hunger Games it could go one way or the other.

They all went great!

I know i said this before, but I really think we need to shy away from the Hunger Games and move onto something a bit more creative. Also, during AH there were three days in a row where the kids got extended rest hour and there was nothing to do during the day, I think we need to just double check our timing with super special activities.

make 4th of July more exciting for the children to participate- more active and less of a presentation

Hunger Games was a tough event to be counseling for. The kids had such grand expectations for the day - bloodbaths, beat-downs, and victory. Instead, they spent the morning watching a 'special' camper be in the spotlight (a position they wanted to be in), then had to sit through an extended rest hour, then finally got to engage in activities, but they were disorderly and seemingly unfair because there was no standardization to the point system. They wanted a day-long G-smash session, but spent most of the day passing time.

We need to be smarter, and more inclusive, with these days. The addition of snacks was awesome, but the events sometimes got dull and repetitive. The carrier pigeon and kissing booth may be a little overdone. We should open up ideas for activities to counselors, and see if they have any ideas. Also, Hunger Games didn't work as it should have. I think we'd really have to reinvent the hunger games to make it all-camp inclusive.

More substantial breakfasts when we have all day activities where we are moving a lot outdoors. Two of my campers got really sick on the day of the hunger games because of the lack of breakfast. Kind of miserable dealing with 10 hungry 7 and 8 year olds.

Everything was great this year! I like that we are keeping up the traditions of these events (kissing booth, marriages in the chapel, jean branding, etc.), but also trying to keep it fresh by incorporating new activities and events.

Most of them were good but some could have been cut short. Hunger Games shouldn't be an all day event the way it was laid out bc kids just get restless with all the build up and then have to go to lunch and rest hour.

These days are some of my favorites to participate in. Sometimes there is a lull in the programming at points. Maybe these times could be used in the council ring with another fun skit or performance for camp's enjoyment.

Hunger games should have less dead time. the others worked well and the people who ran them did such a great job this year.

Keep rotating people to new areas, to make new creativity and new fun!

4th of July, although educational, wasn't very "exciting" for the kids.

All went fine as long as they are planned and organized well. Be on top of planning things and communicating early with everyone about this day and what they will be doing. It will help out.

I feel that the hunger games was really long, and some kids got a little bored when they couldn't be involved.

Rendezvous could have a lassoing area. That's not really important, but it counts as a suggestion.

no more hunger games. the before game stuff is cool and fun but the cornucopia and afterward are never completely fair. the kids turn on each other for items and in the end almost none of the stuff matter anyway.

Keep bringin' those glowsticks when we can get them! I say that with the image of my Dorm C kids' frantic and obsessive scrambles to collect maximum glowsticks in mind. The dance/rave/glowparty for Seniors one night was quite prime.

Hunger Games should have been an afternoon activity, not all day. We spent most of the day killing time (late wake-up, double long rest hour, parade, etc) just to get to around 2 hours of actual activity.

I think the Hunger Games could have been just an afternoon, with a regular scheduled morning because it seemed like we were just passing time until lunch and we could make all of that shorter to move it along but it is a great idea and the kids seem to like it a lot.

I think that as long as we make sure at least two people are planning all of these events they will be perfect. It's really difficult to plan something like this by yourself, so assigning two people would be really helpful.

It helps to pick the people running these days early on so that our brains can start coming up with ideas early on instead of stressing out the two days before.

There needs to be more organization involved than just asking one person to set up the entire event. Johnny needs to do a better job of sitting down with the person running it and explain their responsibilities, resources, expectations and ideas, etc. Also, using the "petty dictator" system from Chautauqua more often would be helpful.

"Hunger Games was much too long. It was an awesome idea, but it should and could be done in half a day, not the full day. The morning had most kids just sitting around and not participating. I also think that some of the kids missed some of the classic Rendezvous activities.

I think a lot of kids missed the classic, Rendezvous-style 4th of July. This was definitely weird timing wise because the 4th fell in AH, but it would have been fun to have it be a bigger deal. Additionally, the evening play on the 4th was not something my campers enjoyed. I loved the idea of teaching them some American history, but it ended up being a bit boring for them. I am always a fan on Banjo Man on 4th of July if possible."

I think that the activities that are session oriented are great! When all of camp can get involved in a group celebration it is very nice and the outdoor all camp barbecues are very fun.

My girls loved them every time! I think the Olympics were really great this year

loved the way they went this year, i think the committees were a bit too much subdivision but everything was well done and organized

Nah, those are great fun.

I heard from kids that the whole day of Hunger Games was too much and it dragged out in some parts of the day. I think that it would be better if it just stuck to a half-day activity or even just an evening play.

Give tributes more of a chance to shine except for just the beginning of the events because they are mostly kids who need a boost and my girl got healthy attention but could have used more.

Usually, the time for just going to different stations runs longer than necessary. For example, the cabin 2 & 4 girls as the kissing booth run out of people to kiss in the first hour and then wander around for the rest of the time.

Chautauqua definitely needs a wake-up ride ;) Fourth of July was a bummer, mostly due to the fire ban, but I think that the presidential speeches were pretty much lost on the the littler kids. Hunger Games disturbed me at least because the theme is kids killing kids, but I wasn't around the kids all day to see how they liked it, so maybe they didn't notice. At the barn, the kids came and went randomly and it was sort of hard to regulate what was going on and how long each group should ride because the whole thing was a little disorganized. Chautauqua, however, was awesome this year. I thought that everyone put in a lot of effort and I loved the dances! There was definitely not an even distribution of food though, and certain areas had a bunch of extra and certain areas didn't have enough for everyone.

What should we know about overnights and cookouts?

"tarps at overnight spots would help out tons.

Cookouts were awesome this year."

Cookouts need to have food that you actually cook, or the kids don't learn those valuable skills, have less fun, and less to accomplish.

The kids seemed to be quite content with their overnight. I think the main thing is to encourage sleeping outside and make the overnight something exciting- not a necessary evil. We should work to give the overnight more enthusiasm.

If it's going to storm badly outside don't push on doing them. Reschedule or think of something else. Be clean for cookouts.

They all went well, to my knowledge.

If we are going to continue to send kids out in pouring rain, WILD or someone needs to double check to make sure every spot has the tarps and cords necessary to shield at least 2 full dorms and cabins. I think it would be wise to put 2-3 tarps at every spot with extra cords.

for a lot of cookouts we got way too much meat and not enough of anything else

"I would love to get to overnights earlier. It seems that we get to our location, hang out for about an hour, then send the kids to bed when it's dark. Though this is great for counselors, spending time with kids at a place other than the dorm/cabin is really important to them. The overnight is a night they remember and I would prefer if their memories weren't of a brief game of camouflage, wishing they could roast marshmallows, then going to bed early because the counselors told them they couldn't have watches on the overnight.

Also, having two tarps and an excess of utility cord would be very much appreciated so we could actually stay out when the weather turns bad."

The cookout cold cuts were rough. It was okay when we were on fireban, but it defeats the purpose of cookouts. overnights were fine, very fun.

They are great!

I wish we would actually cook the food. Cold cuts were not overwhelmingly popular. Quesadillas and pasta were always my favorite as a camper to make for cookouts.

All the kids hate them. During every session I had to be the one to get everyone excited and was hearing complaints all day the day before and the day of. Maybe being out in nature more than once would help kids get used to the idea.

cold cuts aren't very exciting when there are no fires allowed, perhaps we could find something else.

Counselors got tired of eating cold cut sandwiches.

We should be cooking out at cookouts! No more Deli meat sandwiches please. Kids should be learning what they can cook if they were to go on a backpacking trip and needed to cook outdoors.

Fire ban really put a damper on the cook outs. Otherwise went well and kids had fun.

Preparation for bad weather could be improved

"Locations this year = Awesome

Turkey subs = not satisfactory pretty much at all

Bring back the calzones = Suggested"

The simpler the better. The cookout ends up being a night where the counselors cook everything while the kids play. If the meal were simpler, kids could be more involved in actually cooking outdoors which is the goal.

Overnights are a lot of fun if it's not storming terribly. Push them so that kids do enjoy them. As for cookouts it's all the same every time. Not enough food or drink, sometimes we can't even have fire and cook things. Don't push cookouts if you know the weather will be awful. It's not a cookout if the cookout is inside doesn't make sense why we do it. I love cooking on the grill for cookouts if it's nice and we limit trash. That's a big one.

The overnights and cookouts went really well. It might work well to have multiple dorm/cabin groups together if multiple counselors are on alone between those groups.

"The bins with tarps are a life-saver, and I think should be required and prepared for every overnight.

If there is anyway that cookouts could be more involved for the kids AND good quality food, that would be awesome. I have no idea how that can happen."

Cookouts-- I guess we can't always control Mother Nature, but I sure would love to grill some hot dogs sometime (as I remember John Stanesco doing for us when I was in Dorm A.)

Cookouts need more variety in food options.

Make sure there are enough tarps before the overnight.

The food for cookouts needs to be food we actually cook on a fire or it seems pretty lame. We had cold cut sandwiches for the last few sessions and the kids didn't have nearly as much fun as when they can cook their pasta or whatever over the fire. I know we changed it for the fire ban but even once it was lifted, they continued the sandwiches and I wish they had changed it back.

For the most part I thought the overnights and cookouts went super well this year. The one thing I would say is that the sandwiches on the cookouts were kind of lame because we didn't get to cook anything. I think kids take pride in putting together a meal and then cooking it and seeing how it turns out, but this year they were just putting a sandwich together. Not as much work but definitely not as cool. The WILD ladies did a great job of communicating with the rest of staff for all things cookout and overnight.

Cookouts are tough without campfires. Coming up with some more creative fire-less meals might be helpful.

Bring back pita pizzas! Pasta never worked right, sandwiches aren't cooking. It is easy to just do the pita pizzas, and they're a classic. WILD heads should have locations posted earlier than dinner announcements.

I'm sure you are well aware, but the food this year on cookouts was pretty disappointing. I know much of it had to do with the fire ban, but even after it was lifted, we still had food that wasn't actually cooked. It felt like the purpose was a bit defeated this summer.

Better food planning for cookouts and better planning for when it's raining at the overnight

They went smoothly as far as I could tell, and the campers seemed to really enjoy them.

"The food for cookouts is not cookout food. Eating a ""make your own sandwich"" is a huge disappointment.

Let's try to get back to the pita pizza's and pasta and toppings."

I know this is difficult and hard to achieve, but the proportions of food are not right. I have yet to have a cookout where we didn't run out of a certain key ingredient. Having the cupcakes was great though, at one point on a cookout a bunch of groups ran out of pasta before all the campers got food and Troy was kind enough to cook up more.

The cookouts were not the same with out having fires I think the kids liked it more when we cooked things like pasta.

I think it's on a good system right now.

love them! but can we please get some pita pizzas! i know with the fire bans food got complicated but the kitchen doesnt need to spend the time make pasta and all that stuff when kids love pita pizzas and it takes much less energy and is also easier on the counselors. no more cold cuts please.

More support for Area-Themed Overnights (G-Smash)

They were always planned very well. It always helped when there were as many people on as possible for the night. I also found that there wasn't enough sandwich supplies for the cookouts.

I think overnights are best earlier in the week like they were this summer. Locations and timing was fine the only thing I would say is that staffing might need a little work. I know staff ultimately has control over days and nights off but I found that overnights were often understaffed with mostly CIT's and less experienced counselors being on which was harder.

There was only one Barn overnight and it will definitely be something to remember. However, the experience is one of a kind and I know the kids always look forward to it. Having a trough already hooked up there in the corral at the outlook would save a load of water being wasted. I know it may not be possible since it is so far up, but if it is, then it would be such a convenience to have one.

They are great and the younger kids love to play games while the older kids like to have time away from counselors. I think it should become crucial that kids are sent with backpacks to carry their stuff in for the overnight trip. There are too many kids that carry their stuff by their arms the whole trip.

Cookouts were more of eat outs this year. I know the kitchen was short-staffed but the sandwiches just had less of an outdoorsy element than even pasta.

Why did we lose the pita pizzas? They are the easiest and the tastiest and the most kid-friendly! Pasta is not a cook-out food, and the frozen veggies take a millenia to warm up no matter how they are placed on the fire. There's also a ton of bags and trash involved, and the preparation takes forever and makes a mess. The hot dogs would have been fine but no cabin or dorm was provided enough of them for the kids to not be left hungry. The locations are still great, and the system of splitting the middlers and juniors from the seniors works really well. I think the staff needs to be taught more explicitly, though, how to use charcoal. They often put way too much in and then drench it in lighter fluid and even if they have enough air to warm enough to cook the food, they're super smokey and the food tastes like chemicals. That being said, I think it would be awesome if one counselor could be getting the fire started while the other gets the kids ready, so that there isn't so much lag time before food is even getting made.

The cookouts went well this year. It would be nice to have food that the kids can prepare and cook on the coal. But that can be tricky with fire bans. But I think kids really like the idea of cooking and eating outside.

Do you have any other comments, suggestions, or ideas about camp programs not mentioned above?

The programming was fantastic this year. I was so jealous of these kids, and am amazed by all the new programming brought to camp and how full the schedule was. Incredible job. Very creative and fun-filled.

Nope! The program this summer was great!

"I loved the amount of grilled meals we had this summer and I know that the kids loved it as well!

I think it would be cool if we integrated some other people from staff to help out with evening play like we used to (like when London ran special events or whatever). I think Johnny has a bunch of great ideas but I also think that getting more input from other people can only benefit the program.

I also heard rumor about trying to get rid of NPR during World friendship, and I guess my only defense to keeping it would be that it is literally the only morning program all summer that kids actively listen to. That may sound harsh and unfair, and while many of the staff members love the Knighthood stories and the Native American stories, if you look around the council ring very few people are actively listening."

no

I'll email Pete about my other ideas.

I'll be in heavy touch this year.

not that I can think of at the moment. I thought programming wise it was a very good summer!

Would not mind seeing challenge back in as it helps bring the cabin or dorm closer as they have to work out problems together.

I <3 pete johnny reid

Nope

None at this time great summer.

"Not too much to add now-- I have to get to class. (Ha ha.)

But thanks for working so hard, Johnny or Reid or whoever is reading this! You guys rock!"

"Camp programing was wonderful. I loved the knighthood programs and American Heritage most. Would really love to see a little less gender segregation in Knighthood, and mostly would love to have some one-on-one mentor program for the ladies, like I mentioned above. Wonderful camp, wish I had grown up here!

The food is really a struggle for the counselors every year. The snacks that the cooks put out in the afternoons helped a lot but I just feel like if the meals were filling and more fortified, we wouldn't need the snacks. We seem to be helping the problem without just changing the root of the issue. I think that spending a little more

money on better food is very much worth it because honestly we lose great counselors sometimes because they can't live off of the meals that we get all summer long. The addition of the hummus at the BBJ window was amazing and very much appreciated. Also the addition of veggies to yellow meal was great but it would be awesome if for example there were fresh peaches rather than canned peaches for that meal. Or if for breakfast we had oatmeal instead of cream of wheat because more people will eat oatmeal - they came up with a great replacement for the oatmeal last summer with fruit in it but never made it this summer. Instead of sugary coffee cake in the mornings, fruit and toast with the cereal would be great. I love the chicken fajita things because it has vegetables, chicken, and guac and salsa and seems fresher than the taquitos or enchiladas which are sometimes hard to put down. Just some thoughts and suggestions but I think boosting the food will honestly boost the entire summer - if people are fed well they perform well.

"Encourage staff to find a way to do more special activities with their own cabin's and dorm's. Ninja missions, private pizza parties, and other special activities were the highlight of my camper's session.

Those who are running a special activity or evening play need more guidance in expectations and responsibilities. Also, there should be more assistance coming from Johnny, and occasionally Pete, about how things are going to run and how they can help. There were many times this summer when I felt I was running around like a chicken with his head cut off making the final touches on a special activity, and that was a chance that I could have gotten more help from the special events coordinators."

The schedule was really, really wonderful this year. Yay Pete!

barn and ropes or pool and ropes shouldn't be scheduled back to back for juniors and middlers. It's hard for timing and the kids get really tired and really emotional really fast. It also doesn't allow for the full amount of time at each area.

Kind of like the attachments, I think it would be a wonderful thing to have younger campers paired with older campers and have a couple days of the session where we would eat lunch with our partners or have evening play buddies.

I love seeing area collaboration! So many of them easily lend themselves to creative mixtures like crafts and alchemy, crafts and rifles, wild and barn, etc. I also am disappointed every year with how much areas waste, especially clinics that buy a bunch of stuff and then either it sits around or gets thrown away. Otherwise, I think camp's programming is stellar.

Appendix A – Outcomes Based Program Design

- [GG “Fruitage” – Goals and Outcomes in Program Design](#)
- [See Program Design and Area Head Paperwork for PD Logic Models](#)

GG “Fruitage” – Goals and Outcomes in Program Design

What are we doing?

- Discuss “Outcomes”
- Discuss the Program Design Logic Model Template
- Discuss Planning and Teaching Skills for your “designed” activity

Our Programs have been working great! We aren’t doing anything “wrong” – we want to “PLUS IT.”

Why should we do this?

1. Internal Uses
 - a. Identify strengths and weaknesses
 - b. Prove / disprove perceptions
 - c. Program assessment (budgeting, review)
 - d. Acknowledge and encourage innovation
 - e. Meet industry standards (ACA Accreditation)
 - f. Develop staff training
 - g. Staff evaluation tool
 - h. Motivate organization improvement
2. External Uses
 - a. “Stakeholder” support
 - b. Source of camp promotion
 - c. Enhances fundraising
 - d. Provides “proof” and “documentation”

Who’s Involved?

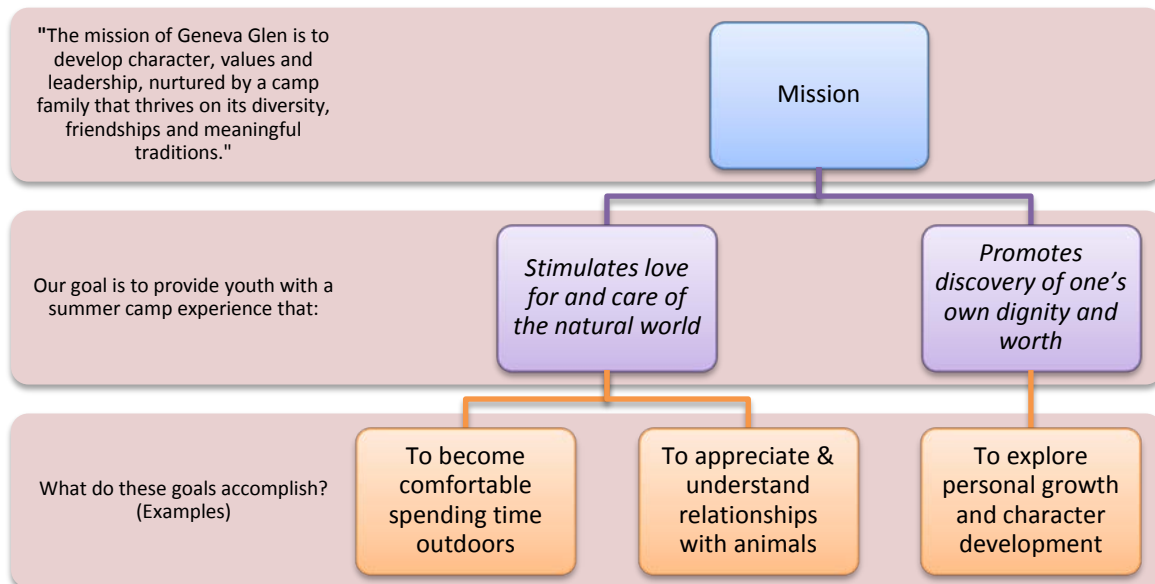
- Board of Directors
- Program Committee
- Year-Round Staff
- Area Heads

This will create a cohesive way to run the business (Board side) with infringing on the summer operation!

Purpose and Philosophy

The Critical Examination of the grounds for fundamental beliefs and an analysis of the basic concepts in the expression of such beliefs

Yikes! The philosophy of Geneva Glen is theoretical and difficult to measure. This is why we move onto Mission, Goals and Outcomes.



Geneva Glen's Mission

"The mission of Geneva Glen is to develop character, values and leadership, nurtured by a camp family that thrives on its diversity, friendships and meaningful traditions."

Geneva Glen's Goals

Our goal is to provide youth with a summer camp experience that:

- Stimulates love for and care of the natural world.
- Promotes discovery of one's own dignity and worth.
- Encourages respect for all races, creeds, and backgrounds.
- Develops commitment to enduring values and respect.
- Inspires service and responsibility to foster exemplary school and community leaders.

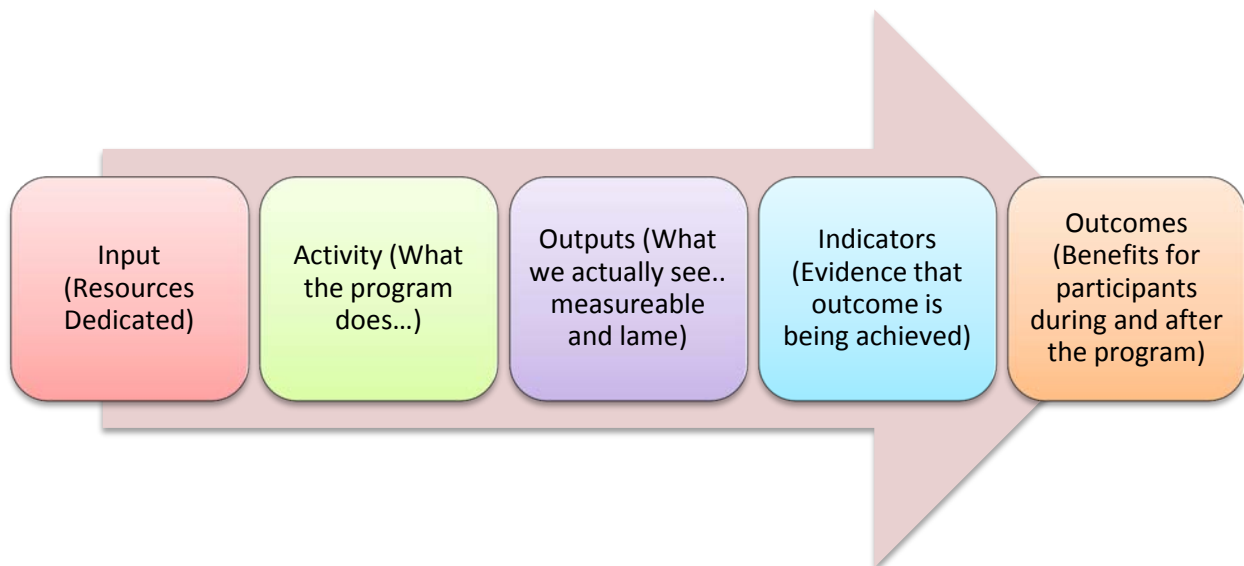
Geneva Glen's Outcomes

- Benefits during and after the program
- Helps to answer "How do you know camp was successful?"
- "Caught" vs. "Taught": Increased Intentionality
- Typical phrases "To Learn..., To Do..., To Become..."

You get to be the ones to determine how we measure the success of our program!

Program Design "Logic Models"

Creating a program activity intentionally

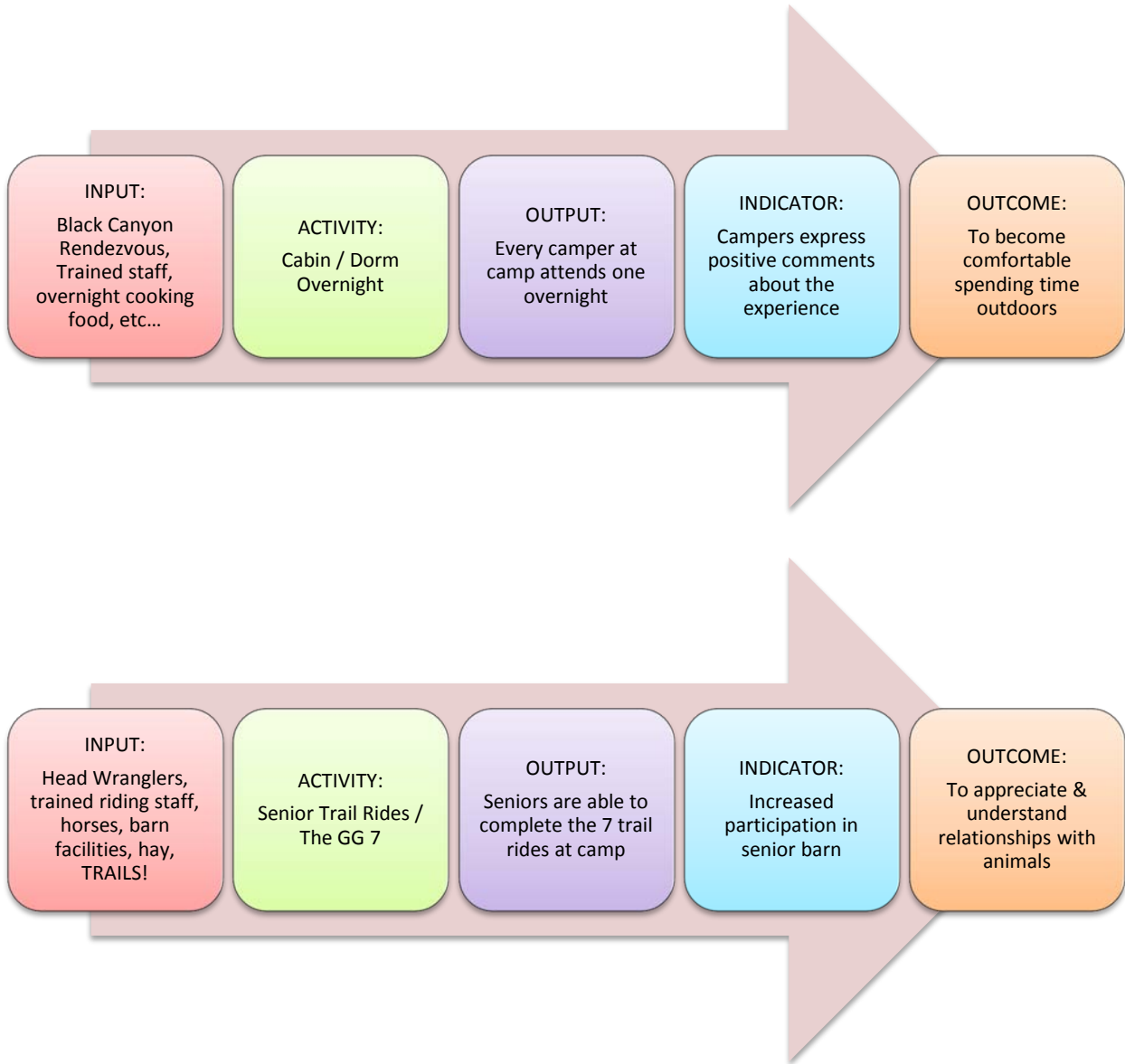


Elements

- Input: Resources, Stuff, People, Equipment, Buildings.... (Camp should provide this to you!)
- Activity: What the program does with the inputs

- Outputs: Numbers, what happened... Boring....
- Indicators: Specific, observable characteristics (Evidence)
- Outcomes: See above

Examples



Outcomes Evaluation

The Youth Outcomes Battery Elements

- Friendship Skills
- Independence
- Teamwork
- Family Citizenship
- Perceived Competence
- Interest in Exploration
- Responsibility
- Affinity for Nature

Outcomes Design Cheat Formula

“To Statement” + Outcome Battery Element + Activity = Outcome

“To Statement” + Outcome Battery Element + Activity = Outcome

These are good words to use in your Outcomes! Example Outcome: “To Increase Perceived Confidence by learning how to shoot a BB gun.”

Activity Planning

Designing the Activity

- How does the activity accomplish your outcome?
- Is the activity designed for the age characteristics and developmental needs of the children?
- Is your staff trained properly to conduct this activity?
- Will your activity “include” everyone?

Explain

- Explain it (verbal)
- Forecast the experience (what you’ll “do”)
- Show it (demonstrations)
- Test it (hands on practice before they “start”)
- Set some goals (how will it challenge campers appropriately)

Participate (Doing the Activity)

- Reinforce the positive stuff (go back to your explanation stuff)
- Critique (technique based...use those counseling skills!)
- Repetition
- “I can do it myself!”...but you can help if I need it (develops self-esteem)

Processing (Debrief)

- Ask Questions (what did you do, what did you learn, now what)
- Let the kids lead
- Highlight the key points (go back to your explanation)

Set goals for “next time”

Appendix B – Additional External Resource List

ACA Youth Outcomes Battery

- [ACA Youth Outcomes Battery.pdf](#)
- [YOB Suvery - Younger Camper.docx](#)
- [YOB Survey - Basic Camper.docx](#)
- [ACA Outcomes \(Older Camper Detailed Version\).xls](#)
- [ACA Youth Outcomes Battery Norming Tables.pdf](#)

YOB Outcomes Data Table and Analysis Charts 2013

- [ACA Outcomes \(Young Camper Version\).xlsx](#)
- [ACA Outcomes \(Older Camper Basic Version\).xlsx](#)
- [ACA Outcomes \(Older Camper Detailed Version\).xlsx](#)