

Bethel Camp Times

Thanksgiving Edition



A Summer to Remember

By Sara Robinson



Sara with Julia Wood

In all the years that I have gone to Bethel Camp I have never quite had a summer like this past one. The weeks I spent at camp in 2009 definitely pushed me outside of my comfort zone and were

a completely new experience for me. I was at Bethel Camp both as a camper for one week and a member of the staff for two weeks. This allowed me to view camp life from two different perspectives. Being a camper and being staff were both equally fun and eventful, but at the same time very different experiences.

I began this summer as a camper at Youth One. Every year since I have been going to camp, I have had my brother Matt and best friend Julia Wood by my side, along with my good friends Taylor Moak and Whitney Noble. Well, this year I had to brave camp all on my own. I was very nervous about going and didn't know what I would do without one of these four to cling to. Since I didn't have my usual camp friends to run around with, it forced me to make new friends and come out of my shell. Although we had a small group of campers that week, right at twenty, and the staff outnumbered the campers, it ended up being one of my favorite weeks of camp ever. Due to our small camp, the staff became just like campers and we were all just one big camp family, everyone participating in every game, activity, and discussion. Having a camp that small gives everyone the opportunity to talk to every other camper and actually form relationships. I can honestly say I left camp feeling close to each and every person there. The speaker that week, Brandon Yowler, shared his testimony and really opened my eyes to God's forgiveness. God used Brandon in a big way that week, bringing several people to Christ.

The following two weeks that I spent at camp were as a counselor. This was my first time being on staff so I didn't exactly know what to expect or how it would be different from being a camper. I had awesome support from other staff members and the staff meetings before camp started helped me tremendously. I had the opportunity to have two awesome groups of girls who were excited about being at camp and what God had in store for them. I got to laugh with them, joke with them, worship with them, cry with them, and my heart broke every time one of theirs did. It amazed me when I saw the things that some of these young girls were having to face. And it amazed me even more the faith that these girls had to give their problems up to God and trust in him to handle them. Their faith made me re-evaluate my own and strengthened my relationship with God.

Living at camp for even three weeks will cause you to hold your life to a higher standard. I encourage everyone who has the opportunity to volunteer to be on staff at Bethel Camp. Intense carpet ball tournaments, volleyball games EVERY free moment, "Jesus loves you", Clark Hilty's ridiculous songs and beats on the table at dinner, shaving cream fights with goggles, Spanish tutoring breaks with Mark Driskill, awesome worship sessions, and testimony around the campfire made the summer of 2009 one I will never forget!



*And sing, sing your hearts
out to God! Let every detail
in your lives—words,
actions, whatever—be done
in the name of the Master.
Jesus, thanking God the
Father every step of the
way.*

Colossians 3:16-17

