

GO TO CAMP!!!!

by Kristin Fowler

Outdoor ministries has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Every year when the new brochure for Covenant Hills Christian Camp came in the mail, I would sit down and read every word of it with my mom as we decided which camp I would attend that summer. I've have been to 4 different locations throughout New England and New York. I have loved my experience at all 4, however, 2 have stuck out: Covenant Hills Christian Camp and Horton Center. The experiences I had at both of these camps were ones of inclusivity, fun, laughter, playing games, and growing my relationship with God.

Summer camp is fun! I got to meet new people, play silly games, sing sillier songs, worship in the evening, take communion with friends, and roast marshmallows over campfires. I've always loved going to church and learning the stories of the Bible and doing activities in Sunday School. But something about being outside in nature, surrounded by people who share the same beliefs as you, brings you closer to God. My life would be drastically different-probably way more dull-if it weren't for the impact of outdoor ministries.

I've felt the power that outdoor ministries has on a life. It changed mine in a good way. I grew up going to camp and was able to meet some of my best friends, sometimes people from all the way across the world! I was never a camper at Horton Center, but a staff member for the first time this summer. I was welcomed with open arms and accepted by a phenomenal staff, a phenomenal leader, and phenomenal campers of all ages!

Being at Horton Center this summer has helped me find what I want to do when I graduate college, it has helped me find balance in my busy life, and it has strengthened my relationship with God. These things came to me through the silliness, the delicious food, the friendship, the songs, the Graces we sing before meals, the feeling of being outside in the world that God has created for us to experience. I love experiencing the way God moves through my life in different places- but my favorite is through outdoor ministries summer camps!

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