

Camper and Staff Memory Book SMA Session 4, 2025



A Message from Camp Director Jud Millar:

Our summer wrapped up with a bang during Session 4! From August 4 to 16, SMA was buzzing with energy as campers made the most of every single day. Even though it was the final session of the summer, the excitement never faded—every mountain bike ride, climbing trip, and campfire brought fresh joy and connection. This group showed us the magic that happens when teens embrace adventure and friendship with open hearts.



Campers, you gave us the perfect ending to an incredible summer. We loved watching the way you supported each other, shared laughter, and pushed yourselves to make the most of every moment. Even in just two weeks, you showed us that camp magic is alive and well—thank you for reminding us why we do what we do. We hope those memories keep you smiling as you step into the year ahead.

Parents, we are so grateful you entrusted us with your teens during this final session of SMA 2025. Session 4 was full of strong personalities, incredible kindness, and a sense of adventure that made our community so vibrant. We saw campers step into leadership, build meaningful friendships, and gain independence—all of which reflect the values and encouragement they've received at home. Thank you for making it possible for them to be here.

On the final day of the session, we asked each camper to take a moment to reflect on their experience at SMA. Enclosed in this Memory Book you'll find those reflections, along with highlights of the activities we shared, written by our incredible staff team. These words and stories capture the magic of the summer and remind us why camp is such a powerful experience for young people.

- Jud, Anne, Wyatt, Molly and Jack!

Camper Reflections

SMA Reflection S4 '25 BEN T

This is my last session this year and also is for everyone. Overall, this session had lots of ups and downs. The rain put a damper on the first couple of days, but after it cleared up the session got really good. My favorite day was the first day getting to meet all the new people. My favorite night was last night, which was the dance party. I'm in the activity wakeboarding, and I'm glad I got to do it a lot. The counselors were super fun and made me enjoy it even more. Out of all my new and old friendships, I loved getting to know Melissa way more this year. We didn't get to know each other much last year, but this year we bonded really fast. It feels like we've known each other for years, and our chemistry seems perfect. I remember last session, Friendship Night, when I was sitting after watching in the grass. She came up to me and we just started talking for the whole night. We really connected, and ever since then our friendship has only gotten stronger.

We talked for hours about so many different topics. This past day we were already talking about how we wanted to be with each other every day. By the way, this will almost only be about her. Sorry. Over time, she has taught me many things and made me realize even more. She is the main reason I loved this place so much and I thank her kindly for that. It showed me how camp can bring people together so close that when you leave it seems like the world has ended. We had spent so much time and activities together that even when I don't see her for hours I already miss her and feel way different.

Sometimes I can enjoy time without her, but most of the time I can't. Before camp, life used to be very different. I didn't feel like myself at all and didn't have motivation to even get out of bed. I was just awaiting to get to camp to see my friends and meet more. But when I got here it wasn't about seeing my friends, it was just being in this atmosphere. Honestly, being with my most special person I had made so much memories. It reached the breaking point when they left, I almost cried when I got here.

When I go home, I know I will not see every single person and many because I know I will have to wait another year to see them. Camp has shown hundreds of great things have to come to an end, and you believe the surface around it that in the end you will enjoy it. Because it's not forever.

This was only my second year and this place already feels like a second home. At the overnight I was so stuck on the idea that camp will end soon that I just wanted to be with everyone. I'm sorry for whoever has to hear this, but I could write a whole book on how this place has made me change.

I have cared for small things and gained more awareness for everyone. I would just lay in my hammock and would sit trying to take a picture in my mind of what I was seeing. I just wanted to lock it in my mind forever. As long as I could, cherish the memories and people in my head forever. That's all I needed.

SMA was all I needed. It changed my life. Thank you everyone and thank you Jud.

Love,

Ben Truman



Gabe

I've had lots of fun session 4 of SMA. I have become more of a role model for the younger campers this session. I really enjoyed my time here at SMA.

Talia Smerecki - Reflection

SMA S3-S4 '25 was the time of my life.

In most aspects of my life, I feel like I'm wasting it—I have so much to offer and so many missed opportunities. SMA is the only place I have ever felt free to express who I actually am.

During 3rd session small candlelight, I said: "I think if I spent a whole day by myself not speaking at SMA, I might die." I hate that this is something I do so much at home, because that is not who I am.

In 4th session, I got to see my best friends in the whole world—even though we hadn't spoken all year and live in different states. I really think these two things go together, because my best friends should get to know who I really am.

I've got to give a shoutout to the counselors who really made sure we had the time of our lives. From raving on the basketball court, joining in on late-night cabin conversations, picking me up from the train station, and hugging me when I sobbed during the talent show—in my four years here, I have never felt more connected to a group of people who are paid to be around us.



Mike - 8/10/2025

This session has been great. Although it was sad to see everyone go, I'm glad for all the new friends and memories I made.

There were so many fun activities, and I am sad to be leaving. Hopefully I am able to come back as an AOP. Thank you everyone for all the memories—I will forever remember this place.

Bennett - SMA Session 4 Reflection

This camp changed how I picture other camps. Nothing compares to great SMA, from counselors to kids, activities to games. This experience was life-changing.

I will start with my favorite things that I have done:

- White water rafting
- Water sports / belly womping
- Mountain biking
- And so on...

But just having freedom felt good to have. Overall, this camp is so much and I can't wait to come back. :)



Martin Pasquemard (French)

This was my first time in SMA and it was one of the best summer camps I ever did. I had the chance to meet amazing people and do awesome activities. Everyone here was so kind and funny!

My favorite activity is without a doubt wakeboarding, but the other activities were also great and I had a lot of fun, especially in water sports.

The evening activities were also cool.

I hope I can come back one day!

Martin Pasquemard (French:))



Evie Delano - S4 2K25 Reflection

SMA!!! This is my fifth and last summer here and I cannot fathom how much I have grown over these years. This camp has seen me go from a 13-year-old who had no grasp on who she was, to a 17-year-old who can finally describe herself in a concrete form. At SMA, I learned to play my days away (Jud's words!) and how to appreciate

every inch of life and what it offers. I find myself actually looking forward to activities I avoided years ago; I find myself enjoying the company of others without searching for noise to drown them out.

The past weeks that I have spent here have been unforgettable. I have made new friends, strengthened old friendships, and gotten to know myself even more. I made a point to try everything this year and I have successfully done everything needed to get the SMA award, even enjoying canoeing in the process, which is not something I would ever claim before this summer.

The canoeing overnight, white water rafting, small candlelight, the talent show, hammocking, wakeboarding, rock climbing, and just being in the presence of the people I love have been highlights for me these past weeks. Also Sheetz, of course. Even as I write this now I am blown away by the memories I have made here.

I am going to miss SMA more than words can express. I hope to cross paths with this place again, and to take a little piece of it home with me in my heart.



SMA S3-S4 '25 was the time of my life.

In most aspects of my life I feel like I'm wasted — like I have so much to offer and so many missed opportunities. SMA is the only place I have ever felt free to express who I actually am. 3rd session, small candlelight, I said "I think if I spent a whole day by myself not speaking at SMA, I might die." And I hate that that is something I do so much at home, because that is not who I am.

4th session, I got to see my best friends in the whole world — even though we hadn't spoken all year, living in different states. And I really think these 2 things go together, because my best friends should get to know who I really am.

Gotta shout out the counselors who really made sure we had the time of our lives. From raving on the basketball court, joining in on late night cabin convos, picking me up from the train station, and hugging me when I sobbed during the talent show.

In my 4 years here I have never felt more connected to a group of people.



Hannah Digenarro - Session 4

The past 4 weeks have been a blast at SMA! I have made so many new friends and built so many relationships with everyone at camp. I tried so many new activities and practiced many new skills. I enjoyed evening meeting each day, especially when we played Jud games. The talent show was a lot of fun to watch. Going to the fair this session was one of my favorite evening activities, but nothing beat ice cream and bowling night.

The canoeing and wakeboard overnights were nights that I will never forget. A really proud moment I had at camp was on the boat when I was able to stand up on the water skis for the first time. I really enjoyed SUP and sail and art studio because they were very chill. Yough day both sessions were one of my favorite days of camp.

I will love and cherish all of the memories I've made this summer at SMA. I am beyond grateful to be able to experience what a summer is like here at SMA. I hope to come back next summer.



This was my first year at SMA. From when my aunt and uncle dropped me off to now I regret nothing. This experience has taught me so much. I know it has only been a week, but I feel like I have known these people forever. When I walked in, everyone was so funny and welcoming. The girls in Rock Roth and in Mattawana were like sisters to me and really showed me friendship.

I can admit that when I came I was nervous, but the girls and even the guys made it fun! Also I have to mention the counselors. They were so funny and fun, from helping Jud with the beef sticks to just laughing with Marina and playing volleyball with her. The meetings are just so funny and brightened my mood. I didn't have a single bad moment here.

I am so glad I came and so happy on how me and my siblings fit right in here. Also Jud is the best camp owner ever. He just made the experience better by being chill. In conclusion, I truly love this camp and will 100% come back. Here is one final warm fuzzy: just camp in general.



This was my first sleepaway camp. I came in not knowing what to expect. When I met the girls, Ryley was the first to say hi. I may have been the youngest in the cabin, but they are all like sisters now.

Noelle was the most helpful to me when I cut my leg and she got me Band-Aids. And Thea was the best counselor by far. Her music gets everyone hyped, and I love her stories in all. SMA helped with my confidence.

Although I can write more, I'd rather make the last day count.



Melissa Miller

This was my last session as a camper at SMA. Out of all five years it was definitely my favorite session ever. My cabin mates were my literal sisters and I'm so sad to leave them. Becoming close to all the counselors made me realize how much I'd love to come back to SMA when I'm older.

The magic I felt during my first day here has never left. Only growing and spread throughout my whole time here. Although I am heartbroken about leaving, I feel so blessed to have had an experience at SMA. It is so special to be free, to be yourself, to love the people you're with every day, and to forget all of your worries.

I'm sad to leave SMA, but I know SMA will never leave me.

Lukas Greco - Session 4 SMA Reflection

My first session of SMA sleepaway camp gave me many memories — some that are incredible. One of my favorite parts of the 2 weeks was meeting many new people. I have tons of new friends and the people I'm not friends with, I'm at least friendly with.

Doing all the new activities and hanging out with new people was an amazing experience.



Cameron Trayner - 8/15/25

This year at SMA I was grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. I love SMA because it is a place where it's easy to feel comfortable with everyone. It teaches everyone to have confidence with everything you do.

The connections you make at SMA are always impactful and teach you something new. I love SMA because I feel at home the second I arrive.



Rylee Post - 8/15/25

This camp has been so fun and I made amazing memories with my new friends. I am a returning camper. It was so fun seeing people from last year come back and even new campers.

There were people I didn't think to talk to but once I was forced to I made a new friend. I really enjoyed wakeboarding. The counselors helped me achieve my goals like advice on hitting jumps and doing switches on the wake.

Overall, I had so much fun again this year and I am coming back next year for sure.

Love, Rylee

Gisselle Hernandez – 8/15/25

This year I had a great time at SMA. It was a lot different than last year. Lots of new people. I'm glad that the first week it was only the four of us (Noelle, Rylee, Cameron, and me) all together. Camp wouldn't be the same without them. SMA is the place I look forward to all year long.

I hope the four of us get to be all together in Mattawana next year. I had a great time on the wake overnight and canoeing. Next year I want to come for another session. I'm so sad all the super campers won't be coming next year. I had deep connections with many of the super campers. I will miss them very much. And I still miss Cassie.

My favorite activity was wakeboarding. It was really fun. I made so many new friends and reconnected with old ones. I will miss camp so much. I can't wait until next year.



Trex - Session 4 2025 Reflection

This session was the best one I've ever had at SMA by far. I had lots of fun meeting new people, reconnecting with old friends, and participating in all the fun activities.

My favorite activities this session were rock climbing, white water rafting, and tennis. I also had lots of fun with the third, fourth, and final years planning the dance. That was one of the best days of the whole session.

I made so many unforgettable memories over these two weeks and I'm so grateful that I'm able to come to camp every year that I have.

Finn O'Neill - 8/15/25

This year at SMA I made a bunch of new friends but also met up with a lot of old ones. The time spent with Ben and Peter were some of the best days of my summer. The canoe overnight was great, then going to the canoe ride, hitting jumps into the lawn with others into flips was fun even though most of them were better than me.

Even though I'm excited to go home, I'm sad to leave because SMA is like a second home to me. I can't wait to come back next year and meet with the same people but also hopefully new people.



Noelle Rivera-Castro – 8-15-25

As a second year camper, I often say that SMA is my favorite hello and my hardest goodbye. During the school year, I find myself talking about camp a lot, but nobody really understands. My friends at home don't get the many long-distance friendships or the tears shed on the last day. When I think of SMA, I think of my favorite activities and where I made most my memories. I remind myself of the laughs in the cabins late at night, the songs sung, the sound of the snores on the way to the Yough or at overnights, the feel of slamming your back in Raystown while wakeboarding, the taste of mountain pies while singing around a campfire, and the feeling of having another family.

Seeing my friends from last year was one of my favorite moments of my life; it felt like home. But sharing a cabin with them was my favorite. I also cannot forget about all the new friends along the way. Thank you to my camp mentors whom I've looked up to from Furnace and Mattawanna. I will miss y'all so much. I also cannot forget my baes (Rylee, Cam, and Gisselle). Thank you to Jud and all the counselors as well.

Rothrockians forever (Even in Little J)!!!

Session 4 signing out, until next year...



This week was fun, I ate dirt on my MTB. I got to MTB, which was awesome. Furnace was awesome. All of my cabin mates were real ones, and I made new friends.

I was very skeptical at the start, given how bad this year has been. Monday night really had me in my feels. But in the end, I'm glad to be here. I feel as though I have found a group I fit in.

Noam

I wasn't excited for this 4th session because I thought four weeks will be too much. But it was a very cool session I met a lot of new friends and this 4th session help me to be closer to my fellow camp friends.

Thanks you SMA, thanks you Jud!!





My time at S.M.A was really fun, I really enjoyed wakeboarding at the wakeboarding overnight. Tussey was one of the craziest cabins. In conclusion SMA was really fun.

Aidan Hayes - 8/15/25 - Session 4 week 2

I was a first year this year and was only here for a week but I still had a great time. I was a rock climbing master and I enjoyed donation rocks, I loved the variety in climbs and how I could make my own route and beta. I also loved the mountain biking. I did many different things from sending a massive jump to slipping on gravel. I loved the people, from friendships I made to the strangers I met it was all a great time. Overall it was the best week of my summer and I will never forget this. I will tell all my friends and convince them to come next year.



Auguste SMA Reflection

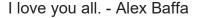
Through the days at SMA was a great experience I met so many people and enjoy every moment with them. The mountain bike was incredible and the wasps was won too. All the counselors were super and kind and that the reason I want

to come back when I turn 18 as an AOP. Thanks for this amazing summer camp and for the wakeboarding on the boat!

Alex Baffa - SMA Reflection 2025

Time and time again, SMA proves to be one of the largest highlights of my year. The people here have become more than friends from camp, they have become genuine family, and I am grateful for each and everyone of the beautiful humans here. On top of the people, the farm speaks to me. It is somewhere that I feel peace and God, and can feel the deep history. I love the cicadas, the barn, the dining room, all the trees where we put hammocks, it is all sacred. The activities of course are so much of camp and they are all an absolute blast. From extreme sports to just hanging around the farm every morning and afternoon is spent enjoying life. Special activities like white water rafting, the county fair, and ice cream are all big highlights every year. I have learned how to do so much here, facing my fears and developing some pretty sick skills. What we do at camp takes it from a great summer to one I will never forget.

My gratitude and love for Stone Mountain Adventures is ineffable and I could never put into full fruition, in words. This place has taught me more than any school ever will. I have become a kinder, more open, happier, more active person, and one that is now more comfortable in his own skin. I cannot thank this camp and these people enough, and though I am devastated that some of my best friends will be too old now, I am dead set on coming back next year obviously. I owe my heart and soul to SMA.





Kern

This session was similar to the last but still unique. The people were great and all of the activities were so fun. I had the best boat on the Yough.

The overnights were so fun, the mountain bike overnight was super chill and I made some great friends. The wake overnight was super fun.

This session, it feels like the fastest by far. Time flew by but I feel satisfied with how long I've been here and I'm happy to leave, but I know I will miss SMA.



Sam Stainman - 8/15/2025 Session 4

This year was rough but camp helped me through it and I had lots of fun and I'm excited for paper plates. White water rafting was really fun and I didn't fall out, but sadly I felt sick. But I still had fun and didn't spend all of my money.

I had lots of fun with the counselors and they helped me with some stuff at times.

Alex Bergson – 8/15/2025 Session 4 Close

This last session was really fun and it was great meeting a ton of first years and helping them to settle in. The fair was really fun because it's only open to session 4. I was really able to improve on the wakeboard and waterskis and it was thrilling to just be able to go on the boat. I'm glad I was able to go on the yough and an overnight.

Hanging out with old friends and counselors has made me really appreciate life. Whenever I think of camp ending, I just remind myself of next year. Thanks for a great summer!



Connor Powell - Session 4, 2025

This was my first week at SMA and I wish I could stay for another. All the counselors and campers were very nice and I never felt left out or anything like that.

I learned a lot of new things about people, some of which do very similar things that I do, like mountain biking. I really enjoyed the activities, all of them were fun.

My favorite part of the week was the overnight. Aside from almost losing my bike twice because of the trails,

Overall, I made a lot of new friends, some of whom I will see outside of camp. I will try to come back next summer as I had a lot more fun than I was expecting.

Connor Powell

Dominic

The whole week was fun. I enjoyed the canoeing down the rivers, which were nice.

The rock climbing outdoors was a nice new experience. I do indoor climbing but I had never climbed outdoors so it was nice to try.

Overall it was nice to spend my week with the campers and counselors doing stuff that was fun.



Piper

From the start of the camp to the end, so much has happened. I've met so many good people and have so many memories. The people are amazing.

From eating dirt to the best overnights ever, I've made new best friends. Mountain biking and swimming with them and the dance night was amazing.

So thank you. Short & sweet.

Harper Roselli

SMA session 4 was a great experience. I wish I was here longer! I have met so many people. Most of all, the activities were fun.

Also, it was fun to sleep in a cabin because I have never done it before. The overnight was so fun and I hope next time that I come I can do another one.

Some of my favorite activities were SUP and sail, rock climbing, and canoeing because I was with my friends.

Harper Roselli



Hi! I'm Sara Powell and this is my first year here at SMA. It has been such a great time this week and I wish I didn't have to go.

When I first arrived I was scared I would have trouble fitting in, but with the help of my parents I talked to my cabin mates in no time. About halfway through the week I realized I never wanted to go home.

More people started to talk to me, which encouraged me to talk to people outside my cabin. I got to know lots of people by the end of camp and that's why I love it so much. Not only were the people fun, but all of the activities had a new adventure awaiting.

Some of my favorites included SUP and sail, canoeing overnight, and much more. This place is so fun and I hope to come back for two weeks next year!

Sara Powell



Jackson Fleegal – 8/9/2025

In the beginning of the week I was nervous and homesick, but as I got further in the week I started to have a lot of fun.

On Wednesday we did an invention convention, then we did a little dance party. On Thursday we did a canoeing overnight and I tried my first s'more!

Then on Friday we went to the fair. SMA was a fun experience for me and I hope to come back sometime.

Jackson Fleegal

Preston SMA4 Reflection

My time at SMA was honestly even better than I expected. I got to do Wake Masters and Mountain Bike Masters, and the week flew by. The activities were so fun, and the counselors were awesome. The fair was definitely a highlight, and living in Tussey was kinda wild but super fun. Hoping I can come back next summer—maybe for two weeks this time. Thanks SMA!



Lorenzo SMA4 Reflection

SMA honestly surprised me—I didn't think I was gonna like it at first. I came with my two sisters, and on the drive to camp I was super nervous. But turns out I had nothing to worry about. Everyone here, campers and counselors, were so fun and chill. White water rafting was insane, and honestly... SMA is the best.

Kennedy SMA4 Reflection

I had such a good time at SMA. The Rothrock girls were super nice, and I really liked all the activities. The counselors were really cool too. The week started off kind of slow, but then it went by way too fast. The talent show was awesome—I laughed so much. Honestly, I'm already wishing the week was longer.



Staff Reflections

Sophia Watson – Session 4 2025

Wow, it's the last day of the last session and it feels like I just got here yesterday, but it also feels like it's been a year since staff training. I've been here for over a quarter of the summers of my life and each has changed me in its own unique way, but as my first summer as a full counselor who I've stayed the full summer, this summer has been especially impactful. I think I've learned a lot about myself, and life in general and I feel

a lot more confident about the fact that I am graduating college this year and going out into the "real world."

It reminds me of when I was a super camper and camp helped me to feel more confident about graduating high school and going off to college. SMA continues to provide me with the support I need throughout different stages of my life. This place is so much more than a summer camp.

Signing off, (for now).

Sophia Watson:)



Max - SMA Session 4 Reflection

Session 4 was amazing and special. I've had great experiences with all the campers and staff. I mostly enjoyed the overnight with Connor, Ken, Piper, and Mason. It was so chill to go on a trip and have a whole campground for us.

It was fun playing tennis with Truman, Ben, and Trex. I had a great time on the Yough river rafting. Our boat was amazing. I enjoyed every second this session and will miss everyone.

The memories I made will live on in my heart, and even though I'm looking forward to the future I'm still good. Additionally, I had a great time on the boat while kneeboarding with Kim and his Alex.



Mason Graig

One, two, three, four, bye.

I cannot believe we are at the end of session four already. This past summer has been overflowed with endless memories, moments, and friendships.

This was my second summer working as an AOP and it was awesome. I feel I grew up so much in the past year and found myself as a leader for not only the campers but also the staff.

Session 4 was great. I loved the group of kids, from the rowdy mountain bikers to the sweet little Rothrock girls. Overall it was an amazing summer and I'm sad it's over but happy it happened. I've said this before and I'll say it again: Stone Mountain Adventures is not a summer camp, it's a family.

Love,

Mason

Sophia Watson - Session 4 2025

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Signing off, (for now).

Sophia Watson:)



Thea Hand - Reflections Session 4

What a beautiful amazing session I had. I felt so refreshed and rested from the lyme disease stint. I felt as though I could've worked for the next few weeks. These campers were my favorite ones of the whole summer. I felt as though I found a balance of not wanting to take away from their experience and holding them to the rules but also bending the rules to help their experience. Like letting them stay up after lights out.

Also Melissa gave me one of the best compliments I've ever had in my life. She said I won't be there next year but you should come back. Everyone deserves to have you as a counselor. What a kind thing to hear when I'm kind of insecure about being a counselor.

I think the campers would be enough that I would come back next summer. I felt as though this session I connected more with the campers. I felt as though I found a time and place to talk to every single camper. What an amazing group of people. I feel as though I learned more from the campers than I did every other sessions.



Staff Reflections from E-mail SMA4

Marina Sanchez's SMA4 reflection

SMA is a place of where the air is fresh and full of dreams.

Here, you discover that you don't need anything more than being surrounded by good people, doing things that fill your heart, learning to put things into perspective, disconnecting to reconnect, being yourself, detoxing from technology, enjoying good conversations with friends... in short, living and connecting with the present.

I've been lucky enough to live truly magical moments alongside the campers and my incredible team of fellow counselors.

From the sup and sail (which was actually more like sup and chill, with some people swimming and others lying in their hammocks) to the mountain bike routes, the daring campouts making mountain pies and s'mores, telling scary stories under the stars by the warmth of the fire.

Spikeball on the grass.

Tennis matches with improvised French commentators.

Volleyball tournaments with volleyball player Marina!!!

Epic battles on the magic carpet to see who was the strongest.

And of course, the random games from the one and only Jud Millar.

There was no shortage of craziness: playing with garbage bags in the rain, late-night ice cream runs and going to the bowling alley in costumes from the bunk junk, an incredible day of rafting and hours in the van singing at the top of our lungs.

Every night, in our evening meetings, we shared warm fuzzies and cold pricklies.

We lived the magic of the talent show: dancing, singing, apple juice, instruments, and hidden talents that left us in awe.

Until we reached the end of this wonderful adventure, where, in the candle-meeting, we opened our hearts and expressed everything we were taking away from this experience that will remain forever engraved in our memories.

For some, it will be goodbye; for others, a "see you later"... but for all of us, it will be a piece of summer we will carry forever in our hearts.

DIEGO - Sma reflection session 4

Wow session 4 has ended and one more time we made it. It is incredible how the time flies when you are having fun, i felt that this summer pass so fast, i still remember pretty good the days during staff training the First session and now is gone. This last session made me realize that we have to enjoy this moment as much as we can because at the end from one side is good that summer is done the staff team made a good job so we need rest but from the other side everyone would like to stay and keep doing this that makes happy to everybody. I tried to enjoy this summer and last session because it could be my last time here and i really enjoyed, I will remember the days on the lake with the wake masters it was super fun, also the days with the bike master was great, I didn't do to much biking during the summer because of there were not many bike masters but I enjoy my ride with kern, piper, Connor, and marina doing the hydro loop that was so fun and enjoyable. The rafting day was super fun too but unfortunately I did not won the First time but I had a great time with my team and also we got 3rd place which is not bad, i could not overtake Jud's raft at the race but we were close is just he is a pretty good rafter and Theas boat was further so getting first place it was impossible but everyone had fun at the river. I going to remember everyone just hanging around and having fun, if I am Lucky I will be back next year but for the moment, get ready to go back school do your best, focus in school, take care and have fun. See you everybody I will miss you all!!!



Jules SMA4:

Wow, I can't believe how quickly time has flown by. Ten weeks of SMA have already come to an end, and I never expected to leave with such a full heart and so many warm, meaningful emotions. Session 4 was especially powerful for me—it felt like I got to experience everything one last time, but even more intensely. I had so much fun climbing, doing SUP and sailing, and I even got to be back on the boat again. Every moment was incredible. I connected so well with the campers, and we shared so many funny, beautiful memories together.

Saying goodbye wasn't easy—not to the campers and not to the team. This summer has been beyond amazing. I truly lived in the moment, soaking in everything I possibly could. I stepped out of my comfort zone and discovered new sides of myself. For that, I'm deeply grateful. Thank you to all the campers, the entire team, and especially to Jud. Thank you for believing in me, for trusting me to come all this way to such a special place to grow, to learn, and hopefully to show some campers that it's always worth listening to your heart.

Thank you for this unforgettable summer. Maybe I'll be back next year.



KIM - Reflection session 4

I can't believe it's already time to write my final reflection of the summer. It went by so fast. It feels like it was 2 weeks ago when I arrived to camp and met all the counselors in staff training. But since then we all made such deep connections and built strong friendships. I love this staff team so so much, every single one of them. I would not want to miss out on anyone because the summer wouldn't have been the same if one of them wasn't there. This summer showed me that people don't need to have the same culture or first language to connect on a deep level. Every person here was meant to be here to teach each other something for there lives. So I am very thankful for every staff member and every camper that was here this summer. Session 4 was a very good session with lots of lovely campers. I had a lot of fun and made good connections with them. I tried to be as present as possible and to talk to the campers as much as I could. Especially because I knew that it was the very last session of the summer and that every activity I do could be the last time I do it. I also don't know yet if I can ever come back to camp what makes me even more sentimental about this being the last few days here. This place gave me so much. It taught me so so much about myself, my life, life in general, positive attitude and about others. The most important thing I've learned this year is to stay in the moment and don't think too much about the past or the future because you can't change that anyways. The past already happened and you can't change it anymore, and thinking about bad things that happened or regretting something you did or didn't do won't change anything. And the future is not happening yet, so the only thing you can influence and truly live is the present. I learned to try to enjoy every moment, even if I'm not motivated, because after the summer I will look back at these moments and I want to have positive thoughts about it. I don't want to regret anything I didn't do. So when you struggle to do something or not, just do it because you will never know if it works if you never try. And at least you tried then. This last session was a good way to practice that. The last session is always special because the schedule is a little different what makes it more fun. I really enjoyed the rafting trip and being out on the wakeboat as well as the wake overnight. I made the perfect mountain pies and mountain s'mores, the best camping food I've ever had. Another highlight was watching sunsets and stargazing. Shooting stars always help to remind me of my dreams and wishes. And SMA is the perfect place to stargaze for me because first the vision is perfect here and second it's a good place to reflect on your thoughts because you're disconnected from your boring life and routines at home and can look at it from another perspective to find out what you truly want and need.

I am beyond thankful for this whole experience. I genuinely think it's the best summer I've ever had and it's not even over yet, with many more memories to come. All of that because

of all the people that are here. Without them it wouldn't be the same and this is what makes SMA truly special. Thank you to everyone. <3 ~ Kim Alina Schnalke



Reflection Session 4: Zoe

I'm in disbelief that session 4 has come to an end, this session has gone by so quickly. Although this session is smaller than the last, it has still been so full of amazing memories and experiences with this new group of kids. I have created some beautiful bonds especially with Melissa, Mike, Trex and Kern, although I loved all the campers this session as they were all so passionate about all the activities and that was so awesome to see. I am super proud of myself as I conquered some new tricks on the wakeboard! Although the boat had some issues this session, I really enjoyed every moment I was able to be out there continuing to get even better at driving the boat and wakeboarding. One of my favourite nights was definitely the dance, everyone was having so much fun and was so involved it was my favourite dance of the summer! I also had an amazing day off with Thea, Elena, Marina, we went camping and just had some great conversations and I felt even closer with these girls after this. I am very shocked at how quickly the summer has gone. I have created some beautiful memories with some beautiful people that I hope to have in my life for a long time. Although it was a bit less then 3 months together, I will always remember SMA and the team this year. I have never quite met a group of people like this staff team. This summer has enabled me to discover who I am and where I want to start to head in my life. I will be forever thankful for SMA and I can't wait for the summer of 2026. - Zoe

Alex Ramirez

Hi! I'm Alex and I'm from Puebla Mexico (clap clap). This is my third year as a counselor and I'm really grateful for everything I lived and everyone I met this session.

This session had many challenges but I'm happy we could solve them as a team.

Getting to see so many familiar faces was definitely a big highlight since all of them bring so much life to this place.

Unfortunately it's time to say goodbye not only to the campers but to my fellow counselors too.

To all of you: I'm gonna miss you so much but I'm sure we'll see each other again.

It's time to go back and be an adult, at least until I can come back to my little happy valley.

THE LITTLE BIRDS FLY

Elena Esteban Rezusta

The sun burns me, the river current rushes by and I quickly stretch my arms, take a deep breath and dive into the water. I stop hearing the noise outside, the world stands still as I move, my hair flows and my muscles fall into rhythm.

This will be the moment of the day, along with hugging you at night with the window showing the pine trees, or when you drive and, with my hand outside, I feel the hot summer air. And I stay inside myself and think: how did I get here? There is someone who is taking care of me and doing it very well.

Meanwhile, I, as always, have the notebook in my hand, a couple of dollars in my pockets that feel like scraps from a Monopoly game. I write down that the important things in life are few: a song in the corner of the page, a task, committed, aware of my position and my privileges, my mother's last names, the struggles won by women, a drawing instead of words, art to understand myself, the pause to detect patterns and free myself from what entangles me, with the Hufflepuff house crest. I cannot conceive enjoyment if it is not collective, if it does not seek those who suffer, if it does not fight for a fairer system.

Suddenly I am somewhat of a reference and I truly believe this is what it has become; I no longer live only for myself and my happiness, but each one of my steps is seen by other eyes, teenagers and children from many parts of the world. And the opportunity opens up so that, by example, I become the person that little me would have admired to know.

Here everything is easier, the fireflies take care of lighting up our faces. Here, the problems from outside do not arrive. And I already know whose water bottle is whose. What if we are only happy in these bubbles? Let's pretend that we will return, that is easier. Talking about the future is forbidden.

I am not going to explain to you how I feel because most likely you feel it too. Summer days change us in so many ways. They teach us how to live. Here, at home. I will hold on to my memories until my fingerprints are erased from my skin. I only have one heart, vulnerable in the face of so much immensity, and if I don't water it myself, with longing, it will die of sadness in a corner. And I feed it with my dreams and lean in to listen to what it tells me.

Tell your parents that you are not going back, that you are leaving with a crazy one who never stops loving you. To live wild and free. And your eyes shine brighter than the moon over the sea. That I want to bare your soul and dedicate a song to you. I am tired of listening to those who are afraid to feel alive.

And I discover myself, and I understand myself by knowing that I am a little different, that there are children who are also like me, that maybe I have that purpose: to investigate it, to make it known, for us to know each other better. Suddenly a letter and the uncertainty of whether I make an impact on people. And I see the foosball table, the empty canoes, the deserted kitchen... things are worth nothing until we give them a memory. It feels like I've lived three lives in two months. I don't know what will happen to me when I return, when I land in Pamplona after this flight.

Where are the eyes, the ones that are new when I leave here, when I arrive at other places to live? I find you and you tell me that this path leads somewhere, that we can go there together. And I want to see what your room looked like when you were a child, the supermarket where you bought bread, the university you went to and the bench where you had your first kiss. But here I am tangled among the notes of this draft, catching the ideas that were born in the state of Pennsylvania, past where the sun goes down.

And the hand that takes me to that summit is a little girl's; she covers me with flowers, placing a crown on my head, and says: look how beautiful the forest is, that she wants to run as fast as possible through it. And I bend down to look her in the eyes and tell her that she is the most important person in my life, that she is very brave, that she is doing very well, that even though sometimes I focus on adult things, I always remember her.

And you walk towards me and tell me that we are going to eat as a family and I forget that the future exists and I forget who I have been. And I am here, in this moment, and then I understand everything.

I remember that there is a village in Africa that believes that it is time that comes toward us and only exists when you live it, when it is stored. The past is the true treasure. Now I have discovered that there are people who get inside me, in every cell. I embark on the return trip. And I consider the return trip a justified situation of being alone, a creative invention for personal use.

I return to my city, and there, in the doorway of my house, is still that girl, who moves her foot on the ground, restless, always restless, telling herself that she is waiting for her mother, but actually she is really waiting for life, for everything she is going to live. And I sit with her on the same stairs.

I realize that it is not about my story; the story began much further back, before my generations, in the search for what is real, for what is authentic, for that which shows that life is worth living.

And this is how patterns are found, that every person teaches you something, that I had grown used to mediocrity, so when it came, it seemed too good to be true. The constant experimentation, doing the somersault and looking from below, transforming it as I want. The contempt, the self-contempt, enough: don't give them so much power, let them stay giving each other advice, while I get on another plane again.

Way up in the sky, the little birds fly.

Let them go, let them fly away. Trust them.

I would follow their flight to see where they were born.

But it is time to let the birds fly away.

Elena



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