



The Crosley Compass

Spring 2009

A Newsletter for the Friends of Camp Crosley YMCA!

Letter from the Director



Greetings from Camp Crosley YMCA!

In a single summer at Camp Crosley we have over 1500 campers- 1500 lives to change. A week is not a long amount of time; however, we recognize that a life can change forever in a moment. A moment where a counselor empowers a camper to try. A moment where a camper chooses to sacrifice something for the betterment of others. A moment where a camper finds strength they didn't know they had. One week is all we have, and we use every moment of it. These are four stories our directors saw last summer; four lives we saw change over the course of a week, a day, an hour, and in a moment.

A week at Camp Crosley was life changing for Michelle. The intimacy and warmth of camp allowed Michelle to trust, help, and accept those around her. Michelle's background consists of a negligent father, a mother who passed away, and a big family to take care of. She came to Camp Crosley with reservations about family and acceptance. However, she left camp with a cabin of friends and counselors who loved and accepted her. One week at camp can make the difference of a lifetime.

A day at Camp Crosley changed Emma. Originally Emma was excited about going to camp; however, when she arrived she was very nervous. After Emma's parents helped her settle in to her cabin they said their goodbyes. Emma was alone and scared she wouldn't make friends. Her counselors decided to play some games and her entire cabin decided to dress up for campfire. Already Emma's cabin was becoming a family for the week. Girls she had just met felt like they had been her friends forever. That day Emma became more independent as she spent the night away from her family and making her new friends helped her gain self-confidence. One day at camp can make the difference of a lifetime.

An hour at Camp Crosley changed Ben. It was zipline day, the highlight of the week for campers in high ropes. Ben is an amazing kid- full of life but taller and more filled out than most teenage boys. This made him struggle to accomplish the high ropes challenges that week. To reach the zipline Ben had to climb a forty foot pole, including a difficult climb over a platform on top. He climbed taking breaks until he had made it just below the platform. After a few minutes of trying Ben decided he couldn't make it. Campers who had heard Ben talk about ziplining all week cheered for him, encouraging him to go on. He wanted to zip, he just didn't think he could get on top of the platform. After watching Ben try again his belayer stepped in and pulled Ben up just enough so he was able to climb onto the platform. And after a twenty minutes of effort he had made it. That day Ben experienced what it means to be persistent – a lesson he won't soon forget. And the yell of joy he let out as he went down the zipline is something I will never forget. One hour at camp can make the difference of a lifetime.

A single moment changed Tim, a junior staff member, last summer. He was sitting in the Chapel during the Friday evening closing ceremony watching as many were moved by the power of that moment. As the Summer Camp Director spoke to the campers about the Honor Traits, the values of camp, and the friends they had made that week, campers young and old were in tears. When the candles were lit Tim looked around at the faces of the campers reminded it was one of the last times they would be together as a camp family. In that moment, Tim realized his work that week was all worthwhile. The long hours had made him tired, but he realized the impact that week had on campers. One moment at camp can make the difference of a lifetime.

At camp sometimes we have a week, but sometimes all we have is a moment to make the difference of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Richard Armstrong
Executive Camp Director

Register online at www.campcrosley.org