

CAMP WARREN JYRCH 2007



HEMO NEWS

WELCOMING ALL BLEEDING DISORDERS







Girls Cabin

By: Taylor Mills

This has been the third year girls have attended Camp Warren Jyrch. The girls in the Hanwi cabin either have vonWillebrand disease or carry Hemophilia. This year we had a total of seven girls with the ages ranging from seven to fourteen. This year the girls' cabin includes, Leah (age 7), Lauren (age 9), Alecia (age 10), Skylar (age 10), Anne-Marie (age 12), Dominique (age 12), and Taylor (age 14). We've gone through many activities from rock climbing to swimming. Not only did we get involved in all these activities, but we were setting records early on! We thank our counselors Jamie, Lily, Barb, and Barbie, for all of their amazing support. Along with these challenges, we met many new faces and have been welcomed with open arms by the boy campers.

Cabin of the Day

By: Brett Palaschak and Marc Zalik

Each day at camp warren Jyrch, one of the cabins has special responsibilities. "Cabin of the Day" usually wakes up around 6:30 order to wake up the camp. Cabins are encouraged to enthusiastically wake up the camp.

Popular methods include: pounding on the doors and windows of the cabin, yelling "WAKE UP!" at the top of their lungs, and sometimes using an air horn bought at the store. The "Cabin of the Day" also raises and lowers the flag. The flag is raised just before morning stretches and breakfast. It is lowered before dinner. During both the raising and lowering, everyone is silent and hats are removed in respect.

Community Building

By: Joe Zwier & Chris Holmes

One of the biggest themes at camp this year has been Community Building. Over the week, the entire camp was divided into 6 community groups with diverse ages. Communities were established in order for campers and counselors to learn about each other and work as a team. During the past week, our community groups played tons of great games that allowed us to really get to know each other. The kids' enthusiasm kept us all going and their courage to participate to the groups of strangers was really a great thing to see. Now we hope that all the kids aren't afraid to open up to their blood brothers and sisters.





Interview with Erin

By: Chris Holmes & Joe Zwier

It's easy to see how thrilled Erin is to be directing Camp Warren Jyrch 2007. Previous camp director Fred Hinze is enjoying spending more time with all the campers and staff instead carrying all the weight on his shoulders. While interviewing Erin, one of the biggest questions was, "Why Camp Warren Jyrch?" Her main reason was, "you have a cause." She spoke mainly on the point of bringing our community together instead of individualizing everyone. HFI executive director Bob Robinson is very grateful to have Erin on board. "She's doing a great job of bringing new ideas to the camp while keeping old traditions alive."



Nightly Activities

By: Joe Zwier

Some of the great nightly activities that took place this week ranged from sleeping around campfires to field and pool Olympics. The kids really enjoyed being able to have fun with campers and staff of all ages. The first night we had orienteering. The kids learned how to use a compass while charting their paths. Another night we had derby car racing and Olympics. The campers and staff had the opportunity to race their personalized cars against their friends and fellow campers. The Olympics took place in both the pool and the adjacent field where campers had a lot of fun getting wet while their teams cheered the kids on to having a really great time.



Food

By: Taylor Mills and Tony Vetter

During the week of camp the cafeteria is not just a place to eat, it is also filled with many traditions and experiences. These traditions are sometimes cruel and unusual. For example, if you forget to take off your hat or wear your sunglasses inside, then you are forced to sing an embarrassing song to the entire camp. Another example is when you are trotting (waiting) and you exit through

the “in” door or enter through the “out” door, the person would be forced to walk backwards, through the doors three times in front of the entire camp.

Aside from the cruel traditions we also exhibit family-like qualities such as troppers serving the delicious food family-style and bringing all the cabins together as one community. The troppers set the table and serve the food prepared by the fantastic chef, Natasha. Then the troppers return to the kitchen with the tray to get seconds for each meal. All in all it was food and it was good fun.



Camper Q&A

By: Stephen Mesker

We decided to go through camp and ask some questions of the campers and staff about how they felt about camp and the many events that took place within the week.

What does camp mean to you? “Camp is about having fun and spending time with my blood brothers and sisters.”

What is your favorite activity? “I love running around during field games and shooting arrows at archery.”

What do you think about Kevin, the new owner? “He did a great job with keeping the camp neat and safe. He also connected well with the many kids here at camp Warren Jyrch.”

Were your counselors good? “My counselors were very helpful. They made sure I was not late to my activities and encouraged me to self infuse.”

How did you like the Camp White Eagle staff? “They were very, very hard working and so hilarious!”

What do you think about the new camp director, Erin? “She is extremely helpful and unbelievably happy no matter what time it was, morning or night.”

Would you like anything to change next year? “No, camp Warren Jyrch is always fun and it is perfect the way it is.”



Counselors In Training (CIT's)

By: Felix Avila

CITs? Some may ask who they are and what are they responsible for. Well, CITs is a group of teenagers from the ages of 16-18. Their responsibility is to help the counselors in their cabin and also help out with the activities. Other responsibilities that they have are to

show good behavior and also make camp easier for all counselors and campers. These CITs sleep in a cabin with kids across the camp.

This year's Camp Warren Jyrch CITs include: James Mitchell, Brett Palaschak, Anthony Vetter, Felix Avila, Doug Drosten, Joe Zwier, Mark Zalik, Dustin Klein, Stephen Mesker, Chris Holmes, Taylor Mills, and Daniel Livolsi. These young boys and girl are the new heart of our camp and have a major impact on the daily agenda. Things we teach our new staff of CITs are some activity skills, involve them in camp seminars, involve them in camp service programs, involve them in their own group activities, involve them with campers in skilled activities, involve them with campers in cabin activities, and involve them with campers in group activities.

Some goals that these young counselors have is to have fun, get the kids to have fun, being able to handle the little kids, other goals are to come back next year. A normal day at camp for CITs will be to wake up, take the kids out to the shower, then to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. After breakfast they are all separated and get together with their communities which means that two CITs are put into each community. Then go through out all the activities and at the end of the day CITs get to help put them to sleep.



The Philosophy of Camp (with commentary)

By: Dustin Klein

Camp Warren Jyrch was started in 1973, originally for males, and after a while, females who are affected with Hemophilia or other hereditary bleeding disorders. The name was decided after Warren C. Jyrch had been the first Hemophiliac to successfully undergo open heart surgery. (Which by me is pretty incredible.)

Camp Warren Jyrch has had a stunning 35 year run and it's still going! There have been over eight hundred campers over the years, many of which have gone on to our Counselor in Training program and even gone on to serve on our senior staff. Along with those eight hundred campers we have kept up the traditions and philosophy of Camp Warren Jyrch. They include:

Friendship. Kids come to camp with at least one thing in common; they all are affected with bleeding disorders. And one of the goals of camp is to use that likeness to create lifelong friendships. (Believe me, it does happen...)

Fun. Activities are offered every day that can interest a wide variety of personalities. Things such as rock climbing, riflery, swimming, field game and the famous crate stacking are all offered here at camp. At camp we want our kids to have fun. (Which is the pretty much the easiest thing to do here.)

Learning. Kids at Camp Warren Jyrch, as well as staff, have the

opportunity to learn more about the bleeding disorders that affect us all. And as always the opportunity to learn how to self infuse. Even Bob Robinson (Executive Director HFI) learned how to self infuse, even though he has no bleeding disorder. (WAY TO GO BOB!!!)

Growing. When you come to camp we want to help campers learn to grow to be more independent. Here we want to help kids learn how to be more independent when it comes to infusing, and we also want kids to learn how to be more independent when it comes to life situations. (For example, when I first came to camp I didn't even know that self infusing was an option...)

Now for the commentary. I first came to camp when I was eight years old, in 1998. I was scared. But hey, who isn't when they first arrive? I made friends pretty quick, a few (most) of which are actually still here today in the CIT Program. I've been coming back to camp every year learning about people and bleeding disorders. I, even at the age of fifteen, learned how to self infuse. And, yeah, I have played some pretty nifty games and activities along the way. I know that my fellow CITs and I, and staff intend to keep all of that up.

All in all, Camp is here to stay and are going to be here for these kids. Friendship, fun, learning, and growing-- that is the philosophy of Camp Warren Jyrch. And it is here to stay.