

CAP Students Describe Their Summer Wilderness Adventures



ALONE IN THE WOODS

21 days in the woods alone
And you're so far from home
With eleven other people in your position
Wondering how they will transition
From being around civilization
To being on a wilderness "vacation"

Starting out with a forty-five pound backpack on your back
Using all of your physical and mental strength that you're beginning to lack
Days go by and you're in a canoe
With only your new family paddling with you
More days go by and Keith decides to leave
But we all stay strong and try not to grieve

We give back to the community by doing service for Bob White
An amazing man who tends to his garden day and night
We backpack some more and Mihoa has a fall
She rolled her ankle but that isn't all
She couldn't come back with us to continue the journey
Instead she had to return to civilization early

Traveling now with backpacks heavier than before
Navigating our way to camp and learning more and more
We go rock climbing and some for the first time
An amazing experience and some difficult rocks to climb
Go back to camp and Ian's feeling a little under the weather
What happens next isn't much better

He had a fever so he had to go to the hospital
And 8:30AM the next day Lark and Devon will get a call
They get the call and hear that Ian had to leave
And guess what, now we're down three
A sad, sad thing the Nightwalkers had to hear
But we all stay strong and try not to shed another tear

We continue our rock climbing adventure and shred some serious nar
The 300ft rock climb was the tallest rock we had to climb by far
Hike to a new campsite to prepare for solo
Some people are thinking, "What solo's here? Already?! On no!"
Solo- a time to reflect on what has happened in the past 16 days
Each and every individual person spends their solo in different ways

Some sleep, some think, and just write
But all eventually fall a sleep during the darkness of the night
It's day seventeen and there's only four more days to go
All are sad to leave but some try not to show
An amazing experience that we don't want to end
Sharing more and more memories with your new found friends

Amanda Rodriguez

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

I am so glad I got the wonderful opportunity to be able to go to Outward Bound. All thanks to you, I was able to get the great memories and education of being in the woods enjoying nature. I feel I have changed in many ways from this experience. For example, I am not afraid of little insects like water bugs, spiders and more. I have also changed in self-esteem. My confident has risen to a new level and feel good every time I look in the mirror because I see someone worth wild. All the obstacles I had to face on that trip have made believe in myself. The biggest challenge I had faced in that experience would be the hiking. I remember the first day of hiking was terrible and tiresome. I would always stop every twenty minutes for a break or water. I felt I could not go on anymore, but with the encouragement of my peers and instructors I made it to the top of the peak. From that day on I felt the support of others by my side and I knew I was not alone. So, thank you so much for this opportunity and I hope the next group of students enjoy it as much as I did.

Sincerely,
Talia Santiago, 10th grade

I would like to take the time and tell you thank you. Thanks to you I had the privilege and chance to go on one of the most exciting trips I have ever gone on. I know yo work hard to sponsor this trip to Outward Bound.

In Outward Bound, I learned so many new things about life and myself. If I can go twenty-one days outside of my comfort zone, then I can do anything. Before I went on this trip I was a shy person and didn't really talk to people. Now I am a different person and ready for anything that comes my way. The best part of this Outward Bound trip was the three-day solo. They were the longest three days of my life but the best. I got to think of all the rough things going on in my life and how to fix them when I get home. You feel so safe on your own and that no one can touch you or do anything to you. Thanks to you I had the chance to feel this way.

This was an experience that I will never forget and I want to thank you for all of your hard work.

Juan Henriquez, 11th grade

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to experience Outward Bound. I had never done something this drastic before but it was a very good change and experience for me. While on my course, I learned many things about myself and many ways on how to function inside of a group.

Joshua Tausendfreundt, 12th grade

