UNM CAMP NEWSLETTER - Fall 2011

UNM CAMP

University of New Mexico - Main Campus, camp@unm.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/unm_camp

Recommended Citation

CAMP, UNM. "UNM CAMP NEWSLETTER - Fall 2011." (2011). http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/unm_camp/6
Fall. The inevitable beginning of school and excitement of a new school year always seems to fill the air. Here at CAMP, there’s a whole different kind of excitement that has built up and began to infect both the students and the staff at around this time. Sure the anticipation of meeting new people, connecting with one another, and becoming a CAMP family fills all of our hearts with joy and sometimes anxiety, but the eagerness of the main event of the fall semester always seems to overthrow all else.

CAMPing with CAMP. Seems silly to say, but this phrase and event has become one of the stipulations of the CAMP bonding process and the most talked about event within the program for the past few years. This year we paired up with Laura from Recreational Services to travel to the Jemez Mountains to an awe-some new location of Fenton Lake. For the first portion of the trip, we set up camp and had a little mid-day meal to help energize for the remainder of the day. Everyone had the option to explore, nap, or do whatever it is they wanted to just as long as they were relaxing and having an awesome time. Some of our students and staff went out to the lake to fish and boat ride thanks to a super courteous gentleman who lent us a boat. Others took a luxurious nap in the awesome fresh air, played volleyball, explored the land, and others started to work on their gifts for our annual “natural gift” exchange.

After a few hours of free time, the sun began to go down and we began to set up shop for dinner, a bonfire, and of course, s’mores. This is usually one of the more interesting parts of the trip because everyone really comes together and it’s a group effort. We made burgers, hot dogs, and some infamous Norteno s’mores in the style of Lexy Trujillo. After a while, some moonlight fishing and boating on the lake was suggested, and some went out to enjoy the beautiful night environment the lake had to offer. Meanwhile back at camp, some ghastly and ghostly scary stories were being told around the bonfire my Cheyenne Antonio and others who cared to chip in.

Happy CAMPing!
The morning began with none other than breakfast; if there’s anything that is important on the camping trip, it has got to be the food. Breakfast burritos, fruit, coffee, orange juice, and some leftovers from the night before made one of the best breakfast spreads most of us have ever seen. After breakfast, we continued with our gifts and the exchange. The weather limited our time to enjoy the morning because it was apparent that the rain was headed right toward us to end our parade. We got packed up and rolled right on out of there before the rain could catch us. It was an amazingly relaxing and family bonding time kind of trip where we all left not only exhausted and well fed, but solidified with our relationships with each other, and a new found closeness.

-Bianca Ramirez

Crafting a Smile

This year CAMP held a pumpkin decorating extravaganza. The CAMP staff bought 30 pumpkins as well as an assortment of art supplies for the students to decorate pumpkins for the families at the Ronald McDonald House on UNM’s North Campus.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of New Mexico provides a “home away from home” for families with critically ill children who travel to Albuquerque for treatment because care is not available in their own community. They provide the families with private bedrooms, wireless internet access, private direct line phones, cribs and bassinets, bath amenities, stocked laundry facilities, fully stocked kitchens, and much more, for a suggested $15 per night donation; however, if the families are unable to pay, the fee is always waived. They’ve provided temporary housing for thousands of families in this situation and have recently renovated their facilities to accommodate up to 30 families.

-Orlando Obeso

Mentors/Tutors
Building a Community

CAMP has been a part of the Migrant Night in Deming for the past 5 years. It has always been a great experience, meeting the parents and families of the students we serve every year. It is an event where a lot of good information is given out, ranging from health care options, extracurricular activities, of course education. It is important that the community along with the high school get to know the program that is recruiting students to relocate and study 230 miles away.

This year I had the pleasure of attending the Deming Migrant Night along with four of our current and former CAMP students. The students who accompanied me were German Martinez - CAMP cohort 2009-2010, Yolanda Santiago - CAMP cohort 2009-2010, Hilda Martinez - CAMP cohort 2010-2011, and Estefania Esparza - CAMP cohort 2011-2012. As native Deming students, they shared their personal stories, the transition into the University of New Mexico and the impact the CAMP program had on their lives. It was very moving to see the students talk about the passion they have for their education. The words and accomplishments of these students are more effective in sharing the importance of higher education; especially because they are a part of the community and their opinion carries a lot weight.

Many times staff, including myself, tire out, question our commitment and debate our effectiveness. Events like this take away all those worries and energize us to continue what we are doing. It was an honor to hear their honest and powerful testimonies of what they had experienced. As the Program Specialist I do not get to interact with the students as much as I would like and this was a great opportunity to see the impact the program, the tutors and advisors have on them.

Marlene Sanchez has been the face and voice for the UNM CAMP program for the last two years in New Mexico and has done an excellent job in strengthening the partnerships in our state. It is nice to get the opportunity to go in her place and see the families we serve every year. Hopefully Marlene will have more scheduling conflicts that will allow me to attend more events like this.

-Ivan Olay

Learning through Service-making a difference

This year the CAMP Scholars cohort of 2011-2012 completed a Service Learning Project in their University 101 seminar course. The CAMPers were assigned to complete a service project within their communities to gain volunteer experience with local not-for-profit groups. The project’s goal was to have a measurable outcome to which the CAMPers set the outcome. The CAMPers were given agency in their own project designs and determined the location of their Service Learning Projects. Along with designing their own student Service Learning Projects, the CAMPers all created their own roles of importance in order to complete these projects. The CAMPers’ projects ranged from gifts and fundraising, art projects, volunteer work at homeless shelters to visiting the elderly; the locations of these projects also varied among the student groups. Although not all of the groups completed their original set out goal, each and every CAMPer was a part of something positive in their communities. One group of CAMPers decided to donate gift baskets with personal care products to Casa Esperanza and make the residents breakfast. Casa Esperanza is a facility that supports those undergoing cancer treatments. This group of CAMPers, Priscilla Bañuelos, Estefania Esparza, Daniela Lozano, Mayra Rodriguez and Valeria Zerecero started off with the goal of donating toys to children. After a long journey of community organizations, these young women found their Service Learning Project at Casa Esperanza. In order to fund these generous gift baskets, these CAMPers were fortunate enough to find a very generous donor who sponsored their project with $800. Other groups, that also had children in mind, completed their Service Learning Project at UNM Children’s Hospital. This fabulous trio of young women decided that they wanted to complete an art project with the children currently at the hospital. They started their project off with a bake sale at UNM in late October. Durae Gutierrez, Tan-ya Romero and Juanita Saiz raised enough money to buy all of the art supplies for various activities with the children. These activities ranged from pinecone turkey makings, feather/paper hats etc. The CAMPers then donated the rest of their art supplies to UNM Children’s Hospital. All of the extraordinary CAMP students completed their Service Learning Projects with flying colors. We are very proud of our CAMP scholars for completing such amazing volunteer work in their communities.

-Sami Luna