

Once Upon A Times

Sprucelands Horse Camp

Saturday, August 9, 2008



A Thrilling Third Session

Third Session began with tons of energy, as the counselors led the Opening Ceremony, a game comprised of a series of get-to-know-you questions. The week's following Evening Programs were just as engaging and fun, including the always intense "Shrek-A-Deck" and much-awaited "Purchase Your Fairytale Creatures." The first week came to an end with a spirited Gambler's Choice and Shrek in the Swamp's Karaoke Dance Party, where teams showed off their incredible dance moves. A restful Sunday and meaningful Vespers discussion about friendship left everyone ready to jump back into the riding program on Monday. Torrential rainstorms weren't able to wash out the positive attitudes and excited smiles as campers participated in Pinocchio's Talent Show and the Kicking of the Onions, an extreme camper versus staff kickball game. A final night of Eileen's moving Third Session DVDs left many in tears, wishing for just a few more days of camp. No one can replace those who are leaving, and we hope that they will all come back next year.

There is no other time in the rest of our lives that we will all be here together. Treasure every moment we share.

Writing Contest



Lia Teck happily riding Sunrise.

Sprucelands

By Lia Teck, Winner

Last year, I came to Sprucelands for the first time. I had the best time of my life. At first, I was only going to stay for three weeks; then I wanted to stay for four. In all, I stayed for six weeks. When I first came, I was sooo shy. But as the summer went by, I opened up and was a lot more talkative at camp and at home. During those six weeks, I found that I didn't have to be someone that I'm not. I can just be myself.

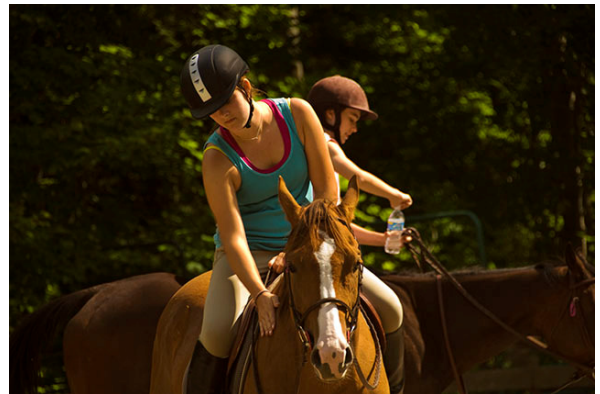
This summer, I am trying a lot of new things and making so many new friends. I LOVE it here. It is the BEST PLACE ON EARTH!

A Story by Kelley McClurg,

Runner-Up

I came to Sprucelands through two of my good friends, Alie and Kristin, who have spent many summers here. The first horse I rode was Scribbles. At first, she had a rough first impression on me, but I later learned what an incredible horse she is.

She is only four years old and new to being ridden. We had to get used to each other and turned into a great team. She really inspired me to stick with challenges because they can have amazing benefits. And now I just want to take her home.



Kelley McClurg loving Scribbles.

Favorite Quotes:

Did I invite you to my bbq? Then why you all up in my grill?!

Holy inferiority complex Batman!

Radioactive Juice!

SPRUCELANDS
FOREVER!
YES! YES! YES!

Writing Contest, Continued

Slow Down

By Deanna Seliotski

A soft, dark nose
And knowing, brown eyes
Hug my back as I rest my hand
Against a shimmering chestnut neck.
His breath fills the stall
As I pick his feet
Which are strangely clean.
I finger his stripe
As he sighs on my neck.
He closes his eyes,
And we stand cheek-to-cheek.
His soft, shiny mane
Tickles my nose
As I savor the minutes
Before I must tack up.
Romeo and I stand together
As one
And these silent moments pass between us.

My Horse

By Gabby Schreffler

You bring love to my life,
And laughter to my face.
Don't forget about beauty,
When you dance around with grace.

You're my everything, my life,
You're my hero, of course.
You're really something special,
More than just a horse.

Your presence is plenty pretty,
With a face that I adore.
And eyes that seem to sparkle,
Like the stars in the sky, and more.

You've taught me many lessons,
Like how to ride and how to trust.
You've taken me through tough times,
Leaving them gone in the dust.

I wouldn't trade you for the world,
I want you here to stay.
It gives me joy to see you,
Because you're wonderful in every way.

Marea and Me

By Randi Zboyan, *Runner-Up*

My favorite horse at the barn is Marea, a Chincoteague pony. I've ridden her since the beginning of camp. She hasn't always been my favorite. When I first rode her, she went very fast and I couldn't figure out how to get her to go slow. That made me not want to ride her. I stuck with her and tried different things. I was very nervous to jump her because I was afraid of the jump and not sure how she would be. I learned how to half-halt and she jumped well for me the rest of the session. I tried different ways to get her to go slow. I found if you talk to her and half-halt, she's slower. She is the best jumper pony ever and I love her. We have come along. In six weeks she now goes slow and jumps with me. We are a team. I've gotten second place with her in both shows and I'm very proud of her and how far we've come.

A Sweet Summer Morning

By Alie Reindel

She walks up the beaten path in serenity and peace. As soon as that last hill has been conquered and the trees unfold, she lets out a sigh of pure bliss.

The sun radiates on her face and she hears the cries of playful children and replies from cheerful staff. She next listens for the quiet nickers of the animals she adores.

She goes about the daily routine that she knows so well. "Stall two in the indoor," the barn manager answers, as the girl hustles with a smile to see her best friend.

There she stands, quietly munching on hay, awaiting the girl's tender touch and love.

"It's jumping... our favorite!" the girl mentions to her pony, as they prepare for their lesson.

They leap, prance, and laugh as they ride like there's no tomorrow.

"Good girl," she says as she hops off and goes to cool out her pal. They walk side by side with the breeze flowing in their hair.

There is no need for words as the two silently stand and the pony nibbles on some grass.

A simple "I love you," and a slight nuzzle was their final exchange before lunch.

The girl moseys down the beaten path; all that was left was the gentle hum of the generator and the rhythmic sound of hoof beats.

The Barn Staff's Talent Show Song

One hen

Two ducks

Three squawking geese

Four limerick oysters

Five corpulent porpoises

Six pairs of Don Alfredo's tweezers

Seven thousand Macedonian warriors in full battle array

Eight brass monkeys from the ancient sacred crypts of Egypt

Nine sympathetic, apathetic, diabetic old men on roller skates with a marked propensity towards procrastination and sloth

Ten lyrical, spherical, diabolical denizens of the deep who swing and sway with the queasy of the quay all at the very same time

Favorite Camp Food:

1. Pizza
2. Chitot city
3. Cinnamon buns
4. Grilled cheese
5. Mac and cheese

Favorite Camp Horse:

1. Honey
2. Jax
3. Kokomo
4. Fella
5. Romeo

Favorite Camp Song:

1. Candyland
2. Cannibal King
3. Little Willie
4. Titanic
5. One Little Candle

Favorite Camp Smell:

1. Barn
2. Horses
3. Sweet feed
4. Cinnamon buns
5. Febreeze

The Article of My Summer

By Hannah Lindsley

My summer was one of the best yet, and I loved it. Even if I have many more to come, this one still shined through. This year at camp I think I grew... or sprang ten feet from the ground! I now realize that I used to hide my face and try to be someone who I wasn't.

This year really taught me to break through the little shell that I was in, to just sing out loud, to show my face. I think this made me improve in my riding and the person I was. I also have made so many good friends and had so much fun. Even when I was lonely I felt that there was always someone there for me who I could count on.

My riding has gotten a lot better and I'm going to miss Sunrise. I think my riding got better because of her and the other horses. This summer I also felt like I had more knowledge and became more responsible... in a fun way! I think that all the counselors and CITs are amazing and worked hard. But I especially thank my counselor Alie, who was amazing and was always there for me when I had a problem or just needed someone to talk to. I think she was a great role model!

I have to thank Sprucelands for helping me improve. It is one of my favorite places in the world! As I say, it's the camp where everyone can find themselves and meet the best of friends. I love you.

Why I Love Sprucelands!

By Amelia Margolis, Runner-Up

Bay, chestnut, dappled-gray,

We ride horses every day!

We take care of our horses too,

Feed them, groom them, and clean the stalls, woo-hoo.

We learn to jump, trot, and have fun,

There's something at Sprucelands for everyone!

Keep in Touch!

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