

# Profile: Claire Auchinvole



## Hometown:

Nelson

## Program:

Summer Camp USA 2009

## Length of time spent overseas:

5 months

## How did you find out about IEPs Summer Camp program?

University

## Tell us about your Camp and what you got up to.

As a trip leader I took girls out hiking and canoeing in the Maine and New Hampshire wilderness. The scenery was fantastic plus I experienced North American wildlife at its best. We encountered bald eagles, deer and moose!

While in camp I participated in camp life including singing in the dining hall and playing 'counselor hunt'.

It was great to see the girls grow in skill and confidence over the summer and to be a part of such a unique experience for them.

## What are some of the experiences that you had which made an impact on you?

It was great to be outside for the summer and to be away from all the hustle and bustle of life. Being able to switch off from the outside world was so special.

I was very surprised at one camper who came on a day long hiking trip with us. She had been suffering terribly from homesickness - quite often found in tears - and didn't really want to come on this trip either. She was persuaded into it and didn't really appear to enjoy herself but when we got back she seemed a bit brighter. By dinner time the next day there was a spring in her step and she was actually smiling! Her entire summer changed from that point onwards and she began to enjoy herself. I don't think she enjoyed the trip but it gave her a chance to think things over and I was astounded by her response to it.

## Did you travel after camp? Tell us about your adventures.

I am still travelling. I left Maine and headed south to Boston where I walked the Freedom Trail and caught a ferry across the harbour. In New York City I met up with some friends and we had an epic day and night at a bar and a Broadway show.

I went up the CN Tower today - my 3rd wonder of the 7 wonders of the modern industrial world. The view was breathtaking. Next I'm going to do a moose tour of Quebec.

## Do you have any advice for someone who wants a Summer Camp adventure?

Go into it with your mind open, pack for all weathers and ask lots of questions.

## Did you feel supported by IEP?

Yes, whenever I had questions I always had a prompt response and they were very flexible about my travel arrangements.

## Did you gain anything from Camp that will benefit you in what you do next?

I solidified my trip leader skills and learned how to canoe. These aren't skills that will help me in my future career but they will definitely be used outside the workplace.

I learned a lot about myself, my responses and my habits. It helped give me perspective to my life and work out who I want to become.



WORKING ADVENTURES WORLDWIDE