

Profile: Georgia Bodle

Hometown:

Greymouth, New Zealand

Program:

Summer Camp USA

Tell us in a few hundred words which Camp you were at and what you got up to at camp?

I was selected for camp to be a film photography teacher, but after the first session I was teaching Ceramics and Silvercraft also which was pretty amazing!

The main role I had was to be a role model to the campers, and be an adult guide for the children in my cabin. We spent a lot of time together playing games and braiding hair, and A LOT of time painting our nails! In my cabin my co-staff and I worked on showing the kids that it's okay to be different and to be loved for who you are.

Top 3 memories of Summer Camp?

1. One of my top memories was my time spent with my co-staff; she was amazing, and incredible! I don't think I would have gotten so much out of camp if it wasn't for her! She was always there for advice and a helping hand whenever I needed it. Definitely the friendships you gain from camp are life changing!

2. Session 3 when we had the most amazing group of girls in our cabin and we were making s'mores, we didn't have any chocolate and as soon as the girls noticed they were offering it to us and making s'mores to give to us. Such a small gesture meant a lot to my co-staff and me!!

3. We have a rule at camp that if your cabin light is left on with no one in there and someone sees, then they can 'Snitch' you, so you lose your lights for 24 hours. We had a camper in session 4, that was negative about everything to do with camp, she would refuse to follow the rules and would curse in front of other campers, we struggled for the good part of a week trying to guide her and it seemed as though we were failing. Then one day when we were all leaving the cabin for dinner, she walked out the door behind me, there was still a few girls in the cabin, we got about 25 meters away from the cabin and she told me to wait, she turned around and ran back to outside the cabin and says 'Girls, don't forget to turn off the lights'. That moment, it was like



the week of hard work was finally rewarding. She ended up not wanting to go home and is planning on coming back next year!

Was there a camper that stands out in your mind? If so why?

There was a camper in Session 3 and 4 that was amazing. She was the friendliest girl and was always enthusiastic. On change day she was amazing with the new girls that came and would always put others before herself. She worked hard in her swimming classes and was never negative! She was really incredible!

Do you have any advice for someone who wants an American adventure?

If you're thinking about it, go for it! It was the most amazing experience of my life and I have made so many amazing friendships along the way. Words can't describe how you feel while you're there and the changes it makes to you as a person!



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Did you travel after camp? Tell us about your adventures – where did you go?

Yes! After camp I spent a week and a half in New York, and then started my Trek with Trek America for 3 weeks, cross country to LA. It was the most amazing experience and we had the coolest group of people from all around the world! We went to a lot of breathtaking places, like New Orleans, Monument Valley, The Grand Canyon, and Las Vegas!!

What was the food & accommodation like?

The camp food was amazing, there was always a salad bar and a vegetarian option. There was a lot of different food to what I was used to.

The accommodation was a bit of a shock to begin with, but once I was there for a while it became like home to me. We stayed in wooden cabins in the woods, the girls slept in bunks and the counsellors had single beds at the front nearest the door. We had a shower and toilet block outside the cabin.

What is something unexpected/different/strange about USA compared to home?

I found a lot of differences, like tipping and that kind of thing, but you get used to it very quickly. I liked tipping, because you got to show your appreciation for the service and you were always guaranteed good service too. I found all of the people I came across as very polite and always kind.

Did you have a good experience going on Summer Camp with IEP?

Yes it was wonderful!

What did you value about going to Summer Camp with IEP?

Being able to e-mail someone with any questions I had, and getting a detailed and very helpful response!

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

I gained a lot from camp; it will benefit me in anything I do. Summer Camp taught me things I couldn't learn anywhere else in the world. It was a very special place.

What is next for you?

For now I am working, I'm planning on going back to camp next Summer, and then going to college over in the States!

