

Young Women's Camp 2015

By Lee Ann Meads

This year the Young Women's Stake Camp was held July 14-17 at the Brighton Meadows property. Stake Camp Director and Assistant Director are Leslie Egan and LeeAnn Meads respectively. Other Camp leaders included Annette Johnson (4th year hike), Amy Borland (certification and food), Katie Olsen and Kelli Egan (over the Youth Camp Leaders).

The theme for this year's camp was "Anchor Your Soul" - an off shoot of the world wide youth them of "Embark". Our focus was on each girl anchoring themselves to true doctrine and gospel principles.

We facilitated this theme through a cruise line format where each ward was assigned a cruise line that symbolized different gospel principles.

Cruise lines:

Royal Caribbean: Divine Nature and Individual worth - this ship recognizes their Royal Heritage

Princess: Education, Work and Self-Reliance. We need smart princesses.

Disney: Family is the most important unit in God's plan. Strengthening home and family.

Carnival: Life is a carnival of distractions through music, media and other forms of entertainment. Making good choices by staying anchored to the gospel.

Viking: Vikings of old would seek out places to plunder and steal but these young women focus on service wherever they go.

North Star: Integrity and Honesty anchor us just as the North Star points to the true course to all mariners.

Pirate: Pirates have always been challenges with apparel choices but this group epitomize modest dress, appearance and language.

Prior to Stake Camp a fourth year hike spear headed by Annette Johnson and Kim Kehl. This was held near Alta where the girls hiked in to the Kehl's cabin and spent a night reflecting on the importance of Anchoring ourselves.

This year we did an afternoon of camp certifications including: Water purification, Nutrition, Knots (how knot to lose your anchor), First Aid, and Water Safety.

Each year we do a service project and this year we made simple picture books with animals and their names. These books will be donated to a non-profit organization that gets them into the refugee camps in Afghanistan and Syria.

We had a beautiful evening under the stars where Stake Young Women's President, Peggy Knudsen talked about the importance of the North Star as a true and constant guide and how it is likened to the gospel. Then each ward prepared a song along that theme and in ward groups encircled the lake and with flashlights in hand each ward in turn sang their song. As each ward sang a glow in the dark ball was launched into the water and all could watch it's progress as it Embarked across the lake symbolizing our individual journeys. So beautiful!

The girls love Water Day where the stake provides several different water activities for the girls to enjoy (kayaks, tubes and a zip line).

Each ward planned their own activities focusing on their individual ward themes.

Each year we have a morning where each girl finds a quiet spot to have solo time. This year Sister Knudsen prepared a pamphlet filled with scriptures and thoughts that took the girls on an hour of discovery of ways to be more anchored in our personal and spiritual lives. It was indeed a wonderful way to "Anchor" our objectives for camp.

At our closing meeting on Thursday night prior to ward testimony meetings a presentation was made recognizing Ike Egan's contribution to camp through his outstanding musical abilities. He has provided over 10 years of theme songs which bring the spirit and message of camp year after year. What a wonderful resource he has been.

Our concluding speaker was Sherie Christensen from the Willow Creek 2nd ward who masterfully and tenderly with strength and testimony shared her family's stormy voyage of joy and sadness as they navigate through the trials of a rare form of Muscular dystrophy that has ravaged their four children and has already taken the lives of two.

Girls camp is a wonderful tool to take our young women away from the distractions of our busy world and focus on things that matter most. We felt that this year's camp was no exception.