



SUMMER 2008

SURVIVOR

Camp BUCKO Family

I can't believe camp is around the corner. I know some of you have started counting down the days. At BUCKO Family Camp, campers were already looking forward to camp and seeing their friends. Our Camp BUCKO Family has grown so much over the last couple of years and it is so incredible to see people, campers, volunteers, families, pulling together to help each other. In addition to the people who attend Camp BUCKO and BUCKO Family Camp there are many who work hard raising money, planning or contributing in some way to make sure camp and our BUCKO Family can continue and grow stronger. Looking forward to seeing you all at camp this year and I am sure it is going to be fantastic.

Nancy

Bucko Family Camp - May

WOW!! What an awesome time we had at Family camp. I really enjoy spending time with the campers and their families. There were 3 new families at Family Camp and 1 possible new camper and we are looking forward to having him at camp this summer. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and for some, the highlight was the Flying Squirrel. We saw some very creative drawings during the group speed Pictionary game! BINGO was loudly shouted during the game that was held in the dining room. The other not so fun game was Swat the Mosquito! Yup, they were there in full force, but didn't really hamper all the fun and games. If you and your family have not attended family camp, I highly recommend that you try to fit it into your schedule. A good time is had by all.

Janet



BUCKO Camp Exchange - Camp Oo-U-La

This May I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to go to Eatonton, Georgia to be a part of Camp Oo-U-La along with Jane and Sonia. The week was probably the best week I have ever had. I'll admit, I was excited the whole way there until we pulled up to the camp. I was scared a lot and I didn't think that I would get over. After the first hour or so, I was LOVIN it! The week was amazing. There were so many activities to do there! Things we don't have at Bucko. Things like paintball, goo games, scuba diving, lake ecology, zip lining, and many more!!! There were so many different evening programs such as a carnival, watching movies, "are you smarter than a camper?" talent show, dances, and a prom! We also had limo rides! All these things were amazingly fun. If I had to choose one highlight from the week I'd say the people. The people at Camp Oo-U-La were outstanding, caring, outgoing, friendly, and just wonderful. I've met people this week that I could never replace. The spirit they had leaves me in awe. While we were down there, those people have inspired me and changed me. I'm hoping I can return to Camp Oo-U-La for many years to come because leaving and thinking I may never see those people again is the most hurtful and scary thought.

Felicia



During my time at Camp Oo-U-La in Georgia I was shocked when I first arrived on how BIG it was and how many people were there. I was shy at first but then I got to know some of the people and they were really nice and polite. Throughout the rest of the week I started getting comfortable. We played so many games, such as the slip n' slide, paintball, and other things and it was really fun. On the Friday there was a prom and it was beautiful! We got picked up from our cabins in a limo! It was great! I danced so much with a lot of guys 😊. I was asked by three guys to go to the prom with and I said "yes" to all. I had a blast at Camp Oo-U-La and I am so glad that I was chosen to go. If I wasn't chosen I don't think that I would have met all the wonderful people. I really hope that I get to go next year. I would really love to see all my friends again and spend time with them watching movies in the cabin! The day I really enjoyed would be the day of the carnival. We played a lot of games. Oh man the week was great! I would love to come back and see my friends again.

Jane

WOW! Talk about southern hospitality! Attending Camp Oo-U-La was nothing short of amazing! The energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of both volunteers and campers were phenomenal. I had the opportunity to work, meet, and hang out with some of the most extraordinary people. Everyone was so welcoming and eager to learn introduce themselves to me and the girls and learn about the "true north" (a.k.a. Canada, this was also an ongoing joke throughout the week). From arriving on the first day to leaving at the end of the week I can honestly say we were both celebrities and targets (i.e. skits) all at the same time. The campers at Camp Oo-U-La were great! They would always come up to me to chat and of course make fun of our accents (You're from Canada, eh?). We were always keeping busy from playing on the slip 'n slide, going on limo rides, to getting our hair styled before the prom. Everyone was so happy that we were able to participate and become new members of the Camp Oo-U-La family. I also had the opportunity to be a support staff in which I provided water, juice, and snacks to the campers. Patty watch put because down south they taught me well!!!! As a support I was able to hang out with all the campers and get to know pretty much all the volunteers. The camp there is bigger than Bucko and slightly different I did notice similarities between the two. The volunteers are hard working, dedicated, and have demonstrated this through their consistent involvement with the camp from year to year. In addition, the campers truly have a great support system! Although it was humid and we were referred to as the "Canadians" all week we have officially become new members of the Camp Oo-U-La family. I would go back in a heartbeat, I loved everything about it, and I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.



Sonia

A Message from a Good Friend

Where has the time gone? it's 2008 and i realized that i have not been with my "BUCKO" family for two (2) years. how could that be? as many of you know, i usually attend several burn camps a year across the globe, but my schedule has not allowed me to participate in burn camps as of late...this year i made a commitment to attend a couple of programs and BUCKO was at the top of my list. I spoke with Nancy Sinclair about the possibility of re-joining what we know as the Canadian family reunion and she informed me that the door is always open. the dates are marked on my calendar and i am counting down the months & days. i am sssooooo excited about fighting off mosquitoes, eating worms, gagging on smelly socks, KYBO in the middle of the night, but most of all meeting new friends and having an opportunity to spend time with my extended family of survivors & supporters. Life is full of challenges and we as burn survivors have been presented with this tremendous gift of our experiences...to support each other and inspire hope into the lives of people as we travel along our journey from victim-to-survivor. May you continue to treat life well & know that despite the obstacles, you have the ability to design the life you want. *I'll see you @ the morning dip "EH".*

Dennis



What Camp BUCKO Means to Us



The sense of community, even during the family camp weekends, is probably one of the first and one of the biggest undeniable feelings you get once you gather at the dining hall for the first time. The sheer acceptance that shines from every councilor's eyes allows you to leave almost all your cares at the door and just have a fantastic trouble-free weekend. And that's only during the 2 weekends a year that we attend BUCKO family camp! We can only just imagine what Brandon and other survivors must feel when they attend Camp Bucko for a whole week in mid-August.

We can't see the joys he experiences, but we can see the result. At the end of the week when Brandon comes home, he looks wide-eyed and refreshed, tanned and grinning from ear to ear. Usually with one of his creations tied securely around his neck.

Even though we're at the Ex when Brandon gets back, a place he talks about almost as much as Bucko, we always have to take at least 20 minutes out for Brandon to gush about his time at the camp and of all the new friends he has made during his week there before we're allowed to return to the Midway. And even then, he doesn't stop talking about or interjecting little facts about his time there throughout the rest of the day. But you know what? The pure elation that sparkles in his eyes and is written plainly across his face makes it all worth it.

Words cannot express the gratitude that we have for everyone involved in Camp Bucko. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

The Quesnelle Family

Spirit - An Unforgettable Volunteer Experience

I had the chance last summer to attend Camp BUCKO for a week as a volunteer cabin leader. My role consisted of being the guardian to four young girls - three seven-year-olds and a nine-year-old in my cabin. For most of us, it was our first time at camp. I shared this responsibility with a VIT, Allison and a principal, Cindy.

This was one of the most life-changing, emotional, and unforgettable experiences I have had so far. The campers and the volunteers were all incredible people with such great spirits. Their support for each other and their attachment to this wonderful camp was extraordinary. My first glance of this was at orientation weekend for the volunteers. The stories on the second day really touched me and I knew that I was going to remember and cherish this experience.

Camp week was in the middle of August and I was so nervous when I first got up to camp but Kimie assisted me with settling in as I had no idea what to do or where to go (thanks again!). Then the buses pulled in and it didn't matter what feelings I had before, I knew these campers needed my leadership. Once those girls got off the bus I didn't know what to expect but wow, did they have energy. The week went by so fast, with all the activities and trying to get 4 young girls moving quickly was a challenge at times. I watched the girls get over some of their fears, enjoy fellow campers' company and making new friends. I also did this as it was my first time at any camp and I met a lot of great people.



Then it was Friday night and everyone was disappointed they had to go back home. Stories were told, songs were sung and of course the tears fell. I encourage everyone around me to try volunteering, whether intimidating at first or not. It has changed my life and I have become a better person because of it. As I was told at orientation, "once you are in and have experienced Camp BUCKO, you can not leave!" Isn't that the truth? Looking forward to camp this year and seeing everyone again.

Sarah

Camp BUCKO 2008 - August 10th - 16th

Pirates of Grey Lake