

Hope!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home

summer 2018



Southeastern's beach week is free of chores and responsibility for the child, except of course, keeping up with their manners and staying out of trouble!

Beach week is best week of the year

By Cindy Davis

The explosion of excitement was finally released the first beautiful morning we woke up realizing the week we've all been waiting for had finally arrived.

A lot of hard work goes into this trip as it involves three cottages full of teen boys and girls, all the House parents and Administration, and five days full of fun. However, when day 1 begins the child's smile is the goal; and the staff is rewarded greatly by day five.

It's a rush to observe the boys and girls during this week as they experience life on a different level than the 'norm' of the Home. For one, they get to interact freely on this trip, be themselves, relax and engage in the many activities that are planned just for them. For some of them, this vacation is new because they may have never been on one before. For others, they have never been to nor seen the ocean before and the look on their faces as they get a glimpse of the water is priceless! Not to mention jumping into it. This week is free of chores and responsibility for the child, except of course, keeping up with their manners and staying out of trouble! This week is for them and the adults are blessed to serve them.

The setting of this trip is at the beach and lodging in dorms one block away from the beach where we slept and ate good food to our stomach's content; so, of course we are going to play at the beach and make sand castles, bury each other only with our heads and toes sticking out of the sand, surf some waves, splash each other, and get a really great tan! This could very well be the end of the story because in and of itself just this activity for five days is awesome!

But it gets better.

Within this week there is a hard-core putt-putt golf competition that always bring out the child in our adults – and the kids get to witness us in a different light competing with one another and with the kids. Another day we tried our hands out at Wonder

Works where hands-on activities are at it's best in this museum of creativity and skill. Wow, these kids are incredible! Day 3 brings us yet another gift at the Carolina Opry, and the kids went wild over excitement over hearing their favorite songs of the 70's, 80's, and 90's; not to mention the good lookin' young singers that graced our teenagers with autographs at the end. But let me not forget Golden Corral, who fed our appetites to its fullest that evening. The Pool Party allowed our kids to interact with the Beach Camp Staff, which was great fun too.

Every evening we had the pleasure of walking barefoot on the cool, packed sand, looking up at the stars, watching the fireworks up close, and hearing our teenagers laugh. The kids were rowdy and let loose a bit on these walks - they were being kids having fun.

Every day God showed up – yes, He was always there; but by testimony from each child He presented Himself in a new and different way. Every evening our men shared a devotional out of God's word explaining how God works in many ways through His creation, His people, His written and spoken Word. By the end of our week most of our children began to understand how God was showing up to each one of them personally.

The Water Park Day was upon on us on Day 5 and we began to realize the week was winding down to the end. This day became bittersweet; a day we've all been waiting for, because who doesn't like an extreme waterslide or a lazy river? It's pure fun, even if lightning strikes close an hour before we were originally to leave.

And it's a day we must prepare to pack and take home with us the treasures we will carry for the rest of the year; whether it be a sand dollar, a souvenir, a new friendship, or the simple lesson of God's presence. Our teenagers smiled and laughed and cried, which is good enough reason that the Beach Trip is the best week of the year!

Spotlight: Dantonio

The Man with A Fish

Dantonio has many favorite things. His favorite TV show is Hawaii Five-O. His favorite movie is Matilda. He even has a new favorite song. "When we were at Palmetto Bible Camp, they played this one song called the 'Guacamole Song' and I've been listening to it since."

Dantonio likes the book, Fat Boy Vs. the Cheerleaders by Geoff Herbach. "The cheerleaders use the soda machine to take money from the band. The kid tries to raise money in other ways."

Speaking of high school, Dantonio's favorite class is P.E. He plans to graduate early by getting extra credits. After college, he wants to work with computers and technology.

The most intriguing part of his life? Donatello, his pet fish.

"I had been reading in the rule book you are allowed to have a fish," Dantonio says. "At that time, one of our dogs was going through liver failure and we had to put him down. The night we came back, he wasn't there and I busted out in tears. It was tough. Then, I got Donatello. He's quiet. He moves the

pebbles around in the tank."

Maybe Dantonio should add another fish to the tank to keep Donatello company. What name would it have? Perhaps Leonardo, Raphael, or Michelangelo...

Wild times

Exploring the Riverbanks Zoo

During the summer the kids of Southeastern Children's Home were able to do several fun activities. One of which was the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden. This well-known attraction is an hour and a half drive away.

"The animals are neat in how they look and how they act," says Calieb. The zoo boasts over 2,000 animals from 350 species, including elephants, alligators, and monkeys.

James recalls, "We went to one exhibit where there were monkeys behind a glass wall. I had a stick and kept tapping it on the wall. The monkeys would jump on the wall trying to touch the stick. It was cool."

McKenzie's favorite animals were the lions and other big cats. "I saw half of a tiger's head. There was this big rock and half of her head poked out. She was pretty."

Your gifts to us

May 1 - September 15, 2018

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Contact us!

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southeastern children's home

Carowinds Experiences

Another place our kids went this summer was Carowinds, an amusement park located only 90 miles away in Charlotte, NC. When asked what their favorite part of the trip was, most of the kids named the Fury 325. It is the longest steel roller coaster in North America. Is the Fury an intense ride?

Olga says, "I thought I was going to die on the Fury and fall into the parking lot."

"I was promising myself I would get on the Fury," states McKenzie. "As soon as I saw that thing, I said 'Sike.'"

Other favorite roller coasters included the Night-hawk and the Intimidator. Olivia also met some family members at the park. "My aunt, her husband and my cousins came to hang out with me for the day. In order for me to not scream on the roller coasters, I laughed instead. People in front and behind were screaming but we were the only ones laughing."

Roller coasters can be one way of facing fears.

"I didn't think I was going to do some of the rides, like the Fury," says James. "Once I got on, I learned if you don't ride with your hands up screaming, you don't really ride at all. Carowinds was the highlight of the summer for me."

The Carowinds trip allowed the children to enjoy a day with their friends and a day with thousands of children just like them. Thanks to Draexlmaier for making this trip possible

summer 2018

50TH

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