

Roxy's Story – Capturing the Magic

Camp Laughing Waters is one of the most magical places I have ever been, even more magical than Disney World. When you are at camp, it feels like you are accepted straight away for who you are and who you are meant to be. That is the best feeling ever. No matter what you look like, what your personality is, what sports you play, there is always someone there who will share a common interest.

Camp is judgment-free and you can be whoever you want to be. It grows on you like a weed and gives you the biggest family who loves you and supports you, whether you're there for a week or the whole summer.

I started camp at a very young age. I first went to Tweedale for half a week and loved it so much that I begged my mother to sign me up for another program at Laughing Waters, where I did a program that was about learning different languages. Ever since then, camp has become part of my heart and soul. Without camp, I would not have such an outgoing personality, be independent, or even be a leader. The skills you learn at camp don't help you only at camp—they are more life lessons.

The staff members are the people who make camp so special. Girl Scout Camp counselors are the kindest, most caring, understanding people on the Earth, and they are like big sisters. They welcome you and make you feel wanted. Many young girls get homesick from being away from camp for a week the first couple of nights, but by the last night they don't want to leave. It is sort of crazy how your perspective can be switched over the course of a few days.

When you go to camp for as long as I have you start to see the same people in your programs and you make the most powerful friendships. I have met some of my best friends here at camp as well as my role models. Because of camp and what I have learned here, I know who I want to be when I am older. The counselors who come back every summer -- even if they said at the last campfire they wouldn't be back—know what I am talking about. A few years ago I had a counselor who said something that everyone who has gone to Laughing Waters would understand.

“In the middle of camp there is a tree that is not very noticeable. This tree is one of the most important parts for camp. It ties a string to your heart that will follow you and when either camp needs you or you need camp, it pulls.”

I always keep this in mind when I think about returning to camp, and I always feel a tug.