

Kids at Play

with Minds of Clay

Loxahatchee, FL, July 18-25, 2010

Anna Phillips

This year was my first time at the Sunsport Gardens Youth Camp. I had learned about it at the Florida Young Naturist's annual Naked Spring Bash where Morley Schloss encouraged the young people who attended to consider helping at the camp in July. Coming from a family of eight children, I have had lots of experience with kids, and was eager to help out. My boyfriend Robbe and I volunteered as counselors and camped in the kid's tenting area every night of the camp. The children were so welcoming and full of energy! They kept us very busy for those eight days, and by the time our heads hit the pillows every night we were out like lights! It was immediately obvious that the kids were mature beyond their years. They were especially good at sharing. I will never forget the great friendships I made that week.

I had seen Morley explain how he teaches the kids, starting as early as age three, body acceptance and the differences and similarities between boys and girls and what happens to the body when you get older. It was something I wished had been taught to me as a little girl, and I was so interested in seeing how the kids would react to Morley's talks. They listened to him intently and handled all of the information so well. I love how Morley relates to the kids—he doesn't treat them differently than anyone else and in return they are so comfortable asking him anything without being embarrassed. Adults are so afraid to teach kids about their bodies, they think at age three kids aren't ready to learn these things. But kids are so curious! They need to know the naked truth (no pun intended, or maybe it was) or they will just be confused and



THE YOUNGEST CAMPERS romp under the big rainbow-parachute.

embarrassed when changes start taking place. Our bodies are the only thing we come into this world and leave this world with so shouldn't our bodies be the most important thing we can talk about to our children? I think it's a problem that our wonderful bodies are the least-covered subject in schools and in homes these days, and I find it refreshing to know that it is being taught somewhere.

Morley also taught the kids how to treat other people with respect and how important it is to listen and let people know that you care about how they feel. He taught them that it's okay to talk about your, feelings whether you feel happy, sad or really, really mad. These are such basic concepts, but they are so important and not emphasized enough. I think kids are often told what they *shouldn't* do, instead of focusing on positive things like what makes them feel good and how what you

do affects other people's feelings. I feel so privileged to have been a part of Sunsport Garden's Summer Youth Camp, and I think I learned just as much as the kids did, maybe even more—thank you to Sandra Reamer, Morley Schloss, and everyone else who provided this inspiring opportunity for me!

From a Child's Perspective

Morgan Osborne (Age 14)

Sunsport's 4th annual Youth Camp has come and gone again. This, being my first Camp, I was just a tad bit nervous, and although I have been to Sunsport before, this was a totally new experience for me.

This year, there were so many different types of activities planned. Everything from tie-dye, (my personal favorite!), to a nature walk and observation of plant speci-



SLIP-N-SLIDE FUN FOR ALL AGES.



CAMPERS BEAUTIFY THE NEW hot tub area with plants and camper-made concrete pavers.

mens, arts and crafts, kayaking, a body acceptance class, and so much more!

Another year, another new set of people, right? Yes! Most people were willing to try something new, myself included. Kids of all ages, and parents as well, came from all across the country just to attend this one-week camp. The camp was set up by age group this year, something new that they have never done before. The attendees were divided into three groups, the youngest (ages 2-6), the middle (8-12), and the oldest (13-16). I was included in the oldest group. Most of the activities, however, were all together in one group. Other activities were created by age group, to add a little diversity to the groups.

Now, you adults might be saying to yourself that “this sounds like a great thing for your kids to try. But what about me? I’m an adult.” No worries! Sunsport

welcomes families with open arms for this venue. This is a great chance for your child and you to experience naturism, Sunsport style! Your child will learn a whole mess of new things, while having fun and making new friends too!

While I was at the 2010 Youth camp, I learned so much. Some things educated me on the topic of naturism and body acceptance. This was one of the best classes because it really lifted my self-esteem to believe that I am who I am, and that’s what’s perfect about me. Also, some were just for the fun of it! This new experience was completely life changing for me. I’m so glad that I was able to attend, and I recommend it for all kids, (and parents too!) who wish to live and experience something new. I can guarantee that you won’t want to leave! One thing that you’ll be able to keep with you through the time that you’re not at camp will be the good fun and exciting memories!

Comments from the kids:

Marshal Trampus: “I like to be comfortable with my body and myself and to make new friends who don’t abuse people.”

Quintin Perkins: “Tie dye was awesome. I like hanging out with Drew.”

Angie Martens: “I really liked the slip-n-slide. We usually got soapy and painty when we got on it.”

Alex Reamer: “I got to do lots of activities.”

Nicoli Klis: “I like Anna. She’s so pretty. I like going in the canoe with her.”

Andrew Rose: “I like to get free stuff. I like swimming and coloring.”

Leslie Vanaman: “Claymation was awesome and I loved doing the tie dye. I loved going to Haulover Beach. I loved drawing on pages for our notebooks. I loved playing in the pool. I loved having lots of new kids here, especially Vicky, Angie and Genny. I loved Hope reading books and making puppets. I liked finding stuff on the scavenger hunt and learning which plants are poisonous and which aren’t. I liked making candy necklaces; it was my idea. I loved sleeping in a tent and the campfires.”

Vicky Martens: “I loved the drum circles and making puppets and going on the hike and learning what poison plants are. I loved everything and the free stuff. I made new friends, especially Leslie.”

Nathan Vanaman: “I liked claymation; it was fun.”

Peter Lawrence: “I liked roasting marshmallows at the campfires.”

Ty Lawrence: “I liked marshmallows with chocolate at the campfires.”

Genny Martens: “I liked reading stories and playing in the pool.”

Noel Janice: “I liked grasshoppers and chocolate. I liked playing in the pool.”



THE YOUTH CAMP hits Haulover Beach.