



Mountain Camp 2012 Epistle

To all Friends everywhere,

Thirty friends (week one) and twenty-eight friends (week two) gathered in the shadow of the Sawatch Range in Tincup, Colorado from June 23 to July 7, 2012 for fun, community, and testimony of our Quaker values.

As the sun rose each morning, friends were awakened by the joyous voices of singing counselors spreading inspiration. As everyone gathered in a quiet ring before each meal, lovingly made to suit every dietary need, the smells of the meal filled our hearts and prepared us for the coming activities.

The volleyball court was a place of gathering and free time activities every day. As sand flew up and screaming and shouting filled the air, the volleyball bounced back and forth and our ever-shifting "Quaker Rules," made sure that everyone had a good time playing.

The collaboration of the group was truly remarkable. We worshipped every day, with each person's silence illustrated by a doe walking in the woods during one memorable

meeting. When we broke the silence with affirmations one could tell by the meeting of eyes across the circle

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New Verses for our Song

Tune: Railroad on the Great Divide Words by Eric Wright

**Mountain Friends Camp is like heaven they say
Surrounded by the beauty of nature each day
By working together work turns into play
And the friendships we make will be with us always**

For the first two years we travelled and roamed
Now in Tincup Colorado we've found a new home
In cabins and a lodge at 10,000 feet high
We're camping right under the Great Divide

We sent out our laundry in well labeled sacks
But it was all jumbled, when it came back
We sorted and traded, and each got our share
But has someone been wearing my striped underwear?

We all hiked to a pond up an old stagecoach trail
Where we sat under plastic through rainstorms and hail
Then we paddled and played in the warm sunshine air
And we sat in the silence and Spirit was there

We walked to the Friday night square dance in town
When we got to the dancehall there was no one around
So we danced on the lawn and we made our feet fly
And a big double rainbow arced over the sky

We gathered in small groups and each person shared
Each person counted and each person cared
And our friendships grew stronger as each day passed by
With our hearts filled with memories we said our goodbyes

Camper Quotes 2012

"My week at MFC was incredible. Simply that"

"I really enjoyed it! I loved how open and welcoming everyone was and all the cool activities. The food was great and the staff helped me a lot."

"I enjoyed meeting other Young Friends and learning to love each of them."

"I liked the plork because I got to make food, build the railings, and help with the bridge thing."

"[I most liked] the sense of community and friendship. The way the Quaker values are integrated into life is great."

"I liked the community and sense of belonging. It made homesickness less severe."



"Small groups were insightful and helped me to better understand others on a deeper level. Morning meeting brought much needed silence."

"Small groups were amazing both weeks, and became like family, and morning meeting was

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TiK ToK, Quaker Style

Written by and performed by campers at Creativity Night 2012

Tune: TiK Tok by Ke\$ha

Wake up in the morning feelin' like a Quaker/
I roll over to my neighbor and try to wake her/
Before I leave drink some cider
and I'm ready to Plork/
With my sunblock and my hat-I'm safe!
I'm not a dork

I got SPICES on a rack rack/
Simplicity in a stack stack/
Peace has got my back back

Tell the truth, don't be rude/Respect is the thing to do/It's time,
let it shine/This little light of mine/Be kind, use your mind/Give a
compliment some time/Volley-bally oh oh!/Arts'n'crafts'n'cocoa!



Quotes, Cont.

thoughtful and deeply satisfying, and grounding for the rest of the day."

"I love how we were surrounded by nature"

"The location was the best 'cause it was in the middle of the wild.

"Food was amazing! Really tasty and nutritious"

"Morning plork was fun! I liked how we helped out the camp, but we worked together so it was a lot of fun."

"Plork was fun because I got to cook. I loved evening program because we played fun games, sang, and talked about interesting subjects."

My counselors were: "amazing" "good listeners" "awesome" "helped me through the week a supportive and deeply loving way." "so wonderful in so many ways!"

"The CITs were all helpful and eager. Much appreciated. Hopefully there will be more next year!"

"CITs were really responsible and should keep up the good work"

"My favorite part of camp was the campers, CITs and the counselors."

2012 Epistle, Cont.

that a powerful sense of unity existed among us.

Mother Nature challenged our spirits during both of our all-day outings. Pine trees blew in the wind and hail pelted the tarps that our groups huddled under. At times, it seemed as though the elements were relentless. But the rain was appreciated given the fires blazing in other parts of Colorado, and being cold was the least of our concerns because we had laughter and hugs to warm our hearts. The canoeing adventures were particularly memorable. When the sky cleared and boats were pushed into the water, everyone took a turn paddling around the placid lake. And at the end of the day we cuddled by a warm fire in the rustic lodge with hot cocoa and singing into the night.

Another particularly memorable activity was playing "predator and prey" in the woods behind camp. Carnivores stalked omnivores and herbivores who hid breathlessly behind young aspen trees and who cooperatively protected one another by darting out and distracting the outnumbered predators. Food and sustenance wandered the woods while human impact and natural disaster played their part too.

Hiking, plork (play+work) and arts and crafts were daily events, as was having a "secret friend" where we exchanged notes and trinkets. Of course plork, which followed morning meeting, never seemed like work as we cleaned, shoveled, hammered and chopped together, and hiking opportunities allowed us all to be carried away by the majestic beauty of the high Rocky Mountains.

In Tincup, Colorado, nestled at 10,186 feet warm hearts huddled around a fire that will blaze for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Watching Committee, Mountain Friends Camp 2012

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