

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

My Outward Bound experience was probably the best thing I have ever experienced. The most important thing I learned while on course was how to handle situations when you have no patience left. From spending three hours on a bear hang to walking four miles in the wrong direction, as a team we worked together to figure out how to get things done. My instructors taught us not only about our surroundings and how to survive out there, but they taught us things we could use in real life. Whether it was about fair trade objects that pay farmers more or about how to tie a knot on our tarp we listened and understood each things importance.

Throughout the trip we encountered many people, all different and all amazing. The two people who stuck out to me were Diego and Kevin Shon (Kshon). Kshon was probably the happiest person I have ever met. He is a rock climbing instructor and showed how being happy can influence others to be happy and have a better attitude towards anything you do. Diego was our check in person who spent two days with us and went rock climbing with us. Diego is from Argentina and interned this summer only because he did not understand our language enough to run a course. On the days he was with us Diego was dedicated to learn our language better and teach us as much as he could with what English he knew. Diego in a way showed me that it does not matter who a person is, where they have come from, or even if they speak a different language they can teach you something about life. Although challenging I loved the fact that I got to both learn and teach something on the trip.

Something that was challenging for me was rappelling. Having to walk yourself of the edge and rappelling down Devils Cellar, through a cave, and not being able to see anyone above or below made me panic. Canoeing was also challenging because I had never done it before. It took a lot of arm strength and several hours before I started to catch on to how I was supposed to paddle. Surprisingly, I was in the canoe that arrived at camp first on two of the three days we were on the river. Canoeing on the last day my instructors told us how they were impressed that all of the girls were in the back, which was the more challenging spot, and all of the guys were in the front. So I would like to thank you Mr. and Mrs. Svitek for giving me the opportunity to experience the most amazing thing ever.

Sincerely,
Katie Tausendfreundt