

## Willow Creek Stake Girl's Camp

This year our Stake Young Women's presidency and Camp committee decided to use a phrase from this year's youth theme "...perfect brightness of Hope". Our goal was to help our young women realize that through our faith in the Savior and by doing small and simple things we can have hope as we navigate through stormy times of this generation. Each ward picked a primary song that reminds us of those simple things



*6<sup>th</sup> Ward with leader Merilee Hopkin*

We joined together Tuesday June 29th bright and early at Brighton Meadows. Shortly after all the wards set up camp we met together for our opening ceremonies where we welcomed each Ward and sang our camp song along with this year's Youth Song "Press Forward". Each time we gather together we have a devotional, raising or lowering of the flag, Pledge, recitation of the Young Women's theme, scripture, personal spiritual thought and morning or evening prayer. President Esplin dedicated our camp and asked for the Spirit to be there to touch hearts and to protect the camp. Those prayers were heard and we did indeed have a wonderful week.

The stake leaders, (President Peggy Knudsen, counsellors Trina Benson & Judy Fackrell and secretary Kim Kheil with Stake Camp Director Leslie Egan and assistant LeeAnn Meads with Annette Johnson specialist and Katie Olsen and Megan Johnson Youth Camp Leader Advisors) under the direction of Annette Johnson guided the young women through "Hope" activities that allowed them to process how we can have hope in a confusing world.



*President and Sister Esplin in front of the Camp Theme*

Our Stake Relief Society provided our evening meal of sloppy joes, watermelon, chips and yummy cookies! What a treat for our whole camp. Thanks for your love of our Young Women!



*9<sup>th</sup> Ward with leader Marcie Rawle*

Tuesday evening we introduced our Shining Star Awards presented by President Peggy Knudsen who is our very own shining star. These were awards to individual girls who showed exemplary service to others during the day. At the end of devotional each ward was excused to return to their own camps. This year our Stake Leaders decided to allow wards more time in their individual wards for their own creative activities so Tuesday night after our evening devotional was an evening of processing the Hope Activities and camp fire chats in individual wards.



Wednesday morning we met for our daily devotional, followed by our day of service where the girls assembled close to 300 beaded hope bracelets. These bracelets will be distributed in Madagascar and Primary Children's Hospital spreading hope to those who may have little.



*4th Ward with leader Kim World*

That afternoon the girls enjoyed "water day". There were canoes, tubes, zip line and lots of life jackets. Each of the wards had lots of time to play and enjoy the water.



That evening we enjoyed a surprise flash mob by the 6th Ward at evening devotional followed by a rainy "dancing under the stars" in the pavilion. The girls are surprising dancers not to mention some of their leaders. Watch out for their moves! We closed the day with "singing under the stars" where each Ward with flashlights a glow sang their chosen primary song. It was a beautiful and touching experience to hear these Ward young women sing so angelically. The spirit was tangible and sweet and definitely not dampened by the rain.

Thursday morning was a beautiful cool morning just right for our Hope Solo Experience. Sister Knudsen had prepared a wonderful booklet for each camper that when followed took them on a scriptural journey of Hope. Each of us quietly enjoyed the spirit as we read and pondered the words of apostles, prophets and the scriptures that taught of hope and faith. Thank you Sister Knudsen!



***Megan Johnson and Katie Park***

The afternoon was filled with each camp preparing for their dinner with their bishoprics, crafts and certifications. That evening at our closing ceremony the young women truly shown with hope as they performed the camp song and Press Forward for the Stake Presidency and respective bishoprics. We were even treated to the voices of the Esplin's and Staples as they had prepared their own verse to the camp song! President and Sister Esplin then spoke to us sharing personal stories of faith and hope as they had faced difficult trials in their own lives. It was the perfect explanation point to our week of a "perfect brightness of hope".



***3<sup>rd</sup> Ward with leader Abby Hopkins***



***2<sup>nd</sup> Ward***

## Stake Youth Camp Leaders

1st Ward - Sarah Fackrell

2nd Ward - Leah Jensen

3rd Ward - Abbie Hopkin

4th Ward - Maddie Duke

6th Ward - Sabrina Wilhite

7th Ward - Brianna Sperry

9th Ward - Marcie Rawle

As Stake Leaders we felt truly blessed that camp went so perfectly and that our girls were so blessed with safety, protection and that the spirit was rich in abundance!!

Many thanks to all those who spent countless hours of preparation along with the support of priesthood leaders (headed up by our Stake High Councilor Butch Lodder) who donated time to be at camp with us.

