

TLS 2 2011



Daily Report
Simon Sievwright
Kelsey Bakas

Day 1: 24 July, 2011

The TLS II participants arrived at 10:00am this morning! All showed up with their parents except for Valle whose plane did not arrive until 8:30pm. We enjoyed a pizza and salad lunch and then biked over to Becket after putting on our flags, vests and helmets (of course!) and reviewing basic safety tips. We beat the rain to Gibson hall and decided to play some Kung Fu and other teambuilding games while waiting for the van to come so we could unload all of our stuff. We enjoyed some snacks during story-time (*The Prince and the Pauper*) and then moved into our rooms. We then did low ropes for a couple of hours which was fantastic! Just before dinner, we made a card for Valle's birthday. After dinner, we had our health checks and attended chapel. Afterwards, we discussed group rules and had cabin chat :*What are your goals for TLS*. We then got ready for bed and played cards and talked until Valle arrived at 10:45pm!!

Day 2: 25 July, 2011

We woke up a little after 7:30am and got ready for breakfast. Afterwards, we immediately had our swim tests at the waterfront and played WA with YAS while waiting for the lifeguards. Everyone went back to shower while Valle had her health check. We filled out camper evaluations and had some free time before writing our group goals and LOD/SOD responsibilities. After lunch we enjoyed siesta time which mainly consisted of playing cards, reading and visiting with YAS. We gathered on the porch of Gibson for our presentations and then enjoyed some story-time while boys and girls got their nails painted! We also enjoyed watching the Ranger Village rainy day skits. At 3:30, we packed our panniers and played some more Kung Fu before our meeting with Jim and Alysa at 5:00pm. After dinner, we played some running ping-pong and then met up with YAS and REACH for an epic game of Mat Kickball!!! Afterwards, we went back to Gibson to get ready for bed and to enjoy cabin chat: *What do you think you bring to the group and what do you hope to take away from the group*.

Day 3: 26 July, 2011

A beautiful, calm and somewhat cloudy morning greeted us when we awoke. After breakfast, a group went to the Infirmary to keep a group member company while she soaked her foot and they kicked around a soccer ball. The boys then joined an assembly at Ranger Village. We then got ready for our First Bike Ride!!! It took us awhile to do ABC checks and some of us earned ice cream (based on our helmet rule we established), but then we were off. We biked down Hamilton Road and circled back up Route 8. Everyone did really well, though no one really enjoyed the hills! We got back to Becket just in time for lunch and were ready for siesta. We then practiced setting up tents and had just enough time to go over some bike maintenance and putting on panniers when a thunderstorm sneaked up on us. One team member accidentally punctured his tire, which was the perfect learning opportunity for how to patch a hole and replace a tube. After the storm, we had just enough time to clean our chains and gears before heading to Iroquois Village for cook-out. We finished discussing some trip details at the Library and then had cabin chat by the waterfront: *What are you most nervous about for this trip*.

Day 4: 27 July, 2011- Bus to Burlington VT

And we are off!!! After pulling ourselves out of bed at 7:15, we ate a delicious breakfast and made sure that everything was ready to go. We packed our lunches, loaded the bus, and said goodbye to everyone who came to see us off. We had a long, but very enjoyable bus ride to Burlington, VT with a lunch break in Manchester, VT. We arrived at North Beach Campground around 3:30pm, said goodbye to Darlene and Roy, and started setting up our tents at campsites 125-127. Some of the group then went to the store for groceries while the others continued to set up camp, fix a team member's tire again, and go on a short bike ride on the bike path. We admired the beauty of Lake Champlain before heading back to help cook dinner at 6:30. We had chicken fajitas with lots of vegetables, cleaned up, and went to the beach to watch

the sunset. When we got back we had smores, told some riddles, and settled down for cabin chat: *What is the meaning of community service.*

Day 5: 28 July, 2011- Free Day

We slept in until 8:00am and enjoyed our first breakfast- pancakes! We even added some chocolate to them and topped them off with maple syrup, honey, peanut butter, and banana. After cleaning up, we got our bikes and belongings ready for a ride into downtown Burlington. We used the bike path along the waterfront until Main St which we took until our destination: the Skirack. We tuned up some bikes there and were finished by 11am. It was then free time for the kids until 5pm, with a phone call check at 2:30pm and one at 4pm, which happened to be when we all saw each other outside of Ben and Jerry's. At 5pm we rode back to our campsite and got ready for a swim/bath in Lake Champlain with all-natural soap. Dinner was seasoned pork with potato salad and a yummy spinach vegetable salad. We had cabin chat and got into bed by 10:30pm: *What color would the person to your right be.*

Day 6: 29 July, 2011- Service at Vermont Wildflower Farm

Our first day of service!! We woke up at 6:00 and had oatmeal with raisins, brown sugar, and dried apricots. At 7:42, the first van drove to Vermont Wildflower Farm in Charlotte, VT which was a little later than what we had planned. Chris and Angela explained our task: pulling out ragweed, chicory, thistle, and perennial sunflowers from the annual plant garden. It looked like we had demolished it when we were finished, but for those who understood what we were doing and why, we did an excellent job creating more space for the next set of wildflowers. We worked from 9 until 12 with a short break in between. Lunch was ham and turkey sandwiches and then it was back to work for one more hour. Chris gave us thank you gifts and let us take a drink from the cooler before Mullen picked us up at 2:30. As the first van headed back to camp, it started to rain. Kelsey drove back to pick up the second group and they went to the grocery store while the rest hung out around the campground. Those left at the campsite had to move a tent per request of the campground owner which they did beautifully. We had turkey chili and potatoes for dinner and had cabin chat after a very long but rewarding day: *What do you miss the most about Becket/Chimney when you are home, and what do you miss most about home when you are at Becket/Chimney.*

Day 7: 30 July 2011

We awoke to a beautiful morning after a very heavy rain shower at 2am. We were up at 6am, had cream of wheat for breakfast, and were hoping to be on our way to Adam's Berry Farm by 7:30. But we were moving a little slowly given the early hour and it was discovered that a team member's tube needed to be changed so we didn't leave until 8:15. We took a really awesome bike trail and arrived just before 9am. Dave Mitchell set us all up to pick blueberries and worked with us until 11:15. They were so good!!! We picked the hardyblue variety but took a tour of the farm and sampled all of the varieties. Everyone helped with weeding the blueberry plants for an hour after our tour. We finished at noon and Dave let us pick 3 pints of blueberries to take with us. We had lunch in the grass and shade and then biked to the Farmer's Market downtown to say hi to the owner and he gave us an entire flat of blueberries since he had run out of popsicles for us!! We then had free time for 2 hours and biked back to the campsite to get ready for the next day. We made scrumptious homemade hamburgers and a big salad. After dishes, we enjoyed swimming in Lake Champlain and then settled down for cabin chat: *If you could have any super power, what would it be and why.*

Day 8: 31 July, 2011

We finished our first bike day! We woke up at 7:30 and took awhile getting everything ready to go since it was our first time packing up a campsite. We feasted on a fantastic breakfast themed- BLUEBERRY! We ate blueberry pancakes with a blueberry syrup and sides of blueberries. We were off on the bike path by 10:50am after tuning up the bikes and fixing a team member's front brake. We reached our lunch spot

around 1:30pm after only a few issues with panniers and bags slipping off. We arrived at Grand Isle State Park Campground at 3:30pm and set everything up before some of the group went to the store and the others biked down the road for ice cream. The shopping group stopped for ice cream on the way back! We cooked pesto chicken pasta and finished dinner around 9pm. We then gathered around the fire for smores and finished with cabin chat: *If you were on an island for the rest of your life and what is the one object you would bring and who is the one person you would have with you.*

Day 9: 1 August, 2011

We awoke at 8:30am to a beautiful sunshine-filled, breezy morning. We made cream of wheat which got slightly burned and then got ready for our service project which was conveniently located 200ft from our campsite. We stacked firewood for two hours and did an amazing job; we managed to make three big rows. Afterwards we enjoyed left-over pasta, cream of wheat, and PB and J for lunch and then relaxed during siesta. The rest of the afternoon was spent hanging out on the beach reading, skipping rocks, and swimming. At 5, we started making quesadillas which some members had better luck flipping than others. We cleaned up from dinner, enjoyed some massages, and played kung fu in the grass by the bathrooms. We then returned for cabin chat and were in our tents just as the rain started to pour down on us.

Day 10: 2 August, 2011

What a day! We woke up at 7:55 and gathered around Valle's tent to sing happy birthday to her as her wake up call. First we sang it in Spanish, incorrectly however, and then in English. We then ate oatmeal and packed everything up. At 10am, our hopeful departure time, a team member alerted Simon and Kelsey to an issue with his bike. The bike tire was out of alignment and was thus rubbing on the frame. Kelsey, Mullen and the team member quickly loaded the bike in the van and drove to a bike shop on the island that Mullen had seen the day before. As luck would have it, the shop is closed on Tuesdays and it was, of course, a Tuesday. We went back to the campground and the team member and his emergency buddy went in the van with Mullen ahead of us to Plattsburg to get the bike fixed. The rest of us headed on our way and made it to the lunch break where the van met up with us. The initial problem with the bike was fixed, but the de-railer was broken so that was being fixed as we ate lunch. They drove back to the shop and brought it back to the lunch spot and everyone got ready to continue on our way. At this point, the team member noticed that the front brake handle had detached so Simon and Kelsey took a few minutes to fix that. We navigated the sometimes confusing route through Plattsburg and enjoyed the beautiful scenery as we drove down with Lake Champlain on our left the whole way. At 3:30, Kelsey got a flat tire so everyone continued on while Mullen picked her up and drove her to the Ausable Chasm Campground which was 5 minutes down the road. We set up our tents, enjoyed an ice cream at the front office, and had Hobos for dinner. We also ate a delicious cake for Valle's birthday and gave her the card we made as well as one her mom had sent to us. We cleaned up the very few dishes and had smores and banana boats before cabin chat around the campfire: *Tell us about the time when you were most scared.*

Day 11: 3 August, 2011

We rolled out of bed at 7am and got all packed for our bike day while the oatmeal was being made. We were basically ready by our target time of 9am and enjoyed a 10 minute break at the Chasm which was only a two minute ride from the campsite. We biked 11miles in one hour and took a quick snack and restroom break before continuing the next 7 miles to our lunch area. Mullen wasn't there yet so we enjoyed walking in the stream and lying on the rocks for a few minutes before she arrived. After we had eaten our fill of deli meats and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, we played in the river and appreciated the sun for another hour or so and then it was time to be back on the road. We reached Keene Valley at 3:30 and stopped for an ice cream since we weren't meeting Phyllis at the school until 4pm. We pitched our tents behind the school and moved the food into the cafeteria area. Simon, Nat and Mullen went to Lake Placid for groceries with 3 of the team members while the rest cleaned the cooler and food bin and prepared for dinner. We ate cheesy homemade mac'n'cheese!! Most people took showers and relaxed until cabin chat at 10:30: *What inspires you to be the best person you can be.*

Day 12: 4 August, 2011

We got up this morning at 8am and feasted on french toast with canned peaches. After cleaning up, we loaded the van and the Subaru that Nat was driving and went to the trail head of Baxter Mountain. It was only a 15 min ride which we started at 11am and reached the top by 11:40. We were awed by the magnificent views and enjoyed being on top for about 30minutes. We went back to the school and made scrumptious tortilla pizzas. Afterwards, we cleaned up, had some free time, and drove to Lake Placid to do laundry. We ate Subway sandwiches for dinner and had free time before watching "Crazy, Stupid Love" at 7pm. We all met up for Ben and Jerry's ice cream before heading back to Keene Valley with the dance music keeping us moving! Cabin Chat had been postponed until breakfast the following day.

Day 13: 5 August, 2011

Today was a busy day!! We woke up at 7:30, had some oatmeal while having cabin chat: *If the person to your right was a kitchen appliance, what would they be.* We then hurried to the library for our 9am start time for community service. Since it was the weekend of Keene Valley Days, there was a lot for us to do everywhere! Most started by helping move books upstairs in the library for the book sale, while a couple of people were soon needed too help hag quilts in the church for the quilt show. At about 10:30, the rest of the group moved over to the church yard to help carry tents, tables, furniture, set up the food serving area, and weed the flower garden. We finished up by noon and walked back to the school for our lunch of bagel sandwiches. We didn't need to be back until 3:30, so we played some world cup soccer, shot some hoops, and enjoyed plenty of reading. We then walked back to the library to browse for a book for each of us as a gift for all the work we had done. At 4:30 the leader of the day helped serve dinner and the others kept checking in with the library and the church to see if they could help in any way. In the meantime, we read our new books in the shade! We then enjoyed the delicious meal and browsed the selection of baked goods, jewelry and other trinkets at the bazaar. By 7pm the meal was over and we helped clean up before heading back to the school for free time, which included a basketball game with some neighborhood kids and reading our new books. We also played some good games of Kung Fu and then had cabin chat: *If this trip was a book, what would the title be.*

Day 14: 6 August, 2011

We pulled ourselves out of bed this morning between 7 and 7:15 and went to the church at 7:30 for delightful blueberry pancakes and sausages thanks to Larry and Liz. Afterwards, we played kung fu by the church while waiting to help the library set up the book sale again at 9:30. At 10 we went back to the school to get ready for work on the beaver pond. Phyllis joined us as Kathy gave us the tour around the pond and explained all about beavers. We then got busy dismantling the back-up dams and were instantly gratified when the water started flowing through the sections we had been clearing. We were all muddy but very happy with our efforts. We enjoyed the snacks that Kathy had brought for us before heading down to the church for lunch. Some team members had already been at the church helping serve food for an hour and a half. We had some time to relax before 2, when we began taking everything down. Our help was in high demand and we helped everyone who asked for it. At 3:30, a group went to Lake Placid for groceries. The rest swam in the river and packed things up around the school while relaxing as well. We ate peanut noodles and stir fry, hung around the cafeteria eating Oreos and playing games before settling down for cabin chat: *What is the meaning of life.*

Day 15: 7 August 2011

Today we woke up at 7 am and had a lot of stuff to do. We quickly ate oatmeal and started cleaning up the school while also packing all of our stuff. At 10am, Phyllis came by to say goodbye. We then took a quick pit stop at leap-off cycles and the church, to look for a lost water bottle. We said goodbye to the ladies at the bookstore and started biking at 11am. Boy, was that a ride! We had a bit of a rough start at the beginning of the difficult 7.5 mile hill. Kelsey stayed at the back with those who were having a

tougher time. We all met back up for lunch at Lower Cascade Lake and enjoyed a much needed and well-deserved break. A team member got a flat tire which was quickly fixed, especially since Mullen was right behind us with the good pump. We relaxed at the corner of Adirondack Loj road, played some Kung Fu, and appreciated the magnificent views. We then continued the last part of the journey, which included an incredibly steep hill right before the campground. After all the tents were set up, we enjoyed a quick swim in Heart Lake and then prepared and ate Hobo dinners. We filled out mid-evaluations and relaxed before cabin chat: *Leader of the day burned a \$1 bill and asked how everyone felt when he did it.*

Day 16: 8 August 2011

Today we woke up at 7:45am and had oatmeal before heading out to do service work. We met up with Brendan and Megan at 9am in front of the Loj. We found out we were going to be pulling invasive species at Marcy's Field in Keene Valley, so we quickly cleaned out the van and distributed ourselves among the three vehicles. We pulled out buckthorn along the trail--there was so much!!! We took a break at 12 for lunch and taught Brendan and Megan how to play Kung Fu. Right before 3, we finished off with a couple more rounds of Kung Fu. Afterwards, we went back to the campground and Mullen and Simon and part of the group went to the grocery store. The rest of the group relaxed, took showers and got ready for dinner. We ate Jack's minute-fried steaks with couscous and finished with s'mores. We had cabin chat around the fire: *If the president showed up at your door and could grant you one wish, what would you ask for.*

Day 17: 9 August 2011

This morning we rolled out of bed at 7:30 and got ready for a hike! We ate cream of wheat and cleaned up before heading to the trail. It was fairly clear and mostly warm. We started at 9:40 and reached the top of Algonquin Peak at 12:40. It was so cold and windy up there but so beautiful!!! We enjoyed our packed lunches and took a few photos before heading back down. It was unbelievably rocky at the top but we all made it down safely. We got back just at 4 and it had been raining for a little bit. By 4:30, the rain was pouring down on us. We set up another tarp and moved the table to avoid as much as the rain as possible. We made tuna and rice dinner, even though nobody wanted to cook. Kelsey then made chunky cinnamon applesauce and then we all shared some oreos. The rain was still pouring down on us with a few claps of thunder. We all got into our soaking wet tents at about 8:30pm. Cabin chat was postponed until breakfast tomorrow.

Day 18: 10 August 2011

Today we woke up at 7am to a crystal clear, cool morning. We made it through the night! It had stopped raining at 10pm so things didn't get much worse during the night. We left Adirondack Loj at about 10 am and we arrived at Saranac Lake at noon after a couple of quick stops. We kept biking until a bit before 1 when we stopped at the top of the hill to eat our packed lunches. We ate quickly since the clouds were looking very ominous. We hit a rain shower that lasted for about 30 minutes before clearing up. As we entered the town of Tupper Lake, there was a BIG hill and we took a little break at the top. Kelsey fixed her flat tire that she got before the hill. We made it to our campsite, Little Wolf Campground around 3pm and set everything up. The wind and sun helped dry everything out while we relaxed on the beach. We cooked fajitas under the pavilion while a small thunderstorm came upon us. After cleaning up and relaxing before having the combined cabin chat under the stars on the beach and seeing 5 shooting stars: *What makes the perfect Becket/Chimney counselor? When were you the happiest in your life?* It started to rain just as we finished up at 10 so we turned in early for bed.

Day 19: 11 August 2011

Today we got up at 7.30 and it was very chilly, cloudy and windy. We took awhile to pack everything up, then ate oatmeal and packed our lunches. We then set off into a very strong headwind that persisted all day. After about 10 miles, it was all uphill and downhill the rest of the way until the last 5 miles which

were fairly flat. Some of the uphill were very steep!! It was very hard since our muscles were still tired from our previous bike and hike day. Everyone was in really good spirits though and we enjoyed a very picturesque lunch at Long Lake around 12:15. Around 2pm, a team member had some trouble with a headache, so a few people had a 30 minute break when we were about 20 minutes from our campground but then we were ready to finish. We ate delicious pasta with red vegetable and meat sauce and had pudding for dessert. At 9pm, we had cabin chat and then got ready for bed: *When facing a big challenge, what helps you overcome it.*

Day 20: 12 August 2011

We awoke to a beautiful, clear day at 7:30 and we ate oatmeal after all the tents were packed up. We were on our bikes by 9:10. A team member's knee was hurting her when she got up, but she decided to see how it would do while biking. She was able to do the whole day, though we left her panniers in the van. We stopped at the top of a big hill to refill water, and then cruised down the 2mile downhill! It felt like a rollercoaster! We ate lunch alongside the Hudson River and were back on the road by 12:15. Everyone arrived at Wild Waters by 2pm and we enjoyed some free time after camp was all set up. A group went to Warrensburg to get groceries, and then came back to make a wonderful Thai peanut chicken for dinner. We relaxed and enjoyed the stars until cabin chat: *What would you do if you knew you could not fail.*

Day 21: 13 August 2011

Today was very refreshing! We started off like everyday, by getting up at 7:30, eating oatmeal and cleaning up. But then, we went white water rafting!! We got in the raft at 11:15 after waiting in line with the dozens of other boats gathered. Our guide, Mark, was wonderful and kept us all from falling overboard, though we all decided to jump in and go swimming at the appropriate areas. The 15miles through the Gorge section of the Hudson River were beautiful and we definitely enjoyed a different mode of transportation. Lunch was turkey sandwiches, apples, and crackers that the guides had brought. We left the river at about 3, went back and changed, and enjoyed the pasta and salad that the company had cooked for all of the customers. We had a relaxing evening and made sure we were ready for the next day. After smores, we had cabin chat around the fire: *What do you see yourself doing in 10 years.*

Day 22: 14 August 2011

We awoke at 7am and packed everything up for our short bike ride to Lake George Battleground Campground. We devoured oatcakes-oats mixed with pancake batter. A team member noticed that his tire was flat so we fixed that before heading out. We also played some kung fu, and left the site at about 10am. We enjoyed our short bike ride and arrived at the campsite a bit before noon. We had free time until 5:30, which included time to do laundry. We ate pork stir-fry and rice and oreos were for dessert right before cabin chat: *How do you define family.*

Day 23: 15 August 2011

We got up at 7:30 and started making oatmeal when our service partner called and cancelled due to weather. It had started raining during the night, and wasn't going to stop any time soon! So, we went back to bed and hung out around the campsite before making soup and sandwiches for lunch. We then shuttled to the Aviation mall in Glens Falls where we watched a movie and wandered around the mall. At 7:15, we ate together at Ninety-Nine and shuttled back to the campground. We decided to postpone cabin chat.

Day 24: 16 August 2011

Today we got up at 8am and prepared for our last bike ride. It wasn't raining too much anymore so we quickly packed up and got on the road by 10:20 with the hope that we would avoid any more rain. We did it! We had a great last ride, the only hitch being Oliver's flat tire about 15min from the Moreau State Park campground. We set up camp and ate our packed lunches. The rest of the day was spent showering, relaxing, and helping Mullen make wonton soup and fried rice-delicious!! We ate smores after cleaning

everything up and then played some night time Kung fu! The leaders of the day for today and yesterday led a combined cabin chat: *What is something about you that makes you confident. What are you insecure about.*

Day 25: 17 August 2011

We woke up at 9am and ate delicious home-fries for breakfast. We relaxed around the campsite, and some decided to head to the lake for a swim. After eating turkey and ham sandwiches for lunch, we shuttled into Saratoga Springs for our final free day. At 6, we met back up and ate a scrumptious meal at Max London. After an hour of more free time, we reconvened at Ben and Jerry's to attack a Vermonster!!! It was taken care of in about 5 minutes. We then did cabin chat in the park and then shuttled back to the campsite and went to bed: *What is something that you got out of this trip. In 10 years, what will remind you of the person to your left.*

Day 26: 18 August 2011

We headed back to Becket/Chimney Corners today!! We awoke at 7 and made oatmeal and some oatcakes for breakfast today. We completely unloaded the van so Mullen could vacuum it and then loaded everything back up. We were ready for the bus at 10:30, so enjoyed playing Kung fu and a javelin competition with our flags until the bus came at 11:30. We quickly loaded it and were on our way! We got back to camp at about 2pm and unloaded the bus and moved into lower Four Seasons at Chimney. We had free time and took a tour around the camp and the lake, with a crazy game of freeze tag and Alaskan baseball on the Senior Ball field. We had free time for an hour before dinner, which was steak and potatoes. After we checked in at the infirmary, we played four square and danced to the music from the Arts Center. We moved inside at 8:30p due to thunder, and listened to music, danced and played kung fu before chat at 9:45pm: *How did you find Becket/Chimney Corners, and what makes you stay.*

Day 27: 19 August 2011

Today we woke up at 7:45 and enjoyed breakfast in the Chimney Dining Hall. Afterwards, we cleaned all of the group gear and put everything back in the cage. After lunch, the kids had their conference and evaluation forms to do for Nat, and then the leaders did final conferences while the slideshow was made. Final Banquet was so much fun, especially since there was a huge thunderstorm while we were eating. After packing most of our belongings and cleaning up, we all enjoyed a nice sauna before quick showers and getting ready for bed. For Cabin chat, the leader of the day had us do bunk chat, which meant that everyone wrote a note for every person on the trip on each person's paper. We didn't go to bed until 1am.

Day 28: 20 August 2011

We got up at 7am, ate breakfast at the dining hall at 7:30 and packed everything up. We moved our belongings to the barn, cleaned the Four Seasons, and played kung fu while waiting for the parents to arrive at 10. We also practiced the slide show and said goodbye to Valle since she had to leave at 9:30. It was a sad but happy day, knowing that we had all grown so close and accomplished so much!