

# YAS II 2011

Yellowstone Adventure and Service



## Final Report

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## **July 24<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **Camper Arrival and Orientation**

The campers and their parents arrived around 12:00 and had a brief orientation in the barn with Jim Brown and Alysa Austin. Everyone introduced themselves, had some lunch, and talked about any last minute questions concerning the trip. After families departed, the group played a few games then headed over to Camp Becket to move into Gibson Hall. After everyone settled into rooms, the leaders covered goals and expectations for the trip, and following that the group did some challenges at the low ropes course. After a few challenges everyone seemed to be more comfortable together. One memorable moment was when the team managed to tie their shoes together and could not get them apart! During the afternoon, meetings were held concerning group goals, leader of the day responsibilities, and meal planning. After a rousing welcome at dinner, the group enjoyed a more reflective period at chapel and had a chance to focus on individual goals. The group hiked to rocky point at dusk and had our first cabin chat before returning to Gibson Hall for the night. The group also started leadership packets so that we could do individual meetings the following day. Chat questions: what do you bring to this group? And what do you hope to take away from being a part of this group?

## **July 25<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **Camper Orientation at Camp Becket**

After another hot night in the Berkshires, we woke up to a final relief from the heat and had breakfast in the Becket dining hall. The day was spent planning for the adventure ahead. To accomplish this, we began by dividing the group up and acting out scenarios of what we might encounter out west, going through a comical rendition of what not to do followed by thoughtful discussion of the right choice. Afterwards we packed our bags and hauled them down to the infirmary, both to weigh them and to prepare ourselves for lugging suitcases around for the next month. Just before lunch we began our first set of one on one meetings. After lunch, we got our gear and began to familiarize ourselves with it, first checking to make sure we had everything we were supposed to, and then practicing setting up the tents before we actually got to the campsites. We even had a race to see which group could set up and take down their tent the fastest. After having been cooped up inside for some of the day due to the rain, the group went down and played gaga-ball in the rain, which was almost everyone's highlight of the day. We then met with Jim and had some free time. After dinner, we played kickball with the other TSP groups and came back for chat, where we were asked "What is a piece of art that has influenced you," After chat, everyone headed to bed in anticipation of a very early wake up.

## **July 26<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **Travel from BCCYMCA to Bozeman, Montana**

The group woke up around 2:15 am to pack the bus and depart for Bradley International Airport. After saying goodbye to Alysa, the campers successfully checked all of their bags (one bag weighed exactly 50 pounds!), and got through security with no issues. The campers did a great job staying together as a group during our first interface with the public, and made it safely to Chicago where there was a one hour lay-over. The campers enjoyed purchasing snacks and coffee, and joked around while we waited for the next flight. The group arrived in Bozeman and met Andrew Connor, who dropped off our bus. We loaded the gear into the bus, stopped at Subway for a nice lunch, and went grocery and supply shopping for the first few days of the trip.

The group finally arrived at Bear Canyon Campground and set up tents, got out the cooking supplies, and went swimming in the pool. A thunderstorm passed by without any rain so our leaders of the day were able to cook a spaghetti and garlic bread meal with broccoli on the side, which everyone really enjoyed. After dinner, cleaning procedures were covered, and we cleaned up. Everyone had a little free time before chat, and then chat was held by the edge of the property on a hillside overlooking the beautiful mountain sunset. After reflecting on our first day of the trip, the group got some well needed rest. Chat question: If you could find out what happens after death, would you and why or why not?

### **July 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 Travel to Gallatin National Forest**

We woke up early in anticipation of more supply shopping and also a long drive down to the National Forest. Half the group stayed at Bear Canyon, taking down camp and then relaxing together, while the other half, made up for the next three pairs of leaders of the day, drove to Walmart to grocery shop for our three nights at a somewhat remote campground. The shoppers also picked out a new tent to replace the one that broke, and a new trip camera, which was pink! After the shopping trip, the group loaded up gear and started a beautiful two hour drive to West Yellowstone, MT. We stopped along the Gallatin River for a scenic lunch in tall grass with views of beautiful rock faces on both sides. We then arrived at the Lonesome Hurst campground, a rustic but huge plot of land along Lake Hebgen. We unloaded our gear and set up camp. After the tents were set up, the group took a walk recommended to us by our service partners up a short path called Contour Road, and from there we could see the mountains surrounding the valley as well as much more of the lake itself. There we took a bunch of pictures, making each participant pose and taking some silly group shots. We also had our first “feelings check in,” and talked about how everyone was doing so far. Everyone was really happy and excited to be in such a beautiful place. Arriving back at the campsite, we jumped into the cold but refreshing lake. As we dried off, the cooks made a great meal of eggplant parmesan while the rest of the group all hung out by the kitchen. The campground hosts came over and introduced themselves, thanking us for our volunteer work both with praise and firewood. Following dinner, we had chat and went to bed pretty early to prepare for our first day of service in the morning.

Chat Question: Highlights of the day, and what super power would you have if you could have one?

### **July 28<sup>th</sup> 2011 Full Service Day with the Gallatin National Forest**

The group got up early to eat breakfast and pack delicious wraps for lunch. Our service partner, Ranger Brian, met us at the Lonesome Hurst Campground and we followed him to the Wilkins Creek Trail Area. At the trail head, Brian covered safety and what to do in the event of a bear encounter before we started working. We started the morning by hiking about a mile with our tools, and then did some serious trail maintenance. Half the group went up the trail to block off one side of the path and narrow the trail so ATVs and other vehicles could no longer pass through. We “junked up” the trail with logs and branches, creating a path that was usable for hiking and horseback riding. The other half of the group worked lower on the trail and created water bars to help control erosion. The group dug holes and buried logs to block off part of the path, and to re-route water to the sides of the trail. Everyone really enjoyed the work, and at lunch time our service partner Marianne Baumberger taught the group about the history of the National Forest, fire safety, and bear awareness. She also explained the difference between a National Park, and the National Forest, and taught us about some of the local trees. We also

learned that Brian is a firefighter, and he talked to us about what it's like to be dropped via helicopter into the forest to fight fires. An interesting fact that we learned is that fires can promote growth in the forest, so fires do not always need to be put out. The group accomplished a great amount together, and later at chat most people said that the trail work was the highlight of their day. We drove back to the campground and went swimming in Hebgen Lake then the girls went on a supply run while the boys started dinner. We had hamburgers, veggie burgers, salad and hotdogs for dinner, and afterwards had fudge-sicles as a treat for dessert. At chat many people thanked Brian and Marianne for our amazing day of service. The chat question was: Who has given you the best advice, and what was the advice?

### **July 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 Full Service Day with the Gallatin National Forest**

We woke up for an early breakfast before starting our second and last service day with the Gallatin National Forest rangers. Around 9am our service partner, Ranger Brian, came by the camp site, and we followed him to Wilkins Creek again. Our assignment for the second day of trail maintenance was to re-route the trail so that it was less steep, and could only be accessed by people on foot or horseback. The group worked together to reshape the mountainside into a level trail. The final result was a completely usable trail designed for animals and humans, but inaccessible to ATVs and vehicles. The group also spent a good amount of time "junking up" the old trail, so the new path would be evident to hikers. After lunch, Brian took us on a mile long hike to the creek where we relaxed. We were sad to say goodbye to Brian, but we got some great advice for our free day before we left, and everyone thanked him for all of his help. We headed back to Lonesome Hurst, and went swimming again, and some people swam all the way across the lake. We played ninja destruction on the beach before cooking tacos for dinner. Everyone really enjoyed the food after the day of hard work. We played "salad bowl" after dinner, which is similar to charades, and everyone laughed a lot. Afterwards we got ready for bed and had chat. The questions were: if you could save the world with a kitchen utensil, what would it be, and what is your earliest memory?

### **July 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 Activity Day in West Yellowstone and Rodeo**

The group got to sleep in a little after working so hard on service projects for two days. After breakfast we packed up the Lonesome Hurst Campground, and left a "thank you" note for our hosts, the Bordens, who provided us with firewood every night, and let us play with their dog, Maggie. Ranger Brian helped the group come up with plans for the activity day, which took us around Hebgen Lake. We drove north to the Idaho-Montana line, and saw the Continental Divide. The group took some photos and played "wah" on the divide. After the stop, the group drove to the Earthquake Lake Visitor Center, and learned how Quake Lake was formed. We continued around Hebgen Lake, and could see the area we had been working in and our campsite from the other side of the lake. The group continued to a trail head where we hiked 3 miles up a ridge, and passed by two very blue lakes. From the ridge the group could see much of the Hebgen Lake region, including the roads we had been driving on for much of the day. Following that, we headed to the West Yellowstone KOA and enjoyed hot showers and a wonderful dinner of pizza bagels and salad. After dinner we drove just across the road to the West Yellowstone Rodeo. At the rodeo, everyone enjoyed their first taste of cowboy culture, and some participants even got in on the action, chasing a baby cow! The horse racing, bull riding, and entertainment was great, and we returned to the KOA afterward for chat. The chat question was: What was your most embarrassing moment? The conversation led to some good laughs before bed time.

### **July 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 Chico Hot Springs and Travel to Yellowstone National Park**

We woke up early at the West Yellowstone KOA in order to drive across Yellowstone National Park and make it to our brunch reservation at Chico Hot Springs, which is just north of the northern entrance. We grabbed some snacks at a gas station and then entered the park for the first time. The drive through the park was unbelievable as we passed geothermals on both sides of the road and passed through different elevations, each with very different looking ecosystems. It was truly scenic. We arrived at the hot springs to a huge breakfast buffet, a nice break from cold breakfasts as well as cooking in general. Some of the vegetables were grown on site in an organic garden. Everyone ate very well! After we had digested a little bit, we entered the hot springs pool, where the group relaxed, swam around and discussed our feelings with another feelings check in. Most people felt warm and content, and swam and relaxed for almost three hours. Once we were done relaxing, the group looked at the gift shop and made some purchases. Leaving Chico hot springs, we split up in Gardiner and half of the group went grocery shopping while the other half shopped along the main drag. Meeting up soon after, the group drove to the Overlook Campus of the Yellowstone Association, a beautiful cabin overlooking the Yellowstone River and mountains behind it. Taking full advantage of the spectacular kitchen, the group ate an elaborate dinner of Pad Thai. Relaxing like a family in the glorious house, we played a game of Salad Bowl. The group was so happy to be in a nice cabin, and to be able to all hang out together in the evening. For chat we talked about what animals other group members resembled, and described our best friends.

### **August 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 Free Day at the Boiling River**

Today we went and explored the northern section of the park, entering from Gardiner, MT. We woke up to a big breakfast of omelettes and bacon, one of very few warm breakfasts due to our busy schedule. Each person even got to order what they wanted on the omelet, and since we had a toaster, we had toast on the side. After a relaxing morning, we packed lunches and headed out towards the trailhead for the Boiling River. We hiked a little under a mile down a steep slope, past Dude Hill, reaching a section where the hot stream of the Boiling River intersected with the Madison River. The water was like a hot tub, and the entire group loved the experience. We relaxed in this natural bathtub for three hours, after which we drove to the Mammoth Hot Springs area, eating a late lunch at some picnic tables by the visitor center. Afterwards we walked over to and checked out the Mammoth Hot Springs, which got us excited to learn more about the geo-thermals. On our way back to the house, we again stopped to do some grocery shopping, giving half the group some free time to walk around in Gardiner. For dinner we had a delicious meal of pasta with feta, tomatoes and chicken and for desert we had ice-cream. At night, we finished up laundry and went to bed early in anticipation of a long drive and a day of service the following day. For chat we talked about our highlights of the day, and what makes us most relaxed.

### **August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 Full Service Day with the Gallatin National Forest**

Today the group woke early to move out of the beautiful Yellowstone Association lodge, and meet Marianne Baumberger for a service project in the Gallatin National Forest. The group was sad to leave the lodge, but got to enjoy banana bread, a full cooked breakfast, and all the comforts of home while staying there. For the service project, the group split in half and worked on separate projects for the morning, then re-convened after lunch to do work together. Half the

group helped clean up a National Forest Service cabin to prepare it for guests with Ranger Kimberly, while the other half of the group cleaned up campsites with Ranger Marianne. When we reunited the group worked on painting picnic tables, cleaning wash houses, and digging out fire pits at a remote campsite. Everyone gave a huge thank you to Marianne for working with us again, and she thanked us in turn for our help. After the service projects, the group picked up supplies and drove into Yellowstone National Park to camp at the Bay Bridge Campground on Yellowstone Lake. As we drove over a ridge and into the valley, the lake became visible and we were astounded by its beauty. We set up camp and had a chili dinner before walking over to the amphitheater for a riveting lecture about Bison with the Park Rangers. Afterwards, we had chat and got to bed early in preparation for our Mammal tour the next day. Chat Question: When do you feel most like a kid? And When do you feel most like an adult?

### **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Yellowstone Association Guided Tour: Mammals**

Today was our first guided tour of Yellowstone with the Yellowstone Association. We woke early to meet our guide in time for some morning animal watching. We met Ashea, our guide, at a local hotel lobby and loaded up into our bus. She took us to many different spots during the course of the morning. Starting in Hayden Valley, we saw hundreds of Bison. Using her telescopes we were able to really watch them interact. She explained and showed us courtship rituals as well as calves nursing from mother bison. Using these same telescopes we also saw a herd of elk on a distant mountain. Moving to a different spot, we saw a wolf pelt, and though we did not see wolves, Ashea talked to us about their role in Yellowstone. Using the same telescopes we saw a bunch of different kinds of birds including Sandhill Cranes, and a nest of Ospreys. At the end of the morning, we saw the first of many views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone with its epic waterfall. For a beautiful lunch spot, we took a hike up Mount Washburn, stopping to eat with a beautiful view. As we walked up, Ashea showed up interesting plants and trees and explained the eccentricities of this forested landscape as well as showed us the caldera of the supervolcano we were in. After a beautiful lunch, she showed us to different spots around the Canyon, pointing out the beautifully colored sections of rocks. Parting ways, we went to another campsite nearby for showers and had a dinner of stuffed peppers just as a hail storm came in. We ate on the bus and then sat by the fire until chat, which asked us to share something the group did not already know about you.

### **August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Service Day with the Yellowstone Association**

The group got up extra early to look for wildlife on the drive through Dunraven Pass to our service project at the Yellowstone Association Lodge. We were rewarded with beautiful views of the Caldera, a marmot, several Bison, and a very scenic drive through the park. The group Arrived at the Yellowstone Association Lodge and met our service partner, Mike. The project for the day was to re-route a trail down to the Yellowstone River, and to build cairns (distinct piles of rocks) to mark the trail. Prior to our project, several different foot paths existed, but there was not a major route to the river, and the trails beyond it. The goal of the project was to block off the smaller trails and create a dominant one. The work was strenuous and hot, but at one point, the group created an assembly line to pass the rocks to the top of a hill, which really called upon and show cased our ability to work as a team. Everyone contributed to the effort, and we were able to mark over a mile of trail with the cairns. Mike surprised everyone with cold sodas at lunch time, and ice cream sandwiches at the end of the project. After the project, the group headed back to the Boiling River to relax and clean up after a very hot and dusty afternoon

of service. Everyone was delighted to return to our favorite spot in Yellowstone! At the river we saw Elk crossing through the water downstream, and on our way back to the bus, we saw over 20 Elk at once along the trail. For dinner we enjoyed Buffalo Chicken wraps, which we ate picnic style at the Mammoth Visitor Area. We got back to the camp site just in time for chat. The question was if you could be any fictional or historical character, who would you be and why?

### **August 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 Yellowstone Association Guided Tour: Geothermals**

Today was our second tour day with the Yellowstone Association and Ashea, our tour guide. After an early wake up, we met Ashea at the Old Faithful visitor center an hour away. There she took us for a quick walk around Old Faithful, showing us other geysers and hot springs along the way, and explaining the science behind this unique natural phenomenon. At 9:41, we saw our first of three of Old Faithful's eruptions as waters surged more than a hundred feet into the air. We then walked around the entire Upper Geyser Basin, watching what Ashea told us was an unusually large number of geyser eruptions. The group particularly liked the springs that were so hot that they appeared bright blue. The group was pretty amazed and intrigued by everything they saw, asking our guide impressive, intelligent and insightful questions as we went along. Our group was particularly amused by Ashea's temperature gun, shooting every hot spring to understand how different temperatures produced very different looking bacteria. As we were leaving the Upper Geyser Basin we saw our second of Old Faithful's eruptions. We ate lunch along the Firehole River and then went to explore and middle and lower geyser basins. We saw the famous Artists' Mud pots. Ashea took us on a hike up a hill, asking that we look at the ground until she told us to turn around, successfully surprising everyone as we reached the top and looked down to see the Grand Prismatic, the largest hot spring in Yellowstone, and the third largest in the world. This view was almost everyone's highlight of the day and everyone was grateful for the surprise. At the top, the group took many pictures. Coming down, we quickly checked out another hot spring just as a storm rolled in. We parted ways with Ashea at the Old Faithful visitor center just in time to see our third and last eruption. We drove back to camp and ate a delicious Indian meal of lentils and green curry with naan bread. We were delighted to see an old, wise-looking Bison pass right through our campsite before chat! Chat asked us to think about a place that held many different memories for us and describe it to the group.

### **August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Free Day and Travel to West Yellowstone**

The group packed up the Bridge Bay Campsite and prepared to leave Yellowstone National Park. On our way out, the group decided to follow Ashea's advice and do a nice 4 mile hike to the Mystic Falls. The trail head was situated around the Sapphire Pool, a hot spring that we had not seen yet, and led us to an overlook where we could see much of the terrain we had explored the day before during our geothermal tour. A few people even witnessed Old Faithful erupting from a distance, but we all took in the miles of hot springs spread below us. The hike led to a gorgeous 70 foot waterfall, where we stopped to have lunch. Everyone really loved the hike, and enjoyed seeing the colorful geothermal pools before hopping on the bus and travelling south to West Yellowstone. On our way out of the park, we saw coyotes in the same area where we had spotted one "mousing" the day before on our tour with Ashea. We also stopped at an "animal traffic jam" in hopes of seeing a bear, we even heard other visitors describe a "grizzly wolf" in the area, but it turned out to be an Elk. In West Yellowstone, we did laundry at a laundry mat so that everyone could wash clothing at the same time, and then enjoyed free time in the town.

Most people bought t-shirts and snacks, and some even had coffee! Next the group headed to the West Yellowstone KOA, where everyone enjoyed hot showers and relaxed. There we did mid-program evaluations, and each participant re-examined the leadership packets with the trip leaders. Taking full advantage of the handy outdoor kitchen, we had a dinner of quesadillas and had a very chilly and windy chat. The questions were when did you last feel most confident, and when did you last feel terrified?

### **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Travel to the Grand Tetons National Park**

Today we woke up early to a delicious hot breakfast of chocolate chip pancakes, and everyone enjoyed a somewhat relaxed low-key morning. After breakfast we took down camp, loaded up the van and started the drive to the Tetons. We drove through Yellowstone National Park for much of the way. Entering Grand Teton National Park, the group was amazed by the views we saw of the Tetons to the West. We arrived at the rustic but beautiful Gros Ventre Campground and set up camp. Because it was still early in the day, we drove to String Lake for a short hike around the shore. When we reached a scenic beach the group went swimming in the crystal clear but incredibly cold water. We made it back to camp to have mac and cheese with chicken sausage for dinner. Following dinner, we relaxed around a big fire. Chat that night asked us to think about what we would do if we knew were living our last day.

### **August 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 Full Service Day with the Center for Historic Preservation**

The group rose early for our first service day with the Center for Historic Preservation. On the bus we listened to “pump up” music to help us wake up and get ready for the service projects. The group met Grand Teton Park Ranger Al Williams in Mosse, WY, and followed him up the narrow winding road to the White Grass Dude Ranch. On the way to the work site, we saw a huge moose in a pond alongside the road. At the ranch, the group split into three groups for the morning, each focusing on a different area of restoration. One group hauled logs and other debris to Al’s truck so that he could remove it from the ranch. Another group applied acrylic to the cracks in the log cabins, using an elaborate 4 person system to get the job done. The acrylic group also helped remove the old mortar and applied foam backing to the cabin, which allowed us to see the full process of mortaring the cabins prior to applying the lime mortar. A third group worked on the lime mortar portion of a different cabin, and successfully mortared the entire cabin. At lunch we learned more about the White Grass Dude Ranch, and found out that the buildings we were working on dated back to 1902 or 1903, which is as old as Camp Becket! We learned a lot about historic preservation from service partners Al, Jeff, and Erik, and we also found out that the Park Rangers and the Center for Historic Preservation work together in order to do the best possible work in the parks. Everyone made a great effort and there was a visible change in the cabins we were re-furbishing. During lunch we learned that the finished cabins would one day house students while they did training in historic preservation. After the work was done, we headed back towards the camp site, stopping at a little store for refreshments along the way. The leaders of the day for the next few days went on a grocery shopping trip while the rest of the group started making unique pizza burgers for dinner. The group headed to bed early so that we could prepare for another great service day the next day! The question for chat was what reality TV show would you be on?

### **August 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 Service Day with the Western Center for Historic Preservation**

We woke up early for our second service day with the Center for Historical Preservation. We met Al and followed him again to the Dude Ranch. There the group split into two groups for the day. One half of the group followed Al to a second site, where they repainted newly added roofing onto a historical building to help make it look authentic. The other half stayed at the ranch, continuing the work from the previous day of acrylic chinking as well as adding new tasks, such as cleaning off bark from the logs. The group removed the bark from 12 logs, and we were told that the logs would be used to make a cabin universally accessible for individuals in wheelchairs. The acrylic group managed to cover the entire cabin that had been started the day before. A few people also stained a cabin and re-worked the lime mortar to help it set. After a long day of work the group said goodbye to our fantastic partners at the Center for Historic Preservation. We drove back towards our campsite stopping for a swim in the Kelly Warm Springs along the way. After soaking for a while, we headed back to Gros Ventre. For dinner we had gyros. For chat we talked about what we would change about the world if given the chance to change something.

### **August 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 Hiking Day in Grand Teton National Park**

The group awoke to a pancake breakfast prior to our long hiking day in Grand Teton National Park. We packed up the Gros Ventre campsite and set up at the remote and scenic Red Hills Campground. The Red Hills site was ten miles down a dirt road, and we were the only people at the site when we arrived. There were gorgeous red rocks stretching above the Gros Ventre River, and we later found out that the valley is a critical area for Pronghorn migration. Every year, hundreds of Pronghorn pass through a very narrow gap right near where we camped! We continued to the park and started our 8 mile hike, which consisted of mostly flat terrain, around Leigh Lake. Toward the end of the hike, the group stopped at a picture perfect beach where some people took a swim. We were surprised with some Snickers bars, and spent about an hour relaxing on the beach and enjoying the beautiful peaks of the Tetons, which towered around the lake. After the hike, we stopped at the Kelly Warm Spring again for a nice warm swim, and drove into the Red Hills campsite. We had a late but very filling dinner of tortellini, ravioli, and salad. After dinner the whole group helped clean up before chat. The chat question for the night was if you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

### **August 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 Service Day with the Jackson Wildlife Foundation**

Today we woke up early at the Red Hills Campground. Around nine, some of service partners from the Jackson Wildlife Foundation showed up at our campground and guided us along a very bumpy dirt road towards the section of wilderness where we would be working. As we drove, our partner Chuck stopped us every so often to point out and explain different parts of the wilderness. He explained to us that the lands were very important for many different types of migratory animals. We even got to see a pronghorn sitting majestically in the morning sunlight. Once we arrived at the site, the group split in half and worked on building a fence and blocking off the trail beyond it as well. The overall goal was blocking off motorized vehicles from a road leading into an important wilderness area for animal migrations. The trail crew ripped up the old trail to promote seed growth, and also transplanted grass into it so that only one side of the trail was passable. The other half of the group built a sturdy fence, digging deep holes for posts and

hammering together beams. Midway through the morning, a truck tried to drive out of the wilderness area where we were working, and we saw how effective our work was! We had to briefly excavate and move some posts out of the way in order for the truck to pass. During lunch, our guide Chuck showed us how his rescue dog, Buster, searches and helps to rescue lost people. He placed two of our participants in the nearby woods and sent Buster after them (he found them!). We thanked Joe, Dave, and Chuck for one of the best service days yet on the trip. Once we were finished with our project, we drove to the Kelly Warm Springs for a quick dip and grabbed snacks in a local grocery store. For dinner we had grilled cheese and tomato soup. For chat we had an open-ended and absolutely hysterical discussion of our pet peeves that lasted almost two hours. Everyone headed to bed tired and content.

### **August 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 Free Day in Jackson Hole**

Today the group got to sleep in a bit before our free day in Jackson Hole, and woke to warmer weather than usual. We packed up the Red Hills site, and drove down the bumpy dirt road one last time headed back to the Gros Ventre campground. We were able to get a group site at Gros Ventre, so we had plenty of room. Behind the tenting area we could see Bison grazing and the Tetons along the skyline. After setting up the tents, the group headed into Jackson for some free time. Everyone was allowed to eat where they wanted to for lunch, which was nice after cooking so many meals for one another. After a few hours of shopping and eating, the group reconvened and travelled south to a hot spring we had heard about from our Jackson Wildlife partners. The hot springs were far down a winding dirt road in the Bridger Teton National forest. When we arrived it was like finding a super heated swimming pool in the middle of the woods! The pool was fed by a waterfall, and flowed into a stream. Everyone spent over an hour enjoying the warm water and gorgeous scenery. We also had a feelings check in, and most people felt warm and clean. After the swim we piled back into the bus and made the drive back to our campsite for a late but very delicious chicken alfredo dinner. At chat we identified one of our personal triumphs.

### **August 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 Rock Climbing with Exum Mountain Guides**

Today was our day of climbing with the Exum Mountain Guides. We woke up early, ate a breakfast of bagels on the bus and met our guides Rod and Mike at 9 at South Jenny Lake Junction. We got our gear and took a short Ferry across Jenny Lake. There we spent some of the morning going over basic climbing knots and important safety rules. We also practiced “bouldering” on smaller rocks so we could become familiar with the different surfaces that we would be navigating. We then walked to Hidden Falls where we started a multi pitch climb up a fall mountain face. The group was split into two sections, and we were all roped together. The climb really tested the teamwork of the group, and we all felt proud and happy to have made it to the top. Once we reached the top, we ate lunch with a beautiful view of the whole lake and the valley just east of the Tetons. After lunch, we did a steep top rope climb and everyone repelled down a rock face as well. Pretty exhausted, we walked back down and took the ferry across the lake again. After a day of physical activity, we cleaned off in the Kelly Warm Springs. For dinner, we had tacos with a spectacular desert of chocolate covered strawberries. For chat, we were asked to reflect on the nicest thing that a stranger has ever done for us.

### **August 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 Long Travel Day from Jackson WY to Bozeman MT**

The group got up and had our final breakfast at the Gros Ventre campsite. After packing up the gear, we departed for our long travel day to Bozeman. We drove north through Idaho, and stopped in the small town of Victor for snacks and coffee. As we drove over the Teton Pass, the group got a great view of the Tetons one last time. We also stopped in West Yellowstone, a familiar spot from earlier in the trip, and got some snacks to supplement our lunches. For lunch the group picnicked along the Gallatin River and played Frisbee and wombat ball for about an hour. We continued on to Bozeman where the group went supply shopping at Walmart then returned to the Bear Canyon Campground. At Bear Canyon the group *really* enjoyed showers after several days without them! Some people went swimming in the pool while other started to cook dinner. We had steak, rice, and corn for dinner and then we had cupcakes for Devon's birthday. After dinner and clean up we had chat, and the question was what did you want to be when you were little, and what is your dream job now. We all headed to bed then woke to very intense thunderstorms that lit up the sky.

### **August 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 Service Day with the Gallatin/Bozeman YMCA**

After an intense night of thunder and lightning, we awoke to another storm which forced us to eat our breakfast of cinnamon toasters on the bus. After breakfast on the bus, the group drove down from Bear Canyon to the Gallatin YMCA to spend a day working with their youth summer day camp. After service work that had focused predominantly on trail maintenance and with that manual labor, a day working with kids was a nice and refreshing break. Due to an unexpected injury of one of their staff members, we were especially needed that day. The kids paired up with Becket teens, three kids to a TSP participant. The groups broke off and came up with rules for the camp for the week. Coming back together, we went outside for some unstructured free time while waiting for another local YMCA from Belgrade to arrive. The TSP teens more than entertained the kids and once the additional campers showed up, we all walked over to a nearby park. There our teens led the group in a large game of Capture the Flag and then Kickball. This was followed by more free time and then, as a storm came in, a speedy walk back to the Y. There we filled up water balloons which we threw at the campers and ran a few more games. Both the TSP leaders and Gallatin participants were sad to part ways. After we left the Y, we went to a local Dollar Store to purchase costumes for the CCC final banquet. The group settled on buying fish hats and dressing as "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish" for the theme of Doctor Seuss. We drove back to Bear Canyon where we went swimming and then had dinner. Chat that night asked us to think about what time historical or futuristic time we would visit if we could time travel.

### **August 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 Whitewater Rafting with Montana Whitewater**

The group arose early and packed up the Bear Canyon Campground before departing for Montana Whitewater and a morning of rafting. Upon arrival, the group got outfitted in river booties, life vests, and helmets before hopping onto the Montana Whitewater bus for the ride upriver. The group helped the river guides unload rafts and heard some safety rules before meeting our individual river guides. We split into two boats, and our guides were Allejandro and Rowley, who taught us how to paddle together to navigate through the rapids. The group had a great time paddling and splashing along the Gallatin River. We covered rapids that ranged from

Level One to Level Four, and a few people even went swimming in the chilly water. Though we were cold, it was well worth the experience. After rafting we unloaded the gear and thanked our guides then drove to the Bozeman KOA where we had a picnic lunch. The group enjoyed swimming in the hot tub and warm pool after the chilly river water. Some people went mini-golfing while others set up tents or continued to swim until we started dinner. About half the group worked together to make an epic meal of breakfast for dinner and salad with peanut dressing. After the dinner, the whole group sat in the hot tub together and relaxed before showering and getting ready for bed. The chat question was; who makes you want to be a better person?

### **August 17<sup>th</sup> 2011 Packing Day and Dinner in Town**

Gearing up for our departure from Bozeman and return to BCCYMCA, the day was almost entirely organizational. We woke up, ate breakfast and then everyone divided out their laundry. Taking only laundry on the bus, we drove to a local car wash where the group worked efficiently to vacuum out the inside (a very much needed cleaning) and soap and spray the outside of our bus. After our hard work the bus looked great, and we were a little sad to be returning it soon. Leaving the carwash, we ate lunch at a local park, picked up remaining group mail at the post office and then drove over to a Laundromat just outside of the center of Bozeman. There the group started their laundry and split off to explore downtown. Coming back an hour and a half later, the group got their clothes and drove back to the KOA. There we finished packing up and cleaning the bus and then went for a quick swim before our dinner out. We then drove to and ate at the Garage, an outdoor restaurant, where many participants got to try much discussed bison burgers. The group was particularly fascinated by one of the bathrooms, which had mirrors on all sides (during the course of the meal everyone took turns going in.) Some people shared desserts, and we lingered after dinner laughing and talking until about 8:30. Afterwards, we drove back to the KOA and had a reflective and beautiful candlelight ceremony for chat for our last night out west.

### **August 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 Travel back to BCCYMCA**

The group got up early and began the task of taking down the tents for the last time. Because we spent so much time organizing our things the day before, it was easy to pack up and we didn't have to rush. We left the KOA and headed to the nearest gas station to fill up the bus. Some people chose to buy lunch rather than pack more wraps, so we found the Subway inside the gas station very convenient for sandwiches, and much cheaper than the airport venues. On the bus we reminded the group to check their carry-on bags for liquids and any other items that needed to be checked. We drove to Andrew Connor's house and picked him up so he could take the bus once we left. He chatted with us about the trip, and as a gift, we presented him with bear spray. We checked the bags, and though some were over 50 pounds, everyone was quick and smart about shifting items around until everything could be checked. We got through security with no issues, and the group had a good amount of down time before the flight. We were happy to be seated together for the flight back, and made it safely to Chicago for a two and half hour layover. The participants each got \$10 for dinner, and were allowed some free time near the boarding gate before we departed on the second flight. Though a little delayed, our flight back to Bradley went smoothly, and we were all happy to see Jim Brown waiting to pick us up. We rode on the bus back to camp, and quietly moved into our lodging in the Four Seasons building. In place of chat,

we had a feelings check in before going to bed. People were generally tired, but grateful to spend a few more days together.

### **August 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 Group Debrief at Chimney Corners**

Today we woke up for our last full day together. Having gotten in well after midnight, the group got to sleep in. Waking up around 9:30, we had breakfast in the lodge, and then began our major tasks of the day: sorting out the slideshow and finishing up our one-on-one camper meetings with the leaders. The group worked together to come up with a slideshow that would explain the trip and give parents a chance to see where we went. The one on one meetings provided a final chance to reflect on the leadership packets, after which we dressed up for the final banquet. The theme was Dr. Suess, and we successfully dressed up as “one fish two fish red fish blue fish.” The dining hall was amazing with beautiful decorations hung everywhere. Our room was the Grinch room, and everyone enjoyed a nice dinner of ravioli and garlic bread. During dinner we joked a lot and reflected on the trip. After dinner everyone revised the slide show a little and we also wrote down contact information so that the group could stay in touch. For chat we had a fire in the dining hall fire place and wrote bus notes (notes to each person on the trip which are meant to be read after camp, on the ride home) to one another. Then we headed back to Four Seasons where people stayed up talking and listening to music for our final night together.

### **August 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 Slide show and Departure**

The group woke up super early and said goodbye to one of the participants before he took the bus home. We had breakfast in the dining hall then took showers and packed up at the lodge. Everyone practiced their part of the slide show so that we would be well prepared to speak in front of the parents and families. We then moved everything out of the cabin and swept up a little, checking for any lost and found items. The group gathered up their bags one last time and trekked over to the barn where we met the families. The slide show went very well, and the campers were very proud of their work. Before we said our goodbyes and departed, we had one final feelings check in, where most people felt proud, emotional, and happy. We were all incredibly thankful for all of the individuals who helped make our trip a wonderful and unforgettable experience.