



Young Life campers at Saranac Lake, New York: Back (l-r): Trevor Goodwin, Cathy Ellis, Brad Cote, Lizzy Rego, Elizabeth Stearns, Laura Campbell, Sandee Waine, Will Young, Tyler Waine, Greg Hewitt, Ryan Davis, Nick Waine, Josh Wagner, and Roger Laro. Photo: Sandee Waine

## Young Life To Saranac

By Sandee Waine  
Young Life

Walking off our bus at Young Life in Saranac Lake, New York, we were greeted by blaring rock music and three staff members rappelling down a large pine tree to welcome us all. Young Life is not your average teenage summer camp, as we were all soon to discover.

Out of their environment, the kids engaged in activities that pushed their fears to the limit and for most, beyond, to a new height of understanding of themselves, their friends, and their faith.

We were all taken to our lodge-style accommodations and settled in. The waterfront was open, and we all had free time for exploring, and there was plenty of that!

Young Life Saranac offers plenty of activities, from parasailing, tubing, water skiing, wakeboarding, ropes course, hiking, sailing, kayaking, and swimming, to a host of nightly special events, a club, singing, game room, ... the list goes on.

This is a controlled environment. Our group is divided, and the girls are with their leader, Cathy Ellis, and the guys are in a separate lodge with their leaders, Brad Cote and Will Young.

Here's an example of a day's events:  
9 AM: Breakfast

10 AM: Spartan Games at the waterfront with team vs. team in events all over the area, all campers involved

12:30 PM: Lunch

Afternoon: Your group goes to a pre-scheduled event like parasailing. The rest of the afternoon is free.

6:30 PM: Dinner

8 PM: Club, nightly entertainment from the monthly staffers, country square dance/hoe down.

That's just a small example of one day at Young Life, Saranac Lake.

But where that ends, Club begins. Club and the Young Life Ministry is a vehicle for communicating the Gospel, a place to build new friendships, an opportunity to be heard and a way to demonstrate your devotion to a Christian lifestyle.

The Philosophy of Young Life camping is to bring kids out of their environment, remove them from their routines – social, intellectual, economic, and emotional.

In a controlled but relaxed environment we give kids the opportunity to rethink and perhaps reconstruct their image of Christ and the Christian Faith. This is done in a non-threatening and inviting manner.

It's a great opportunity to be a friend to these teenagers, break down their barriers, bridge the gap of unbelief and indifference, clarify the message, and be available. Mostly, to have them accept themselves as they are.

This shared experience became open discussions between leaders and their groups on their feelings, their lives at home and beyond, and what they think about Faith.

There was not one person that I observed during our stay there who did not change in some dramatic way before our week ended.

Young Life does not end when you board the bus and return home to your life. It stays with you.

Cathy Ellis is a dynamo when it comes to this program. She believes strongly in her faith and in reaching as many teenagers as possible through articles like this, through meetings, events, an upcoming carnival, and teenagers who attended reaching out to their friends and talking about their time at camp.

This turned out to be the best week of my life. I hope it was for all the kids that attended and that they return with us next year and bring along a new friend to share the message. Look for upcoming events in the *Beacon*!

Thanks, Cathy Ellis, for your faith, for having me along. To Will Young and Brad Cote, what can I say? You affect all our lives in such a wonderful way. And to all our teenage friends – Lizzy Rego, Elizabeth Stearns, Trevor Goodwin, Laura Campbell, Greg Hewitt, Ryan Davis, Nick Waine, Josh Wagner, Roger Laro, and Tyler Waine – you are awesome!

## East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault  
East Andover Village Preschool

Though we are all enjoying the summer, the first day of preschool is just around the corner. For those entering Preschool in September, here are a few important dates to mark on your calendar. Preschool begins September 6 and 7. Parent Night is Thursday, August 30 at 6:30 PM, and the children visit on Wednesday, September 5.

We do not have any available openings now but can add you to our waiting list.

We welcome our Board of Directors for the 2007-2008 school year:

- Chairperson – Leigh O'Brien

- Co-Chair and Church Representative – Don Gould
- Treasurer – Lyn Tripp
- Co-Treasurer – Lynsey Perkins
- Secretary – Brandy Collette
- Parent Representatives – Jessica Roberts and Karen Oxland
- School Mentors – Katie Keyser and Kim Kenney

It's not too early to plan ahead. Due to unexpected demand, if you are interested in preschool for your child for the 2008-2009 school year (your child must be potty trained by September 30, 2008) I encourage you to contact us *now* to reserve a spot for your child.



On a hot day on Cilleyville Road, Shannon Haley, Hannah Munson, and Alisha Smart had no trouble attracting customers. Photo: Shane Smart

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