




CAMP ODYSSEY XIII: A NEW GENERATION

AUGUST 7-13, 2011
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE, OR

A FRESH START

- ▶ After nearly 2 years of planning by a dedicated group of alumni, support from a few wise souls (thanks, Advisory Council members), and a lot of hard work:
 - ▶ Camp Odyssey XIII was successfully launched August 7-13, 2011
 - ▶ Held at the University of Oregon in Eugene
 - ▶ 43 campers and 18 staff members
- 

SUNDAY, DAY 1: ARRIVING, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT



Goals for the day:

Open the community and prepare for dialogue by getting familiar with the environment and each other.



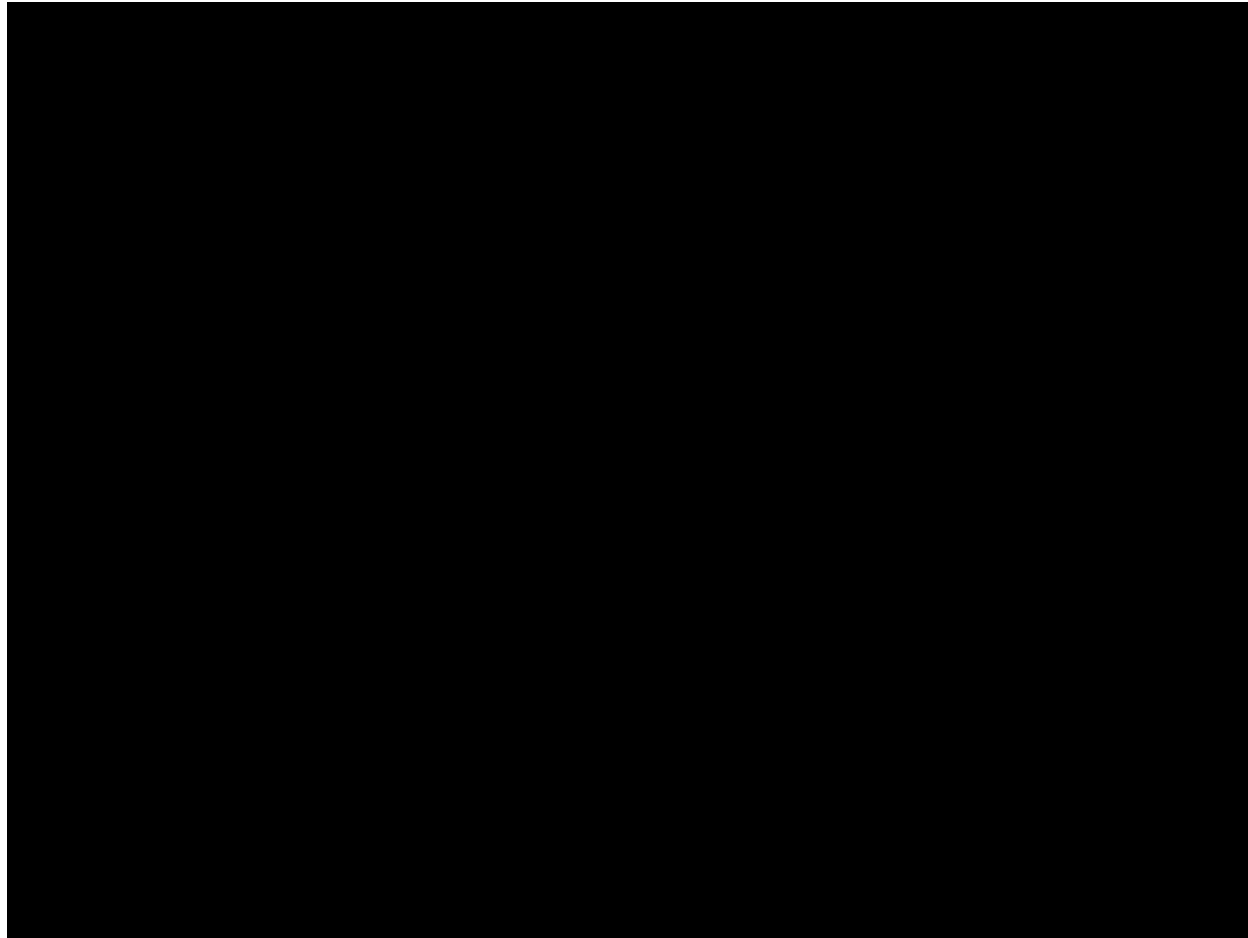
At this point, nearly all campers are strangers thrown together with one thing in common: the experience of a life-changing week ahead of them.



Camp Odyssey begins team-building nearly from the moment youth arrive:




With the Luggage Line!



MONDAY: DAY 2

SHARING CIRCLES AND TRUST BUILDING


▶ **Goals for the day:**

- To build safety, trust, and understanding in our Sharing Circle support groups and to become more aware of ourselves (our feelings, thoughts, values) and of each other.
 - To begin exploring how our differences can impact positively and negatively on working together as a team.
 - To develop a common understanding of oppression, stereotypes, and differences – both visible and invisible.
- 

Campers worked with Eugene Parks and Recreation to work together overcoming challenges, forming a more cohesive community.



Reflections on the day

- ▶ Each group was tasked with their own relay portion to the final event, which was a community relay.
 - ▶ Willie served as a facilitator for an activity station throughout the day:
 - “I had the unique opportunity to witness different sharing circles grow throughout the day—from apprehension in the morning to an increased investment in the value of clear communication towards the end of the day.”
 - “I watched the level of engagement grow exponentially and by the end of the day during the final relay, we saw nobody in the entire camp being anything but supportive for even those groups with the most challenging portions of the relay.”
- 

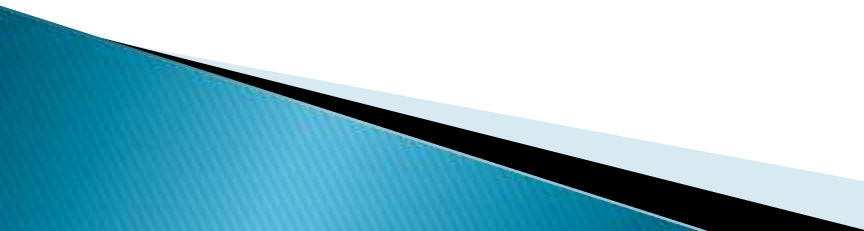
Starting to “Take it home”

- ▶ Each evening, youth meet in “cabin groups”:
 - These groups serve as another forum to debrief the events of the day.
 - We also started conversations to be continued each day on who their supportive allies might be when they return home and where they may want to incorporate some of the things they learn this week:
 - Monday – a best friend
 - Tuesday – a close family member
 - Wednesday – a community they are part of
 - Thursday – a career goal & a life aspiration
 - All of the above were recorded on “support stars” as the week went along.

TUESDAY, DAY 3:

IMMIGRATION AND ABLEISM

▶ **Goals for the day:**

- To work on understanding what stereotypes are, why we have them; and how stereotypes affect our relationships and our community.
 - ▶ Campers experience the “First Day of School.”
 - ▶ School registration in a world where they are judged on:
 - The level of education they have received
 - How much of the dominant language they speak
 - Whether they have light or dark skin
 - How much money they have
 - ▶ For the ableism portion, Campers experience being differently abled, physically or mentally.
- 

½ of youth are given “disabilities,” whether loss of sight, hearing, or a varying degree of mobility




Several are given directions in mirror-reversed text to simulate dyslexia.

WEDNESDAY, DAY 4:

RACE AND CULTURE

▶ **Goals for the day:**

- Encourage an awareness and valuing of racial and cultural identity;
 - Explore racial stereotypes and prejudice and their impact on personal identity, interpersonal relationships, and social structure.
-
- ▶ Nearly the entire day is spent in separate racial/cultural groups where we examine:
 - Identity and communication styles
 - Positive and negative stereotypes about ourselves and other groups
- 

Groups self-identified, allowed to name themselves. Jewish & Muslim groups are present to reflect nature of oppression experienced.

Eight Groups:

Native American

Jewish

Arab

Multiracial

African American

Latino/Latina

White/Caucasian

Pasianese



Examples of stereotypes:


Latinos/Latinas are:	Pasianese are:
Positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong family ties	Positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smart; good in school; perfect grades
Negative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexist	Negative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overachievers

The afternoon is spent in rotations where groups share the lists of stereotypes made of each other in highly structured dialogue.

THURSDAY, DAY 5:

GENDER

▶ **Goals for the day:**

- To examine how we feel about ourselves as men, women, transgender or genderqueer.
 - Examine how we feel about sexuality.
 - Explore our feelings about our own gender as well as other genders.
 - Develop greater understanding of our roles and our relationships.
 - Focus on how we prejudge people based on sexuality or gender.
-
- ▶ Gender-separate groups for most of the day to create safety around honest dialogue of gender roles and dynamics.
 - ▶ We recognize that we are typically boxed into a gender binary system of female and male which does not reflect reality for many individuals.
- 


Gender Day Exercises

- ▶ Culture of Violence – male fishbowl
 - Visual demonstration of how in our society, men in particular are acculturated to adopt violent behaviors.
- ▶ Voice Line – female fishbowl
 - Women sharing honest accounts of personal experiences and stories while men listen silently – negative and positive.
- ▶ These exercises—in addition to dialogue in gender separate groups—result in an open dialogue about how we as men and women can support each other in our communities outside of Camp.

FRIDAY, DAY 6:

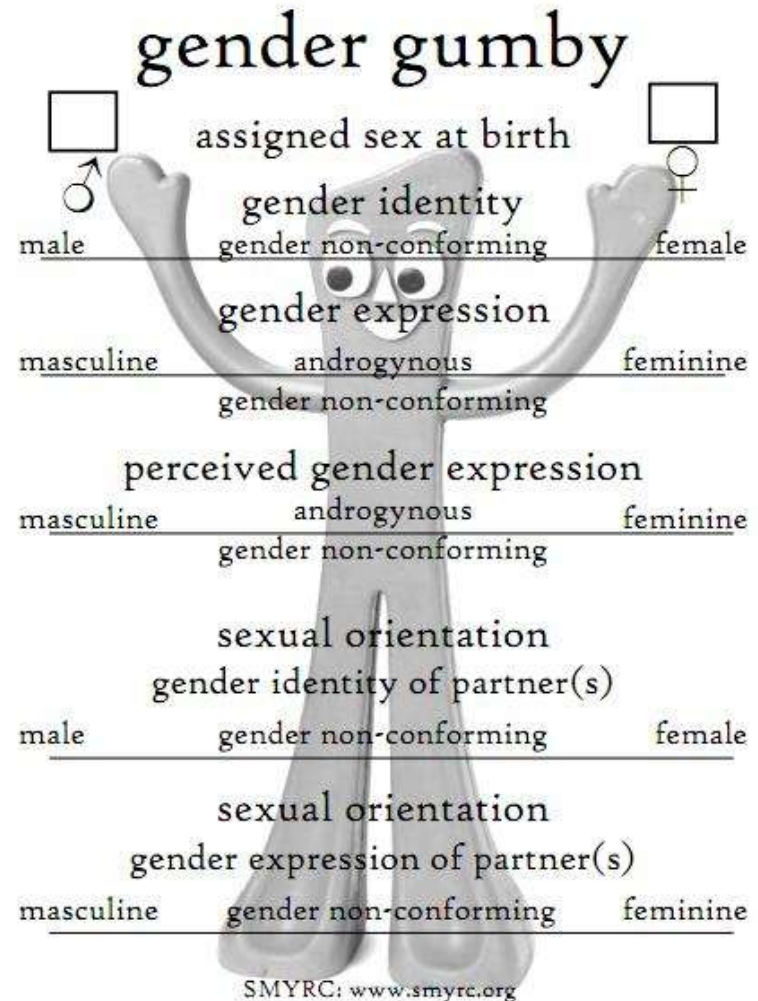
ORIENTATION & TAKING IT HOME

▶ **Goals for the day:**

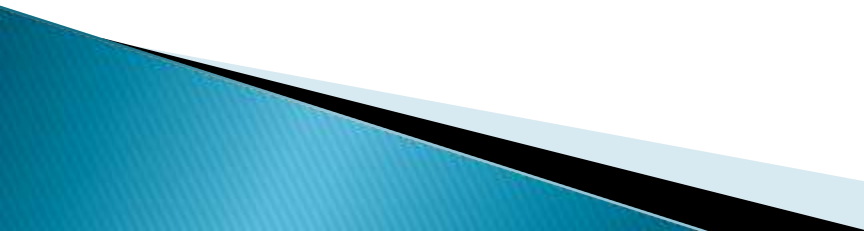
- Increase our awareness of stereotypes based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
 - Celebrate our experience of the week and prepare to reenter our families and community and create a vision of how each of us can take Odyssey home.
-
- ▶ Camper-led LGBTQ group and community activities.
 - ▶ Reveal and culminate of Support Star activity as demonstration of the spectrum of experiences that happen during the process of coming out.
- 

A New Non-Binary Paradigm:

Gender Gumby by Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC)




Teaming Up with ADR, U of O's Appropriate Dispute Resolution Center

- ▶ Icebreakers to get acquainted and sharing invisible and visible differences – “Me too!”
 - ▶ Campers learned about their communication styles and their styles of conflict resolution
 - Competitive, collaborative, avoidant, accommodating, and compromising
 - ▶ Worked together to solve situational conflict
 - ▶ Met with community leaders (thanks, OS team members!) from their different regions and had first regional team meeting
- 

Taking It To Our Communities

- ▶ Year Round Program Brainstorm Ideas (from the youth!):
 - Club Odyssey (at schools) or after-school groups encouraging the intergroup dialogue
 - Frequent (monthly) meetings)
 - Travel group to share stories in different communities
 - Weekend long mid-year reunion
 - Hard-core youth leader training
 - Staff speakers once per semester
 - Help finding and applying for volunteer opportunities
 - Staff to help implement clubs, meetings and socials to aid Odyssey in the future
 - (these are just a few from a long list)

Camp Odyssey Outcomes

- ▶ At camp, we want to see:
 - Increased freedom to speak about difficult topics honestly.
 - ▶ Following Odyssey, we want to see:
 - Improved understanding and awareness of people unlike ourselves.
 - Improved comfort working and living with people unlike ourselves.
 - Greater levels and types of engagement in activities tied to passions and interests.
 - Social change resulting from involvement in one's community that comes from an authentic expression of one's values.
- 

SATURDAY, DAY 7: GOING HOME WITH NEW EYES

- ▶ Closure ceremony
- ▶ Loading up the buses to go home





Keeping connections through social media



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post. At the top, there is a large photo of two people, a woman and a man, standing on a paved walkway at night. The woman is wearing a colorful patterned shirt and dark shorts, and the man is wearing a dark t-shirt and jeans. Below the photo are buttons for 'Like' and 'Comment', and a 'Tag Photo' button. The post is from Jackie Nguyen, with the caption 'Swag:) — with Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz.' and options to 'Like · Comment · Share'. Below the post, a comment from Carly Redwine is circled in red. The comment reads: 'You guys are so cute. I miss this place hella bad. Can we break into our dorms and just chill for a weekend?'. To the right of the post, there is information about the album 'Photos of Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz in Camp Odyssey', upload details, and sharing options. On the far right, there are navigation options like 'Message', 'Poke', and 'Chat (Offline)'. The left sidebar shows navigation links like 'Wall', 'Info', 'Photos (96)', 'Questions', 'Notes', 'Friends', and 'Friends (398)'. A 'MegaLove' advertisement is also visible in the sidebar.

Like Comment Tag Photo

Jackie Nguyen
Swag:) — with Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz.
Like · Comment · Share

Martha P. Ruiz likes this.

Carly Redwine You guys are so cute. I miss this place hella bad. Can we break into our dorms and just chill for a weekend?
Tuesday at 11:51am · Like · 2 people

Album: Photos of Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz in Camp Odyssey
Uploaded via: mobile
Shared with: Friends (+)
Posted: September 5

Tag This Photo
Download
Report This Photo

Message Poke
Friends & Family
Create an Ad
See gear just by yellow tail with ds.
Road Stress r™ from 76¢ Gas. ad yours today 5.com and find ppy place. Just se while driving.
Network
Chat (Offline)

Wall
Info
Photos (96)
Questions
Notes
Friends
Friends (398)
MegaLove Add Friend

Missing Camp Odyssey



Facebook post interface showing a photo of a person lying on a lawn in front of a building. The post includes interaction buttons (Like, Comment, Tag Photo) and a comment from Jackie Nguyen: "He misses this place. — with Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz." The comment is circled in red. The post is part of an album titled "Photos of Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz in Camp Odyssey".

Message 👉 Poke

Friends ▶ Family

Create an Ad

See gear just by yellow tail with ds

is.

Road Stress from 76 Gas. rad yours today 5.com and find ippy place. Just se while driving.

Network 🗨️ Chat (Offline)

Album: Photos of Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz in Camp Odyssey

Uploaded via: mobile

Shared with: 👥 Friends (+)

Posted: September 5

Like Comment

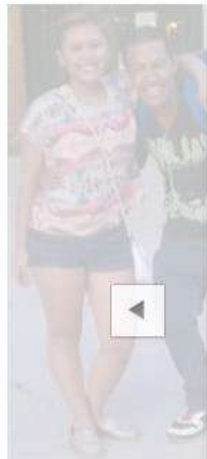
Jackie Nguyen
He misses this place. — with Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz.
Like · Comment · Share

👍 Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz likes this.

They even miss the hard, utility-carpet floor of Bean West (our community meeting space)

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1920710228695&set=t.100001505018050&type=1&theater>

facebook



- Wall
- Info
- Photos (96)
- Questions
- Notes
- Friends

Friends (398)



Like Comment

Tag Photo



Jackie Nguyen

We love Bean ♥ — with Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz.

Like · Comment · Share

Album: Photos of Tlaloc Perez-Ruiz in Camp Odyssey

Uploaded via mobile

Profile Account

Message Poke



Friends Family

Create an Ad

See gear just by yellow tail with ds


is.

Road Stress
r™ from 76 Gas.
iad yours today
5.com and find
appy place. Just
se while driving.

Lasting friendships and fond memories...



Words From the New Generation of Campers (unsolicited, promise!!)

- ▶ Thank you, honestly you have changed my life for the better. Never will I stand around or myself call or let another be called out of his or her rightful name.
 - ▶ Camp Odyssey will literally test you. And you will leave feeling more impacted than any camp you have ever been to.
 - ▶ Thank you for an amazing, inspiring week.
 - ▶ We love you staff :) miss everyone so much.
- 

Words From the New Generation of Campers (unsolicited, promise!!)

- ▶ I want to personally thank Camp Odyssey for giving me and every other camper an amazing week. I must commend you all for putting us through such rigorous activities that not only tested us as a person but our moral and emotional stability to handle tough conflict and inevitably grow in a way to change the world, starting with the community.
- ▶ Thank goodness for camp. I have made some amazing friends in such a short time. Not only did I enjoy being with everyone there, but I have gotten extremely close to some of the campers, and we're growing closer every day. All I can think about is when we can all be together again. This experience changed my entire life. My love goes out to every camper and staff member. Thank you so much for this opportunity. It's been an incredible ride, and I'm so proud to be a part of such a fantastic community.

Best of all: a new generation of emerging leaders to carry out the Odyssey Vision



OUR VISION:

To create a just and equitable society, where individuals are respected as human beings, and where they can live without fear.

