



Session 4, 2024 Memory Book



A Note from the Camp Director Jud Millar:

Hello Stone Mountain Adventure (SMA) Family! Wow, can you believe it? The summer of 2024 has come and gone in the blink of an eye, and what an incredible season it was! Celebrating our 41st summer, SMA has once again delivered an unforgettable experience, and we are absolutely thrilled with how everything unfolded. It feels like just yesterday we were gearing up – dusting off the canoes, tuning up the mountain bikes, and getting ready for another amazing camp season. Now, as we look back, the memories from this summer etched in the history books. Even as August continues, we find ourselves reminiscing and saying things like, “Remember that time in the first session? That was awesome!” We truly had a blast!



Campers, We miss you all dearly. It feels so weird to have the cabins empty and camp is just not the same without your energy and enthusiasm. We hope you’ve had a fantastic end to your summer and have had the time to recharge from the whirlwind of camp life.

Parents, a heartfelt thank you for entrusting us with your wonderful children. The SMA Summer of 2024 was filled with remarkable individuals who made this summer truly special. We will cherish forever.

On the final full day of camp, we took sometime for reflection and we asked each camper to share their thoughts about their SMA adventure. We’ve compiled their heartfelt reflections along with a brief overview of the activities we enjoyed, all thanks to our outstanding staff. We hope you find joy in this SMA Memory book and the reflections within, just as much as we have.

Wishing you all the best for the school year ahead!

Warmest regards,

Jud, Anne, Wyatt, Molly, Pam, Biff, Comet, Jack, Piggy, the cats, the Horses, the Rabbits, and all the other wonderful farm friends!

Camper reflections from SMA Session 3, Summer 2024

Cassie H

This year's SMA session has been one of the best. It has been a bittersweet session because it is my last year here. I could not have asked for a better group of people to spend my time with. The connections you make here are like no other. The love and pure happiness I have experienced here is something I will carry in my heart forever. SMA always teaches me a lesson, whether that is to take better care of myself, the people I love or just a simple life lesson. I've never been good with words, especially when it comes to SMA. I don't think it's fair or even possible to capture the light of SMA in some silly paragraph. It's all about the experience. SMA will always and forever be home.

(I'd also like to give a big thanks to Jud for making the most magical place on earth).



Talia Smereck

I have never felt such strong connections to the people at SMA in my 3 years as a camper. In my first two years I struggled to feel comfortable in an unknown environment. Everytime I left I was certain I was never coming back. However, this year I begged my parents to let me stay at SMA- the best decision I've made all summer. In the past two weeks I have bonded with campers and staff and made memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you SMA! See you next year! Love you Mattawanna.

Melissa Miller

This was my 4th and favorite summer at SMA. I made new friends that mean so much to me after only 2-3 weeks of knowing them. Since the 4th session was so small it really felt like one close family that had grown up together. I've grown as a person knowing I have so many people supporting me and loving me through everything. My favorite memory is from the hiking overnight when we slept in hammocks and stayed up late talking and laughing. I loved all the counselors and felt like I could talk to them about almost any topic. Overall, I'm so sad to leave but I'm looking forward to next year. I love SMA!

Mike Yamamoto

This was my last session. I've been here for six weeks. This session felt the longest but quite a lot happened. I was so eager to go home so at times it was hard to enjoy the session but during the session I made many friends and had fun. The hiking overnight and visiting the county fair was fun. I also had fun on white water rafting even though I was thrown out. Hopefully I come back next year and thank you SMA!



David G

My experience at SMA this year has been a once in a lifetime opportunity with many fun activities and meeting new friends. To start off my first couple days at SMA were nerve racking to say the least as I didn't know anybody and I was timid to say the least. Though, as the days went on I opened up to my bunk mates and learned that SMA isn't so bad after all. Through many fun activities such as Sup n Sail and even volleyball I shared and cherished the moments with my closest friends and bonded with them more. The key moments that made me bond with my friends were probably the fair and the countless nights furnace chatted about random things whilst trying to fall asleep. Though this was my first time at SMA it definitely won't be my last and it's truly been a life changing experience. I wouldn't have thought that some random people I met 2 weeks ago could be called family.

Eva Russo

This week at SMA has been way better than I could have ever imagined. It was my first year in mattawanna and it was the most amazing week ever. The mountain biking overnight was so much fun and doing paper plates and dance prep for the first time was so much fun. I made so many new friends and reconnected with old ones. This week was amazing and I can't wait for next year.



Evie Delano

This year was my second to last year at SMA and it was a very good one. The first overnight ended up getting rained out, but the second ones were amazing. I went on the trough creek overnight and we got to climb up rocks and fall back into the water. This session I made so many connections with people and one of the highlights was simply talking to friends in the cabin and in hammocks. I spent a lot of time just enjoying the moment and being content with life. This session was really great and I'm so sad that next year is my last one.

Phoebe Trach

This was my first year at SMA and so everything was new to me. All the people are awesome, both campers and counselors. All the activities were fun and I did things I don't think I would have the chance to do back at home. I don't know if I'd be able to come back next year but if I can I would love to come back next year and the year after that.



Gisselle H

I had so much fun these 2 weeks. I made a lot of friends and I want to come back next year. White water rafting was really fun and the counselors were really nice.

Rylee P

When I first got here I was worried I wouldn't make many friends because I came at the very last session, but I found out quickly how wrong I was. I made friends with my cabin mates the second I stepped out of my car. Making friends isn't all SMA has to offer because the activities here are so fun. On the overnight I chose to do wakeboarding and the counselors helped me get out of the water quickly. Overall I had so much fun making new friends and making new memories and I hope next year I can come to camp for 2 weeks instead of 1.

Whitewater rafting was fun along with the overnights. We also got to go tubing on the overnight at the lake. I loved SMA and cannot wait to come back next year.

Sam Stainman



Going to SMA this summer was one of the best decisions I've made. At first, I didn't want to go, but now I want to come back until they kick me out. Usually I am somewhat introverted, but this summer my confidence grew and allowed me to try new things. Whether it was food, wakeboarding, or just meeting new people, I had fun the whole time. SMA gave me the chance to be free of trouble and just enjoy life. I will definitely come back.

Noelle Rivera-Castro

This summer it seemed like I was always falling out of a boat or a canoe! One time I grabbed a stick and didn't let go. This caused the canoe to tip over and later on we tipped in a small rapid. The overnights were fun and I loved whitewater rafting! SMA is awesome.

Cory Hamilton

I had a fun time at SMA. I enjoyed the activities and I liked the evening activities. Rock climbing, wakeboarding, and archery were fun. My group of whitewater rafting was the best and we got first place! I jumped off of a rock into the Yough and I really liked the Huntingdon County Fair. The wakeboarding overnight was fun even when we got rained out.

Connor Cheshire



I came to SMA not expecting much and thinking it would be like every other summer camp, but SMA is magical. SMA made me feel like I was a part of something, like I was family. I loved every activity, especially rock climbing. The staff were amazing and always made me feel happy. I am leaving with new friends and new happy memories. I will miss camp and I am definitely coming back next year. The overnights with my buddies were the best! SMA is an amazing camp and I would definitely recommend it!

Sean Richesson

SMA is a very special camp for me. SMA is a magical place. It is the highlight of my summer every year. Whitewater rafting, rock climbing, hiking, and all of it is amazing. The people who come here are the true experience though. I live in a tiny bubble in my home city and here it's like I'm truly thrust into the wilderness. I'm so happy that I have the chance to go here. I'm sad to leave, but the memories I've made will stay with me forever. I can confidently say that SMA has changed me forever. I will be happy to go here next year and for years to come. Goodbye, SMA, see you next year!

Gus Russo



These two weeks were really fun and nice. Really good activities are waiting for you here, and you will meet many good people in this camp. This experience will be with me and help me in regular life. I liked the activities here so much and you can try many things that maybe you've never done before, like rock climbing and wakeboarding. I hope I will come back next year.

Zlata Feshchenko

SMA was a really awesome and fun experience. We got to go to the county fair where we could walk around, buy food, and ride the rides. We went whitewater rafting and at the end we had a race and my boat won! There is all camp day which means we get to sleep in and then have a barbeque with everyone at a campground or the lake. The overnights were a blast! We made mountain pies by the campfire and slept in tents. SMA is a wonderful place.

Parker Callahan



Through my six weeks (three sessions) of SMA, I've learned to really enjoy the time that I've had and make the most of it. It has not felt like almost an entire summer. This session has been one of my favorites. The fair was so much fun and I fell out while whitewater rafting! Unfortunately, the first overnights were rained out, but the hiking overnight was really nice and calming. Nate taught me how to make a fire with flint and steel, and I made the perfect marshmallow. I loved my time at SMA and I'm 100% coming back next year!

Alex Bergson

This year at SMA has been amazing. I'm glad I came back after my life changing experience last year, and all the time that I've spent here has been some of the best time of my life. I had so many new experiences and memories this year and I met so many new people. I also grew even closer to the friends I already had, which I am super happy about. There were also some friends that couldn't come back this year and being here has made me miss them even more than I already do. However, I still had a blast and I can't

wait to come back next year. SMA makes me feel so comfortable and I can really be my true self here, which I am forever grateful for. I have learned so much about life and about myself here it's insane. I have learned how to take care of myself, others, gained confidence, learned how to do so many new things, and so much more. These two weeks will be ones I will remember for the rest of my life, and SMA truly feels like another home to me now.

Alex Baffa



I loved rafting, especially the rapid with double hydraulic. It was a fun experience and I already want to do it again. This year I made so many new friends. Sadly, the wakeboard overnight was rained out, but the hiking overnight was super fun and we got ice cream. The county fair and the talent show are definite highlights for me!

Kern Labaw

Camp was a great experience for me. My last year here was full of adventure and silliness. I will miss camp. It was the best years of my life.

John Kuhl

Session four was a lot of fun for me as I missed it last year, but this year I was able to reunite with a lot of people who I hadn't gotten to see in a while. I also continued to learn about myself and grow as a person. I think that's the biggest thing SMA has given me over my five years here so far. There's infinite opportunities for personal growth and positive change. SMA in a way has raised me and I wouldn't ask for it any other way.

Alexander Conklin

Camp was fun. I did a lot of new and different things. I had a blast. I would like to go camping and whitewater rafting again. SMA is great!

Benjamin White



When I came here I learned lots of new things and made lots of new memories. The overnights were so much fun and the mountain pies were delicious! I met lots of new, cool people, too!

Gabriel Dicecco

Overall, camp was super fun and I will definitely want to come back next year. The week was fun because I met lots of new friends, but many of them left after one week. The second week I met only one new person, but she was great. We made lots of memories and had lots of fun with people in the session. Everyone at camp is super nice and it felt like a big community so I will try to come back next year for two sessions.

Ben Truman

I want to start by saying that this has been an amazing summer with everyone. This camp will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I will always look back to the memories and friends I made here. It's always important to remember that the people you experience things with are just as important if not more than the experiences themselves. There were so many amazing people here at camp that I will always remember. I was able to make new connections here as well as reunite with old friends whom I made memories with last year. I will always count myself as blessed to be a part of this and to have spent four summers here at this amazing camp. I'll always view it as a second home. If there's one thing I'll take away from this, it's that while the experiences can be lots of fun, it's the people along the way that make them memorable.

Daniel Kachelries

SMA 2024 Staff Team Reflections



This summer is coming to a close. Seeing old faces from previous years and meeting new ones this year is always fun. At the end, it's always a bittersweet feeling saying goodbye to everyone. Building bonds through activities, conversations around the table, and hard to solve riddles made everyone grown closer together and gives everyone the freedom to be silly and goofy in a comfortable environment. SMA is always a fun place to that because of the staff and the campers.

Jordan Thorne

We are so back! This session was better than I could have dreamed. It was so amazing to come back to camp, be reunited with familiar faces, and meet a new group of campers! White water rafting was a blast and I was so lucky to get to do my favorite activities one more time. It was special to be a Mattawanna bunk captain and spend time with girls I knew from last year, and

to meet and bond with new first years! The kids this session totally got the SMA energy. I missed the staff team so much while I was gone, so I feel lucky to have gotten to share this time with them. It is truly a special group of humans and I'm so lucky to know them. It's bittersweet to end this amazing summer, but I'm trying to see this sadness as a gift – how lucky I am. It's hard to say goodbye, but I'll be back!

Palma Price

After living here for six weeks I feel different. I've grown to know the road to home in places far away, not take advantage, and to never waste a day. After spending time with the other staff members, I've found that "home" is where you make it and that it's not just a place you live. Because of the team building experiences this camp has given me couches all around the world to sleep on. I am so grateful to have been able to come back this summer. I've said it before and I'll say it again, Stone Mountain Adventures is not a summer camp. It's family.

Mason Craig

This last session was really good. Small, but it made it easier to bond and enjoy some good fun times with the kids. I had a lot of fun on the boat and on the white water rafting trip. Of course, I enjoyed being a "hair dresser"! SMA is finished and I'll keep many good memories.

Laura Cloward

This was my first summer as an AOP. My years as a camper are very dear to me and the memories have always stayed with me. Arriving as an AOP I was nervous that I would have issues making connections with the campers, but it was amazing. I wish I had come earlier and stayed the whole summer. Hopefully, I can come back as a counselor when I am 21 since my academic obligations might not let me before then. My favorite memories are: van rides

with Zach Bryan, peaceful mornings, the simplicity and slow living, blue skies, and fluffy clouds. Being a staff member at SMA means to try my hardest to give the kids the best experience SMA can offer. I trust I've accomplished my part. Thank you fellow staff, sweet campers, SMA, and Jud!

Jenny Li



I feel so many emotions writing this as the summer comes to an end. SMA has been home for the past 10 weeks and the people in it have been family. I've pushed myself so much during my time here and I've accomplished things I never would have done back home. Rock climbing, archery, wake boarding, canoeing, and white water rafting – every activity has been so much fun. The friendships I've made with the other staff are incredible and I couldn't have asked for better coworkers. A highlight for me this session was the day on the Yough. Usually I dread it, but Max and I were in the same boat. We had so much fun even though he dunked me at the first swim spot. I got him back later! The memories I've made this summer will stay with me forever and I am so grateful to SMA for giving me one of the best summers ever!

Mollie Bruce

Session four was a great session even though it had fewer campers. The overnights were a blast and white water rafting was the best one of the summer! I can't believe summer is over – I'm going to miss everyone!

Chase Cloward

It's the end of session 4 and the end of the entire camp and that makes me sad. It feels like yesterday we all arrived. It's hard to believe how fast the summer goes, but that means we're having fun. Session four is always special because there are kids who stay for different amounts of time and it's nice to see how quickly they become friends. It makes me emotional to think about going back to Germany. Being here was such a good break. I would do it every year and it just gets better each time. I made such good friends from around the world. Every staff member is perfect and I love everyone. Jud does such a good job of choosing counselors and I really hope I can come back next year! My friends at home say I should try other places, but they just don't understand what this place does to you. You just don't get it if you haven't been here – it's magical and special. I'll never forget this time and all of the memories I made here.

Kim Alina Schnalke

Session four has come and gone so fast. Seeing the difference between myself in session one versus session four is vast. I'm more confident in myself, which was a goal of mine, and I'm so thankful for the experiences and friendships I've made. Whitewater rafting was great and Kim was in my boat this session. Everyone made the most of their last two weeks here. Special mention to our staff fish Francis, which Nine and Max won at the fair. Somehow, he's still thriving! Thank you for a great summer SMA! I will have a lifetime of memories from this!

Zoey Plew-Smeehuyzen

My experience during session four was fantastic! My biggest goal was to get out of my comfort zone and be present. The food was great and I especially enjoyed hanging out with campers after dinner. Biking on the Allegrippis Trail was my favorite activity. Whitewater rafting and candle meetings were special, too. Thank you, SMA campers and staff, for this awesome experience!

Max Oettl



Well, SMA, here we are seven years later and I'm still coming back. This place has meant more to me than most people could ever understand. This is a special place that carries with it a magic that is impossible to ignore. Growing up here and figuring out who you want to be all while having a blast – that is SMA. It has been a pleasure to return and watch kids experience what I did all those years ago. SMA, you're a beautiful, timeless place. I can't thank you enough for all you've done for me. Until we meet again...

Trey Niccolini

I can't believe it's the end of session 4! WOW, where has summer gone? It has gone by so quickly and I'm so sad that summer is coming to an end. Session 4 was slightly different as some campers were only here one week, but it was still an amazing two weeks. I had a lot of fun, especially on activities like sup and sail, the hiking overnight, and the Yough. The talent show was one of my favorites. Eating pretzels and drinking lemonade at the County Fair was a blast! I'm going to miss the kids and staff so much, and I'm so proud of us all for making this summer unforgettable. I love you, SMA, and I will miss you and your magical atmosphere.

Amy Roebuck

I had a lot of energy coming out of session three which carried straight over to session four! We had an amazing and super talented group of bikemasters, and I am grateful to them for encouraging me to push my limits. Due to the small size of the session, I felt like I really got to know every camper. I was surprised at the number of first years and felt like I'd known all of them for years by the end of the session. What a phenomenal end to the summer!

Zak Kane