

Camp Champions really helped my son grow and mature in this important summer before starting junior high school. Watching the photos on the camp website during the three-week session, I saw my son start to develop his own persona and style. He wore this manky old gray hat the whole time at camp, and made everyone call him "Osmeridium" for the whole three weeks. In every photo he is wearing "The Hat," and doing this goofy "Thinker" pose, holding his chin.

When we went to pick him up, as we walked around the camp, at least 10 counselors saw him and said, "Hey, Osmeridium! How's it going!" They were so impressed by how smart (and weird) he is, and asked him to recite the periodic table of elements many times for their entertainment. Other boys his age would come up to him and call him Osmeridium, and HUG HIM. My mouth fell open. On the way out of camp, all the counselors lined the road and cheered for the departing campers, and as we drove up, in the van, with my son standing up with his head sticking out of the sunroof (still wearing "The Hat"), about 20 people started yelling: "OSMERIDIUM!!" and cheered and clapped for him. It seriously made me cry. He may be extremely odd and nerdy, but he apparently made odd nerdiness a success at camp.

I actually thought Osmeridium was just a name that my son made up; I did not realize until a few days ago that Osmeridium is actually a thing. According to Wikipedia, it is "a natural alloy of osmium and iridium, with traces of other platinum group metals," and is "very rare."

Well, so is my son. He is one of a kind. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for seeing in my goofy son the potential and promise that we see in him.