



October 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

On September 25 & 26, 2018, myself, 2 parent chaperones, 3 YMCA counselors and 25 students went on the trip of a lifetime! We visited Crater Lake, the upper Rogue River, Stewart State Park and Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery. A hard-working teacher with some good parental help could have done this trip and it would have been fine; When we added the YMCA, it made it AWESOME!

From the second those YMCA counselors walked into my door at 6:30 am Tuesday, I knew we were in good hands. They were so energetic and fun, yet firm and in control. They taught kids songs to sing on the bus and preformed skits and songs around the campfire. They even made it fun for the kids who were assigned to wash dishes; they have truly found their calling! Their energy and enthusiasm for life is inspiring.

As a teacher, I really appreciated their organizational skills. I reserved the bus, the tour of Crater Lake, the camping site, the hatchery tour, and they did EVERYTHING else!! Gary Taylor did the food shopping as well as provided the very, well-stocked YMCA trailer with sleeping and cooking equipment.

The minute we arrived at Camp, the YMCA and their well-oiled machine took over. Gary sat the kids down and talked about behavior expectations and shared with them the schedule for the evening. He separated the kids into groups, explained their camp job and then put them to work. They unloaded the gear from the trailer, set up the sleeping tarps, set up the kitchen, cooked dinner, cleaned dishes, passed out s'more supplies, made breakfast, packed lunches and finally, repacked the trailer. Like I said, they made these jobs fun while still requiring quality work.

This is a trip my students will never forget. (We all wish however, it would have been longer – one night just isn't enough). Because a trip like this is so uncommon in our area, I have gotten so much positive feedback from students, parents, school staff and community members. Everyone tells me I did a good job. All I can say is, "It wasn't me." It was Flame (Gary), Gritz and Goob [the YMCA Staff]." They are the real champions of this trip. They did the real work; I was just a teacher along for the ride!

Sincerely,

Sidney Rambo

5th Grade Teacher of 17 Years



CENTRAL POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

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