



A YEAR OF GROWING ~~WISELY~~ FUNLY
GAINES CREEK 2017-2018

This book is dedicated to the wonderful community that we know and love as Gaines Creek. We are grateful to the guides who show such genuine respect and care for our young adults; to the parents who value and support the development of whole people; to everyone who has, is or will contribute to the creation of the school and its culture; and of course, to the adolescents who have thrived and flourished, and made this place their own.

NEWK'S RANCH

“ from:
Roma Bickerton

When we first got on the bus, we were all ready for a long and dangerous ride. Why was it dangerous? Well, there were about fifty hangry, sweaty, and bored adolescents riding on the same bus. Sounds like a catastrophe, right? Well, no, actually. The bus ride there was pretty uneventful.

When we finally got there, all the girls grabbed their luggage and went straight to the cabin, and all the boys went to the common area and started playing ping-pong and foosball. Later, the girls had a bit of an incident when a wasp got in the cabin and everybody started screaming. At that point I left to play foosball.

Madeline Huebner: Yes, so true, so true...

Will Mercer: “How can we play foosball if our hands aren’t real?” — Jaden Smith, 2018

Ming Irwin: Nothing is real.

Cooper Reed: When I first got on the bus I was like, “Oh hey, it’s a bus.”

“ from:
Siham Alim

Newk’s Ranch this year was so much fun! We had so many new and fun activities to do, and the ropes course was great! Speaking of the ropes course, I decided to do the Screamer yet again. So I climbed up, and stood there, waiting to go. The guy attached the harness to me, and told me to sit down. Mind you, I was still attached to the safety net so I didn’t fall off the pole. He told me to sit so my legs were dangling off the platform, and told me to move forward a little bit.

I closed my eyes and moved.

I fell off. YEET!

I was waiting for the wind to blow in my face like it usually would, but nothing happened. I opened my eyes, and, lo and behold, I was suspended in mid-air, being pulled in two different directions. Everything after that seemed like a moment in a soap opera, when there’s a

big reveal. I looked around, and everyone had their hands over their mouths, eyes wide. It was pretty scary, seeing everyone so small, but hilarious. After a few minutes of dangling fifty feet up, I finally got back onto the platform, and completed the Screamer, which was as fun as ever.

After I got off, I got many hugs from a lot of people, and many questions about how I was feeling. One word could describe it all: terrifying.

Also, that picture isn't me. It's Shiza. I don't know how it got there, but it did.

“ from:
Gwen Logan

Newk's Ranch was very enjoyable. I had never been, so I was looking forward to it. I enjoyed watching and filming people going on the Screamer. Some of the videos were definitely the highlight of my trip. On this trip, I probably played the most foosball I had ever played in my life. I also thoroughly enjoyed messing around with the compasses in the woods (or as some of us called it, the jungle). After we had gotten lost in the "jungle" for a while we finally found our way out. When we got back to the dorm Veronique told us about her adventures in Israel and other places. So all in all, as the first trip of the year, it set the bar pretty high.

“ from:
Shiza Maredia

Newk's Ranch was very fun. My favorite part about it was the Screamer. Everyone told me that it was scary, but it turned to be fun and NOT scary (which was kind of sad).

“ from:
Siham Alim

Veronique's stories are so much fun. In one of the stories, some guy couldn't speak perfect English, but when his camels ran away, he let out a perfect string of curses. Man, people are great.

“ from:
Madeline Huebner

Newk's was amazing. I had so much fun! The little team games were so fun! We had problems with the log one—it took FOR FREAKING EVER! I don't know how it took us so long but it did. After we finished, we talked to a group that had done it and they said it took them five minutes or something short like that. My favorite part was jumping off the faux-pole. That was fun I am glad I got the ring. For a minute, I didn't think I was going to do it, but I did. Anyways, so to sum it all up, Newk's was fun in all.



Mazzy Smallwood: A fine ice-breaker.

Vaughn Burger: Ethan is really enjoying this activity.

Gwen Logan: Me, trying not to crush Finn.

Cooper Reed: Look at Max with those fly Crocs.

Sakura Willingham: Is your head supposed to fall asleep when ten people sit on your lap?

Siham Alim: RIP Sakura's sleeping head. Newk's Ranch, 2017.

Ming Irwin: Heads can fall asleep?

“Excellent! Great form! I see Vegas in your future!”

— MAZZY SMALLWOOD

Ethan Kuhlken: That guy was great.

Noah Holt: Vance?



Sakura Willingham: Everyone looks like they hate life.

Will Mercer: Inspiring Smiles Through Delicious Experiences, a unique blend of quick-serve speed combined with the quality and made-for-you care of fast casual. Arby's Restaurant Group, Inc. is the franchisor of the Arby's Brand and is headquartered in Atlanta, Ga.

Siham Alim: IT IS TIME TO STOP.



Mazzy Smallwood: The faux-pole.



Cooper Reed: Ooooooof.



Roma Bickerton: Gwen Logan: Kate just looks so done with life.

Cooper Reed: Roma, why is your mask off?

Cooper Reed: *cheater*



Siham Alim: Is this Cassidy?



Siham Alim: Reach for the sky.



Katie Alice: Murderous look and happiness.

Lindsay Horine: Roma, you look evil.



“ from:
Siham Alim

Barton Springs was great! (Minus the fact that it got rainy, and the bus started leaking a bit, and THERE WAS NO P. TERRY'S!) There was a guest speaker named Tanya Streeter, and she broke both the men's and the women's world record for freediving. It was pretty cool.

“ from:
Madeline Huebner

I was sooo bummed when they had no P. Terry's, but you know, what's done is done, although I did like the lectures.

“ from:
Shiza Maredia

Barton Springs was pretty great, but the bad part was that I couldn't go snorkeling. My favorite part was going to each table and listening to the presentations and then getting things from the tables, especially the candy.

“ from:
Vaughn Burger

The tacos looked like they tasted—like they came out of the garbage. Barton Springs University was not fun this year due to the garbage tacos. The chips were adequate.



Siham Alim:
Sakura rockin' out

“ *from:*
Sarah Hatton

I GOT BILL OLIVER'S AUTOGRAPH!

“ *from:*
Cooper Reed

The two things I was looking forward to were P. Terry's and the activities. Both of those things didn't happen :(



Roma Bickerton:
Habitat!

“ from:
Sakura Willingham

I remember Emily telling me she stole ten pieces of candy
and found a leftover wrapper in her bag.

“ from:
Cooper Reed

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Expectations: “Yay! P. Terry’s!”

Reality: “NOPE! You get vegetarian taco deli.”



Ming Irwin: Siham Alim: And here we see the wild adolescent in its natural habitat...



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“ from:
Roma Bickerton

It was so much fun planning Bluegrass! The online tickets were an amazing success. One of the reasons it was great to have sold tickets ahead of time is because when it started to rain, if people hadn't pre-ordered, that many people would not have come. It was so much fun with a record number of people arriving, and I know that next year's Bluegrass will be even better!



Adele Rankin: What happened to my hair?

Vaughn Burger: #adobe photoshop.mp4



Siham Alim: Artsy.

Vaughn Burger: To shop, the look at the nearest trash can

Ming Irwin: Nah, it has to be a dumpster at a construction site.

Vaughn Burger: Nah, gotta be that Arby's trash can.



Ryan Drake: The calm before the storm.

Ming Irwin: Nice beard, Austin!

Adele Rankin: It was a snake. OkItried.

Ming Irwin: No, it's some green stubble.

“ from:
Madeline Huebner

I had fun! It was nice and I saw some old friends (Travis ;-). Food was good. Well, I didn't eat food, but it looked good.

Vaughn Burger: Who is Travis? No one actually knows who Travis is except you. We need some background history on him. What is he like? What gender is his cat? Did he have skim milk or two-percent milk for breakfast? These are the things that make the reader understand who this mysterious being is.

Siham Alim: “We” being you, right?

Will Mercer: No, “we” being us.

“The rain starts to pour + the third years’ wail ÷ rain stopping = happy third years.”

— SIHAM ALIM

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“Dunk tank was awesome! I got to pour ice into some water...yay.”

— GWEN LOGAN

Ming Irwin: So did I. Woo. Such fun.

“ from:
Gwen Logan

Bluegrass was kinda moist.

Siham Alim: Why must you do this?

Vaughn Burger: Moisture is the presence of a liquid, especially water, often in trace amounts. Small amounts of water may be found, for example, in the air (humidity), in foods, and in various commercial products. Moisture also refers to the amount of water vapour present in the air.

“ from:
Sarah Hatton

I GOT DUNKED!

Kate Medlock: Me too! But only once. It was still pretty fun.

Eliza Fleming: I got dunked so many times.

Ananya Salem: I was TERRIFIED beforehand, but it turned out that it was fun!

Maryn Medlock: I literally almost fainted out of fear but the water was refreshing!

Ryan Drake: The ice literally did nothing.

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Gonna miss you guys.

— Gwen Logan



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