

Choose your plan
 PLANS STARTING AT
\$30/mo.

CLEAR[®]
 clear.com
GET CLEAR!

JOBS **CARS** **HOMES**
Marketplace
 Local Businesses
 Ads / Classifieds
 Coupons • Advertise •
 Cust. Service • Post a Job
Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH
 All of PhillyBurbs Enter search terms **Go**

phillyBurbs.com
 Your Internet Starts Here.

Mon, Jul 12 2010 | Welcome Guest | Login | Register

Mostly Cloudy 87° F | Forecast

News **Opinion** **Information** **Multimedia** **Tools** **Shopping**

- News**
- Local
- Sports Now
- Courier-Intell
- Multimedia
- Courier Times
- The
- Intelligencer
- Burlington
- County Times
- myBCNow
- Sports Now
- Local News
- Local Sports
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Blogs
- Multimedia
- Teen
- Excellence
- Customer
- Service
- Advertise
- Public
- Notices
- Local Sports
- Obituaries
- Local Business
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- News
- National
- World
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Opinions**
- Information**
- Multimedia**
- Tools**
- Shopping**
- Account**

phillyBurbs.com / News / Local / Burlington County Times / Burlington County Times News

Burlington County Times

Kids teaching kids

By: **NICOLE CARACCI**
 Burlington County Times

TEXT SIZE

MEDFORD - Buried in the thick woods off Stokes Road, stretching more than 565 acres, lies a beautiful 100-year-old campground where children ages 5 to 16 spend their hot summer days.

The YMCA's Camp Ockanickon is a weekly escape for about 300 kids, who have the choice to stay overnight or come for the day.

In the same spirit, another summer camp was established in 1997, but with a very specific purpose.

Camp Little Rock was launched so that children with blindness and visual impairment can enjoy the same experiences as kids at Camp Ockanickon.

In the past, Camp Little Rock children spent one week in August at Camp Ockanickon. They came solely for the day program, which is exclusive to the visually impaired. But this year, day camp director Jen Segelken and Camp Little Rock director Tina Fiorentino wanted to build onto that week. With hard work and a devoted staff, that dream came true.

With funding from the nonprofit Little Rock Foundation and a training session for the camp counselors, children at both Camp Ockanickon and Camp Little Rock were placed together the week of June 28. Fourteen children with a visual impairment spent the week doing the same activities and staying at the same campground as the campers with sight. Some of the Camp Little Rock campers even chose to stay overnight.

Those six days were considered a "pilot" week, an opportunity to see the potential this kind of partnership could have, according to Segelken. After the week ended, the children with a visual impairment could sign up for more camp time.

Segelken said the pilot camp had surpassed expectations. She believes the past week, along with any additional time spent, will have a lasting impact on all the children.

"One of the most rewarding things I have seen so far is kids teaching kids. They are learning from each other in so many ways we had not even expected," she said.

The camp gave the kids with impairment a chance to be in a nonacademic environment and experience the camping community with sighted children for the first time.

The camp offered a number of activities to delight children, such as swimming, canoeing, dancing, air riflery, arts and crafts, shopping and games.

It could be relaxing and quiet, until you heard the enthusiastic screams from the lake or the rowdy songs at the fire pit.

One camper who is visually impaired, 12-year-old Joey Youngkin of Pine Hill, Camden County, said his favorite activity was archery, which he called his "progressive skill."

Joey said he'd much rather be at camp than "sitting at home on my computer."

He excitedly talked about how camp helped him improve in many ways and said he had already met boys whom he considered best friends.

Brittani Brendel of Nutley, Essex County, said her favorite part about camp was "everybody's energy." She said simply sitting in the dining hall was entertaining because of the enthusiasm in the air.

Segelken said one of the great assets of the camp, often referred to as Burlington County's "best kept secret" by the staff, is that the children most likely would not have met or spent time with one another had it not been for the



Story Images: 1, 2
 Counselor Catie DelleMonache of Tabernacle works with Savannah Nicosia, 7, of Medford, at the archery range at the YMCA's Camp Little Rock at Camp Ockanickon in Medford. Savannah is visually impaired. DENNIS McDONALD / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Most Emailed **Most Viewed** **Most Discussed**

Sue Jones
 Class-Harlan Real Estate
 Doylestown, PA
 (215) 348-8111 ext 19
 Visit our Web site

Yolanda Citrone
 GMAC Real Estate
 Hamilton, NJ
 609-890-0007
 Visit our Web site

Marketplace
 Find businesses near you:
 Keywords
 City, ST or Zip **GO**
 Add a Review | Advertise



Advertisement
CLEAR is where you need it.
 PLANS STARTING AT
\$30/mo.
GET CLEAR! CLEAR[®] clear.com





about Camp Little Rock, visit tlf.org or call 877-220-2500. The Little Rock Foundation has initiated Blindness Awareness Month for the month of October, and Camp Ockanickon is hosting a walk Oct. 3 to kick off the month.

Both camps are always welcoming new campers. There are different affordable options to become a camper, and scholarships are given out each year.

Contact: ncaracci@phillyBurbs.com

July 02, 2010 01:50 AM

RATING:

 Favorite
  Print
  E-mail this
  Buzz up!
 [ShareThis](#)

Comments

Viewing threshold:

1

Add a comment

Conversation Guidelines: phillyBurbs.com welcomes your comments irrespective of your political or ideological point of view. At the same time, we reserve the right to delete comments that use excessive foul language, are abusive, off-topic, or include ad hominem attacks on other posters or news makers.

Banks Forced to Forgive Credit Card Debt
 Find Out How Much of Your Debt Can Be Erased

Ads by Yahoo!