

LETTER 1:

We wanted to pass on our thanks to you, Dianne, and your staff for the great visit today at riding camp. It was terrific to see how smoothly everyone worked together and we were amazed with how well our daughter Georgia was doing! Your counselor, Jaime, was a pleasure to meet, and she and Georgia have a lovely connection. We appreciate the opportunity to visit. Thanks again. Christina

LETTER 2:

I was totally impressed with the comfort the girls demonstrated around the horses and the skills they had in controlling their movement. The girls have completely enjoyed their experience this week at Whitchurch Riding Camp. I'm sure they'll ask to return next summer. Regards, Lori.

LETTER 3: My Camp Experience

I'll always remember my first time at Whitchurch Riding Camp. I lived in the city and had never been near a horse before. I was eight years old and nervous about all the people I would be meeting (as well as the horses). All the counselors and other kids on the bus were very friendly, and after a bus ride filled with songs and games we arrived at the camp, which was sprawling with horses and kids of all ages.

There are many fun activities. The morning commences with songs and games in order to help everyone make friends. After being split into smaller groups we did arts and crafts, swimming, lunch, horsemanship and of course riding. In arts and crafts we do creative activities such as paper mache, friendship bracelets and tie dye. Swimming takes place in a large pool with a diving board and change rooms right on site. During lunch we sit outside while watching riding lessons or playing games within our group. Horsemanship allows every level of rider to become more knowledgeable in all different aspects of horse care, including first aid, grooming and show preparation. Riding provides everyone with the chance to learn how to handle a horse in a safe environment. Being a little nervous around horses at first, I quickly found myself becoming confident.

As I got older I attended "Advanced Camp" which includes riding twice a day, counselor training, and my favourite – overnight camp that includes an extra ride and swim, as well as sleeping in the barn and night games. Our group became truly inseparable. I loved coming to Whitchurch Camp so much that I volunteered for weeks at a time. I had taken up lessons at Whitchurch Riding Academy during the year since discovering a real love for riding. I joined the Whitchurch Pony Club and competed at many horse shows and events.

Last summer, I was privileged to become a camp counselor after many years of Counselor-In-Training, and I hope to be a counselor for many more years to come. Samantha.