

“Winter Camp was SNOW much fun!”

Written by Gabriella Amisano, Sarah Brown, Autumn Fuson, Sofia Koso, Bryan Dipasca, Emily Vath, Jake Vath, Mark Randles, Michael Fenn, Andrew Welton, Will Talbot, Fiona Ferrell, Mary Rose Elledge, Matt Fuson, Jordan Williams, Catherine Woodbury, Amanda Ives, Elizabeth Woodbury, and SarahMay Case

Campers eagerly finished up school on Friday the 13th, crossing their fingers that they had escaped any and all bad luck. As Saturday approached, blizzard warnings increased and campers began to question whether or not they would be able to get to BCH. It was decided by the camp director, Alessia, that the safest decision would be to postpone camp by one day so parents didn't have to drive through a winter storm. There were some campers who worried that winter camp wouldn't be as good if it was made shorter. After arriving to camp on Monday afternoon, campers quickly learned that while the week was cut short, the fun was certainly not. If anything, we packed our days with *more* excitement, *more* activities, more meaningful worships, and endless laughs.



There were two programs running during winter camp – Challenge and EDGE. We were all together for meals, worship and evening programs. Some of our favorite activities that we did together were movie night, lip sync battle, a coffee house talent show, “build-a-beast” teambuilding, board games, and more. When the two groups weren't together as a whole camp, they split into their separate Challenge and EDGE groups to experience their own community interests. Challenge campers spent time learning how to knit, making pizza, doing yoga, snow shoeing, drawing zentangles, sledding down Mt. Barbara, and more. Our first winter EDGE group spent time learning how to ski at Crotched Mountain, snow shoeing up to the ropes course, belaying each other through the high elements, and building a snow village of quinzhees to camp outside in. While most EDGE campers chose the warmth of the bunkhouse over a quinzhee, there were two campers who spent an entire night winter camping in their own personal quinzhees along with the EDGE director, Ethan.

Our worship theme for the week was “Call and Response: God calls us in countless ways...

how do we respond?” We spent a lot of time in small groups talking about the ways in which we experience being “called” to be our true self. We learned how God wants us to be the best version of ourselves. We also talked a lot about forgiveness and reconciliation, and how to let go of negative feelings and grudges that we hold on to.

As one camper said, “Winter camp was a week full of friendship, worship, laughs, and fun. All in all, this was a week to remember.” We can't wait for Winter Camp 2016!

