

Celebrating Others

Susie Ma'am saw something moving and somewhat remarkable at torchlight.

When the Torchlighter on the girls' side was announced, Susie looked at the Torchlighter's 8-year-old best friend in the audience. The best friend (who was a bit tired from two successive late nights) looked jealous, even a tad sad. She wiped at tears with the sleeves of her T-shirt.

She, however, clearly knew she should be happy for her friend. She looked at Susie Ma'am. She forced herself to smile. She then looked at her friend and she found a true smile. She then started to glow. When her friend sat back down beside her, they hugged and whispered and loved on each other.

What struck Susie the most was the conscious - and successful - effort of this young camper to redirect her own emotions from the petty to the profound. We submit thoughts for the day at camp. Some are light-hearted, but some are more challenging. At the beginning of camp, Susie ma'am challenged the girls to be truly happy for another, to celebrate another's success as much as their own. Susie Ma'am was on-stage, but the best show was in the audience.

Proud of the Aquanauts

OK, this might not seem something to be proud of, but I really am pleased with the Aquanauts. At Torchlight, each cabin does a Role Call. Before the Role Calls, the Division Leaders introduce their divisions with a cheer/call.

The Aquanaut cheer is silly. It is fun. It is devoid of machismo or hubris. The Aquanauts "Jump, Jive and Giggle". When they say "giggle", they put their hand over their mouths. What I like about it is that they as a group are so comfortable with themselves that they are completely at ease being silly. It is easy to get 8 year-old boys to be silly. Fifth grade girls love silly. But boys 12-15 tend to be highly self-conscious and take themselves very seriously.

Given this tendency, I get a huge smile as I watch (and join in) as they Jump, Jive and Giggle.

Getting Love from Texas Monthly

In the June edition of Texas Monthly, the cover article feature 13 recommended summer escapes - one for each weekend. The ideal "family" escape was a weekend at the Lakeway Spa and Resort.

In the spread written by Skip Hollandsworth, he endorsed the Resort for its "adult amenities and all kinds of great activities for the kids".

He then writes the following:

"One of the best parts of the resort is the day camp for the kids. As opposed to the standard "kid's club" you find at many hotels, this is an actual camp run by the venerable CAMP CHAMPIONS. Children from four to ten can attend and they can fish, rock climb, play disc golf and soccer, create their own obstacle courses, make ice cream and engage in a variety of arts and crafts."

This program is run by Faye Sager, a graduate of our Camp Internship program. Faye has done a wonderful job at the Lakeway Resort. If you are looking for a nice place for the family where both the grown ups and the kids can have a blast, you would love this place. Also, Camp Champions families get a 10% discount!

BTW, I love being called venerable! I wonder if the campers would call me "Venerable Steve Sir"? Naw, I don't think so either!

Steve Sir