

Letter from a "Take CedarS Home" Online Camp Pilot Parent

June 2020

Dear CedarS,

I'm writing to you with deep gratitude in my heart for all the effort you all put into making the first-ever CedarS Online Camp such a success! I'm truly amazed at what a nurturing, complete, FUN program you pulled together in such a short amount of time. And beyond that, it was a total blessing to our family

After 12 weeks of quarantine, our family was feeling the so-called human stresses of the situation--I was noticing increased sibling squabbles and my parenting patience had worn VERY thin. But honestly, I wasn't convinced that spending an additional 2 hours in front of a screen was going to help any of that.

What our family experienced last week during CedarS online camp was nothing short of the Christ-idea in action. My son and daughter were thoroughly engaged for the ENTIRE two hours while they were "at camp" and I could overhear such happy, enriching conversations taking place. The Counselors seriously did a better job of facilitating the cabin group for two hours than many of our private school teachers did of managing a small group of students online for 20 minutes.

The kids emerged from their camp time looking refreshed and joyous and bubbling about the new friends they made or the fun things they talked about. It was the complete opposite of what I observe when the kids have too much screen-time, which leaves them looking drained and feeling edgy. As a result, I was able to be so productive during the two hours when I knew the kids were in such good hands, and I felt spiritually refreshed as well. What a blessing!

At dinner on Friday night, my son shared with us in detail about the "Treasures of Truth" exercise that Sammy & Keeton led, and described it as, "the coolest way to learn about the Lesson." And my daughter shared that she wanted online camp to continue next week and had, "the most amazing time with Valorie & Gracie and all my cabin sisters!"

I just want to share with you from the parent side of the screen how incredible your efforts were (continue to be!) and how seamlessly you translated the CedarS experience into an online experience--it really was the manifestation of wholesome, joyous activity irrespective of distance or human nearness.

On page 110:13-18 of *Miscellaneous Writings* 1883-1896, Mrs. Eddy writes, "My Beloved Students: Weeks have passed into months, and months into years, since we last met; but time and space, when encompassed by divine presence, do not separate us."

Thank you for all of your hard work, expressions of love and grace, and for bringing the FUN into our house last week--you all are a blessing!

A grateful family