

## 2 commentaries on the first camp in

Lynn:

So what did this accomplish ?

- Every girl there learned that if you believe in something you should stand up for it. You can protest and disagree and be respectful about doing it.

Unfortunately on TV, everyone sees how people disagree and it ends in violence. You have shown the world how to disagree and do it in a civic manner. Were any uniformed police officers there to keep the peace ?

You have shown these girls that they have the power to voice their opinions and thoughts without being shut down - its what makes this country what it is.

And the girls is what this is all about !!

You accomplished everything you needed to.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn Richardson <[lynndragonwing@roadrunner.com](mailto:lynndragonwing@roadrunner.com)>

To: [trefoil\\_integrity@yahoo.com](mailto:trefoil_integrity@yahoo.com)

Sent: Fri, Jun 10, 2011 11:19 pm

Subject: [trefoil\_integrity] the CAMP-IN at GSNEO HQ

The first CAMP-IN at on the GSNEO HQ, Macedonia. June 9-10, 2011

In a word: Beautiful.

THANK YOU to everyone who organized the events, who showed up, who supported it!

The two big fears - lightning and confrontation - did not happen. IN fact, the sky was perfectly clear by 3am. And in the morning council staff brought donuts out to us!

There were about a dozen tents scattered from the top of the hillside, down the slope to the back drive, then across the drive in a line facing the large, lighted GSNEO sign. As people arrived, they picked where they wanted to set up. Karen Flowers greeted everyone & passed out name tags. There were lots of girls around to help us oldsters unload & set up - I don't think they were assigned, they were just happy to be there, doing what Girl Scouts do! The rented porta-potty was in a corner of the parking lot along with handwashing & a trash can. Pamme brought hanging lanterns which added a note of whimsy to our campsite. One of the troops raised their troop flag on the hill outside their tent - also a nice touch.

The girls did crafts, played games, made posters. People sat around & talked or read. The camp saver troop was there working on filling up their large banner project. Lots of girls took colored sidewalk chalk and wrote messages on the walkways and in the parking lot. A reporter from The Leader spent much of the evening with us, interviewing different adults and girls. Then he got some pictures of all the girls, including little Amelia ( who is just turning two today! ) Amelia sported a lovely sandwich board which said "Save some camps for me!" .

I turned in early, & went to sleep to the sound of girls singing camp songs. Next morning we waited by the driveways to wave to incoming staff. Some of the girls made signs that said " Honk to save the camps" & went out by Rt 82 where they got a lot of response. More singing & chanting. Some of us had to leave early to get to work. Iris & Terri drove up from Dover to join the demonstration. Fox 8 news

came by & interviewed Pamme & two of the girls ( I don't have their names ). John Graves ( GSNEO CFO came out & offered to give the girls a tour of the building. Then we all packed up & went home.

So what did we accomplish?

- Even the the GSNEO board wasn't on site, the fact that so many girls, leaders, families, came out to spend the night sends a message to them. It sends a message that camp is important to us. The girls especially sent the message that camp is truly something that Girl Scouts want, that "roughing it" is not that big a deal, but gives girls the basic skills to be able to live comfortably in many different kinds of situations. it helps them to grow. That Girl Scouting is as strong as it is BECAUSE it offers girls these opportunities.
- We are sending a message to the community that we want all seven of our remaining camps - not 2 PLCs
- Staff sent a message to us ( via the donuts and the tour) that they respect the girls Taking Action in a peaceful protest.
- We got to meet each other! We are uniting across regional boundaries to give strength to the Girl Scout movement.

.....that's my take on the event. I hope others will add their perceptions.

Lynn