



iStand Survivor Camp NEWSLETTER



SURVIVOR CAMP 2023: ISLAND EXPLORERS

Dear Survivor Camp Supporter:

Your generous support transforms lives. Because of you, ten youth survivors of International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) and their parents attended the 2023 iStand Survivor Camp at beautiful Camp Sumatanga, Alabama.

Survivor Camp turned shy campers into leaders, strangers into friends, and friends into family. The entire week helped all families heal, together.

A generous grant from the Raymond B. Preston Family Foundation, and your overwhelming donations of time, money, and in-kind support, gave these brave families the camp experience of a lifetime!

We're excited to share highlights from our one-of-a-kind summer camp experience that your kindness made possible.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

The iStand Survivor Camp Team



Fun-Filled Days & Nights

We packed maximum fun, activities, and family time into each day. We began with breakfast in the camp cafeteria. Campers were always ready to go, and our camp counselors led the way. After breakfast, campers participated in **Breathe Space**-- a time of stretching and positive affirmations to start the day. Next, our morning activities were of the outdoorsy type! From **archery**, **canoeing** and fishing, **hiking** and nature conservation activities, our campers tried everything! They earned lots of badges for their courage and ingenuity!

Pool time was eagerly anticipated after lunch each day. Marco Polo, water races, plenty of splashing helped us stay cool in the July sun. Freeze pops and finale planning provided the daily rest our campers needed after the pool, and our afternoon activities also kept us moving. That included fireworks and a field day complete with **Color Wars**!

We saw elephants, giraffes, and butterflies; and friendly birds jumped on our heads during our big day off the campground --**Zoo Day**! Campers' nights ended with **Brave Space**, a no-parents allowed, safe space for survivors to share their experiences with a licensed therapist. None of us were ready to go when Camp was over, not even the staff.

We all sang our camp song and said the best, most hopeful words..."**See you next year!**"

Campfires & S'mores



Memories were made over s'mores and campfires. We had two campfires, learned fire safety, and sang camp songs.

Hiking & Nature Conservation



A great hiking day included encountering salamanders, flora and fauna, a cave and a stream. Campers stayed hydrated as they explored nature!

Endless food dares!



Having our meals together in the cafeteria was a wonderful bonding time, with plenty of food dares! Hot sauce for the win!

CANOEING & FISHING





ARCHERY

Color Wars



Campers had an absolute blast on Field Day, which included bubbles, volleyball, and ended with Color Wars! It was Team Islanders vs. Team Explorers, but everyone won with brightly-colored fun!

Brave Space



We were blessed to have certified therapeutic Camp Counselor and adult IPCA survivor Ana Quintella to guide campers through Brave Space, a nightly time of reflection and healing through sharing survivor experiences. Even parents had some Brave Space time with Ana.

Pool Days



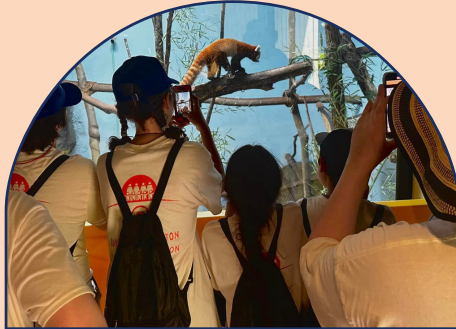
Every day was pool day! From snorkels and floaties, to watermelon races and Marco Polo, campers frolicked in the pool each day. One camper even passed his swim test on his birthday!

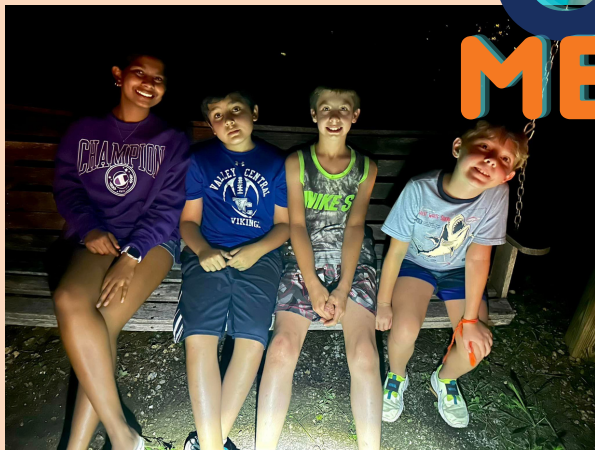
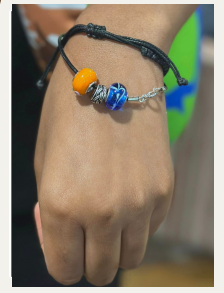
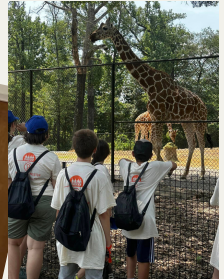
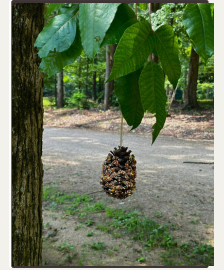
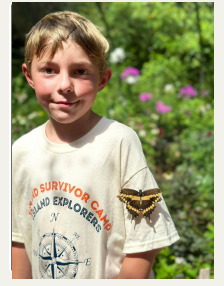


ROPES COURSE & SCIENCE!

Another surprise hit at camp was the ropes course, which turned into an amazing science lesson. Campers learned to work together through trust falls, a lever-pulley swing and rope balancing!

ZOO DAY!





CAMP MEMORIES



Thank you to all of our donors!



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