



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CREATING ACCEPTANCE FOR YOUTH

Stephanie is a bubbly 15 year old that makes everyone around her smile. That has not always been the case, but Stephanie has come into her own over the past year.

Although she has had many life challenges for someone so young, she has seized the opportunities offered to her, like a week at Camp Carson. Generous donors like you help ensure that kids like Stephanie can experience places like Camp Carson.

Stephanie says, "I came to Camp Carson this year for the first time. My caseworker thought Camp Carson would be a good social opportunity for me. I was nervous, excited, and also anxious about camp. I had never been to a 'stay away' camp or any camp in general. Let me tell you that within 30 minutes of being at camp all my anxiousness went away. All the counselors greeted me with warm

smiles. Everything about Camp Carson said, 'Welcome'. All the activities were top notch. Art and crafts, nature, mountain boarding, I could go on for days. My favorite activity was boating. I had so much fun! We lined up all the kayaks side by side, and then one person would run across the tip of the kayaks."

Stephanie's foster mom, Julie, shared that the caring nature of the camp staff was such an encouragement for Stephanie to continue on the "fresh start" journey she began months ago. Camp staff were so impressed, we offered her a spot in the 2-week LIT (Leader in Training) session coming up in July. As you can imagine, Stephanie enthusiastically accepted and was excited about being a leader with new friends her age. She has her sights on becoming a camp counselor one day.

With support of the YMCA Annual Campaign, YMCA Camp Carson can make sure that, after a week of camp, every camper goes home feeling Accepted, Challenged and Empowered. When children feel accepted, they step outside their comfort zones, and that confidence empowers them to take on life's opportunities and challenges. It all starts with acceptance and we think Stephanie summed it up best when she said, "There's so much love at camp!"

- Debra Scoular
Development & Marketing Coordinator,
YMCA Camp Carson



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Right and Left Photos: Support like yours allowed Stephanie to experience activities like boating, to meet new people and make lifelong friendships, and to feel accepted with her cabin mates.

