

## **Camp Pathfinder Student Reflection Responses 2025**

*Did you experience anything on the trip that helped you to see your home life/culture differently?*

- "I didn't think about being on my phone or any other technology during the trip because there was always something better to do. If we weren't doing an activity, I was chatting with my friends or playing cards. It puts into perspective how little we need technology."
- "I noticed in my life that I am on my phone way too much. I was worried going into the trip about not having my phone, but I did not miss it or want it, and I think I am much better off without it. I'm going to make an effort to do things I know I love in the time that I would be scrolling on my phone, like reading, or walking, or running, or being creative."
- "I noticed that it's easier to talk to people in person especially if you want to be understood because over a text the attitude or tone of what you're saying can be altered or changed just based off the person. Whereas in person they are able to hear your tone and sense your body language to actually understand you."

*What insights into effective teamwork did you gain from this trip? How might these affect your future work in teams or groups?*

- "In some of the games and activities that we did, everyone in our group had to communicate and share ideas in order to do better and win. I think this will be useful in the future because I will be better at listening to other people's thoughts and opinions and we will be able to solve problems quicker."
- "I learned how to work, have fun, and find common interests with people I didn't previously know."
- "In my activity group I talked to people I normally wouldn't talk to. I learned that talking to new people and working with them isn't always a bad thing and can be a good experience."

*What was something you were worried about before the trip that turned out to not be so big of a deal?*

- "I was worried about not being able to talk with the people I wanted to or being left out, but when I got there, I talked with lots of people including people I wasn't so close with before the trip."
- "Before the trip to Camp Pathfinder, I was worried about being away from technology (more specifically, my phone), but this concern quickly faded once I

arrived at camp. There, I had the opportunity to chat and bond with my friends, form new friendships, and try many things I had never done before, such as archery and canoeing."

- "I was worried that it might be boring at times, but I ended up always having fun."

*What is the one thing that you feel you learned or noticed about yourself while you were at Camp Pathfinder?*

- "One thing I learned about myself while at Camp Pathfinder was how sociable I could be without technology creating barriers. Being in nature and engaging in outdoor activities allowed me to talk with my fellow campers, showing me the importance of stepping away from screens to engage with those around me."
- "I noticed that I really enjoyed staying outdoors all day. It made me much happier than staying home inside and made me understand how much I love the outdoors."
- "I noticed that I felt better and slept better when I was moving and trying different things all day as opposed to when I'm sitting for most/all of the day."

*Having had the time to personally reflect on and digest your experience, what part of this experience do you feel made the biggest impression on you or was the most memorable?*

- "I think the part of the experience that made the biggest impression on me was the nature surrounding me. My tent was right next to a lake, so I took a lot of time to admire the beauty of the area around me. This made me feel a lot more in touch with nature."
- "I would say that canoeing made the biggest impression and was the most memorable because I was very scared and didn't even want to get on the lake but once I got on, I felt very different and even wanted to do it again. It was very unexpected because I was set on the idea that I wasn't going to do it but ended up doing it and enjoying it."
- "I think being without technology made the biggest impression because we had even more fun without any phones, TVs, or computers to distract us."

*What advice can you share with next year's 8th graders before they embark on the same journey?*

- "Some advice I would like to share with next year's group of Camp Pathfinder campers is that you should attempt many new things, even if it scares you at first, and that you should try to make the most of your Pathfinder trip. This trip to Pathfinder made me less reliant on technology and more in tune with the world and nature around me. My favorite part of the Camp Pathfinder trip was experiencing a

new environment and activities with my friends and being able to share these special memories with them. You should consider going because this trip to Camp Pathfinder is truly something that you'll remember for your whole life, and it is probably something you'll never experience again. This trip to Camp Pathfinder impacts 8th-grade students like me because it helps make you less socially awkward and helps you form new connections and friendships with others."

- "One piece of advice I would give to next year's group is to go in with an open mind and be ready to try new things. Camp Pathfinder was an unforgettable experience that helped me build stronger friendships and become more confident. My favorite part was canoeing and spending time around the campfire, where we shared stories and laughed. This trip showed me how important teamwork and stepping out of your comfort zone can be. I think every 8th grader should consider going because it's a chance to grow, have fun, and make memories that will last forever."
- "I would recommend not worrying about your tent or activity group before getting to the island. I was worried about if my activity group would get along or that I would not have enough time with my friends but neither of these were any issues. Everyone in my activity group was super supportive and got along really well. There were positive vibes all around. I also really enjoyed the polar plunges, so that is something I would highly recommend. It made me feel more awake and ready for the day and it was most likely my favorite part along with the high ropes course. Lastly, I believe the trip to Pathfinder strengthened my bond with my grade and made everyone more understanding and kind."
- "Please go to Camp Pathfinder! It's normal to be nervous, but that was one of the best experiences I've ever had. Spending time with my classmates, getting to know people I don't really talk to, and becoming more comfortable with others was so fun. Being in the forest with clean air and water was so refreshing, sleeping in the chilly nights and waking up in the morning, doing activities I would not usually do was so much fun."
- "The Camp Pathfinder trip is truly an amazing experience that you should attend if you have the chance. This trip helped me get closer to a lot of people and also helped me get closer to nature. There were many activities I got to attend with all my friends, even when the weather wasn't the best. The no electronic policy also was really nice because it taught people to connect in person. If I were you, I would really go on this trip because you won't have anything but fun the whole trip. "
- "This trip is 100% worth it. Any worries or fear you have will be gone the moment you get in your groups. Don't be afraid to try new things or talk to new people. Be excited and full of energy because that makes the trip 10 times more fun. The food is SO

GOOD. Also, do the polar plunge! It's fun, I swear. But in all seriousness, this trip is one of the best if not the best school event I've ever participated in."