

Avon Lake kid learned balanced life at SuperCamp

By Alison Meaney, Sun News



ALISON MEANEY/SUN NEWS

Avon Lake resident Paul Wyoatt said he learned time management at a recent SuperCamp, specifically how to balance sports and family time.

SuperCamp spokeswoman Michelle Tennant said an eighth-grader from Avon Lake has already learned life lessons it took her until her 30s to pick up.

Paul Woyat, a Learwood Middle School student, said he learned the importance of a balanced life while attending SuperCamp at Cornell University two years ago, along with time management and test-taking skills.

“He got into St. Ignatius, so we’re happy,” said his mother, Celeste.

Some of Paul’s family members are actively involved in donating to and managing SuperCamp, an enrichment camp. The worldwide organization is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

The camp’s co-founder and president, Bobbi DePorter, said that in addition to teaching students to learn more efficiently, SuperCamp often is a participant’s first glimpse at university life. DePorter said it expands their horizons and reminds them of the goal of their work.

“They live in the dorms and eat in the cafeteria,” DePorter said of the camps, which last for up to 10 days. “For many students, it’s (attending a university is) something that’s off in the future. It makes it a lot more real for the students. It reminds them why they’re getting good grades.”

For Paul, who will transition to life as a St. Ignatius student in August without the company of any of his current middle school classmates, lessons learned during his Adventure Day experience at SuperCamp will come in handy.

Woyat said he was terrified of the deep, dramatic ravines around Cornell’s campus, but taking the literal “leap of faith” while attached to a zip-line harness is something he’ll recall during the first days at his new school.

“It teaches you no fear,” said Woyat’s father, Steve. “Don’t be afraid to get out there and try something new.”

This summer, the SuperCamp program will move much closer to Cleveland, as it is hosted by Kent State University for the first time.

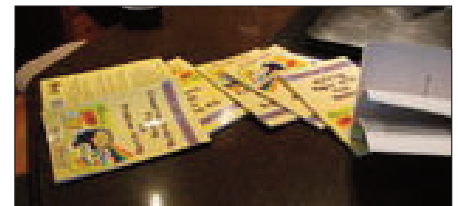
The camp for incoming sixth- through eighth-graders will take place from July 25-31. Cost of this session is \$2,395. A high school camp, for incoming students in grades 9-12, will be Aug. 3-12. This program costs \$2,995.

Fees include books which review the eight main points instructed by the camp.

An option for the SuperCamp at Kent State University is Parent Weekend, July 29-31, priced at \$495 for the junior program and \$795 for the senior program.

“We’ll be focused on building confidence, looking at what they want to accomplish and getting focused on their goal,” DePorter said. “The results that we get from SuperCamp include a rise in their grades, confidence and motivation.”

For more information about SuperCamp, visit the website at supercamp.com.



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SuperCamp participants receive a series of paperbacks which can serve as references long after participants leave the program.