

Summer of Water

The summer of water, that sounds fun right? filled with going to the lake and pools, water parks and more but it has a bigger meaning to it than you think.

Summer of 2022 summer camp, I loved going to summer camp. There was everything to do there. Sitting in the front seat of my dads car, I waited to reach the tall black gates. With excitement I turned around to see my best friend Sophia in her car behind me!

We checked in and I went to my cabin, sadly me and sophia weren't in the same cabin. It was awkward at first but after a few hours I had bunches of new friends.

Now before I tell you what summer of water means you have to know a little about me. My name is Harper White and at the time I had just turned 11, a few months before that I had been diagnosed with a minor heart murmur. My cardiologist said I needed to drink at least 64 ounces of water per day. Long story short, I'm not very good at organizing my drinking. Some days I go with little to no water because I'm not thirsty.

Now that I got that out of the way back to the story.

Primarily you would stay at camp for one week or 7 days. For the second year in a row I was in cabin 10. My counselors, Kate and Maya were so nice and kind. Something fun at camp was the end of camp talent show. I normally always sing a song. But I guess the universe had other plans.

I believe it was Tuesday and we were having a movie night in our pajamas. Everyone who was at camp was there. After the movie we went back to the cabin and got ready for bed. I had gone into the bathrooms to brush my teeth and little did I know that my water bottle had spilled onto my bed, and got the whole side where my head went wet. So I had to sleep with my head under the top bunk. I was the middle bunk, at camp our bunk beds had 3 per set. Two like normal and the third one sticking out of the side.

The last thing I remember before falling asleep was that my counselors were in the bathroom showering and our cabin was decorated with disco balls that would hang from the roof. And a required item to bring to camp was a flashlight. So everyone was shining the light on the rotating sparkling silver balls.

At the time I was trying to fall asleep so this was not helping. I already had a hard enough time falling asleep under the tight space of wood. If I tried to sit up I would hit my head. But slowly I fell asleep.

A few hours later I jerked awake under the wood looking at the weird vandalized areas. My throat was drier than the Sahara desert. In need of water I quickly drank water from my water bottle. When I got out from underside of the bed I got this rush of a headache, So I got out of bed to go use the bathroom and then I realized how dizzy I was. I was shaking, Cold and nasus. That night I woke up around 6-7 more times.

I decided to wait out the night. When I was woken up by Kate in the morning, all the pain was still there. Normally in the morning we would be assigned a chore. But I didn't get up. I was in so much pain I could barely talk, so I told kate.

She talked to Maya after and we decided to take me to the camp nurse. There they measured my heart rate and blood pressure. So she said she couldn't find what was wrong with me and then decided to send me to a small walk-in clinic 30 minutes away. Supposedly they had the technology to find out what was happening. Maya and one of my counselors from last year took me. Her name was Luren.

Once we got there they did the exact same thing as the camp nurse. So apparently they didn't have the technology. So after all this they sent me to the hospital! There I was in the lonely hospital bed.

I thought to myself when would I see my moms face again? The thought of the warm coarse blanket on my lap and the way the sound of the tv played from the remote, The way the clear tube went to my arm all the way to the IV machine makes my stomach turn. Around an hour later my mom arrived.

I ended up having very severe dehydration, as I expected. After staying at the hospital for around 8-9 hours the doctors gave me some medicine and cleared me to go back to camp. That day I had gotten one pint of fluid,. many many tests.

On the way to pick up the medicine my mom said “ I was paler than she thought I would be.”

Me and my mom drove back to camp later that day. When I arrived we gave the camp nurse the medication and I went to see my friends. They all missed me and were glad I was okay. We ate dinner or they did, and went to the game room. All of a sudden A dizzy spell came over me.

I went to sit down and the nurse gave me some of the medicine. After a while I couldn't talk anymore. I felt hot and cold at the same time my stomach growled because I barely touched my food at dinner. So the nurse called my mom and she was unable to get me but my dad was. So he picked me up and we went home 3 days early.

A few days later I had a very bad pain on the left side of my rib cage. So we went back to the hospital for the second time! They said nothing was wrong and it was just my body adjusting to the medicine.

So that's my story of the summer of 2022.