

Summer Fun!

by Barbara Gilmour



When Tanner, Nicole, Stephen, Rudy, Carmen and Truman the Dragon came into class, they were all smiling. Ms. Gilmour greeted each and asked why they were so happy. Everyone started talking at once. She laughed at how excited they were, and asked them to slow down and for one person to talk at a time.

"It's summer! No school," yelled Nicole.

Carmen joined in with, "I'm having so much fun this summer."

Rudy added, "My day camp at school has been a lot of fun, and it's not over yet."

Nicole and Carmen both said at once, "Girl Scout camp was fun, too."

Stephen shared that he had fun at his sports camp with his team. Tanner was next to talk about his stay at overnight camp. Finally, Truman added, "My neighborhood camp was cool. We did lots of different things, like swimming, ball games, field trips, and the play at the end was fun to practice and perform."

Ms. Gilmour then said, "It sounds like you all have been having a fun time with your different camps." All the kids agreed that camp was cool.

She then asked, "Did you get to share about being 'Cool Kind Kid Challengers' with your friends at camp?" They all had stories to tell about that.

Tanner was first to say, "When you live in a cabin with a bunch of other kids, you need to know how to get along. It was easy to tell the kids about being 'Cool Kind Kid Challengers.' We had challenges to keep the cabin clean, to be kind and respectful of others' space and stuff and to show respect to our counselor."

Stephen added, "At my sports camp, we needed to be challenged to play fair, follow the rules, be team players and do our best."

Nicole and Carmen then shared about their experience at Girl Scout Camp. "We also challenged the other kids to get along, including no gossiping, teasing or ignoring, and to be agreeable."

Truman and Rudy, whose camps lasted longer than the others, both challenged kids to be accepting of the different kids attending and to show kindness and respect to everyone at the camp, including the instructors and volunteers.

Next, Ms. Gilmour asked, "Who is going on a vacation in what is left of the summer?" Several hands went up. She then asked, "What 'Cool Kind Kid Challenges' would be needed on a vacation?"

Truman was first to say, "Be happy with whatever vacation your family has planned."

Tanner added, "Show your thanks to whoever is taking you on vacation."

Nicole said, "And always take your best manners with you." Carmen high-fived her.

Rudy then added, "What about a staycation? We usually do fun things on a vacation at home."

Stephen thought that was cool. "You will have to take turns deciding what to do, then you can invite me to go with you." Everyone laughed, as Ms. Gilmour told the class goodbye. © Cool Kind Kid

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner's grandmother, is the creator and developer of the "Cool Kind Kid" Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning "Cool Kind Kid" Audio CD. She also writes the Children's Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners and social skills. www.CoolKindKid.com.