

CAMPUS BY THE SEA: CATALINA ISLAND

Our first trip to Campus by the Sea on Catalina Island was incredible. After a bouncy boat ride, students settled into their cabins and then competed in a friendly volleyball tournament against each other. The evening closed with a campfire and s'mores on the beach. Tuesday was a full day of water activities. After devotions which encouraged students to face fears, they wet-suited up for snorkeling. This stretched many students outside of their comfort zone as they navigated the rocky beach, cold water, and snorkeling gear. Everyone tried it, and the majority of students were able to see Garibaldi fish, the state fish of California.



The next activity was kayaking, which many students said was their favorite activity on the trip. They paddled along the coast in hopes of sighting a seal. Students had to work together in order to synchronize their efforts to steer and maneuver the boat. After lunch, students explored the tide pools, and found lots of small sea creatures, including crabs, sea anemones, hermit crabs, bubble snails, and sea hares. They even observed moray eels feeding on the remains of a squid! That evening, students worked in groups and performed informational skits about animals found on Catalina Island. The night closed with a hike up to a cross overlooking the ocean, and a devotion reflecting on God's purpose for their lives. The last activity was a fun (and slightly disgusting!) squid dissection where students got to investigate the inner working of the *Loligo opalescens*. Overall, the trip was an amazing and memorable experience.



WHAT OUR YOUNG TRAVELERS HAD TO SAY

“The most significant thing I learned at Catalina Island is that we should take care of the seas creatures because they are God’s creations.”

-Sophie



“My favorite part was going on a day hike with a few of my friends. This was fun because we got to hike on our own time and explore the beauty of nature.”

-Lily

WHAT OUR YOUNG TRAVELERS HAD TO SAY

“I liked everything about Catalina but I really enjoyed kayaking because of how epic and thrilling it was! I also like the bunks because I get to be with friends. I also liked looking at animals and catching crabs.”

-Anson



“The most important thing I learned about was the devotion about healthy and unhealthy fear and learning about the stars.”

-Ruby
