

PDF Links to "thoughts of two Zartonk campers Michelle Hagopian of Granite City, IL and Adreena Nercesian of Hanover, MI:

*"Hye Expectations"* by Michelle Hagopian of Granite City, IL

I had thought that my years as a camper at Camp Haiastan were over. Little did I know, I'd be returning this year for the brand new Teen Session. I'll admit, I was skeptical about this idea, seeing how I was used to the traditional camp experience for the past five years. However, all of my doubts vanished the second I arrived on those front steps and I recognized all of the familiar faces I know and love. I practically know everyone already and it did not take long until I met a few more unforgettable people.

My assumption was true; this session was much different than expected. There were many new activities and experiences along the way, and they were well, interesting! I have learned it is not what you participate in, it's how you make the best of every situation. Since there were only 20 campers for the first time, campers and staff alike have grown into one big family as cliché as that may sound, each individual's personality clashes to form into the ideal camp atmosphere. I know I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that this session has been a challenge, but a fantastic journey nonetheless.

Through my teenage years I considered camp as my second home, and I still do until this day. I've made so many friends that I will have for life, through good times and the bad, and I credit camp for that. Even as I sit here writing this, all of the memories come rushing back to me, and I can think of nowhere else I'd rather be. I recommend that all 15 and 16 year olds seize the opportunity to come spend two weeks of your life here. Believe me, you will not regret it. As my last year as a camper comes to an end, I am anxiously waiting for my years as a staff member to begin, right here where so many memories were made and certainly not forgotten.

*"First Teen Session"* by Adreena Nercesian of Hanover, MI

This is my fifth year coming to Camp Haiastan, and for this new Teen Session, camp has definitely changed. Mostly, for the good although I still miss the "nose pickers" we used to do in the morning. This Teen Session was so much smaller than a regular session, but the friendships I had just grew stronger. Even though I missed some of the things we used to do, this Teen Session has been so much fun. It's like one big family. Camp Haiastan has always been full of memories, laughter, friendships, and the family members God may have forgotten to give us. I have had so many good memories and I have never laughed harder in my life. I look forward to coming back to Camp Haiastan until I can't anymore, because Camp Haiastan will always have a place in my heart.