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PREV NEXT Reporters Roundup - 2nd Edition for 8/27/10

Blind Campers See Tons of Fun at South Jersey Camp

KYW Newsradio

> Local News, > News, Community Affairs, Education, Leisure, New Jersey

8/27/2010 3:46pm

It was a week of sports, tie-dye and talent shows — typical summer camp activities. But as **KYW's Pat Loeb reports**, it was the campers that set this South Jersey camp apart.

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Filed Under: Pat Loeb, Camp Little Rock, Rocco Fiorentino



Camp Little Rock, in Medford, NJ, is named for 13-year-old Rocco Fiorentino (center of photo). Ten years ago, his parents found no camp in South Jersey was willing to take him because he is blind.

So, Rocco says, his family simply started their own camp:

“Things that most blind kids really don’t get to experience, we have here.”

That includes adapted sports, such as baseball with beepers that tell campers when to swing and where to run.

And, for the final day of camp, getting up close and personal with miniature ponies. Mike Smedley (far left in photo, in orange hat) is one of 31 campers who spent the week having the same kind of fun as sighted children:

“It’s pretty cool. I’ve never seen horses that small.”

His mother, Kristin, says it was a good experience for both of them:

“It was great to be able to see him just get out of the car and be

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comfortable, and know that he was walking into a comfortable, fun experience. He was ready to be here and me not to worry about it at all.”

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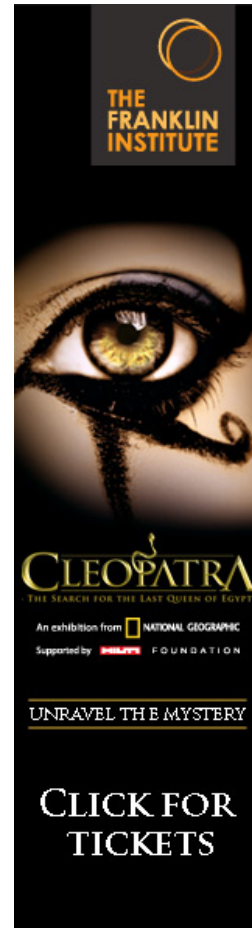
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