

ACA Ohio Section Grant Report

YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
Camp Ernst Branch ACA # 3348
Elizabeth Cochran, Program Dir. ACA # 38950
7615 Camp Ernst Rd
Burlington KY 41005
(859) 586-6181
Ecochran@cincinnatiymca.org

Camp Ernst Adventures

YMCA Camp Ernst was successful in running four bicycle camping trips on the Little Miami trail in 2010. The trips combined bicycle touring and a paddling trip on the Little Miami River. We camped on the banks of the river near Ft. Ancient, a state historical site featuring earthen remains of the native Americans from the Hopewell tribe. Hiking to Ft. Ancient and a walking tour of the park was a featured activity on two of the trips.

We offered two trips with parent-teen pairs and the remaining trips were comprised of coed youth in grades 7-9. Campers were taught the basics of bicycle touring safety, camping skills and paddling techniques. We employed canoes and open kayaks on the paddling portion of the trips.

Our parent teen program continues to prosper offering parents and teens a unique opportunity to connect without the electronic distraction of smart phones, i-pods, and video games. We view these trips as an area of growth for our camp.

One of the highlights of our paddling trips was the sighting of a nesting pair of Bald Eagles on the river. This is rare sighting in Southern Ohio and our first parent teen trip witnessed a duel between a red tailed hawk and one of the eagles. Fortunately, the hawk relented in its attack!

Thanks to the ACA Ohio section grant, YMCA Camp Ernst was able to purchase four person light weight tents, panniers for our bikes for a dozen campers and lightweight cooking sets to carry on our ongoing trips. We were pleased that we had four of five successful trips this summer and hope to have many more in the years to come. We wish to thank the ACA for its support of our budding Adventure cycling program.