

10/17-10/19 - Teaching reflection

This was my first Mon. school session teaching only nocturnal shifts. It was nice having extra time in the day, but was challenging in other ways.

I found the Night Hike very difficult, partly because this was my first time leading a night hike, when it was actually dark outside. Early on Monday I came up with a plan that involved hiking to ~~the~~ the Pi Shelter and reading a story there. That turned out to be completely unrealistic. The lights from my night hike kit did not work very well, and I was barely able to keep us on the trail. Plus, right before the night hike I had us do some pre-hike activities like the Bat/Moth game inside in Salal. This was a mistake on multiple levels. First, it was so bright indoors that when we did go outside my eyes could barely adjust to the darkness. Then, the Bat/Moth game got the kids so keyed up that they would not shut up and be quiet for even a few seconds on the trail. I decided not to use the guide rope, which was another mistake - chaos ensued. In the end, the group was so hard to manage that I turned around on Sourdough Trail before we even got to the junction with Sugar Brown. We arrived back on campus before 8pm, and played games until it was time to converge with the other groups at 8:30.

The second night of the session went better, and was much simpler since we were only doing Skull Program and Campfire. However, I had another issue with this trail group that centered around one of the girls in the group. She was very loud and outspoken, which is great, but she

also seemed to feel a need to challenge the authority of her instructors whenever possible, I think she sensed I was not a very strong authority figure, and I honestly didn't know how to handle the situation. Sometimes she was rather rude, I tried to tell myself she was just being a bold, precocious kid, but I frankly felt a little hurt by the way she acted toward me. All in all, I was not sorry to see the last of this trail group.