



Unique Summer Camp For Girls

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By Bridget Barry-Caswell, WCAX Reporter*

Well, summer is in full swing now and so too are summer camps. And there's one camp currently underway in central Vermont that's a bit different than the traditional fare. It's called Rosie's Girls and wait until you hear what's on their agenda. Today's item: fire fighting. It's a long way to the top, but the campers at Rosie's Girls are learning step by step that they can do anything, even fight fires.

"Well, I was a little shaky and I knew that I could do it. It was just really cool when I got to the top," said Signe Goddard of Berlin. Goddard has no doubt that she'll "make it to the top" no matter which career path she chooses. And that's because of Rosie's Girls, a three week camp in central Vermont that offers a dose of career training and self confidence. Well, we've done welding, carpentry, we've gone on a kayaking trip, we've done yoga and bottle rocks. So it's really different," said Goddard.

And it's meant to be. The 26 girls here are exposed to non-traditional careers for women. Welding is a favorite of the skilled trades. Just ask Rosie Boucher a return camper who hopes to come back for more.

"Oh my gosh. It's just so much fun and I loving going to a camp that shows you that you don't have to do what girls and other people think you should do. You can do like car repair, fire fighting, welding and carpentry. It's really fun," the Montpelier native said.

Rosie's Girls is a home grown Vermont venture that is held each summer in several locations around the state. It's even making a name for itself nationwide. "It started with Vermont Works for Women in Essex 11 years ago. This is the sixth summer in Barre and it's been replicated in California and South Carolina as well," said Kelly Walsh of Rosie's Girls.

The program is specifically aimed at girls 11 to 14. Those are critical years in a young girls life, when self-esteem can be hard to come by.

"I just love it because it builds your confidence and I think that every girl that you know here about Rosie's Girls should come too because it's really awesome," said Goddard.

"It's great if we get 25 mechanics, 26 mechanics out of this program, but as long as each girl leaves knowing that she can accomplish whatever she is interested in doing then we've succeeded in the camp," said Walsh.

Vermont Works for Women

is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1987 to help women and girls recognize their potential and explore, pursue and excel in work that leads to economic independence.

32A Malletts Bay Avenue ♦ Winooski ♦ Vermont ♦ 05404
www.vtworksforwomen.org ♦ 802.655.8900 or 800.639.8922 ♦ www.rosiesgirls.org