

## Summer camp includes litter cleanup

By Briana Adhikusuma badhikusuma@newstopicnews.com 21 hrs ago



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Canoes were unloaded as campers walked around a sandy area looking for trash at Wilson Creek.

The canoes are a large part of the cleanup since the campers use them to paddle down the creek and pick up trash along the way.

This provides a way for the campers of Youth Work Mission Camp to have fun while also working for an environmental cause.

Vanessa Montague, a 16-year-old camper attending for her second year, said the experience has given her satisfaction in helping others and the environment.

“People should rethink throwing trash, because then we have to do all the work that they were supposed to do,” said Montague, who also expressed concern over the fish that live in the creek.

Another camper, Azaria Anderson, 11, attending this camp for the first time, echoed Montague’s concerns over the environment and animals.

“It makes me feel good when I help the things that I love,” said Anderson.

Curly Stumb, the executive director of Johns River Valley Camp, said the process of picking up trash helps the campers create a more “heightened awareness” of litter.

“It lets them focus on being stewards and caretakers of the Earth,” Stumb said.

The camp had a total of 28 campers and separated into groups in order to split work days. Besides Wilson Creek cleanup, the campers have other projects they help with: rebuilding decks at the Caldwell Senior Center, Resort Area Ministry, Hunger Coalition, and Feed All Regardless of Means.

Some days, the six canoes each had half a trash bag full of litter, said Stumb.

After the campers are done with the work day, they are able to go back to campgrounds and participate in activities such as archery, tubing and rock climbing.

The Johns River Valley Camp, which runs the Youth Work Mission Camp and is in Blowing Rock, has a range of camps for children from third through 12th grades. Those interested in attending a camp next summer can contact Stumb at [stumb@boone.net](mailto:stumb@boone.net) or find more information at [www.jrvc.org](http://www.jrvc.org).



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Campers wait to cast off their canoes in the creek after picking trash up in the area. From left to right: Jocelyn Hughes, 14, Ler Ba Noh, 12, Vanessa Montague, 16, and Azaria Anderson, 11.



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Campers pick up trash left behind by visitors while Laura Hart, a camp assistant, holds a trash bag for them. Campers, from left to right are, Alex Hart, 15, Vanessa Montague, 16, and Ler Ba Noh, 12.

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