

Retreat Recap...Let's get Campy!

By Tannyce Parris

Another year, another NC LGBTQA Leadership retreat filled with meeting fantastic new people from around the Triangle area and discussing how to make our state a more inclusive space. As always, it was a fun, relaxing experience with students from Duke, Carolina, Elon, NCCU, and NCSU. However, unlike past years, it had a focus on NC Amendment One as it most directly affects LGBT-identified individuals and would be voted upon on May 8th. At the start of the retreat, all students were handed a folder that had the name one of five groups: Campus organizing, Seminar, Pamphlet, Press Statement and Video, based on their chosen preference from when they applied for the retreat. We later split into those groups to discuss different methods for either educating North Carolina citizens on the negative effects of Amendment One (and there are many) or simply promoting awareness.

Of course, everything was not all serious. We were given free time to play various games (including intense rounds of Uno and Twister) and in the morning there were team-building exercises which required being placed into small groups, traversing through various low-ropes courses and effective communication between group members. It was like being in a live action version of Tarzan, except in order to succeed and complete the different obstacles one was completely dependent on their teammates.

Although our campfire Kumbaya was rained out, it was still a great time. If you didn't attend the retreat this year I strongly recommend going next year or miss out on meeting spectacular college students from around the Triangle!

