

# adventure risk challenge

developing youth literacy and leadership

## 2017 WRITINGS OF SUMMER COURSE ALUMNI



YOSEMITE



SEQUOIA



TAHOE

Dear ARC Friends & Supporters,

This has been a historic year! Adventure Risk Challenge engaged more youth participants than ever before and expanded to a third summer course site in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. This exciting growth would not have been possible without the generous support of our funding partners, individual donors, University of California field stations, the National Park Service, and volunteers. Thank you for your belief in our mission and desire to connect youth to wilderness and literacy programming.

This memory book highlights five students' experiences from the the 2017 ARC summer immersion courses. Through their writing you will get a glimpse of their adventures in Tahoe, Yosemite, and Sequoia: from "floating in the air" at a ropes course to hiking with a heavy pack to experiencing the wilderness solo for 24 hours without teammate interactions. You will get a feeling for what it's like to be away from home for multiple weeks and to embark on an unfamiliar path with new friends in new places.

You will also read about the challenges these young people face at home: difficulties with family, academic struggles and barriers, and ongoing feelings of negativity and loneliness. By asking students to push outside their comfort zones, to climb mountains that had been beyond their wildest imaginations, and to reflect in writing on their journey, ARC empowers youth to overcome these challenges. As Daisy Sanchez (Tahoe 2017) wrote in her essay, after forty days with ARC, "I have grown to be more confident, responsible and mature. I have learned to demonstrate great leadership, compassion, determination and integrity toward my peers.... I was able to get my mind to tell me, 'You can do it!'"

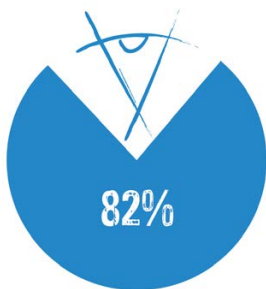
In 2018 we will begin our 15th year. We look forward to strengthening our programs and maintaining our outcomes with youth in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. We remain committed to helping our students discover their strengths and gain confidence, while we impart our core values through year-round academic and adventure programming.

ARC has evolved from one summer course with nine students in 2004 to a nonprofit with year-round programs engaging hundreds of youth throughout the state. We could not have gotten here without you. Thank you so much for supporting ARC!

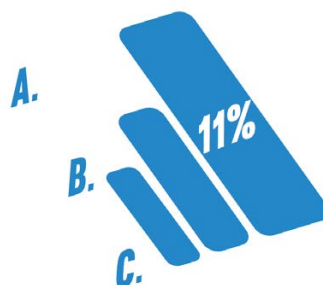


**Sarah Ottley**  
Executive Director  
[sarah@adventureriskchallenge.org](mailto:sarah@adventureriskchallenge.org)

Share your story.  
Find your best self.  
Write your future.



**82% OF ARC SUMMER IMMERSION PARTICIPANTS GO ON TO ATTEND A 2 OR 4-YEAR COLLEGE**



**STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF 11% ON S.A.T. ENGLISH QUESTIONS BY ARC SUMMER GRADUATES ON A PRE- AND POST-SUMMER ASSESSMENT**



**OVER 33,200 STUDENT-HOURS OF SUMMER LITERACY-RELATED INSTRUCTION SINCE 2004**





# sequoia

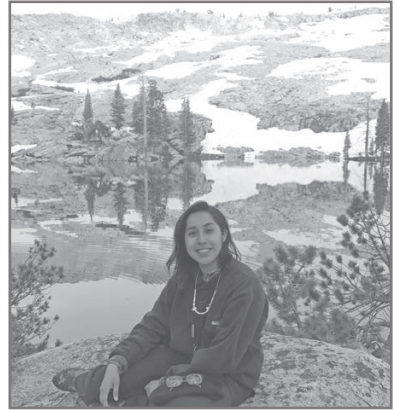
**PARTICIPANTS**

Ace Mejia Sanchez  
Citlali Lopez  
Giselle San Ramon  
Jannette Neri Lopez  
Jesus Torres

Joanne Wu  
Kelt Merrell  
Kweka Bor  
Matthew Ferreya  
Rachelle Rodriguez

**INSTRUCTORS**

Ellie Moore  
Jesus Alejandro  
Raquel Rangel



**TEAM NAME:**  
Royal History Makers

**BASECAMP LOCATION:**  
Wolverton Service Camp & Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center

**COURSE LENGTH:**  
25 days

# giselle san ramon

## Glacial Erratic

A long journey is where I come from,  
Taking millions of years in the making.  
Having so many life challenges from pressures building at home.  
The fights. The insults.  
Like screams that echo  
When one's childlike cries go out of control.  
Constantly ringing in my ears.

Continental plates pounded me with unbearable force  
Leaving me with no energy,  
Because of the people who dump their problems on me  
And don't change.

I wasn't free like the magma that created me.  
I was chained with problems  
Like trying to be more independent  
But always failing once my dad gets into contact somehow  
And reminds me of when I was six,  
Watching him leave in the middle of the night,  
Silently pleading for my helping yet crazy schizophrenic dad to stay.

I used to be scared.  
Scared of fully developing and understanding,  
Because in my mind I could collapse  
Just like my mother's company.

Now I am immobile  
Unable to escape a never-ending cycle,  
Like a rock frozen and glued to someone's grasp.  
Always hiding away from the cruel sun,  
Just letting the shy bright moon bring light to my surface.  
Not letting my family know the plans and projects I have,  
Because not all would agree.  
Tightly tied and knotted by icy snow  
I try my hardest  
To make every day as bright as the stars that glimmer.  
Trying to be happy for everything that comes and goes.  
Trying not to let the cold get to me.  
Trying not to let another sheet of snow embrace me.

All I want in life is to let go

To be tumbled down a mountain by supernatural strength.  
To rip away from the part of me  
That can't appreciate the imprint of so many challenges -  
Black feather-like designs on granite



Amazing those who see.

I want to accept all the large heartaches in life  
That wear me down,  
Bit by bit,  
Knowing that everything difficult is meant to teach.  
I want to use these lessons to my advantage  
And become a sturdy leader.

I will roll non-stop until I see a promising flowered meadow,  
Study in school as fast as I can to get a Bachelor's in Business,  
Where I can soon find out if I want to build tools  
To aid developing countries  
Or be an activist who fights  
To make her country a better place.

I will let the sun make my surface bright  
So that it may glisten like the stars.  
I am ready to make a difference in the world,  
Letting my rough sharp edges fade into scars  
To show everyone what I've gone through  
To manifest my dreams.  
Making sure to let people see that I  
Am a stalwart Glacial Erratic  
Only moving on my own accord.

# joanne wu

## Open Water

I am Buena Vista Lake  
Held by the snow mountain around it  
Like a secret  
No one knows how deep I am.

When I look at my reflection,  
I see two sides of me:  
My surface,  
Reflects my positivity,  
And that's what people want to see in me  
But in my deepest water,  
I am so lonely  
And no one gets to see.

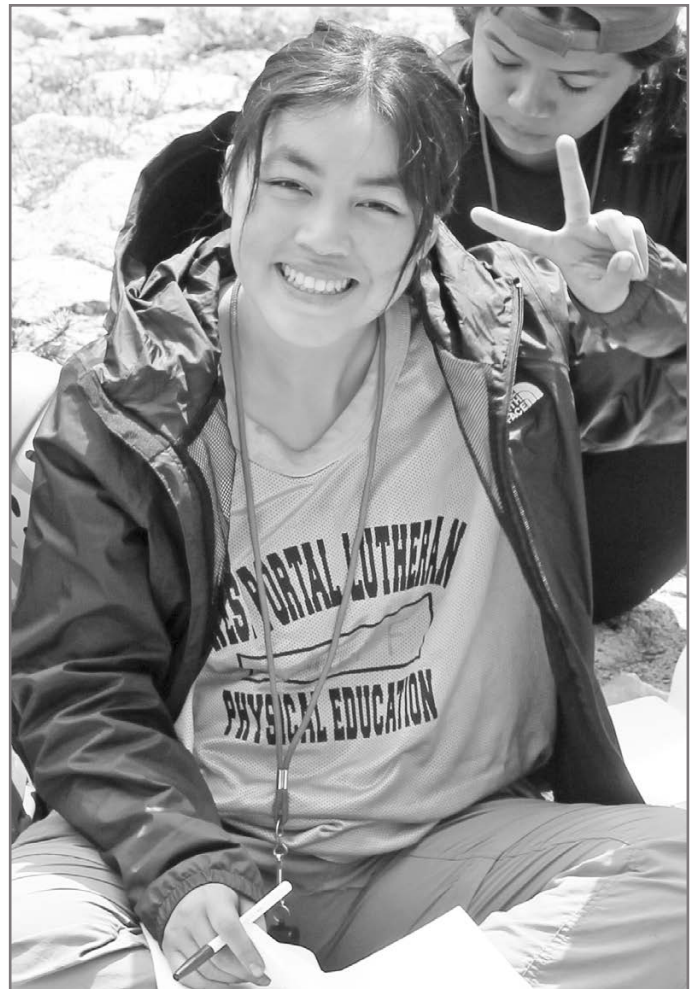
I was a stubborn lake.  
Even the soft snow whispers its suggestions,  
Like my mom often tells me to clean the floor first,  
And then wet the floor  
But I remain unmoved.  
I will keep standing there  
As the sleeping submerged rocks.  
Even though the rivers  
Continue pouring their advice into me  
Like my classmate tells me  
To use the book to review vocabulary  
However, I will keep standing there  
Without a ripple on the surface.

Now, I am an accepting lake  
Welcoming the waterfalls and streams that flow into me  
Like when my teacher tells me to fix my wrong grammar,  
I accept his opinion  
And try to find the problem in my paragraph.  
And when my mom tells me to do my homework first,  
And then I can go to watch my drama  
I will accept her idea, because I know whatever she says,  
She just wants me to become a better person.

No matter what my future looks like  
I will be a tolerant lake  
I will show my opinion first  
But if there's another way,  
I promise I will try it and choose which one is best.  
One day, I hope to have a job in marketing  
Where I will synthesize others' ideas efficiently,  
And then give the best solution to my customers.

Surrounded by snow and trees  
Like with my family, teammates, and strangers,  
I will be the open water  
Letting people see the hidden rocks at the bottom.  
I will be the open water  
Picking the valuable input,  
And pouring out the useless ideas  
With discerning judgment.

I will be the open lake  
Showing different sides of me to others.  
I will be myself, the real me:  
Vulnerable. Open-minded. Confident.





# tahoe

**PARTICIPANTS**

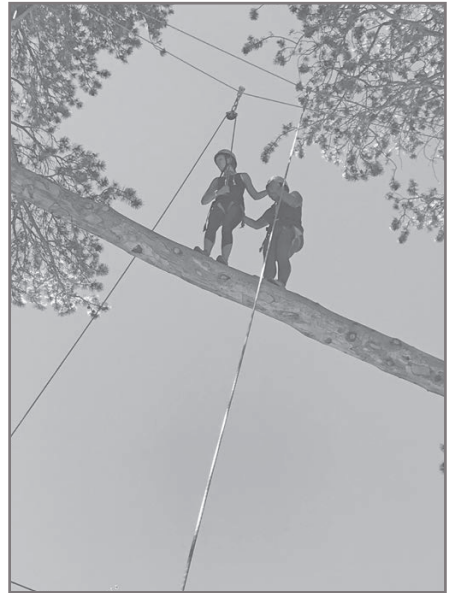
Cesar Martin  
Daisy Sanchez  
Ethan Stamper  
Gisselle Ruiz

Lorena Esteban  
Martin Mijares  
Nguyen Truong  
Savannah Green

**INSTRUCTORS**

Aixa Correa  
Alexis Angulo  
Kelsey Porter  
Sam Gilbert





**TEAM NAME:**  
Green ARC

**BASECAMP LOCATION:**  
UC Berkeley Sagehen Creek Field Station

**COURSE LENGTH:**  
40 days

# daisy sanchez

## Frog Morph

I am a tadpole.  
A small translucent creature living underwater,  
That grows up into a frog.  
In my pond, I was born as a hearing tadpole.  
That's how I know the way things work now.  
Although I am 16 years old today .... I've struggled for 8 years.  
I'm the kind of species who now hears differently.

8 years ago, I began losing my hearing.  
My mother, my grandmother and great-grandmother,  
Were all born deaf.  
This is a thread, a club, of women in my family  
Who have all helped each other adapt.  
As my hearing worsened,  
I was able to feel the vibration of bubbles  
And the movements of the species around me.  
This pond is like my town.  
I swam here and there,  
Curious about the people I was surrounded by.  
Every year, I struggled a lot  
Understanding new teachers, students,  
And the way things worked.  
The more I learned academically,  
And the more familiar I got with the way people talked,  
I started to grow up.  
My hands and feet were starting to emerge  
From my translucent skin.  
I was adapting to my pond.

I am now an emerging frog.  
I still continue to struggle.  
I struggle at school, home, and the new places I swim to.  
It's difficult for me to understand those I continue to meet  
In and outside of my pond.  
The voices of the people I'm used to are easier to understand  
Because being so used to their voices makes me feel  
Like I was never hard of hearing.  
My personal and school audiologists  
Make me feel bad about myself.  
Instead of looking on the bright side,  
I feel forced to look at the downside of my hearing loss.  
I sometimes ask myself,  
"How can I accept myself if others are trying to change me?"  
It's a gift that isn't meant to be changed forcefully.  
At home, I feel calm  
Due to the fact that I have my mother and sister  
Who understand how I feel.  
They know I feel lonely,  
Frustrated,  
And a whole mix of emotions.  
I feel comfortable because I don't have to deny, or hide  
The way I am, or how I feel.  
When I'm around new people who keep exploring the pond,

I feel uncomfortable that I won't be able to fit in.  
I don't want to have to feel that I'm different  
Or I have to be treated differently.  
I want to learn what it's like  
Being part of the hearing world again.  
I'm just tired of adapting my life every time my hearing worsens.  
But I just keep swimming.  
I have to keep moving forward  
To accomplish things I want in my future.

I will be a frog.  
My future is going to be different.  
Throughout all the struggles I had as a tadpole  
And as an emerging frog,  
I'm going to make my future better.  
My job as a frog will be to stop depending on my family and friends.  
I will strive to become a great frog.  
I want to go to college.  
After graduating from college,  
I want to go to culinary school or beauty school so that in the future,  
I can open up my own bakery or be a cosmetologist.  
I'm going to be a frog that will inspire others to just keep going  
And strive for the best opportunities there are in life.  
I want others to relate to my experiences.  
I want them to see...  
That not giving up will lead them to a great future.  
People don't have to feel like their differences are disabilities,  
But rather a gift.  
I will continue to face challenges  
Like understanding new voices in my two environments.  
I will grow up eventually  
And  
I'll have to reckon,  
That I will jump to places,  
Where I won't have anyone to depend on.  
Fulfilling my career is a big challenge for me.  
However,  
I'm willing to take a leap of faith  
Taking risks  
To achieve the future I want for myself.



## Learning to Balance

I was climbing up a tree a few feet away from my partner. We had a goal to make it to the top and meet each other at the point of the triangle. On the count of three, we began walking across an intersecting rope. I could feel the rope trembling with my partner's fear and, in a matter of seconds, she fell and floated in thin air. I was also trembling with fear on the unbalanced rope looking down hoping to make it safely. Together my partner and I worked as a team motivating each other. Looking in her eyes, she was telling me it was going to be okay. It was a challenge making it to the finish point. It felt as if we were on a balancing board in midair. The ropes course taught me to be part of a team, help others navigate through their own fear by encouraging and supporting them, and to speak up rather than keeping my ideas to myself.

Before ARC, I used to distance myself from people. I always kept my feelings to myself rather than expressing them. I would often get sick to the point that I didn't feel well enough to show up to school. I wasn't taking care of myself. My actions and what I would eat led me to feel sick. Due to my constant lateness and absence at school, I struggled with my studies. I preferred to work individually on school projects. I avoided people because I was scared I wouldn't fit in due to my trouble understanding new voices. Although I focused in school, I rarely did my assignments or I would do the work at the last minute. My phone addiction kept me from focusing on my education, exploring what Mother Nature had to offer, and doing productive things. It was a reason for my lack of sleep. Every time I was at home, I felt trapped. I felt like I needed something more. When I found out about ARC's 40 day course, I talked to my sister about it. She encouraged me to go, telling me it would be a life changing experience and I would love it! So I took my sister's advice and applied. I wanted to have the same experience that my sister had when she joined ARC and changed into an amazing person. When I got accepted, my family was proud of me just

like I was proud of myself for making this decision. I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity.

In my experience at ARC, I have grown a lot compared to the person I used to be. I have grown to be more confident, responsible and mature. I have learned to demonstrate great leadership, compassion, determination and integrity toward my peers. Being away from home encouraged me to stop depending on those who help me. Being here at Sagehen with ARC has motivated me to be more engaged in activities and learning. I have academically improved my writing and literacy skills with the classes this program offers



at basecamp and on expedition. During our second expedition, the Project Discovery Ropes Course, I was taught that teamwork is very important. This course helped me become a team member; something I wasn't used to at school or at home. I saw that the staff and students were very supportive and encouraging to our group on the challenge course. I realized that support and encouragement were the key to my motivation. I developed confidence in myself. I was able to get my mind to tell

me, "You can do it!" The ropes course motivated me to put my ideas out there instead of keeping them to myself. I am looking forward to taking home the person I've become. I want to make my family proud. I want them to see the great changes this experience has given me.

I have so many ARC experiences I want to take home with me. I want to take home with me the bright spirit, curiosity, and confidence that I continuously have at ARC. I also want to take the lessons I learned at the ropes course like working as a team member, putting my ideas "out there" and encouraging others. Every time I attend classes on time at Sagehen, I feel as if I am attending school on time. I want this habit to become a reality when I return home. I hope to continue being more engaged in academics just like I am at the 40-day program. I will focus and give appreciation and importance to my education. I will continue being mature and responsible in the decisions I will be making. Adventure Risk Challenge gave me so many unforgettable memories that I never thought I'd experience.

I want to thank Adventure Risk Challenge for giving me the motivation to succeed and change in a better way that will help me with my education and my everyday life at home. It's quite impressive how I transformed from always being late for school, always being on my phone, and distancing myself from people, into a confident person who is part of a team and is responsible with time. I couldn't be more thankful to my ARC friends, staff, academic classes and expeditions for shaping who I am. I've learned so much about these people. I've grown to be attached to these people and it pains me having grown so close to them, just to see them all go away in a matter of days. If I could stay longer here at ARC, I'd have no hesitation in saying yes! ARC has been a life changing experience for me! I would encourage future generations of classmates to join ARC and discover the amazing people they are, just like I have discovered who I really am.

# ethan stamper

## *I am a Branch*

I am a branch  
Growing on a rotting tree  
My trunk, an abusive home mentally and physically  
My parents' drug addiction  
Slowly blowing bits of bark away.

I am a branch  
Thriving on a rotting tree,  
Raising myself.  
My anger trying to break me down  
Chipping away the confidence I had left.  
I began to break away,  
My friends the only sap keeping me from falling.

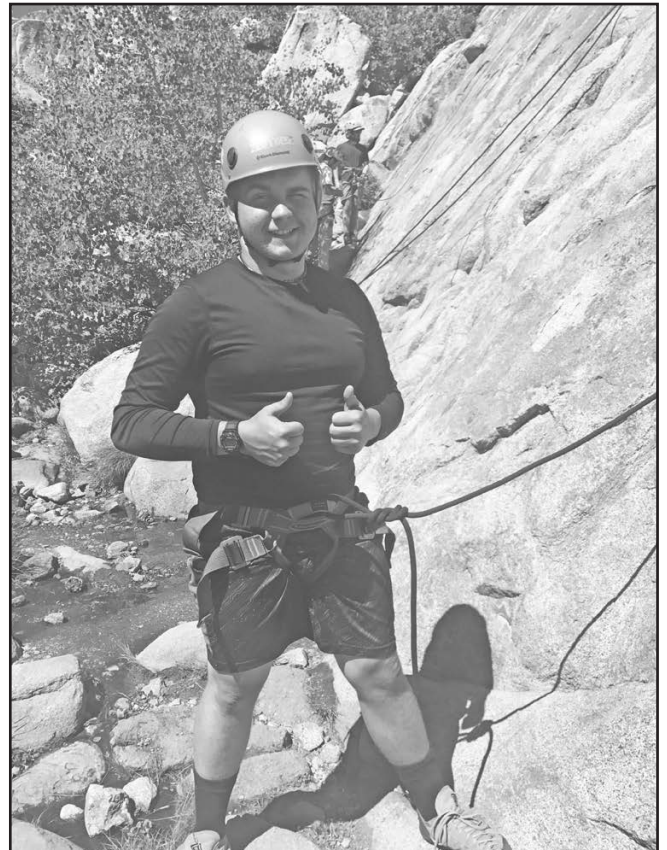
When I was eleven,  
I moved into the first foster home I can remember.  
It was weird being grafted onto a new tree,  
After being on my family tree for so long.  
After some time,  
I began to notice there wasn't just pain and hurt in life,  
But also love, compassion and so much more.

I stayed on the tree for six months.  
The family took me in as one of their own.  
Sap no longer the only thing keeping me from falling.  
Their children looked up to me  
As if I was their own brother.

The night before I left their home,  
One of my foster brothers gifted me  
His most valued possession.  
I stood there unsure of what to say or do.  
Before I could say anything, he hugged me.  
He said he wanted me to take his favorite action figure with me.  
To remember him,  
And protect me whenever I was in danger.  
I cried that night.

Just as I became part of that family tree,  
I was once again removed.  
I was off to be grafted onto yet another tree,  
Having already been a part of so many trees,  
Since my family.

Moving forward,  
I will become a tree with its own roots.  
I want to join the military to protect  
Everyone and everything I believe in,  
Because I never had protection myself.  
I will grow to become a strong tree,  
Providing protection and shade for those in need.



## Transformation

I was raised surrounded by abuse and fighting until I entered foster care at a young age. I have been moving constantly between parents and foster homes through the age of 16. It hurt being moved this much because each time I would get close to the family, I was removed. At a young age, I began to see the suffering in the households. I began to keep to myself, not wanting to continuously deal with all the pain. Through the solo at ARC, I've learned that life isn't just about pain. Life is about love, compassion and so much more.

When my mom and dad were actually together they seemed so happy. Then the fighting started, and my two sisters and I had to deal with the pain of them breaking up. We went through foster care and I stayed with my aunt for three years. My parents were fighting over who got custody and somehow my dad got us. For a few years, we were going between my mom and dad and they seemed like they were doing well. But as I got older, I realized they were doing drugs and it wasn't natural to have them act how they were. One day my dad and step mom started fighting and my step siblings and I had no idea what to do. We went to our rooms and stayed quiet. After that, we moved across the street and my stepmom left with my brothers. It was different because I no longer had an older brother to look up to and a younger brother that looked up to me. My dad started drinking more than usual, which was scary because he already drank too much. For a while, it kept getting worse and worse until my grandma moved into the house. She stayed for a few years trying to keep my dad stable, but that too fell apart. In 2012, CPS came and I got picked up by a cop. My sister was on the run. She had been gone for about a year. When I heard my sister was in foster care, I was so excited. I wanted to be with her, so I moved out of the foster home I was living in and into the home with my sister.

Everything that I've been through, I've had someone with me. When I was with my mom and dad, I just remember the lights shining through the little tree in our trailer at Christmas. Everyone was laughing and having fun. That's my last memory of my mom and dad together and my only memory of them together. Since then, I've always loved being with family and being involved with family activities. Being alone is not only something I dislike, but something I fear. I'm sure nobody wants to be alone in this world because there's so much hurt, and it's much easier if you have someone standing by your side. My fear of being alone comes from feeling like I'll be cut off from friends and family. It's something I thought I wasn't ready for.

The solo day within ARC is a 24-hour experience of being confined to a ten-by-ten-foot area unable to speak to anyone. The hardest part of it all is not being able to explore; we were stuck thinking about, and being creative with, what we were carrying in our packs mentally and physically. At the beginning of the solo, I expected myself to be stuck in deep thought, a place unwanted. I was terrified to be immersed in a solo day, sitting in a pool of my thoughts.

Being on solo surprised me because the first thing that came to mind was all the issues I've grown through with my mom and dad. Everything I've had to work through consumed my thoughts. We had no social media to interact with, no technology to be distracted by. I could have been six feet under, but I managed to stay afloat and continue pushing through my challenge and pushing through my thoughts. I learned that I'm stronger than I thought I was. I learned I can be alone. I can be in my own thoughts without falling down the hole and having the challenge of trying to get out. I just sat on the edge of the hole, thinking.

I remembered the rock climbing day with ARC. I had to trust everyone supporting me. I could have fallen and gotten hurt

badly but I trusted everyone and didn't fear what I was doing. I continued and pushed through the fear. Because of that, on solo day I didn't feel alone.

My solo day with ARC showed me there was nothing to fear about being alone. I emerged victoriously. I felt like a champion. I came out with more energy and I was more alive because I realized I didn't need social media to survive. I won't take my friends for granted. After ARC, I'll be able to use these experiences that I've gained from living alongside the other ARC students. I won't surround myself with negativity. I'll feed and nurture myself. I'll take care of myself and show myself it's not just anger, pain and hurt in life, but there's love, compassion, and every other emotion needed to be able to continue without feeling alone.

In the future, I want to be able to sit down, do my work, and concentrate. If I do end up thinking, I don't want to slow down and become less efficient. I want my thoughts to be a driving force to do better. I want to be more successful than my parents. I want to show everyone they weren't right about me following in the path they've poorly paved - a hallway of mystery unsure where my next step would take me. It's not just the pain of mental and physical abuse; it's the repetitive fighting, drugs, and alcohol in the house. Fighting just leads to more corners you have to find your way around. I'm now looking at the beauty of life.

Before ARC, I was terrified of being alone because of the challenges I've had to face with family, friends and by myself. I was haunted by thoughts of being alone. After my 24-hour solo day, I learned that being alone isn't a bad thing. It's a time to recharge, to look at life, and try to navigate ways around challenges. Life is like a boat on a rough sea. When you attempt to turn and avoid challenges, you make the chances of the boat tipping higher. I will face these waves head on and continue my smooth course.



# yosemite

## PARTICIPANTS

Aaliyah Jensen

Christopher Rodriguez

Cristal Diaz

Jocelyn Russell

Joel Duarte

Johann Stoll

Julia Travis

Lorenzo Sierra

Savannah Costa

Trinity Valencia

## INSTRUCTORS

Anna Santoleri

Michael Dominquez

Stephany Subdiaz



**TEAM NAME:**  
The Stargazers

**BASECAMP LOCATION:**  
Wawona Elementary School

**COURSE LENGTH:**  
40 days

# joel duarte

## *Kind of Rough*

I am a Ponderosa Pine  
I was a small, short, sensitive little sapling  
The youngest and first boy of my family  
Life was going great, I started growing up healthy.  
But another sapling came into my life,  
My little brother  
And I started feeling forgotten.  
I felt like my parents stopped giving me soil and sun to grow.  
And every year I get less and less soil to grow

My life is not the best when I am home  
I don't really feel supported by my parents  
They treat my siblings like they are the future  
And look at me like a disappointment  
My family always ignores me whenever I try to talk

I sometimes think I am the only tree in a giant meadow.  
I feel that I'm the only one living in my house  
Where my phone is my only companion.  
I was withering and the only way to deal with that  
Is just to go to sleep  
And let the day pass  
So I don't have to see or deal with my parents  
So I don't become a snag.

I'm afraid of rejection, of getting cut down,  
Of not getting enough sunlight and soil from my parents.  
I tried to get space for my roots to grow.  
But every time I would they would keep on saying hurtful things  
And they make me feel badly  
They don't do any of these things to the other saplings

But at ARC, I feel like I'm getting the sunlight, water and space  
That I needed.  
I'm getting supported by everyone helping and,  
When we hike, people motivate me.  
I feel loved because we talk and eat together,  
We talk about our group and how to make it better  
And here we are active in the ecosystem  
When back home all I ever did was wither  
But now it's more of a fun thing to be a part of the ecosystem.

I want to get the same amount of sunlight I got at ARC.  
I want to communicate with my parents on how I feel.  
I wish and hope that they will pay attention to me  
Instead of always putting me in their shadow  
My life will look a lot better because we will feel more  
Like a healthy forest  
Instead of me always feeling like I'm in a meadow all by myself.





## Life Changing

The world I lived in before I came to ARC was me, Joel Duarte, just being a normal kid at school and no one knowing my life outside of school. I had an average amount of friends, participated in no sports, and questioned everything. I went to an average high school in an average town with nothing great about it. Life there felt really boring after doing the same thing every day for the whole year.

I decided to join ARC because I wanted to get away from all the negativity in my family and because it seemed like a fun challenge. I wanted to challenge myself to become more of a leader: solving problems and helping others without hesitation. Also, I hoped to learn more about the environment and how to preserve it. My ultimate goal was to never give up even though I knew it was going to be a challenging 40 days.

One of the challenges I faced during this course was backpacking in the wilderness. It was a challenge because I wasn't really as prepared physically as the other participants, but I still wanted to show them and the instructors that I could finish the hikes and wouldn't give up. On the second day, the hike was around 4 miles, with a giant backpack, and that distance wasn't even the longest we walked during the course. It was a crazy experience that, at the time, I did not want to endure again. But now it is different. I am stronger mentally and physically; now it's kind of fun. But this wasn't even my hardest challenge.



Revealing all my problems at home during ABC news [our evening meeting] was the moment I felt most challenged. I was feeling really sad and scared because I never told anyone how I felt about my family. I was revealing so much about myself and showing my true emotions. I was scared about what everyone was going to think about me. If I did something wrong, I was scared they were going to say, "That's why your family doesn't love you." However, what I realized as a re-

sult was that people here at ARC, care about how I feel, and won't put me down. By proving to myself that other people care about me a lot and will support me if I need it, I grew as a person; this led to my transformation.

In ARC, I learned to be an independent, problem-solving leader. I've become more independent by learning how to cook my own food, by doing chores that no one asked me to do, and by taking initiative in my education. I've become a leader by setting my goals high and not being afraid to push myself. Also, now I think I can be more helpful to others because I know how to fix conflicts whether it's V.O.M.Ping [our conflict resolution model] or just talking through it. I realized that I can share my emotions or problems with people other than my family and express myself. Now, I'm able to work towards a resolution when before I would stay quiet about my burdens.

When I return home, I'm going to be a different person because I will face challenges directly and be more self-sufficient. When a challenge comes, I will not give up no matter how hard it is. I know I can't change people by force, but I can help them change if they want. I am going to be more self-sufficient by doing all my schoolwork with no distractions. All these experiences at ARC have made me feel proud of what I have accomplished.



scenes from  
the summer





Adventure Risk Challenge in Yosemite would like to thank our donors as well as the following partners, organizations, and volunteers for their generous support and collaboration during the summer: Yosemite Conservancy; Yosemite Wawona Elementary Charter School District; Wawona Elementary School staff; UC Merced's Yosemite Field Station – Anne Kelly and Marlon Spinneberg; Yosemite National Park; Yosemite NPS Education Branch and Alejandra Guzman; UC Merced's Yosemite Leadership Program and Jesse Chakrin; NatureBridge – Reed Schneider and Mark Deglomine; Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort – Douglas Shaw and Caroline McGrath; Sierra Vista Church; Fresno Barrios Unidos; Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides; Dos Palos High School – Lisa Conger, Susan Galindo, Angelica Gutierrez, Stacey Swinney, Jason Von Allman; Gustine High School – Melissa Estacio; Los Banos High School – Debbie Arrieta; our dedicated volunteers – Katie Burns, Jeff Crow, Belinda Braunstein, Karen Fruth, Barbara Ilfeld, Christina Olague, Jessica Rivas,Carolynn Shaut; our Community Interview Day participants; and the ARC Board of Directors.



Adventure Risk Challenge in Sequoia & Kings Canyon would like to thank our donors as well as the following partners, organizations, and volunteers for their generous support and collaboration during the summer: S.H. Cowell Foundation; Youth Outside; Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks – Christy Brigham, Jenny Kirk, Michael Mueldener, Jonathan Humphrey, Erik Frenzel, Pablo Garzon; UC Merced's Sequoia Field Station – Anne Kelly; Sequoia Parks Conservancy – Savannah Boiano, Krista Matias; Lodgepole Visitor Center; Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center – Cristal Juarez, Kacey Fansett; Bay Area Wilderness Training – Aaron Gilbert; Sanger Unified School District – Kris Boyer, Rick Church, Felipe Cobarruvas, Johnny Gonzalez, Amy Williams; Summer Fund – Cathy Kornblith; Summer Search – Brian Mertens, Matt Osgood; CSU Fresno – Humanics Program and The E.D.G.E. Ropes Course; our wonderful volunteers - John Brantingham, Katie Burns, Jason Fitzwater, Barbara Ilfeld, Lissie Kretsch; and the ARC Board of Directors.



Adventure Risk Challenge in Tahoe would like to thank our donors as well as the following partners, organizations, and volunteers for their generous support and collaboration during the summer: Sagehen Creek Field Station – Jeff Brown, Faerthen Felix, Dan Saylor; The Cedar House – Patty Baird; S.H. Cowell Foundation; Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation; Martis Camp Community Foundation; EpicPromise; OARS Rafting; NASTC Climbing; Tahoe Truckee Unified School District – Truckee High School, North Tahoe High School, Sierra High School; Aim High; Summer Search – Glo Rodriguez, Matt Osgood; USDA Forest Service; Tahoe Food Hub – Susie Sutphin; Project Discovery; Tahoe Adventure Company; Tahoe SAFE Alliance – Kate Rutenburg, Trisha Baird, Eileen Farry, Kassi Reisbeck; our dedicated volunteers – Annie Ballard, Michael Branch, Jonathan Burton, Ryan Decker, Eve Giovenco, Yami Gutierrez, Barbara Ilfeld, Kasey McJunkin, Kim Nolan, Marianne Porter, Danielle Rees, Nicole Sayegh, Liz Tucker; our Community Interview Day participants; and the ARC Board of Directors.



**Without all of you, this extraordinary program would not be possible!**