

# Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2013

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Our Lady of Visitation

## My Experience at Camp

I have done a few things that were free of any personal gain. There is one that really touched my heart. Have you ever been bullied or have you seen others get bullied? If you have you know how scary, sad, and depressing it is. Last summer I went to a spa camp for girl scouts. It was a camp where you stayed overnight for a week. I only had one person I knew going and we got there late because I was at the emergency room with a really bad ear ache. When we finally arrived at camp there were no cabins left with two bunks, and I was about to cry if I had to sleep in a totally different cabin than my friend. So this really nice girl Mariana said she would switch cabins so we could be together. I was so thankful for her kind gesture.

Well after all she had done for me and my friend I decided to get to know her. Mariana was this really friendly girl who became one of my best friends at camp. Camp was great the first two days besides my homesickness and all the medicine I had to take for my many ear infections. Spending time with Mariana just made me smile. Well the third day of camp things started to change. The girls in her cabin started bullying her. They put poison ivy in her pillow, dumped out her shampoo, stuck a huge branch between the mattresses of her bed, flipped her bed over, and made fun of her weight. When she came crying out of her tent I asked her what was wrong and she told me everything. I knew I had to stick up for her. I told her to go in my tent and I went over to hers. I walked in and her stuff was everywhere they had totally disrespected her property. I even found her mirror on the floor broken. They kept grabbing more and more things to ruin and I kept persisting them to stop. "Stop it, this isn't funny", I said over and over again.

I knew what I had to do. I told Mariana I had to tell the camp counselors. She said it would make things worse, but I knew it was the right thing to do. I got the counselors who were making dinner and told them. They went right over to the tent with me and straightened things out. We cleaned up everything and the counselors found out that they pulled leaves off a plant to make it look like poison ivy. I gave Mariana some shampoo to borrow and she put her broken mirror away. The three girls were banned from our swim party that night and had to apologize the next day. You could tell they didn't mean it but I was just happy the counselors let Mariana move into a different tent. I didn't want her to go through that again.

The rest of the week went okay and nothing else major happened. I will never forget Marianas expression on her face when she knew I had her back and would always be at her side. I believe my act of kindness brought happiness and joy to Mariana. The fact that she knew everything was going to be okay because she had a friend, a true friend.