

Report for Eastern Zone Diversity Select Camp  
Tholia Hallett

The camp was a lot of fun. It was great to meet people from all over the eastern zone. Yet, it was very difficult to create bonds or feel united because the camp was very short, and there was not a lot of just sitting down and being able to talk to people. We were constantly on the go with no rest time. It was difficult when we had to walk 4-6 miles everyday in really hot weather with heavy bags. It was also hard to sleep because it was extremely hot, Although the exercise was fun, I was always very tired and unable to hold a conversation because of it. It was also a struggle coming from Maine. Maine is behind in swimming, and it was very difficult to keep up in the pool. I thought Most of the swimmers also knew each other so it was hard to walk with a group of people when they were talking about something and you had no clue what happening.

The coaches were great and their efforts to unite us as a team were clear. It was fun doing some of the team bonding stuff. The coaches clearly knew what they were doing at the pool which was great. I respect and understand why they focus on the kids who work hard. Yet, they did focus on the stronger swimmers for a lot of the practices. And, because I was slow, it must've looked like I wasn't trying; so, it felt like I was just doing laps and did not always take something positive out of the practices. It often became discouraging to be swimming at times. The coaches were amazing. Although practices were not always the best it was cool to see all the different swimmers and how they swam. It was also a lot of fun training with fast people.

The camp was very fun to go to. It was interesting seeing diverse swimmers as most of Maine Swimming is white. It allowed me to not feel like the minority. Also, I did like the food and the trip to Niagra Falls was really fun. It was cool to get to go on the boat. Overall, it was an amazing opportunity and I am glad I went. Yet, the best thing was being able to see the diversity in USA Swimming that you do not always get to see in Maine.