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## BLOG: A LASTING "FIRST" IMPRESSION

11 Sep 2016 1:25 PM | [Kelly Bryer](#) (Administrator)

By [Michelle Gittleson](#), GSA Intern

Today I accompanied Kelly and 21 other GSA's for a tour of the Holderness / Squam Lake area. We began by meeting at the **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center** in Holderness and taking a boat tour of Squam. We enjoyed the natural beauty and scenery of the lake with our tour guide and then made a stop at **Rockywold-Deephaven** family camps.



Once we arrived at **Rockywold-Deephaven**, we took a quick tour of the camp with the General Manager, Kathy Wheeler. We learned some of the history of the camp, the plethora of activities that families can partake in while staying there, the ice harvesting process that gives the camp an old, authentic feel, and toured some of the buildings – including their 16 person lodge on the water, their dining hall and recreational locations. I had no idea all this

was there! The camp sits below Rattlesnake Mountain on the water and is so popular that they have families that have been returning every summer for over 10 years.

I felt very welcomed by all of the volunteers and had pleasant conversations with them throughout the day, talking about their volunteer experiences and the love they have for NHGSA.



Our next stop was the **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center**, which was the highlight of the day for me – due to meeting the otters and raptors! Many of the volunteers were pleasantly surprised and may have been expecting the center to be something different. I overheard a lot of positive comments, and by listening I was able to better grasp how their personal experiences add a lot of value to their welcome centers, and to visitors' perception of our state.

Our last stop was the **Inn on Golden Pond**, a quaint Inn with a lot of charm. They hosted us with fun snacks, and gave us a run-down of the buildings history, the changes they've made, the work they do and the visitors they receive. Many people who are familiar with the movie "On Golden Pond" enjoyed taking pictures with the **Inn on Golden Pond** sign out in front of the Inn. The Webb's seem to enjoy owning the business very much, and were gracious hosts. Many of the volunteers seemed thrilled to be there, and very interested in the history of the Inn. We were all able to tour at our leisure and I especially liked that each room was different.



It was a wonderful first day as an intern with NHGSA and definitely made a lasting first impression! I was able to gain knowledge of just how valuable this organization is and was very thankful to have the opportunity to tour the area.

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