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Eleven Oklahoma Teens who are Blind and Vision Impaired Learn Adaptive Water Sports at Camp
NewView Oklahoma hosts second year of OWL Camp in Tulsa

Tulsa, OK: Eleven students participated in adaptive water sports, including water skiing, tubing and wake boarding at NewView Oklahoma's Tulsa OWL Camp! Campers, who are blind and vision impaired, spent the week of June 12 to June 16 at Rogers State University in Claremore and at the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) Ecosystems and Education Center on Grand Lake. In addition to traditional camp activities, they learned independent living skills, pushed their own limits and gained confidence in themselves.

“At camp I made lots of new friends,” said Taylor B. “and I learned that I can do anything I set my mind to.”

For Tulsa’s camp, NewView Oklahoma partnered with ski instructors from No Limits Adaptive Waterski, a charity based in Tulsa designed to provide fun family engagement and various levels of waterskiing for the disabled. The Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) provided their Ecosystems and Education Center as home base for campers during their time on Grand Lake. GRDA staff and police officers also participated in camp activities and provided students with unforgettable experiences like riding in police boats.

“Being able to see the camper’s faces as they conquered their fears on the tube and the water skis was very inspiring,” said camp counselor Nico Faz. “I learned a lot about empathy and courage through this experience.”

OWL Camp stands for Oklahomans Without Limits and was created in 2000 to give children and youth with vision loss the opportunity to experience summer camp. At camp the focus is on capability rather than disability. Over the past 17 years, the camp has grown and NewView Oklahoma now hosts two week-long camps, one in Oklahoma City and one in Tulsa. OWL Camps are free of charge for campers.

For photos and videos from Tulsa’s camp visit: www.newviewoklahoma.org/tulsacamp16

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NewView Oklahoma is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1949 with a mission to empower people who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their maximum level of independence through employment, low vision rehabilitation, and community outreach. NewView Oklahoma is the state’s leading employer of individuals who are blind and visually impaired and offers the only two comprehensive Low Vision Clinics in the state. Visit them online at www.newviewoklahoma.org.