

# **RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## **MONTHLY REPORT**

### **JUNE 2024**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

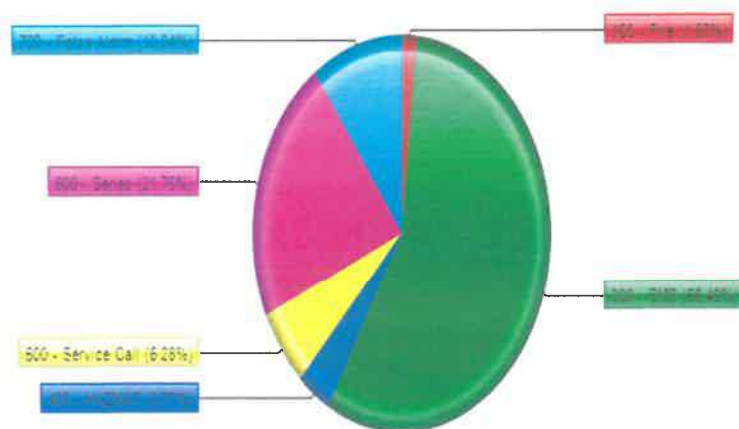
DATE: July 8, 2024

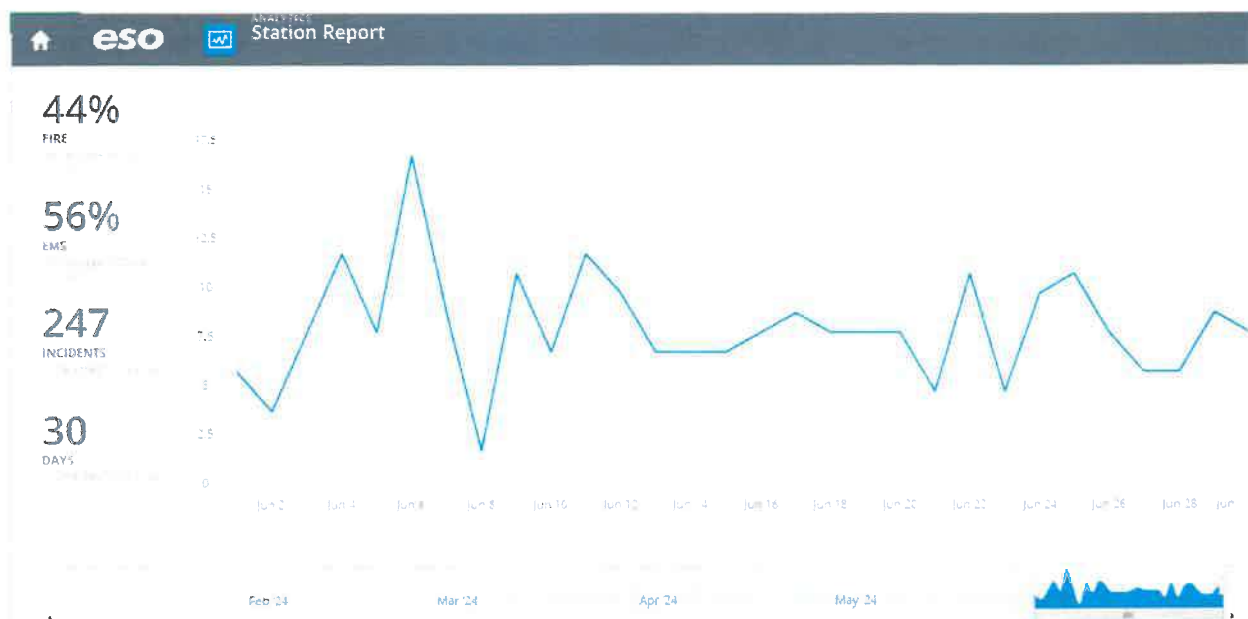
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – June 2024

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The Fire Department responded to 247 calls during the month of June. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to June 2023 where we had 236 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 56% of our response activity for the month of June.

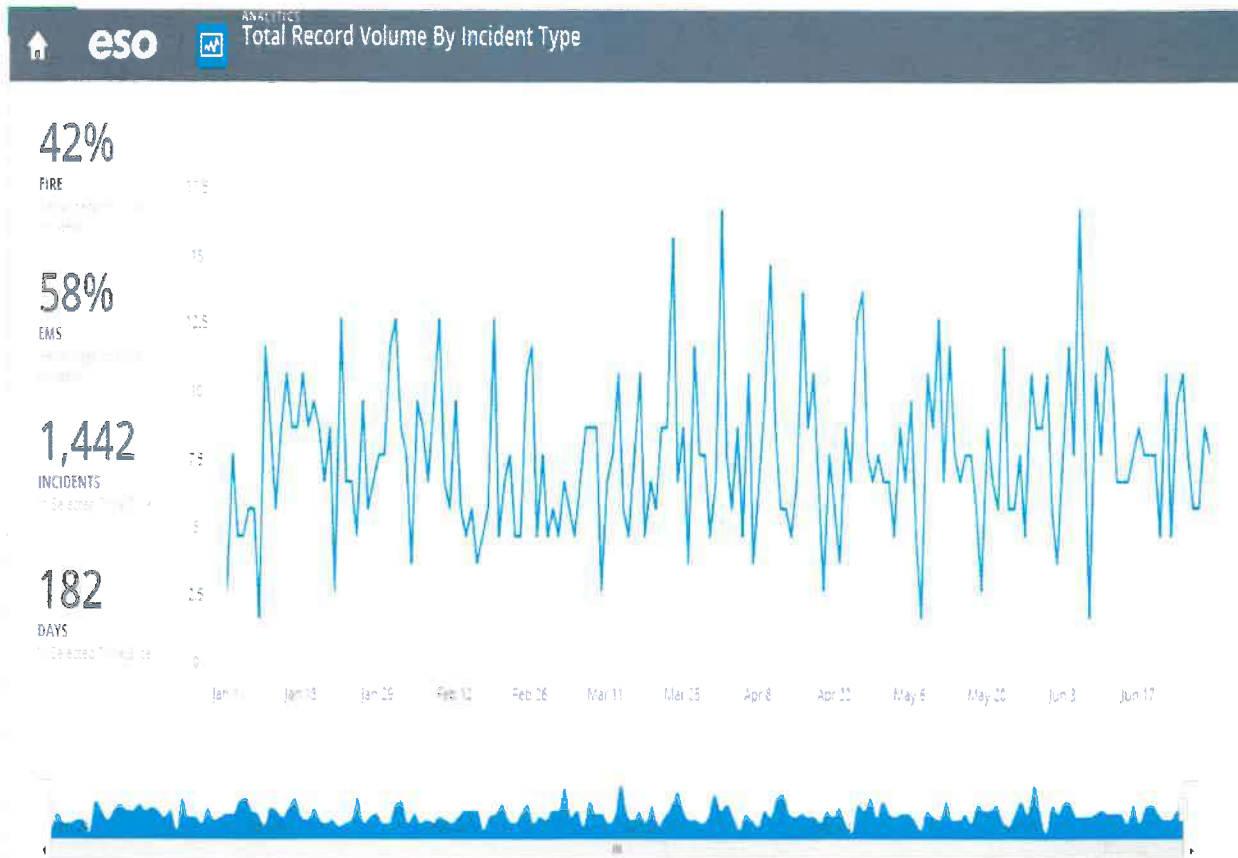
Incident Type Group	June 2024
100 - Fire	4
300 - EMS	139
400 - Hazardous Conditions	9
500 - Service Call	15
600 - Good Intent	54
700 - False Alarms	24
800 - Other	2
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>247</b>





## Counts

[illegible]



## Counts

	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Total
(11) Structure Fire	1	1	5	4	3	2								18
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire		1												1
(14) Natural vegetation fire		2	1											3
(15) Outside rubbish fire			1			1								2
(16) Special outside fire						1								1
(21) Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)		1												1
(25) Excessive heat scorch burns with no ignition					1									1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	130	124	143	142	158	139								836
(33) Lock-In	2													2
(35) Extrication rescue		3	1		1									5
(38) Rescue or EMTS standby		1			1									2
(41) Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	3	2	2	1	2	3								13
(42) Chemical release reaction or toxic condition	1	1	1		3	1								7
(44) Electrical wiring/equipment problem	4		4		5	5								18
(51) Person in distress	7	3	6	2	1	2								21
(52) Water problem	6	2	1		1	1								11
(53) Smoke odor problem		1			3									4
(54) Animal problem or rescue					1									1
(55) Public service assistance	10	6	10	6	8	12								54
(57) Cover assignment standby at fire station, move up				1										1
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	38	34	35	54	29	46								238
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	9	5	4	9	5	7								39
(65) Steam other gas mistaken for smoke	1	1		1	1									4
(73) System or detector malfunction	3	1		5	5	3								17
(74) Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	26	29	20	27	16	22								140
NULL						2								2
Total	241	222	234	253	243	249								1442

**Fire Chief Gaertner Report**

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Monthly Village Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association's Home Day.
- Attended a meeting with Mosaic in reference to occupancy at 7777 Lake Street.
- Attended the Wounded Warriors Ride through town.
- Approved the River Forest Annex to the Cook County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.
- Attended the Monthly Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Pride Flag Raising at the Village Hall.
- Attended the Juneteenth Flag Raising at the River Forest Public Library on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Concordia University Nursing School Demonstration Event the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with Image Trend on possibly upgrading our current fire reporting system.
- Attended the Annual Triton College Foundation Golf Outing.
- Attended a Tabletop Exercise with MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs and the Chicago Transit Authority in preparation for the Democratic National Convention this August.

**Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report**

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Chief Fire Officer class held by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute on Intergovernmental Agency Cooperation.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Monthly Village Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association's Home Day.
- Attended a Tabletop Exercise with MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs and the Chicago Transit Authority in preparation for the Democratic National Convention this August.
- Attended, coordinated, and presented at the Concordia University Nursing School Demonstration Event from June 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Pride Flag Raising at the Village Hall.
- Attended the Juneteenth Flag Raising at the River Forest Public Library on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Wounded Warriors Ride through town.
- Met with the Business Cast to donate a ride in the fire truck to raise money for life-saving swimming lessons for children.
- Tested out newer extrication tools to compare the latest technologies available from current vendors to research the best fit for River Forest as we prepare to purchase new tools.
- Met with the new IT company to discuss departmental needs and concerns.
- Disseminated and provided in-service training for all personnel using the new STARCOM radios.

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU****Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

Welcome to June 2024 and the realization that 2024 is now half over!! Time sure is moving fast!

At the beginning of the year, Chief Gaertner asked me to investigate what I could do to relieve some of the number of inspections for the shifts. This reduction would allow more time for the shifts to do other assignments such as public education and training. I determined that if I could do all the inspections for Town Center 1 and 2, that would take nearly 20 inspections off the shift totals. Considering that I already did 3-4 inspections in the complex already, I thought it would be good for all. My total for this month was 23 inspections while the shift performed 11. Overall, we are right in line with the inspection totals for the first six months of 2023.

**Public Education:**

As you may know, the fire department has been involved with a multi-dimensional public education program in all the schools in town called ISEARCH. The program is administered on a grant through the River Forest Township that includes fire department lessons on fire safety, match and lighter safety, smoke alarm awareness, the importance of a home escape plan and how to put that escape plan in effect during a home fire, and how to do Stop, Drop and Roll. The police department discusses car seat safety, bicycle safety and proper locking of bikes, bus safety, railroad crossing safety, crossing the street safety, and gun safety. A representative from WSCDC talks about the merits of calling for help and answering the questions from a call taker when they dial 911 as well as only calling 911 in a true emergency. We have been doing the same program, with some minor changes, for close to 10 years now. The team decided that we wanted to change the name of the program to better align the instruction to include more community awareness and situational awareness with the students and expand the lesson plans to include more family interactions. We recently met and decided on the new name of..... The River Forest Community Safety Team. In the past week we met to update all of our presentation slides as well as standardizing our presentations. We are excited for the change and we are looking forward to rolling out our changes in the '24-'25 school year.

For the last week of June, the fire department teamed with Concordia University to present a Nursing Camp to approximately 20 Junior High and High School aged kids. The camp was held at the Christopher Center's new Nursing training facility. Deputy Chief Bochenek, with the assistance from Lieutenant Quentin Boyd and other department members presented a number of classes such as patient assessment, performing vital signs in a stressful situation, patient packaging and the transport of sick and injured patients over the five days of the camp as well as scenarios to reenforce the close working relationships Paramedics have with the area hospital nurses and emergency room staffs. The students were also offered a down and dirty CPR and Stop the Bleed class, as well as a demonstration of an auto accident and extrication scenario. Despite a week of rain and hot weather, the camp was a HUGE success, and the reviews of the camp, as well as the Fire Department were extremely high. We think this may be the beginning of a grassroots campaign to attract young people into the Firefighter/Paramedic programs, as well as Nursing programs.

The last item in my monthly report is a summary of activities that do not fit in any other category such as, hydrant flows for sprinkler companies, servicing a Knox Box, public education flyers, and picking up and/or dropping off vehicles for service among others. These activities may not be difficult but do take up time that I like to account for.

Photos from the Concordia Nursing Camp







**RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU MONTHLY  
REPORT  
June 2024**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Jun-23	Jun-24	2023	2024
**FPB Inspections	10	23	89	99
**Company Inspections	4	11	79	98
FPB Re-Inspections	0	4	41	54
Company Re-Inspections	1	8	43	28
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	0	1	2	10
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	5	2	23	18
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	1	2
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	2	2	2	9
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>322</b>
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	7	0	13	2
Violation Notices Issued	4	20	82	103
Violations Noted	15	52	223	228
Violations Corrected	2	19	120	118
Permits Issued	2	0	3	5
**Complaints Received & Investigated	1	1	1	1
All Meetings/Consultations	6	5	36	22
Training Activities	1	0	21	23
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	0	8	1
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	3	0
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	15	16	41	70
**Average turn around (Business Days)	1.26 days	3.68 days	3.12 days	3.92 days
Public Education Programs	7	7	19	31
Public Education Program Contacts	166	148	332	998
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	7	7	44	42

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

### Individual Shift Reports

## Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

**Activities:** Black Shift received 72 calls, 30 of which were fire-related and 42 of which were EMS calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** Participated in the Concordia OPEF event.

### Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 97 hours

EMS: 21 hours

Specialty: Crews were able to assess possible new vehicle extrication tools. LT Boyd attended the monthly Division 11 Hazmat drill. LT Boyd attended a MABAS drill with the state ILTF team.

### Public Service & Community Outreach:

The shift participated in the Concordia OPEF event. Shift members participated in CPR, extrication, and other lessons on EMS.

[illegible]

## Red Shift Report- Lieutenant E. Howe

**Activities:** Red shift responded to a total of 86 calls. 30 calls were fire-related, 50 were for EMS, and 6 were service calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** On June 24th, the Redshift responded to a call for a pedestrian hit by a vehicle at Harlem and Lake. Ambulance 215 crew provided Advanced Life Support care and transported the victim in serious condition to Loyola Medical Center.

### **Shift Training and Hours:**

Fire: 125.0

EMS: 60.00

Specialty:

FF Viera attended Div. 11 Hazmat training in North Riverside.

Members of the Red shift participated in annual extrication training.

### **Public Service & Community Outreach:**

- FF Doran inspected 1 Car seat in June
- FF Rouse provided CPR training for three village employees in June

**Departmental Goals:** In-Company Inspections: 34/78

Hydrant Testing: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

**Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant M. Smith**

**Activities:** Gold Shift had a total of 89 calls. 37 fire-related, 50 were EMS calls, 2 were service calls

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On June 16th, Gold Shift responded to 11 N. Harlem Ave, Oak Park for the structure fire. E222 completed tasks assigned by Incident Command. On June 23rd, Gold Shift responded to 550 Park Ave for the power line issue. E222 found a tree branch lying across the power lines. The branch was energized and on fire. While waiting for COMED to arrive, the branch separated from the tree and broke two of the power lines. One line struck a wooden fence. After COMED shut off the power, Gold Shift extinguished the fence and the tree. FF Krall attended Module 2 and 3 of the Fire Investigation course at NIPSTA. FF Zipperich attended the Division 11 Hazmat Drill in Cicero. On June 13th, Gold Shift attended the Wounded Warrior event at Chicago and Thatcher Ave.

**Shift Training and Hours:**

Fire: 126.5

EMS: 44.0

Specialty: 84.0

**Public Service & Community Outreach:**

Firehouse Tours 0 0 visitors

CPR Classes 1 18 students

Car Seat Install 0

Birthday Party 1 38 guests

**Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:**

Inspections: 38/78

Hydrants: 14/136

Hose Testing: 0

**EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Finfrock**

In the month of June, RFFD responded for a TOTAL of 129 patients. Of those patients Ambulance 215 treated and transported 101, while 18 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department. In addition, crews responded to 10 patients for a lift assist. The 101 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 12  
Rush Oak Park Hospital- 75  
Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 14  
West Suburban Hospital- 0  
Hines VA- 0  
MacNeal- 0  
800 N. Harlem- 20 patients  
7617 North Ave- 6

Mutual Aid from A215- 15 times

Abdominal Pain- 2  
Adult Respiratory Distress- 5  
Allergic Reaction-  
Altered Mental Status- 1  
Animal Bite- 1  
Assault/Battery- 4  
Behavioral/Psych- 6  
Burns- 0  
Chest Pain- 4  
Cardiac Arrest- 1  
Choking- 0  
CO Poisoning- 0  
Diabetic Problems- 1  
Electrocution- 0  
ETOH- 4  
Eye Problems- 0  
Fall- 24  
General Aches/pain- 7  
Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 1  
Medical Alarm- 0  
No Complaint- 12

**Vehicle/Station Maintenance    LT. E. Howe & FF/PM Chris Doran**

Lt Howe continues to fine-tune vehicle the vehicle and equipment maintenance program. The highlights of maintenance and repairs performed this month are listed below.

**Maintenance:**

- 200- In shop for body damage
- 202- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 201- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213-
  - Replaced rear tires
  - Replaced cam sensor and wiring
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 219- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 215- Overdue for maintenance, waiting for a new ambulance to be in service.
- 214- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- The roof saw was returned to service, and there was a new ignition coil.

**EQUIPMENT**

- The roof saw was returned to service, and there was a new ignition coil.
- Repairs made to the ambulance cot.

**FIRE STATION**

No report.

Dear Chief theston,

Please thank the three firefighters who helped me this past Sunday when I locked myself out of my car in the RF Jewel parking lot. To be in the company of three of the kindest, most patient, and gentlemanly strangers at once was a welcome experience. I was so discombobulated I did not even get their names & say thank you. Please thank them for me.

I know you all have better things to do but I couldn't get a hold of my son. I explained to your mom that I had lost my husband recently. When I left "wedding island" was 3 1/2 years ago. The problem is that although

June 25, 2024

I am doing better now than I was after taking care of him for the year that he was dying of lung cancer passing from nothing seemed in Viet Nam in 1971... but it often does not take much to rattle me now. He suffered a brutal death for that year from a disease he exhibited signs he had when he came home.

It seems important to tell you how appreciated you are and what the people are that you help. He had PTSD after months of treatment. 5 months at Hies without a diagnosis. 6 trips to the ER in 5 months there. 2 trips to Central Duquoy in Maryland after a 3 day diagnosis he was shown he had terminal prostate cancer. The first trip he made captured blood.

→



two was all during COVID which  
neither of us got then. But he did  
acquire MRSA at the VA where  
he lost 30 pounds during weeks  
of treatment for MRSA.

there's more but this is more  
than enough. I am from a kind of <sup>poor</sup> ~~poor~~  
you risk your lives for no every  
day. But then you and keep you  
all day. You are peace makers, even  
though you see terrible things.  
Thank you for your service, truly,  
Thank you!

Please use this money to buy a  
bakery cake, or make one. I imagine  
you're all great cooks.

Thank you for your help on  
Sunday.

I know my husband of 48 years  
would tease me about locking myself  
out of the car and leaving the  
keys but I know that, at the same  
time, he would shake your hands  
and <sup>sincerely</sup> thank you for helping his wife.

Christine Lemon

Christine Vernon  
7 Elizabeth Court  
Oak Park, Illinois  
60302

Fire Chief Tom Gaertner  
River Forest Fire Department  
400 Park Avenue  
River Forest, Illinois 60305

### **Thank You Emails From Concordia's Event- June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 28th**

I hope you are well and enjoying the summer. I wanted to thank you and your team for leading an extraordinary camp. It was a wonderfully organized program. The real-life situations and role plays were unbelievable. This camp really took it to another level with the number of experts in the field that the kids were able to engage on a daily basis- nursing professionals, firefighters, police, etc. Each day we eagerly awaited your detailed email and dinner conversation with Gabriel. He couldn't wait to tell us about each day's adventure. This was an excellent way to introduce kids to life saving skills and various career opportunities. We hope that this camp will be available next year. We can't wait to sign up. Thank you again for creating a learning experience that was both enjoyable and memorable.

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This camp was amazing!! The things my daughter has learned this week is unreal. Thanks so much for making this happen this week. Really the best camp!

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This camp is incredible. You have totally captured my daughter's imagination and interest. Thank you for all the energy and thought you have put into creating this week-long experience.

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Thanks Kristen - this was SUCH a great camp!!! I just wanted to let you know, as our experience with most camps over the years has been fairly hit or miss, and mostly mediocre, it was so nice to have a camp where the kids learned SO much but also had such a great time and looked forward to going each morning (at least our camper, Evie, did!) Thank you for running this and please pass my thanks along to whoever else deserves it, we were SO impressed and are looking forward to more in the future!!