

Camp Weed is an Episcopal camp operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Florida for youth completing grades 2-12. That is the first sentence on the camp weed site, but I wish people would realize it's so much more than a summer camp. Almost everyone in this youth group has gone or will go to Camp Weed, and I know that the ones that have gone, love the camp as much as I do. At camp weed you can experience things like water balloon volley ball and ultimate spoons, tie-dye and card making. But the amazing things you go through at camp are meeting people from all over the Diocese who will be your friends for a lifetime, building on relationships with people that you've known your whole life, doing things you thought you'd never do before, loving people like you never knew you could, and worshiping God so fully you feel you might explode! For me, I developed a sense of fellowship with the diocese and became not only a stronger and better person but a stronger and better Christian. After being a camper last summer, I was a CIT, or a Counselor in Training. During this week, I stayed up till all hours of the night comforting my girls of homesickness, and running around with water coolers. My favorite thing about being a CIT, besides the kids of course, was having such a close-knit family with my fellow CITs. In particular, my partner in crime was Kevin Whitelaw. I'm sure most of you have heard about his passing in early November, but that's not what today is about. I would love to share one of my favorite memories with you guys involving one of my best friends and greatest inspirations, Kevin. Towards the end of the week at every session, we do a camp wide talent show, and once the list went up, we signed up before we even knew what we were going to do. All the CITs decided we were going to do a skit to our favorite singer, Taylor Swift. On that Thursday night, we all did a very impromptu dance to her song, Love Story, which involves a Romeo and a Juliet. But just dancing around isn't camp weed so we decided girls would be Romeo and boys would be Juliet. Kevin was my dance partner, and he wore a dress modeled after Snow White and a braided wig. He let me wear his gator hat which was cool because it was his favorite, but not so cool because it smelled pretty bad. Anyway, it was an amazing time and we all had so much fun. Being one of the older members in this youth group, I hope and pray that everyone, from the sophomores to the 6th graders, can meet amazing people like him, and have such silly stories to tell. I'll be honest with you guys, I, and the rest of my youth group, could talk about camp weed all day if we had to, but I think that was enough to make you all want to go to camp as well!