



The Petros Family

By Grace Horner

“When we get there, we all just feel this calming peaceful sense of relaxation,” Angelina Petros stated when we sat down for a zoom interview to reflect on her Camp Attitude experiences.

The Petros are from California and are made up of Angelina and Peter who are the parents to Mariana (16) and Stevie (14). Both kids were adopted. Stevie became a Petros when he was two months old and was diagnosed with autism when he was two years old.

Angelina explained that their family doesn’t really have any sources of support from anywhere except Stevie’s school. It’s difficult to find a caretaker that can handle him for hours and his seizures pose additional challenges.

Their first time to Camp Attitude Angelina and Peter were pretty nervous about this substantial, new experience. At the time, Stevie had broken his ankle, but luckily, he had a tireless buddy that pushed and ran him around in his wheelchair. It was their first break in years. “We had the best experience ever,” Angelina shared.

When asked what her favorite part about camp was, Angelina replied with a list of fun activities available including lake day, riding horses, and connecting with other families at Camp Attitude. The Petros always try to go the same week when they have a chance to go to camp. This has allowed them to spend time with people they’ve met and build deeper relationships. They are still in touch with many of these friends long after camp is over.

“When we pull up to camp there’s this feeling of relief... we pull up and we always yell ‘home!’ because we feel like we’re home,” Angelina expressed. Going to camp was a great time to relax and it felt comfortable and safe. “We are always on alert and camp gives us that chance to just unwind and relax,” she said. The experience they had at camp was fantastic for the parents and daughter, Mariana, to relax while Stevie was having a blast with his buddy.

“Go with the flow, be a part of the river, don’t resist the flow and just enjoy yourself,” Peter said when asked about advice to give future Camp Attitude families. Angelina’s take on the question was, “I think for special needs parents the hardest thing is that we’re so used to doing it on our

own. When people try to help us, we instantly put our guard up...We don't have to be guarded. We can relax, it's okay to let them help us." They both agreed that going to Camp Attitude is about loving everyone, family and feeling included.

