

## IS MTOS WORTH THE COST? Lauren Pugh, 5th grade

MTOS is a three day two night trip that our class, and the rest of upper el take every year. I think that the unique experience that you get from going to MTOS completely justifies the time and money it takes to get there. MTOS is great and I love the fact that we get to go there every year, and I would like to go there again next year.

There are many reasons why MTOS is such a valuable experience. One of the main reasons why MTOS is such a great experience is because it is a great bonding experience for the entire class. You get to bond with people that you would not otherwise hang out with since Mr. Curt puts you in groups. You get to know people a lot better when you share a room with them for three days and two nights. I like getting to know people that I didn't know very well before.

Some of the you might be thinking, why do we have to go to MTOS we can do all the stuff that they do at MTOS right here in Charlotte. Well, you could just put up a few poles and call it an orienteering course, but it wouldn't be the same. Especially with activities like forest ecology and water ecology. You would not have a very unique experience doing it in the middle of a large city. Plus you wouldn't find any pollution intolerant species like crayfish in Charlotte. When we do forest ecology we always hike up a mountain and learn about plants and animals on the way up, then we do a solo hike on the way down. I don't think we have any mountains in Charlotte that we could hike up so we couldn't do that either.

When you picture MTOS in your head you probably think of a dirty old log cabin in the middle of the woods with rats and spider webs everywhere. Well the cabins at MTOS are actually quite nice. The cabin that they put us in this year was new and very elegant, it was better than our cabin from last year and it was a lot closer to the dining hall. Speaking of the dining hall, the food there is also amazing. My favorite thing there was the french toast. After our meals we usually just went back to the cabin.

As I have mentioned before, I love being able to go to MTOS every year, even though it is very expensive. I hope I will still be able to go next year. MTOS is

such an amazing and unique experience. I am glad to have already gotten to go twice. They were both really fun and educational at the same time. I got to know my classmates and I learned a lot too. Even though I will be in sixth grade next time I get to go, I know I will still get a lot out of the experience.