



## Greenrock Writers Retreat

June 22 – June 25, 2017

July 13 – July 16, 2017

### Audience

Greenrock Writers Retreat is for 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. This year's community of writers featured 44 high school students from many different school districts across Michigan. For the first time, Greenrock was held in both June and July to allow more students to participate.

Rachel Swift was the new college mentor this year. Rachel was responsible for creating the Greenrock Anthology, which included collecting and formatting student work and photographing students throughout the retreat. She also led several writing activities.

This year's theme for the retreat was "Be You," and was centered on this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

Students had the opportunity to explore this theme through reading *Anya's Ghost* by Vera Brosgol. Students were given the opportunity to write about who they are, what they think about, what is important to them, and what drives them.



### Funding

Greenrock is funded primarily from registration fees of \$325 per camper. Greenrock also receives financial support from the Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP). Fees include a journal, novel, a 2017 Greenrock Anthology, housing and meals in the residence halls, and MSU Dairy Store ice cream. RCWP also provide two full scholarships this year.

### Objectives

Greenrock is crafted around the importance of having a space for high school students to write and discuss writing with a community of writers. Each workshop is designed to encourage participants to view writing as personally meaningful and pleasurable, as well as to improve participants' writing abilities. This fits with the Red Cedar Writing Project theme of leading a writerly life and adding to the list of writing tools for each camper's 'writing toolbox.'

### Outcomes

Camper Feedback:

- This was a great time. The people I met and the friends I made all helped this event be one that I would definitely want to return to.
- My favorite part of Greenrock was getting to know everyone and learning about each other through our writing.
- I love Greenrock, never get rid of it!
- My favorite part of Greenrock was going around campus and the writing marathon because I got to see different parts of the campus.

Contact hours between Teacher Consultants and campers totaled 1,333 in June and 987 in July.

### Additional Significant Information

- Greenrock has a high rate of returning attendees, which bodes well for future recruitment efforts.
- We serve a high number of faculty children and youth, which contributes to faculty retention and investment in the community.
- We expect total attendance for both camps to increase next year.

### Contact Information

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