

To my girlies – my Traveling Pants,

I'm crying as I write this but I'm just hoping that somehow it'll make me feel better about all of this. Oh gosh I'm a mess. For most people in the camp, Erica was just a counselor. But for those of us who really knew her, she was more than a counselor to everybody. She was a best friend, a big sister, a soccer coach, and a role model. She lived by her motto: "When the road gets bumpy, don't be grumpy, just smile-smile-smile-smile- and be happy," which she wrote on our traveling pants which hung in our hallway. I know that she impacted not only my life, but the lives of my "sisters" of the pants. It's clear now that what she left behind in her campers was stronger than anything as you count the number of IM's and phone calls I received within fifteen minutes to an hour of finding out the bad news. There was so much more to our group than just five rooms of girls, three counselors, three showers, and one hallway. We were all a part of each other – at least one person had something in common with everybody else, and when we couldn't find it on the surface we created things in common, and that was one thing Erica had a knack for. She made new campers feel at ease and inducted them into the group by being her friendly, bubbly and honest self. As a new camper this summer, I experienced that part of her personality and not only did it make making friends easier, but also found a friend, a best friend in Erica. It's so crazy because now all I find myself doing is looking back and remembering all of the little things and trying to find ways to put them into my life. For instance, when Erica started screaming at a Minisink counselor when he insulted one of our soccer players, makes me feel like I should stick up for people more often, or when she took me into my room when I was in a bad mood and just let me spill absolutely everything to her makes me want to give that back to my own friends. I'll always miss her, she was one of a kind, but, like the summer as a whole, it's impossible to forget her. She will remain in my heart and in my pictures and memory – AND IN THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS forever.

*Emily Christine Alexa Dana Courtney Kim Ali Meg
Davi Meemee Justine Allison Gill Ingrid Carly Alyssa
Lauren Kelsey Melissa Erin Erica Beth and all the week
7/8 campers!*

♥ *Emily Kleiman*