Olympic Reception

Each team was judged on their cheers, flags, marches, and buffet during the Olympic Reception prior to the Opening Ceremony. The countries marched throughout camp with their t-shirts and flags to represent their countries. After the march, the Olympic flag was raised, and the buffet began. The countries were responsible for planning and organizing three dishes for the judges based on their country’s history, customs and popular foods. Greece gained a lot of points with their unique tapas dish as well as their wealthy knowledge of their country, followed by Uganda’s use of plantains, and Croatia coming in third with a “blue ocean” beverage and lemon cake. But this was just the beginning, the Opening Ceremony ignited the torch and everyone’s inner Olympian to start off the 26th Annual 4-H Camp Owahta Olympics.
Team Spirit
Countries were divided up into age groups for every sport. Soccer and hockey were played all week long starting with qualifying rounds. Each country received gold at least once depending on the age group.

Wednesday night, the skit portion of the Olympics took place and every country contributed a fun and unique twist to drama. The campers all had a part in their plays, while the coaches helped write and direct the skits. Uganda and Croatia were holding their own, but Greece took the gold. Throughout the week, campers were also submitting their work for the Olympic Art Festival which consisted of artwork based on their country. Croatia’s artists took the gold on this category with Greece right behind.

Swim Meet & Track Meet
The Swim Meet involved all of camp’s participation. From a golf ball search, to a freestyle relay, the energy levels were high as the crowd cheered for their teams. The rain didn’t stop us and it certainly didn’t stop any of the countries as it was close the entire way. Croatia and Uganda tied for gold and Greece followed shortly behind with bronze.

The Track Meet went extremely well, campers of all ages were competing in long jump, shot put, relays, sprinting and cross country running. The involvement of the fans and athletes helped keep the spirit strong here as Uganda easily won the gold, while Croatia took silver and Greece took the bronze.

Closing Ceremony
After the judges added up all the points for each event, the results finally came in. Every category had their own point value: the reception, the athletic events, the art competition, skits, and overall team unity. Before the final games, a huge factor was considered to determine the final winner - team spirit. Throughout the week, campers were reminded of the Olympic oath and the 4-H pledge to maintain good sportsmanship and encouragement to their teams and fellow campers. The scores were very close between each country, but in the end, Greece took the gold with 440 points, Croatia with 438, and Uganda with 437. The camp has not seen such closeness between countries in a long time. Everyone tried their best and excelled in several different areas.

The 4-H Camp Owahta staff could not be any prouder of the campers and counselors that helped make this year’s Olympics and overall summer what it was. We are very lucky to have had such a successful and memorable year!