

On the MOVE



Longing for terra firma, Katie Drexel (right) clings to the next best thing as Matt Erhard (left) looks forward to the next challenge.



Greg Schwerzler walks a cable some 20 feet in the air at the ropes course at Camp Stella Maris followed along in the air as well as on the ground.

LEARNING THE R

STORY BY MIKE LATONA

PHOTOGRAPHS MATTHEW SCOTT

Nervously eyeing a ropes course that goes as high as 20 feet in some parts, Katie Drexel was wondering what she'd gotten herself into.

Drexel's friend, Katie Rickner, encouraged her by saying she'd give helpful climbing instructions.

"Don't be wrong," Drexel replied.

(Normally "On the Move" refers to teens by their first names, but to avoid confusing the Katies we're using their last names.)

Several other members of their group, also, appeared hesitant as they began the high ropes course at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia on Sept. 14.

And with good reason. After climbing a 15-foot-high rope, participants are required to walk across sets of ad-

ditional ropes swung from tree to tree. For their final exercise, they must leap about three feet higher to grab a small bar dangling in the air.

About halfway through the course, Drexel commented that her legs had stopped shaking — but her hands hadn't. "I need some affirmation, like, right now," she remarked.

When it came time to jump for the bar, Drexel's friends shouted encouragement from below.

"Wait, wait, wait! I've got to visualize it," she said.

Drexel finally took the leap of faith, latched on successfully, and let

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