

Summer Camp Jyotirgamaya

-a report

Long time ago, when I heard about this camp, I was put into thoughts...like, how exciting would it be to go to a new state, learn something new, make new friends and spend time with them. It was like an explosion of thoughts. Same kind of situation was faced by my mom and dad but it had a difference. They felt like...she is going to be alone for 8 days in a socialized forest so called ashram, without any comforts and adjusting there and amidst people whom she has never met before, how is she going to be there? Maybe they had this thought because I was the only child and also because they were worried about my safety. But yet they decided to send me there to learn what is life and also for my happiness.

As time flew, my school gave a vacation and it was when I boarded the fast paced Shabari express which took me to the most beautiful place I've ever seen i.e. Arsha vidya gurukulam. It was a home for both flora and fauna which felt amazing encompassed by those steep hills and deep valleys which was truly wonderful. Now it was my turn to explore the ashram. We were provided with rooms with two more buddies who accompanied us all the time. Our day started



Dr.Promod's Session on bird watching

with a wakeup call by Mr. Peacock and his consorts screaming aloud to wake us up! Habitually all of the students felt lazy to wake up and practice dhyana and yoga but in a day or two we started feeling fresh and free from stress all warmed up with a new zeal. Our schedule in the camp was quiet different from a corporate school schedule in all ways.



Dr.Promod's trekking Session

Through this media we had a chance of learning many things. Through various guest talks like temple architecture by Mr. Gurumoorthy and bird watching by Mr. Pramod helped me in identifying when I visited perur Shiva temple which had wondrous architectural sights and when I went on a vacation to Cochin backwaters to view those pretty birds. And the fun part was Jyotirgamaya which was taken by swami shankarananda saraswati. He told us about the concept of the one and the only Eshwara who is the supreme god who is worshiped in variant forms. That was pretty interesting!

It gave importance empowering the forgotten Indian traditions and cultures which I liked the most. It also had mouthwatering food which tasted divine. Our time table included meditation, yoga, puja, Jyotirgamaya program, guest talk, spoken Sanskrit, music and dance, art and crafts, play time and happy hours. Though each session had its own task to play, some of them like Jyotirgamaya, guest talk and happy hours were proved to be the most interactive and personal favorite of many of us.

We also learnt about values and emotions from Mrs. Savitri and Prema paati who taught us how to deal with people and also our mind which is the naughtiest in the world. And by mid day we



Jyotirgamaya Class by Sw. Shankaranandaji

had to set our creative mind on work and start crafting which included some fun sessions like origami and abstract art. Well, after this we had to dance gracefully imagining the moonlit sky like the day of raasleela. We had to dance so energetically that we had to spend all our energy... then it was time for some cool and refreshing drinks for all thirsty crows! We also enjoyed our play time by skipping, playing cricket and a party game Uno.



Art&Craft Session



Dance session



Yoga&Meditation

Then we all gathered in Dakshinamoorthy kovil to listen to the blissful prayers by the priests and enjoyed listening to the religious hymns. And the fun part was some prasadam at the end! And then we ended our day with a good laugh in the happy hours. This was our daily routine at the camp which I consider to be the most disciplined way of life. Well, as time flied, the camp was all over with the valedictory function. The rollercoaster of emotions now took a new turn saying bye to all. Everyone felt sad to leave but they all left learning some new things to tell their friends at school. It is not important how many days did we stay there, what's important is what did we learn. Right! I would say I had a wonderful time in the ashram enjoying nature and making new friends rather than sitting at home like a couch potato accompanied by a phone.



SpokenSanskrit



Happy Hour Session

I always liked to know about the puranas, the Vedas and I was passionate to learn all the Indian languages since my childhood. I fond of all the characters and way the authors illustrated their epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. I always liked to know more about this mythical stuff which created interest in me. I would say my dream had come true because it was a rare opportunity to know more about the Indian cultures and traditions and I also learnt little Tamil and Sanskrit! I enjoyed being a part of this camp and would look forward to visit such camps in the near future.

This report is prepared by one of the participants of the children camp Manaswini, Hydrabad

