

Bushcraft

Today was the day, the very day everyone had been waiting for, the day we left for Bushcraft (the year 5 and six three day residential trip). When I woke up it was a sudden rush as I went down the stairs. Bushcraft was waiting for me but exactly what did it want me to do? I felt that there was something hidden to be revealed.

We arrived to the sweet smell of woodland. Time for the first activity of Bushcraft: making fires! One of the tribe leaders (Ali) showed us how to make them and showed us some things that you can use to make fire in the wild, matches and fire lighters are no use! Whilst some of the tribe were busy making fires the others wandered off to sort a tribe name and flag. We were Flaming Embers with our magnificent flag with fire and embers coming out of it. Then it was time for shelter building. I love making dens so I was really eager for this activity. For me the best parts were sweeping out the mud to make the floor and collecting wood to build up the walls. The evenings were always cosy singing around the bursting flame of the camp fire whilst enjoying hot chocolate and brownies.

Now, the big moment: sleeping outside! I felt unsure and excited at the same time. I had no idea what surprises that night would bring. The same thought was circling my head: is an animal going to come in and greet us? I tried not to think about it although I knew it was still there. In the night I heard a deer and then a brush against our tent – it was exciting and very different from being at home in my own bed.

The next great, epic day! Firstly we did trap building, I really enjoyed this activity. It was interesting to experiment with different pieces of wood for our trap. We learnt the different types of traps; strangle, dangle, mangle and tangle. That day we also made tent pegs. I really liked making them and it was a very useful thing to know. I liked learning how to use the craft knife and how to carve the tent peg. Survival bracelet making was extraordinary, I loved making them out of the cord. The idea was when you needed to use the cord you would just undo your bracelet. That night it was 'Tribes Got Talent'. It was amazing sitting in the dark enjoying other tribes acts.

The very next day was first aid. I learnt this saying; DRAB (danger, response, air ways and breathing). I got carried on a stretcher which was fun – I never had before! We learnt how to do 'leave no trace' for example covering our campfires and cooling the soil. We also scattered sticks around the wood. We did the Bushcraft Challenge which was an awesome opportunity to work as a team to find certain materials. It was fun to try and look for the items and I liked it because I really like scavenger hunts and challenging ourselves to try and find hard items in the woods such as a bone and something blue, unfortunately I didn't succeed on finding the bone.

Bushcraft was a really great experience which I enjoyed so much. My top three activities were shelter making, trap making and Tribes Got Talent.



Emma Doggett