

IAYP ADVENTURE JOURNEY REPORT

The impending journey to the NALS camp was in fact creating an overwhelming effect in the minds of all the tenth standard students. We left to this exciting destination at Manjakombai on the afternoon of 23rd September, 2018. The planning for this Bronze Level adventurous journey began earlier in the month itself. A group of 53 students reached the NALS campsite at 4 'o clock in the evening.

The programme began with registration and safety briefing by Mr.Seshadhri, the head of the NALS team, in the campus, following which we went on an acclimatization trek, this was generally done to gain an understanding of the surrounding and also served as an ice breaker. The trek was approximately 5 kms and by the time we returned to camp it was almost dark. It was quite thrilling to walk through a forest area listening to the sounds of the jungle. This experience was quite new for many and we went to bed anticipating more risky trips for the next two days.

The second day started quite early, beginning with a nature trail and exercise at 6.30 in the morning. After breakfast we were divided into two groups, the first group began their trek to Kottakal and second group went on to the intimidating 'high ropes'. Most of us were exhausted by the time we finished our trek, at the same time we learnt a lot from our trainer who showed us bear trails and taught us how to survive in case of any encounter with wild animals. By the time we finished our 12 km trek the second group had finished their activity on the high ropes, the description they gave, frightened us a little, but the spirit of adventure took over our fear. Lunch was provided on time but we could hardly eat, owing to the butterflies in our stomachs. Most of us trudged up to the spot to Pembroke Villa, about 100 mts from our campsite. The high ropes were about 40 feet from the ground and most of us nearly blacked out – to say the least – at the sight. Our trainer encouraged us and this made us go the extra mile and not give in to our acrophobia. All of us completed the double support and single support high ropes, but the free fall was the most exhilarating, in spite of the safety harness most of us were frozen at the idea of dropping down to the ground from a height of 40 feet. Nonetheless no one gave up. We returned to camp feeling a few feet taller, it was a lifetime achievement.

The third day was like the second, beginning with the nature trail followed by fun games for a change. We enjoyed these games, screaming our hearts out and by the time we returned to camp we felt really fresh. On this day we were divided into three groups as our Tower Trek was cancelled due to heavy rain the previous night. The trainers informed us that there was a dire threat of leeches on the way. So instead of the trek we had rappelling, campus cleaning and survival training. Rappelling again was another challenge. We had to climb down a menacing rock. Safety harnesses in place, we began this journey one by one. Although some of us were driven to tears, it did not stop us. After about two hours we returned to our rooms and cleaned the campus. The third activity on our trip was the survival training, in which our trainer taught various survival skills, he also taught us to build tents using the basic material that we would find in a forest. The last activity for the trip was knot making, where the children learnt different styles of tying knots. The exciting two day trip came to an end at 4 in the evening.

We returned to school realising that we had changed much over this short journey. The cocoons that we had built around ourselves had been shed voluntarily, helping us to spread our wings. The element of fear had diminished to a certain limit and we knew that the next step in life would be tread with greater confidence.

Student's feedback

I have always been a person who was never interested in outdoor activities. But now I can see a change. I am completely a different person now. I am grateful to IAYP for changing me in a good way.

-Kelly (Class -X)

IAYP helped me learn about gardening. I have improved my skills in chess and learnt how to play nook shot; I improved my game in both cricket as well as chess. NALS camp helped me to learn to adapt myself in tough situations.

-Ayaan Mathews (Class -X)

The things which define a good human being includes talent, kindness, boldness and last but not least the courage to do anything. I do see many changes in me. I believe I would be all of the things that define a good human being by the end of the IAYP. Thank you.

- Cassandra Holden (Class -X)

I learnt a lot from IAYP the camp was very exciting. It gave me courage. I love to help others and do gardening. It even helped me to improve my Table Tennis skills.

- Sakthi Varman (Class -X)

My skills are cooking. I have learnt many things and learnt a lot of new dishes. My physical recreation is basketball. I improved my skills and took part in many matches. My service is cottage cleaning we have a lot of fun while doing this and I am becoming a responsible person. To practice for adventure, we went to NALS camp over there, we learnt many activities such as high rope, rappelling, knot making and other survival tricks and we learnt how to adapt. We benefitted a lot from IAYP.

- Preethi Poornima (Class -X)

IAYP has turned me over a new leaf. I can see that it has improved my skill. My interest has increased towards adventurous things. I hope that I become an extrovert, helpful and all the things anyone would desire to be by end of the programme.

- Trisha (Class -X)

I started my IAYP tasks in the month of June. I improved in my physical recreation skills (Hockey). I learnt many tricks which can be used in matches. I also learnt a lot in pottery which was very interesting. We had a lot of fun in teaching the young people and we are happy to help them in any way (our service) while we did our adventure (Rappelling) at first we had built up courage which will surely help us in future. I really think this useful for us.

- Kaviya. S (Class -X)

I am proud to be part of IAYP as I improved in different fields. As my skill is gardening, I learnt to be more environment friendly. My physical recreation is football. I am improving my skills and it has made me more fit. Being part of IAYP made me get more self confidence and self discipline.

- S.S. Varun (Class -X)

This programme really helped me, it made me self confident and I learnt a lot of things. It made me improve my skills such as helping others. My skill is playing chess and I have learnt a lot from it. I usually hated chess but after I went and tried it. I love it because I learnt many things. It made me bring out my talents. Recently I went to a camp; I learnt so many things from this camp such as living in lonely places. On the whole these programmes made me bold, self-confident and showcased my talents.

- Vedika V. Teckchandani(Class -X)

It really helped me a lot. I have never entered my kitchen at home. But after I started learning to cook now I have started cooking at home also. The camp which I went recently was very exciting. It taught me how to survive in the forest and I learnt many more things. I really enjoy doing gardening and helping others. It also helped me improve my Badminton skills. IAYP made me improve in various fields.

-Candy Amanda Wash (Class -X)