

**An Unforgettable Camping Trip**

I just wrapped up a week-long camping trip, and I’m still thinking about it. I spent a whole week living with my teacher, classmates, and friends with no communication devices around, surrounded by mountains. It took us three hours to drive there; it was a completely natural setting.

I almost didn’t go because of my health, but I ended up deciding to go. I’m really glad I did; it gave me so many precious memories and unforgettable moments. On the first day, we set off early in the morning. I was caught playing on my phone in the car by the grade supervisor, and they took it away. I was pretty annoyed about that, but once we arrived at the camp, the fresh air made me forget all about it. I decided to just enjoy myself. The first thing we did when we got out of the car was eat. The food for the week was totally different from what I usually eat at home, making me feel like I was in a completely different environment. After eating, we started the activities. We were grouped with different teachers and some classmates we weren’t very familiar with, which was a good test of our social skills. Luckily, Nikki and I were in the same group, or I wouldn’t have had as much fun. On the first day, we did two activities: biking up the mountain and the zipline at night, which was really thrilling. By the end of the day, my butt was sore, and I was so tired that I went straight to bed in the dorm.

On the second day, we did rock climbing, hiking, and a scavenger hunt. I managed to complete the hardest climb, but I overexerted myself, and my arms kept cramping up that night. On the third day, we packed up and headed up the mountain. Since we’d be staying in the mountains on Wednesday and Thursday, everyone had to carry a ton of stuff—sleeping bags, tents, food, personal items, cooking gear, and communal items that everyone had to share. Each of us had a huge backpack, at least 20 pounds, and it was taller than me. When we got to the halfway point, we set up our tents. Nikki and I shared a tent, and it was freezing at night. For dinner, we had pasta, but since everyone was so tired and the sauce wasn’t ready, we ended up eating plain pasta by hand. It was a struggle, but it was all the stuff we’d carried up ourselves.

On the fourth day, I woke up frozen because it was so cold inside the tent. After packing up in the morning, we set off for the summit. This was the toughest part of the whole camping trip; it was exhausting. Finally reaching the top, the view was all green, and it was a refreshing change from the city’s noise. On the fifth day, after breakfast, we headed back. I was really reluctant to leave because I didn’t want to go back to school.

After spending a week together, I feel like my bond with everyone has grown deeper. I’ve got some one-of-a-kind memories from this trip, and even now, on the way home, my thoughts are still back there.