

## Arden 2010 International Guide Camp, UK

Emma's report

I just wanted to email you to tell you about the fantastic time I had at Arden over the past week (well, some brief highlights anyhow)...



I helped out on the activities team for the week, so that involved working with about 30 young leaders and leaders throughout the week on different activities. In particular, I helped to run grass sledges, kayaking and raft building (with trained instructors also), helped on the canal boats with the girls and helped to drive them as well, helped on mad about science with science experiments and blowing things up, I helped belay on the rock climbing and had a go too, I was apart of the newspaper team dream catchers and went around interviewing girls and taking photos, I also helped distribute lunches to all 1400 girls on the centennial day which was really well organised.

Centennial Day celebrated 100years of UK Guiding, and at ARDEN the girls had to do 'centennial' challenges such as getting 100signatures on to their necker scarf, doing 10activities throughout the day etc.

I shared a tent with a Canadian young leader Sarah, and we got on really well - I also was able to meet up with some people from the past 2 Ardens which included some friends my age and also some adults who remembered myself and mum and when we were over. I ate food in the 'house' which meant 3 cooked meals which was a nice change from normal camp food. There were lots of internationals at camp from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Scotland, Uganda, USA and Wales which meant there were lots of different languages and both girls and leaders from afar which was great to compare camping stories and how guiding is done all throughout the world.



We had a great campfire which was held by Helena and she did an awesome job, despite having a very small AP sound system. One person from all 4 corners of the world walked into the campfire holding flaming torches and actually light the campfire during the song "campfires burning". It was totally awesome to be apart of that - lots of new songs have come out of the woodwork over the past 4years so was really cool to learn some new songs.

On the international evening, I did a maori mihi which went down really well. We also had a disco one of the nights with guest star "Sean Rumsay" who is an x-factor singing contestant runner up and also tribute band Girls Aloud (despite some interesting costume designs). This was followed by a laser display which the girls thoroughly enjoyed and they had the next few hours to boogie on down to a DJ disco in the main tent.

The opening ceremony was a 'fashion through the decades' themed and had a lot of girl participant in it which was great. also, the closing ceremony as you can imagine when out with a bang, a HUGE! fireworks display and lots of the sub-camps performing songs and skits etc.

Also a highlight for me was meeting Liz Burnley who is the Chief Guide - She came over to me and spoke to me as I was running the Grass Sledge activity - she mentioned how well I was doing running a group and wanted to know what I did back home. I mentioned that I am actually moving over to the UK after camp to live for a year and to au pair, and she said that's great and if i was going to say I was doing something else not involving children that I was in the wrong profession, so that was awesome to hear! Unfortunately I didn't have my camera with me so couldn't snap a picture with her.

I am hoping to get invited back to the next Arden in 4years time. It would be absolutely awesome to attend again, and my thoughts are/hoping to bring some girls over with me - I highly recommend that young girls be given the experience to attend an International Girl Guide Jamboree as you gain so much out of them - Friends that last forever and personal development on a scale that nothing else can match back home.

Thank you for helping me attend ARDEN 2010; I hope you enjoy hearing about the camp and I have attached some pictures as well

