



# Exploration, Adventure and Self-Discovery

*A 5-day Residential Camp for 9-13 year olds*

*at a stud farm in Pataudi*

*10th to 14th June*

"I was excited with a quiet happiness. I was on my way to Pataudi, to spend a night with the children and Yogita and Aditi, who were there for the camp. It was like travelling to another world. I had heard from everyone who had been there (other people from the Centre) that something unique was happening - 'heaven

upon earth' is how Ameeta described it. I wanted to be part of it too.

A gentle dusk had fallen when I reached the farm after a 50-minute drive from the Centre. The hush of the evening was there on the trees and the sky glowed with a fading luminosity. The first stars were just beginning to shimmer.

A happy circle of children and didis was seated on floor chairs, engrossed in a mathemagic puzzle. No excited rush to greet me - everyone was too concentrated on what they were doing. Yet I felt included in their gaze that just lifted briefly to smile at me.



Soon I found myself equally involved in solving my own sheet of the puzzle - and I did learn something. It was a new experience - all on the floor equally at sea, equally struggling, equally finding the answer suddenly and rejoicing.

The evening flowed into other activities, quiet reading, dinner around

the table, a moonlit walk, snuggling into beds and reflecting on the day - writing down the treasures and the stumbles, and a gradual drifting into sleep. Only a group of young editors were at work - it was the final evening of the camp and they had to make ready all the material for the newspaper on the camp that they will bring out. Totally committed - it was their project - no one had to coax them to work. They had to be coaxed to go to sleep!

I came back from that one evening totally rested and at peace. What could have created that magic? It is for you to see!"

- Anuradha  
(a member of The Gnostic Centre)

## *A Typical Day*

6am	Wake up	3pm	Session (on mental faculties)
6.30	Walk/Horseriding	5pm	Break (sherbet)
7am	Getting ready	5.30	Horseriding/Games/Trek
8am	Breakfast	6.30	Freshen up
9am	Session (on character development)	7pm	Quiet session (worksheets/meditation)
11am	Break (sherbet)	8.15	Dinner
11.15	Songs/Games	9pm	Self-reflective journal writing
12.30	Lunch and rest	9.30	Lights off



### *The Young Managers*

Every day different children took up the roles of Coordinator, Organisers, Librarian and Hosts.

The Coordinator's role was to check the general state of affairs in the house (cleanliness, switching off lights and fans, things in place, rowdy behaviour, etc.) and to put things right through firmness or by bringing it up to the group in a meeting!



The Organisers (there were 2 of them) arranged the seating and flowers, made sure everything was dusted or did so themselves, lit the incense before every session, as well as packed up everything after it was over.

The Librarian issued out the books, puzzles and games to the other children and ensured proper usage of the material.

The Hosts (3 of them) made sure that the food was ready on time. They helped with laying the table and served the food to the rest of the children.

### *Getting to know the Horses*

The horses were big and healthy. They were one year old and were double the size of us. They were very sweet and good. I liked two horses the best - Sun of Silver and Life Divine. They run very fast and are the most sensitive creatures. They were nice and lovely. I felt excited that horses licked me and bit me. If you love horses they will love you back. I also did trotting with the horses. This way I got to know a lot about horses.

- Humza (9yrs.)



### *Tractor Ride*

On a sunny afternoon after having a chatty talk with the horses the didis all planned an exciting ride on the tractor for us. We were to see the village. Oh! How excited we became. We quickly went into our rooms and got our sun glasses and caps. Then we all jumped into the tractors but ouch! they were extremely hot by the rays of the sun. The driver told us not to stand as we may get hurt so we all had to sit crosslegged. In the village we saw many peacocks, women holding pots, cows and camels. We also saw many farms. It was really a memorable experience.

-Jyotsana (13yrs.)



*I learnt...*

Stuti (12 yrs.) asked the others: What did you learn during this camp? These are the answers she received:

- Bhavesh, Niyati, Vinayak, Arushi: **Concentration.**
- Karun: Concentration, **observation, meditation, thinking.**
- Tarun: Concentration, **courage.**
- Mehak: **I'm not very angry anymore, and I'm not impatient.**



- Humza: **Independence, riding, meeting horses, trekking.**
- Tushar: Concentrate better. **I'm good with horses now.**
- Jyotsana: Meditation, concentration, learning **how to treat horses.**
- Navni: **Learnt how to make my dream come true.**

*I will miss most...*

And what will you miss most?

- Bhavesh, Vinayak, Jyotsana: **Horses.**
- Navni: Interacting with horses.
- Jyotsana: Horse riding.
- Tushar: That horse that ran after me.
- Niyati: **All the fun and all the children** and Aditi didi and Yogita didi.
- Mehak, Arushi: **Yogita didi and Aditi didi.**
- Sarthak: **All these classes.**
- Karun: **Playing in our room.**
- Tarun: **All my friends.** I'll never forget this camp.





*Meet the Children...*  
(as caricatured by one of them - Tarun)



Arushi



Bhavesh



Humza



Jyotsana



Karun



Manasi



Mehak



Navni



Niyati



Sarthak



Stuti



Tarun



Tushar



Vinayak

*And the Didis...*



Aditi



Yogita