

SYA SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

12th Annual Summer Camp, Narrabeen
12th January 2010-17th January 2010

Day One

The moment Veer Manpreet started with his famous 'Tuhi Tuhi' the darbaar went silent and the atmosphere became very energetic and full of love. This settled our minds, focusing them on one point. God. We were separated from the outside world in a campsite that was perfect for all our wants and needs. This inner world became like a family, where you could walk up to a stranger and have a conversation as if you'd known them for years. This is the day that we started getting to know our Jatha's and Jatha leaders. Our Jatha's consisted of participants of all ages working together, sharing ideas and viewpoints, like a team. This day was also the official unveiling of the new SYA website. The Hon. Mr. Laurie Ferguson, federal MP, came as a spectator to this auspicious event. We also got to see the project director and all the ones who made it

"Share the love"

"Akho Satnam Shri Waheguru"



Day Two

After yet another beautiful start to the day with naam simran followed by one of the jatha's leading Jap Ji Sahib. Everyone attentively listened to a very memorable inspirational session with Giani Sukhdev Singh Ji from Malaysia, who spoke about our Sikh history and the importance of our Sikh values. This enlightening session opened our eyes and got us thinking more deeply about the significance of the sacrifices made by our gurus and their followers. It also made us more aware of our past and of all the love that went into the creation of Sikhism. Also that day, Louis Markus, Member for Greenway, graciously accepted our invitation for her to attend camp on day two and gave a heart-warming speech on what Kirt Karni meant to her. Being a religious person herself, Louis Markus expressed her admiration as well as appreciation for our camps and what we do as a Sikh community for our youth, who are the future

For a first time I was a leader...it was an awesome experience...I learnt how to take responsibility over a lot of other people who were older and younger than me....and camp was the best place to "re pump my balloon"

Gurpreet Toor, 17 years

My 10th camp and they keep getting better! There was a great atmosphere and energy for the whole week and I was lucky to meet some fantastic people.

Jag Dosanjh, 21 years

It was such a fantastic experience to watch our youth develop spiritually over 6 days and to be witness a 4 year old leading the sangat in naam simran was outstanding!!

Amarjeet Kaur, Mother of three

Day Three - "time to fill up my balloon"

Day three marked halfway at camp with more and more coming earlier for the morning sessions preferring this over some much needed sleep. We all attended an easy to understand inspirational session which enlightened the entire sadh sangat. This amazing inspirational session led by Jessi Kaur, who came all the way from California, was about using Ardaas as our way of speaking to Guru Ji; whether we're asking for something, expressing thanks and gratitude for something, or just speaking to Guru Ji. She gave everyone a much needed and detailed explanation of Ardaas and about all the meanings and significance of Ardaas. Today most of the youth went for various activities which thrilled them to the bone. As the night kicked in we had an aerobics session which turned out to be a bhangra blast, all the participants' whether skilled in bhangra or not actively dancing their hearts out. Tonight was a night to be remembered.

Day Four

Day Four kicked off with Asa Di War by the SYA youth, with the entire sadh sangat enthusiastically participating. This day was last minute practice, or for some, composition of the plays. When night came everyone was short of time but enthusiastic nevertheless. This night started with a bang, featuring our famous Mighty Khalsa's with a mind-blowing performance that thrilled their audience. Also the adults' jatha performed marvellously and in the end, choosing a winner was near impossible for the judges and when it was finally time to decide the victorious jatha, the difference between them was a matter of mere points. After this all of the camp participants received the new SYA t-shirt which stunned all the participants who wore them to sleep the day after and could still be wearing them.

One thing you've learnt from this camp

It was an amazing experience, as usual, to learn more and develop my knowledge of Sikhism. Every morning I would try and make it just for the kirtan. Made so many new friends and had the BEST week of my whole holidays!

Sohan Judge, 17 years

"I love camp" - Prabpreet Calais, 21 years

"Tiring yet inspiring" - Jaideep Kaur, 16 years

Camp in a sentence

"This year was my second Sikh camp, this year was just as awesome as last year I always leave feeling like I learnt a lot and I will definitely be returning next year" - Justine Eigner, 17 years

"I've been to so many camps but I never stop learning. Each year is always better than the last and I will never stop loving the joy, understanding and fulfillment that camp brings me."

Gurpal Singh Girn, 13 years



Will you be coming back for camp in 2011?

Sikh camp was a wonderful opportunity to make connections within my own Sikhi. The fun just didn't let up, the experiences were unforgettable, and the friendships became stronger, especially with our Guru Ji. I'll be back...

Sanjeet Kheray, 18 years

Being at camp makes you feel like you a part of one huge family and when you leave all you want to do is just go back. And its not just a non stop paath session.

Jaipal Singh, 11 Years

The SYA family would personally like to thank all the organisers to put hours and hours of sweat into this without thinking about their lives, all the facilitators who came from far and wide to be with us, the Narrabeen Sport and Recreation Centre and all their wonderful staff, all the marvellous Jatha leaders who put a lot of work in behind the scenes having only a few hours of sleep each night and all the participants this year who helped make our family a bigger and happier one.

What has the camp been like for you?

"IT WAS AWESOME" *Jaspreet Kaur, 16 years*

"I've gotten closer to god and thought about our gurus and how much they loved us all.

Symret Kaur, 12 years

"I loved the easy to understand talks in English this distinguishes it from the gurdwara's"

Devpaal Singh, 15 years

"Mindblowing" - *Peviter Veygal, 28 years*



Day Five - The last day of camp

The camp reached its crescendo today, first beginning with the most inspirational session of naam jaap anyone had ever heard with the entire sadh sangat singing as one. The spirit in the atmosphere was almost tangible and ecstatic and the mood was jolly. Some even beat the Giani Ji to the darbaar in the morning. We had to get up early to be packed up early with most giving up sleep just to be there bright and early at 4am. After breakfast was our last age group session and the most inspirational and entertaining of them all. As everything drew to an end, it dawned on us that this was the end of camp. A new found passion not to go home arose and we knew the friendships made would last forever. When the bus's drew in we all were sad and already planning for next year's camp as another one not to miss.