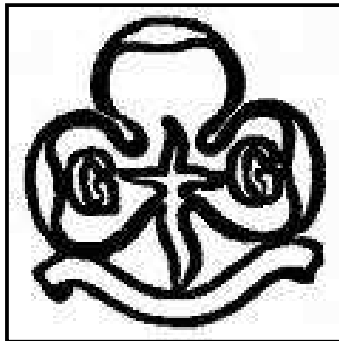


My trip to Kandersteg The International Scout Centre, Switzerland!



I was selected to represent Kent for Girl Guiding at the International Scout centre in Switzerland. They chose 11 girls and 3 leaders from across Kent of which I only knew one, so we were to bond for the next 9 months prior to the trip. One of the rules of going on this trip was that I had to raise all of the money myself! I did cake sales, a tuck shop every week at Guides, odd jobs, guess the teddy bears name and more. My cake sale at Bromley Parish Church raised £100 which was indeed helpful so I am extremely grateful to everyone who bought cakes and supported me. As many of you helped me, I have written a report so you can read about what I got up to in Switzerland.

My international experience began at Gatwick with an early start at 4am, a bit too early for my liking! After a pleasant flight to Zurich and a new adventure of going on a double-decker train, we had to walk up to the campsite from the train station, with our huge rucksacks and tents. It took a while as we were really tired and we all looked rather exhausted!

We pitched camp and then went to find food! That night it was an international barbecue to welcome everyone to the scout centre. We met scouts and guides from Portugal, Italy, Wales, Ireland, Switzerland, China, Germany, France, America and a lot from England, particularly Birmingham. It really welcomed us to the Kandersteg and prepared us for the week to come and the amount of fun we were definitely going to have!

Luckily we were in Switzerland for National Swiss Day which was a brilliant day! Very early in the morning the Leaders of camp drove up and down the site on their tractors blowing their horns and hitting saucepans so we would wake up! As if that wasn't bad enough they then told us we had to do early morning aerobics in the rain! It was quite amusing as the Pinkies (leaders) were wearing strange costumes and were really getting into their dance moves! In the morning we played mini golf in the rain which was hilarious and then went to a museum in the village about scouting and guiding. Everyone on the camp site had to dress up in Swiss related costumes but we weren't aware of this so we had to make do with what we had with us! In my case I dressed up in red and white clothes with a Switzerland cow tea towel that was going to be a present for my mum! Then on our faces we had stickers of the flag! Everyone else was dressed as toblerones, cheese, cows and cuckoo clocks, so we fitted in just fine! On the camp site we had a carnival with lots of activities to take part in! I had a go at throwing an American football at a man's head to knock off an apple – strange, but I won a necklace for it!

That evening we paraded down into the village where we had a ceremony with the local villagers. It was an amazing feeling as 1600 Scouts and Guides paraded through the village. A real sense of belonging! Our group had to lead the singing with our favourite girl guiding songs that were so tuneful! We watched brilliant fireworks, a bonfire and Swiss people dancing and tried to listen to the president of Kandersteg's speech even though it was in German!

This was the first and one of the only days when we had sunshine and clear skies. We woke up extra early in order to catch 10 trains and a bus to reach our destination- the Jung Frau.