

A Day in the Life:

Teaching Assistant on Pingo Space Summer Survival Camp



7:00AM: Time to wake up!

I've been staying in a converted container cabin at the campsite where we are holding Survival Camp. Time to get up and ready for a day of activities before the children wake up!



7:30AM: Kids wake up call!

It's my job to make sure that all of the children in my assigned group (12 7 year old boys!) are up, dressed and showered before breakfast. I knock on all of their doors and have to drag a few out of bed, but we all get there in the end!

8:00AM: Breakfast

Down to the dining room for a traditional Chinese breakfast. We fill up on youtiao, a breakfast favourite in China of fried dough which almost tastes like doughnuts, covered in blueberry jam!



9:00AM: Activity 1 – Building Fires for our Camp

Once everyone has eaten, we head down to our campsite and the children learn how to build fires. We dig our own fire pits and make our own tinder from bamboo and rope. The children use the fire steels to create sparks and start their own fires!

11:00AM: Activity 2 – Animal Traps

After building our fires, the instructors give a lesson on how to build animal traps. Each of the children make their own fish trap from recycled water bottles, wood and string. Hopefully we can catch our lunch with these!



1:00PM: Lunch time!

It's been a long morning and it's time for food! Some days we have baozi buns but today we are making the most of our campfires and cooking hot dogs & marshmallows!

1:30PM: Recess

It's been a morning of learning so time for a little bit of fun. I join in with the children building a hammock between two trees and we play on rope swings.



2:00PM: Activity 3 – Raft building!

In the afternoon, we take to the water. The children are tasked with building rafts from bamboo logs and barrels. We try them out on the water to see how many float – there isn't a lot of success!

3:30PM: Activity 4 – Water Obstacle Course!

After a day of learning and fun, we spent the remainder of the afternoon in the pool on the inflatable obstacle course. I spend my time splashing around with the girls and jumping off obstacles with the boys!



5:30PM: Workbooks

After a quick trip back to our rooms to change into dry clothes, it's study time. The children have workbooks to keep track of what they did each day. We find a comfy, quiet place and work through the tasks. I help out with English translation and spelling!



6:00PM: Dinner & Movie

It's been a long day! Time to fill up on traditional Chinese dishes such as smashed cucumber, whole cooked fish and steamed buns. Afterwards, we wind down with a film in the cinema room. Tonight, we watch Chicken Run, with Chinese subtitles of course!



9:00PM: Bed time

Time to get everyone to sleep and then head off to bed myself. It's been a busy day and it'll be even busier tomorrow!

