

Guiding Day Camp

The mother of a young Spark once asked me “Why aren’t there any Guiding day camps available in the city? I’m not ready to send my little girl to overnight camp, but I would still like her to benefit from a Guiding camp program.”



Around the same time I was part of a leadership team that was preparing to take a group of Pathfinders and Rangers to Europe. We were always looking for fun and creative fundraising projects where the girls would develop skills and gain work experience while raising money for their trip. That’s when the idea for Danforth District Day Camp began to take shape. I planned a week of fun and exciting activities and the Pathfinders and Rangers became the camp staff, with each girl leading a small group of campers through the week long program. All proceeds from the camp went toward funding their European adventure. The camp turned out to be a huge success. The campers had a fabulous time and the young staff learned a lot about compassion, flexibility, responsibility and hard work. Danforth District Day Camp has been running for seven years now and since its inauguration has helped girls from our neighbourhood raise money for that first trip to Europe as well as two other trips, one to Our Cabana and another to northern Europe.

This summer the camp theme was 100 Years of Girl Greatness. Throughout the week every young staff member challenged their campers to make new friends, learn new skills, try new things and make good choices. The campers each had a checklist of challenges and tried to complete 100 of them by the week’s end! Each day had a different focus. Monday was music day and a company called Mystic Drumz came in and did a short show for the girls and a music workshop. Then in the afternoon, everyone made their own maracas out of paper mache. Tuesday was a bouncy day! In the morning we made and played with different kinds of balls and in the afternoon we took the T.T.C. to a trampoline gym where the girls got to bounce around for an hour. Wednesday is when our new camp theme officially became flexibility! Since our camp ran during Toronto’s big heat wave, our day and overnight camping trip to the Toronto Islands had to be altered. It became a Hollywood themed day with an awards ceremony and a trip to the movie theatre followed by an indoor camp-out in the church basement. Thursday took us to the Korean Grill House to cook our own lunch over the barbecues and Friday was a relaxing interactive spa day where the girls made their own all-natural lip-balm, had chocolate facials, got their nails painted and baked chocolate chip cookies. Of course, camp wouldn’t be camp without some swimming, songs and a crest to take home and sew on your camp blanket! Once again, it was another fun and fabulous week. Now to start thinking of ideas for next summer...

