

## My Reflection of the Trip to MCSDP

by Gabriella Makarios

This trip was one of my most fun and exciting. It was so educational and thrilling that there wasn't any time to get bored!

When we arrived, we had a welcome drink and talked about the rules and regulations. Everything was going fine until we discovered that almost nobody had brought a bed sheet or pillow case! It was a big problem. Luckily we had a solution that the driver would go to town and buy these missing items for everyone. This problem was not MCSDP's fault; it turned out that the email sent with the list of things to bring was lost in the mail.

After our dilemma was solved, it was time to bring on the fun! We got the keys to our rooms, unpacked, and got ready for lunch. After our delicious lunch, we went as a whole group to visit the animals. We went to the banana tree orchid and learned how banana trees reproduce and grow. We each also had a look at baby bananas which were so small! We then visited the camels which were very interested in kissing us and eating, which was what they did most of the time. After that we visited the rabbits. We had to be very quiet and had to keep our distance and not really interact with the cute, fluffy animals, but just watch.

After watching the rabbits we formed a big line and headed off to the place we started and split up in group A and group B. We played icebreakers like, "Have You Ever?" and other fun and exciting games to learn about and know each other better.

Dr. Adly then took our group to the remaining animals while Jon took the other group building pyramids (Dr. Adly and Jon were our hosts and guides at the camp).

We went with Dr. Adly and learned how to feed the donkeys and the horses. Then we each got to take turns around the pasture riding a donkey. That was fun. I also discovered how stubborn donkeys are.

What happened next was my most memorable moment of the whole trip and I could fit a whole book just talking about it, but I will try to squeeze it into two paragraphs at most.

I was one of the only four students who were allowed to get into, Fidget, the fox's cage!

Fidget lost her family when she was a little cub since some farmers were only interested in any animal that will give meat or milk. So, MCSDP just had to adopt the little thing that was half starved. She got her name from her constant energy and moving. She can never stay in one place!

We went into Fidget's cage and I was the only kid whose head was jumped on. She was a playful little creature, tame and vaccinated, and was as gentle as a kitten. It was the first time I ever touched a fox, let alone see one! I will never forget her. I think she was one of the main reasons I have decided to become a biologist. It was just an amazing experience. I learned that she was very picky with whom she liked and if anyone showed fear, she wouldn't be interested. Animals are like humans; each one with their own personality.

After that we joined Jon to build pyramids. That was also very fun. There were big bricks of limestone which we were supposed to put together and make a pyramid. It was a messy experience, but we were finally able to

put together a lopsided pyramid. That taught us teamwork, and how hard it was to build the real pyramids; each block weighed a ton! I don't think that that was very fun.

We played games after that like "Shop till you Drop", and "Rich Bean, Poor Bean", and I will only tell what I learned so I don't give them away. I learned about how you felt when you are rich or poor and the impact on your environment based on how you are living.

We then had an evening walk and we looked at some fossils, watched the sunset over the Nile, and played a climbing game.

Then we had dinner, and a campfire, and that was pretty much what we did the first day.

The next day, we packed, had breakfast, and played four mean games of dodge ball. After that, we took the last of our stuff, had a snack, said good bye and boarded the bus.

Kan Yama Kan Village is a very pretty place. The amount of time was not enough to do everything that the facilities provided, but, we had a lot of fun just the same. This is a place I plan on going to again. It is really worth it.