



Aspire team at
The Base Camp,
Alancholai

Special events

- Adventure Sports camp
- Academic year start program
- Skill development programs

A unique adventure sport experience at Base Camp

36 students accompanied by 4 tutors participated in the 2-day adventure sports camp at the Base Camp in Alancholai, Kanyakumari District on May 24th & 25th.

The children were thrilled with their tent accommodation. The first day, our students got to try out beginner level rock climbing, rappelling and rope activities such as Burma Bridge walk, River crossing and Commando Bridge walk.

Students also got to trek up a hillock where they enjoyed a lively Antakshari session with their friends around a cozy campfire.

The next day, the camp managers took students to Chittaar Dam where they spent 2 hours frolicking in the cool water! Then, at the runner estate, the children were given a detailed explanation on planting, latex collection and sale of rubber.

The hospitality extended by the resort and camp managers deserves special mention.

That evening, they spent an hour at the Kanyakumari beach, marvelling at the sunset, had dinner and returned to Nilakottai past midnight.



Launching the 10th batch of Aspire scholars

2014-'15 marked the start of the 10th academic year since Aspire Foundation's inception. On June 14th, we flagged off the 10th batch of Aspire scholarship students, numbering 175. Starting with 16 students in 2005, it was a moving moment to see the hall filled with 175 students and their parents, all eager for a new experience.

Teachers from neighbouring Government schools as well as an Aspire well-wisher, Ms. Tamilselvi participated in the program.

- Our top performers in Std. 10, Vijayakumar and Yazhini, with a score of 472 on 500 were awarded prizes.
- Notebooks, stationery & bags sponsored by employees of Sundaram BNP Paribas Fund Services, Chennai and uniforms were distributed to 175 students.
- Alumni and parents of alumni shared their experiences with Aspire to motivate parents and students to participate wholeheartedly in all programs.



Skill development programs

6 skill development programs (SDPs) were conducted in May-June 2014. Of these, 3 were conducted for the old batch of students who are continuing in the program from 2013-'14. 3 were conducted for the new batch of students who enrolled this year.

Skill Development Programs for continuing students

Three SDPs were conducted for 44 students between classes 9 and 12, who have been part of the scholarship program last year.

The main sessions were:

SDP – 1 on 8th May

- Logical reasoning and lateral thinking – solving daily life problems by reasoning step by step and thinking out of the box
- Just-a-minute – students were given a topic on the spot and asked to speak uninterrupted for a minute, given the constraint that they must not repeat a word more than 3 times!
- Group activities – team work and communication

SDP – 2 on 11th May

- Decision-making
- Eye for detail
- Quantitative ability
- Poster presentation
- Word play

SDP – 3 on 18th May

- Solving problems on time & distance
- Listening comprehension
- Leadership assessment
- Positive strokes – appreciating the positive attributes in self & others



Skill Development Programs for new students

Three SDPs were conducted for 46 students between classes 9 and 12, who joined the scholarship program this academic year.

The main sessions were:

SDP – 1 on 15th June

- Communication-related - Listening skill, Public speaking and Group discussion
- Advertisement making
- Model preparation
- Analytical ability
- Questioning capability
- Problem solving

SDP – 2 on 22nd June

- Data Representation and Tangrams
- Planning and Time management
- Teaching skill
- Current Affairs
- Mapping
- Family Relations

SDP – 3 on 29th June

- Lateral thinking
- Body language – using non-verbal communication to convey ones thoughts effectively
- Guess the personality – the popular '20 questions' game
- Shipwreck – using one's knowledge, wit and presence of mind in a crisis
- Reading ability – improving students' ability to read and comprehend an article or passage
- Decision making – putting heads together to solve a problem in a creative way

Looking forward to exciting field trips and workshops in the months ahead! Do check out 'Aspire Foundation' Facebook page for updates.