

Girlguiding Cumbria South's Golden Curlew Camp

This year Girlguiding Cumbria South are celebrating 50 years of their county! As part of the celebrations, we attended the Golden Curlew camp from June 28th to June 30th for a fun weekend of activities.

The camp was held at Muncaster Castle in the west of Cumbria. From Friday morning, leaders from around the county turned up to start setting up camp and activities, with the Brownies, Guides and Rangers arriving by multiple coaches from all the divisions from 5pm. Once the girls had arrived it was time to unpack, the Brownies were in pre-made bell tents and the Guides and Rangers began setting up their own tents and unpacking. In the evening dinner was being served in the barn and we all had a welcome talk from the fantastic event organisers, we then began heading back to the campsite to get ready for bed.

Overnight the rain started to set in, and on Saturday morning everyone was up early, some of my Brownies had been awake from 4.30am. We headed for breakfast in the drizzle before the Rainbows turned up at 9.30am to join in for the day!

The grounds of Muncaster were split into 4 different zones, and from 10am to 16.30 members made their way around the different zones - zone 1 included Bat Box making, Drama workshops, a fairy hunt, and the giant swing! Zone 2 had inflatables, craft tent, bug house making and a storyteller. Zone 3 included the Hawk and Owl centre, playground, curlew activities and a chill out tent, and Zone 4 included the castle tour, morris dancing and science activities. At 16.30, the Rainbows were picked up to go home and the Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders went to get their tea and had the chance to join in with a silent disco. In the evening members made their way up to the campfire circle for a singalong and story time, later once the Brownies had gone to bed, older members had their own silent disco and opportunities for members to take part in activities from the Twinkle for Heather challenge badge! Many members also signed up for an optional bat walk at dusk which was incredible!

On Sunday we had much better weather which was great as the Brownies went off to celebrate their 110th Birthday on the Ravenglass railway! Taking the train up to Dalegarth station, roughly 7 miles away. The Guides stayed on site for a wide-game and other activities before the coaches left at 4pm to take divisions home.

If you are interested in taking part in any of Cumbria South's challenge badges check out the two below:

Operation Curlew - Challenges based around the Curlew bird, which is Cumbria South's emblem, to celebrate our counties 50th birthday!

Twinkle for Heather - A challenge badge to support mental wellbeing, in memory of Heather Porter, a member of Cumbria South from age 5 to 18.

More information on both challenge badges can be found here:

<https://www.girlguidingcumbriasouth.org.uk/resources/>