



Gilwell 24 – Sutton District Explorers 12th – 14th July 2013

Gilwell 24 began for Sutton District, 6:00pm Nonsuch Park, with all the explorers waiting to be taken to Gilwell Park, the home of Scouting in the UK. The coach arrived, not the expected air conditioned coach we all hoped for, but no one cared we were too excited to get going.

Friday Night

We arrived! Pitched Tents, and grabbed our t-shirts, colour? PINK! The boys' faces were a picture to remember! We were a bit too late for the disco but we all knew the disco tonight would be nothing compared to the rave/party on Saturday night. We all grabbed some cheesy chips from Gilwell's famous Chubby's burger van, and made our way back to the tents at about 12 midnight, the freedom of our own bedtime is definitely a perk of Gilwell 24.



Saturday

Traditional Pot banging for our alarm, I didn't mind, couldn't wait to get the 24 hours started! Bacon rolls for breakfast, then we all ran over to the arena for the opening ceremony and the countdown to begin the 24 hours. The challenge begun and we were all determined to stay awake and survive.

Everyone rushed to the best activities, scuba diving, mountain boarding, Flying Trapeze, Quad Biking, White Water Rafting, we didn't know where to start. Sutton District all started on the Bumper cars, we loved the fairground rides, they're free! My personal favourite is the Brush boarding, it's a machine where brushes move round really fast to allow you to surf on the top, its amazing, and I managed to go on it about 6 times.

The shop sold water guns although was all sold out within an hour. At this years Gilwell, no one can say they were dry, it was a boiling hot day and all the explorer units from around the UK were having water fights all day Saturday, and attacking each other with water balloons, it was definitely one of the best bits of Gillwell. We spent the day walking round the huge site doing activities, and at 7:00pm, everyone ran to the swimming pool to cool off and have even more of a splash about.

Grabbed dinner, Burger and Chips, and then covered ourselves with neon paint for the 'Disco'. You can't really call this a disco, its nothing compared to other explorer camp parties. We made our way there and could hear the music's bass from ages away, we walked in and everyone was dancing/jumping around. Some songs the mosh pits were so big and rough, my friends had to drag me out, and 'security' were stopping it, but it was so good, by far the best explorer 'disco' I've ever been to.

Saturday Night / Sunday

It stopped at 2:00am and we were all buzzing, went on a few rides again, and took a walk to the hill, where you can see thousands of lights in the night. For the rest of the night after 4:00am we had no energy left to do the activities in the dark, such as laser quest, cinema, technology zone, and loads more. So we went back to our campsite and sat in a circle and shouted at each other if someone closed their eyes.

We were determined to survive the 24 hours. Around 6:00am is when everyone was starting to feel really tired and people were falling into their sleeping bags for a few hours sleep. Not us, we only had 3 hours left to survive. We had breakfast then made our way to the closing ceremony at 9:00am, everyone looked rough and were ready to countdown to the last hour. 'You are the survivors of Gilwell 24 2013' we had waited 24 long hours to hear that, it was all worth it!

We made our way to the coach and not long after we sat down mostly everyone was fast asleep, it was much quieter compared to the drive up there. Gilwell is definitely one of the best camps we have all been to, and we have made so many memories and stories to tell, we already want to book Gilwell 24 2014.



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