



Ubin adventure

A STORY BY MARCIA
(STC BEST FEMALE CAMPER 2016)

I went for STC (Survival Training Camp) from 19 August to 21 August 2016. The campsite is at Pulau Ubin so we had to end school early (yay) in order to catch the ferry to Ubin at Changi Jetty. After disembarking at the jetty, there is an approximately 5km trail that we have to trek before we reach the campsite – Camp Resilience. 5km may be nothing for most people, but I swear that it was a hell of a time for us, especially as we had to sprint whenever our CIs want us to, with a heavy backpack on our back. However, it is not all resentment for the trail, as I enjoyed the time spent together with my squad mates as we cheered along to NPCC cheers, as we sang “Andersonians will never let you down”, which we proved our passion for the CCA with. .

On the first day of camp, we mainly settled the administrative matters such as the rules and groups, and one of those rules that I broke is that I had always forgotten to go everywhere with a buddy on day one, however I did remember on day two and three. We all pitched our own tents to sleep in for the next two nights. The thought of sleeping in tents got me all excited, as I have anticipated the chance to sleep in a tent ever since ATC (Adventure Training Camp for the Secondary 2 students) ended last year. The feeling of sleeping in a tent is indescribable and surprisingly comfortable for me, as I felt that it was a very rare chance to sleep in a tent that we built with our own hands, using nothing fanciful but sheets, pegs and a mere ball of twine. To many, the thought of sleeping in a tent may be uncomfortable, as they worry about wild boars invading their tents or sleeping on a piece of ground sheet that may be laid just above an ant nest. However, there's no need to worry about the wild boar, as our beloved CIs are always watching over us, or rather, protecting us, and there is no need to worry about ant nest (if you remember to check the ground before you start building your tent!), and for the insects, there's this one method — sprinkle some Prickly Heat powder around your tent, and in your tent too if you want extra protection. It may seem incredulous that the powder that our parents used to smother all over us (don't lie I know you like this powder more than baby powder) can actually keep away the insects, I was surprised too, but it really worked and I slept peacefully like a baby for both nights. One piece of advice for sleeping in a tent is, NEVER EVER use the 'Off!' insect repellent all over the tent, and especially on yourself, or you will become a lure module for insects, particularly sand flies, and you will have a bad time at night.

After pitching the tents, we had dinner. However, dinner was neither prepared for us nor catered, we had to be independent and prepare our own dinner. Each group received a ration pack which contains instant noodles, baked beans, can sardines, can tuna, some milk biscuits (my favourite out of the whole lot) and milo sachets. Following up, we had team bonding session, a sing-along-session, and campfire preparation, and I volunteered to be one of the two song leaders from my group, alongside with Jun Neng and Nipun. A song leader has to lead the area in singing cheers during campfire on the second day, so basically we had to be the cheerleaders (obviously I was the most cheerful one, no, I'm just kidding) of the campfire.

To be continued...