

Testimonial

Polo Forest Reserve - Volunteer Training Camp Report

-Darshan Jardosh

Volunteers are the backbone of any organization. This is true for Nature Club Surat as well. Our volunteers play an important role in conducting different activities of the club. To conduct these activities, volunteers must possess skills in many areas. It is therefore essential that the skills of the volunteers are continuously enhanced. It is precisely with this objective, that the club had organized a training program for the volunteers at Polo forest in Sabarkantha district. A total of 15 volunteers participated in this Volunteers' training camp.

The training was held under the able guidance of **Mr. Mayur Mistry**, Ulupi. Mistry and Manishaben. The program spanning 5 days covered a wide range of topics in running an organization. The topics covered the aims and objectives, day-to-day management as well financial concepts. The role of volunteer as a vital cog in the organizational structure was clearly identified.

One of the interesting things we learned was creating an Environment Education Game. For making such a game one needs to have aim, concepts, the proper age group, good number of participants, accessories and tools. We worked on the above mentioned requirements and were able to make 6 such games during our stay.

Polo is a very dense and rich forest, teeming with bird life. With many experienced bird watchers on the team and with the expertise of **Mr Mayur Mistry**, bird watching was a great fun. We recorded several species of birds during our stay. The terrain also features many rocky patches and it gave a vent to our adventurous side, as we did rock climbing and bouldering

We also visited a temple located in the forest. The Government has placed this temple in "World Heritage Site". The architectural structure of this temple was explained to us by **Mayurbhai**. Looking closely it appears like a person lying down on the floor in the position like "Padmasana". As at this time there was moonlight at night we had a short trek by the road side and due to the moonlight we enjoyed the beauty of the forest in a different way at night.

I would like to conclude this note, by stressing the many advantages of the camp in enhancing our skills. We hope our Club organizes such training camps in future, so other volunteers can also participate.

Link : http://www.natureclubsurat.org/july_2007.htm

