

# Sherwood Memories

Have you ever felt the brush of wind upon your face as you call an owl to your hand, clashed swords with a combat master, experienced the surge of energy as you perform onstage in front of hundreds of people, or felt the blistering heat of an open flame in a burning hot forge? I have. It was during one of the best summers of my life. I got to experience living life in the 1300's... with plumbing.

I attended two masters classes with a professional falconer, learned to pass to a bird to another person and control a bird of prey with a block of wood. Later in the week, I held and flew multiple birds to my fellow campers and my experienced instructor. I also learned to use falconers equipment including jesses, the swivel, hoods and a lure. It was my absolute favorite class of the action-packed week.

Later that same day, I went to my another class that opened my eyes to the wonders of swordplay. I learned about different swords and fighting techniques from a skilled master. I had the rare opportunity to fight the master, and I even managed to score more than one hit on my valiant foe. It may not sound like much, but when you experience it you will feel a surge of adrenaline, like charging into a fearsome battle. I truly felt like the brave knight I've dreamed about being since I was a little girl.

I delighted in going to theatre class every morning, where we got to bring to life an enchanting story about greedy villagers and a magical forest. We determinedly worked throughout the week; memorizing lines, blocking, creating props, and collaborating with each other and the endlessly fun instructors to create an unforgettable play flawlessly performed for our parents at the end of the week.

I absolutely adored Blacksmithing. The open flames licking my fireproof glove, the heat on my face in the cool summer breeze, and the beauty of the dancing ashes as they float to the ground was a breathtaking experience I will never forget. I learned to forge a scrap of iron into a beautiful hairpin I still wear. I forged a nail into a sharp sword necklace that I wore all week. Working with the red hot metal was a thrilling experience.

There are so many more memories that I can recall from that medieval summer, but it would be hard to fit them all onto this program. I'll be there next year, will you?