

*Two years ago*, I walked through the gate of the Sherwood Forest Faire, prepared to attend yet another summer camp where I did some cheesy fairy crafts, and when anyone asked, "what did you like best?" I would simply grunt, "the food," then not think again of it. I couldn't have been more wrong. Sherwood Forest Fair summer camp was one of the most thrilling experiences of my life. A perfect week of magic and excitement, without a single flaw.

What makes the camp so special is that every day is entirely unique. From the moment you wake up to those.... um, spirited bagpipes, the day is already off to a heart-racing start. After a great breakfast in the dining area, you split off with your clan and go to your first class!

The first class I ever took was sword training. I was completely astounded by the fact that I was actually learning things I had no knowledge of! The whole place felt like I was genuinely in a strange time where modern day and the renaissance combined.

After you go to that first class, and have gotten over the sense of awe, you spend the rest of the day carefully crafting intricate woodworks, creating whole fairy villages, watching birds soar towards you and gracefully land of your arm, and feeling that rush of adrenaline when you let that arrow fly towards the bullseye. All of the classes keep you busy and entertained, and you leave almost every class with a new amazing creation. However, you leave *every* class with a feeling of pride. Whether you created a nice souvenir, made a beautiful sound on a penny whistle, mastered a show-stopping card trick, or pierced the center of a faraway target, you just feel.....accomplished.

Of course the dinners are great too, feasting on savory meals like steaming shepherd's pie and fluffy loaves of warm bread. The desserts are also great; my personal favorite was this rich, creamy chocolate pudding topped with crumbled cookies.

Then comes the entertainment! Every night there's a different event that really finishes off the day with a bang! My favorite entertainment by far was the fire show. My friends and I gathered and watched in amazement as dancers gracefully flung and twisted themselves around the grounds, twirling ropes and trusting swords, all of which were ablaze with bright, glowing flames. One thing I especially loved was when they threw a small cage on the ground and we watched in awe as what seemed like infinite glorious embers shot up into the air, lightly showering around the performers, making it look like thousands of fairies were raining down to join in the festivities.

While after that, even though the day is officially over, it's still not quite done! No, then you go back to your sleeping quarters and think back over everything and reminisce about the day with your friends, and giggle as you ponder what wonders await you tomorrow! Then you pretty much pass out from exhaustion.

At this spectacular camp, every day is just so magical and fantastic. This year I will be returning for my 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and my friends and I just can't wait. When I'm older, I will forget many things about my childhood, but I think Sherwood Forest Faire Summer Camp will definitely not be one of them!

--by Lucy Nichols, age 12 (Red Knights 2016)