Camp Eva

8/4/2016

Camp Overview:

Camp Eva is a *family* camp situated 100 kilometers north of St. Petersburg and provides programming for all age groups, including toddlers, youngsters (tweens), teens and adults. Programming includes singing lessons, dance lessons, art lessons, preparation for performances, and English lessons. Professionals are hired such as artists, singers, and teachers to plan and teach classes. Madrichot are also an essential part of the staff and they both assist with classes and run their own. The director of the camp overseas all staff and programming and does a fantastic job.

Camp programming is structured around a central theme. This year the theme was Art History with an emphasis on Jewish artists and spanned genres such as Impressionism, Surrealism, Art Nouveau, and Dadaism, among others. Each day a new art form was introduced and each age group produced either a craft, art, or performance related to that particular art. Creativity and expression were highly encouraged. Mini lectures were also delivered to help explain the theory behind the art. Most impressive, while each day each age group worked separately, often they worked toward a larger performance or showcase for the evening that brought the whole camp together. As an example, one evening, they build a 3D version of Vitebsk, Chagall’s hometown, and each group contributed a different part to this structure (see picture below).

The camp environment is also worth mentioning, as it is very inspired and open. In general, there is a strong feeling of care and even family among its members. On Shabbat, an effort is made to create a warm Shabbat feeling on Friday night and also during Havdalla.

Finally, as far as logistics are concerned, Camp Eva is hosted by a hotel/camp village named Green Village, who provide many of the amenities, including all meals, cleaning services, and bikes. Cottages are also equipped with kitchens and the hotel with refrigerators. Green Village hosts other occupants on the premises during Camp Eva’s stay.

I personally very much enjoyed my time there and cannot more highly recommend this camp. I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet great people, be a part of a wonderful community, and help out during camp time.

Sharone Waldman

JDC Volunteer

