

We'd Like S'more Please!

By Dana

This year our District year-end camp had a Survivor theme. We had a great weekend planned for all the girls with everything from freaky food to fire to immunity idols. The girls had a series of ten different stations to do throughout the day. At my first station we were making fire starters with egg cartons, hamster shavings and wax. I ran out of wax before all the girls had made one, but all was saved when one of our parent helpers volunteered to go in to town and get us some more. Little did she know what was to come!

My next station in the afternoon was using the fire starters we'd made earlier to make s'mores. It was very windy outside so my District Commissioner and I decided that we'd do the fire station inside, mostly because we had Sparks participating as well and didn't want them to get hurt by the fire blowing around in the wind. We had decided to use coffee tins to put the fire starters in, which would have worked out fine, except I had a blonde moment and put the fire starters ON instead of IN them. We lit them all up, the girls started roasting their marshmallows.... and the fire alarm went off. It took what seemed like forever, but I'm sure was only a few minutes, for us to get hold of the caretaker for the camp so he could come and turn off the alarm. The girls did us proud, they were very calm and went with the other leaders and parent helpers to the assigned spot they were to meet in case of fire. In the meantime, I put out all the fire starters and cleaned up the mess from the water.

Once the alarm was off, the caretaker told us not to worry, that it was a very sensitive system and even candles could set it off. I turned to my District Commissioner and said "I guess you could look at it this way, at least you don't have to have a fire drill anymore!"

There was a group who were out on a nature walk when the alarm went off and they didn't even hear it. They wanted us to do it again because they had missed all the excitement and wanted their turn too! In the end no one was hurt and it became the joke of the weekend.

Everything turned out well, the girls learned about fire safety and the caretaker made us a nice spot outside with a fire pit in the trees where the wind didn't blow as much. Then, in true Guiding fashion, we continued on with the roasting of marshmallows and making s'mores.