

Volunteers of NSS Modern College attends 2-Day Nature Camp at Khonoma

29 NSS volunteers along with 25 other students accompanied by Mr. Verahu Nienu, an NSS Programme Officer(NSS Modern College) and Ms. Neilhoukhonuo, a teaching faculty, attended the **Two-Day Nature Camp** at Gwizan Resource Center, Khonoma which camping was organized and funded by Nagaland Pollution Control Board(NPCB).

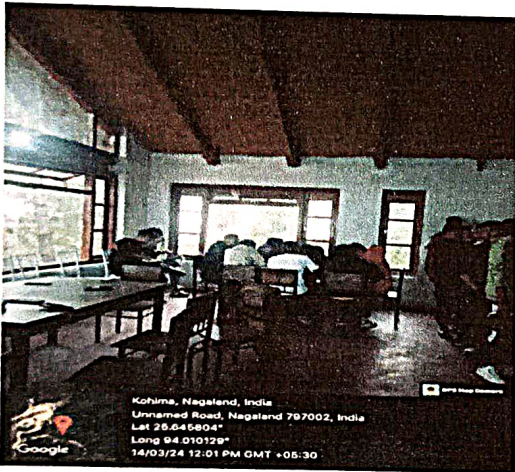


Fig: Camping NSS volunteers and other students in the Dining Hall having lunch.

Day 1

Day and Activity Highlights:

The Nature Camp cohort took off from the college's Piphema Campus at 10:00 am(14th March, 2024) and reached the camping destination at around 11:40 am.

As part of camping activities, an Introductory session was held in the camp's Conference Hall at 5:00 pm where all campers did the self introduction.



Fig: NSS volunteers and other students in the Camp's Conference Hall for Introductory Session.

The session also had a very productive presentation from the Programme Officer Khriehu Rutsa on "Waste Management in Nagaland". Ms. Rutsa educated the campers the important waste concepts such as the process of waste management which starts from collection till proper disposal, waste classification, categories of plastics, sources of wastes, etc. The campers also learned about different waste related laws that are under operation such as Biomedical Waste Management Rules, E-waste Management Rules, Hazardous Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, etc. Talking about Waste Management in Nagaland, she made mention of the use of paper bags in Phek town which carry bags are being produced by unemployed youths generating income while

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contributing to eco-friendly economic activities. Among others, she also shared the good environmental practices followed by villages such as Viswema where trashes are collected routinely, Zubza where the womenfolks collect plastic bottles and send them to Dimapur for recycling generating some income in the process, etc. She also stressed on the cost effectiveness and environmental friendliness of converting plastics into raw materials for making plastics bitumen road which practice her department successful executed by constructing the road leading to her office using plastics bitumen.

In the later part of the introductory session, Mr. Mego Mere briefed the campers some basic information necessary for trekking which activity was happening the following day early in the morning.

Post the formal introductory session, a environment based documentary was played where students got to learn about the origin of climate change and how climate change has impacted the weather, geography, biodiversity, etc.

Day 2: Final Day

Day and Activity highlights:

- On the final day(15th March, 2024) of Nature Camp, the 54 students along with the two accompanying teachers and four Officers from Nagaland Pollution Board Control took on a rigorous trekking on an

interestingly challenging trail(a trail leading to Dzükou Valley) with very steep slopes through Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary.



Fig: Campers(NSS volunteers, other students, teachers and Officers from NPBC at the start of the trekking).

As a nature walk activity, the participants got to see rich biodiversity along the trail. The forest was very densely filled with big evergreen trees, flowers, birds, etc. The trekking started at 7:30 am and ended at around 11:00 am.



Fig: Campers returning from the trekking.

- Post the intensive trekking, the campers proceeded to the sheep farm in Poilwa, Peren, where they had a pretty good time

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witnessing the place. It was a learning experience as students got to see how people are making livelihood by making the best use of the good natural resources and environment. Sightseeing through the forest and terrains of Dzuleke while travelling by bus was also commended by students as a good experience.



Fig: Campers at the Sheep Farm in Poilwa, Peren.

- The campers returned to Gwizan Resource Center, where they were lodging, around 3:00 pm and had their lunch. A short final gathering was held outside the camp's Conference Hall after which they boarded their respective buses and headed home.

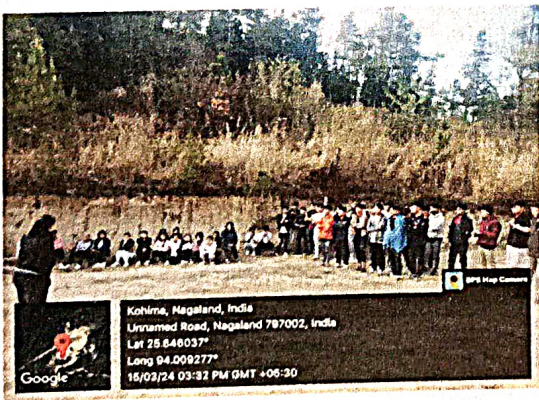


Fig: Gathering outside the Camp's Conference Hall before they finally depart.

With the active participation of NSS volunteers and students and smooth coordination between NSS Programme Officer(Teacher Incharge of NSS), the other accompanying teacher and Nagaland Pollution Control Board, the Two-Day Nature Camp was smoothly executed and was very successful.

The camping experience at Gwizan Resource Center, khonoma had been very exciting and adventurous with positive feedbacks and comments both from the teachers and the students. The view of Khonoma and the hills on the other side of the camping site had enriched the camping experience.

(An NSS volunteer experience article is attached)

Reported by

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26/03/24

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Embracing the beauty of nature

Recently, as a student NSS volunteer of my college, I got the opportunity to embark on a journey to Khonoma Village for a Nature Camp organized by Nagaland Pollution Control Board that promised an adventurous experience in the lap of Mother Nature. What followed was a truly unforgettable adventure that filled my soul with tranquility and wonder. It was truly an immersive and culturally enriching experience. Khonoma, located in the Northeastern part of India, is known for its stunning natural beauty, rich biodiversity and vibrant tribal culture, which is also known as Asia's first green village.

As I arrived at Gwizan Resource Center, Khonoma, where we were to lodge for 2 days, I was immediately struck by the pristine beauty that surrounded the resort. The Khonoma village just below the resort was enveloped by verdant forest and rolling hills. The air was filled with the sweet scent of wildflowers, especially the beauty of Rhododendron, and the chirping of birds provided a melodious soundtrack to our exploration. One of the best highlights of my stay at Khonoma was the camping spot which was surrounded by the sights and sounds of the wildlife. The aroma of wildflowers and the feelings of cool mountain breeze against my skin left me in awe of wonders.

The food served at the Camp was a delightful blend of local Naga delicacies and international cuisines, prepared with fresh organic ingredients sourced from neighboring farms. Each meal was a culinary delight and the fresh sound of nature surrounding the dining hall added to the overall experience.

During my time at the Nature Camp, I had the opportunity to embark on a rigorous trek through an interestingly challenging trail (which happens to be the footpath to Dzukou Valley from the Western side of Kohima) which brought me closer to nature, allowing me to witness the diverse flora and fauna that called this region home.

The best part of attending the Nature Camp was getting an opportunity to visit the Sheep Farm in Poilwa, Peren, where the place was thoroughly mesmerizing. Nevertheless, the captivating view of Dzüleke streams left an unwavering memory in my heart.

At the end of the Nature Camp, I found myself filled with a profound sense of peace and gratitude. Disconnecting from the hustle and bustle of city life, I learned to appreciate the simplicity and beauty of nature. Spending time with still natural environment reminded me of the importance of slowing down, appreciating the world around us and embracing the present moment.


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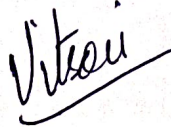
Overall my camping experience at Khonoma was truly transformative. I left Khonoma with a heart full of memories, a mind filled with inspiration and a soul nourished with the beauties of the mother Earth. This journey will forever hold a special place in my heart as a reminder of the serenity and wonder that can be found when we allow ourselves to be embraced by nature's beauty.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ms Khriehu Rutsa and her team from Nagaland Pollution Control Board for giving us the opportunity to participate in this Nature Camp and never forgetting our two teachers incharge; Mr. Verahu Nienu and Ms. Neilhoukhonuo Nipu for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of this marvelous Nature Camp.

Thank you.

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NSS Special Camp at Old Piphema

Reported by Verahu Nienu

The 24 NSS volunteers of Modern College along with the two Programme Officers, Mr Verahu Nienu and Ms. Mongsenchila, conducted a work and community service driven special camp at Old Piphema, the college's adopted village, from **29th April to 30th April, 2024** under the theme **"Bonding with my adopted village"**. The aim of the camp was to inculcate into the personality of students the sense of joy when helping others, empathy, love, kindness, etc and to help volunteers develop deeper understanding of the village and build personal connection with the villagers.

Day wise activities are briefly highlighted below:

Day 1, the 29th of April, 2024:

- Primary school visitation:
Here the volunteers were divided into several groups and each group visited different class groupings assigned by the Programme Officers. The volunteers actively played with the school children of their respectively assigned classes. School children were also taught various skills such as singing and painting.

Verahu Nienu

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The NSS unit distributed a pencil and a notebook each to all the students of the school and a complete set of colour pens to the winners of competition conducted during the visit.



At the end of the visit, sweets were distributed.

- House to house visitation and chopping of woods for elderly and widows:



It was a physically thrilling experience as menfolk volunteers enthusiastically chopped the woods for villagers, mostly the elderly and widows. Ladies did some cleaning.

- Nature Walk:
A walk into the nature as part of a recreation for the physical and mental well-being of the



Report on NSS visit to old Piphema, Chümoukedima.

The NSS Unit Modern College visited the adopted village of Old Piphema under, Chümoukedima district on 8th February, 2024.

The Unit with 6 NSS volunteers and two Programme Officers (Modern College) visited the oldest man and woman of the village (Old Piphema) with some contributions and courtesies.

The activity proved to be fruitful as the participants learned the skills of interaction and importance of local community.

Reported by,

Mongsenchila

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volunteers was also organized in the evening to conclude the day.

In between the tea and lunch/dinner breaks, ice breaking games were also played to keep the volunteers physically and mentally recharged.

Day 2, the 30th of April, 2024:

- Cleanliness Drive:



In the early morning of Day 2, the NSS volunteers carried out a cleanliness drive where the male volunteers picked up non-degradables in the village's vicinity and female volunteers cleaned the village Community Hall.



- A trek down the hills of the village to river:



As the final activity, the volunteers walked down the steep hills into the river about 1 hour long. The volunteers got to see varied biodiversity, they also got to experience diverse terrains and climate, bringing them closer to the village they called their own by adoption.

The Two Day NSS Special Camp at Old Piphema was largely successful. Volunteers learned so many lessons in the process of providing community service. At the end of the camp, courtesies were given to Village Chairman and village's church as tokens of gratitude and appreciation.

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