

Description:

Visit to Bjørnsund school camp

About:

At Bjørnsund school camp, the students learn about different aspects of life in and by the sea. The camp school has a strong focus on conveying Bjørnsund's rich coastal culture, and how people have survived on the coast over the years. The pupils aged around 12 years old are introduced to fishing, trapping and fish processing, and they learn about the plants, animals and fish that live on the coast. Where do they live, and why do they live right here, are key questions.

The pupils are mostly classmates that visit the school camp for one week. They are at the camp, with their local school-teachers, for five days.

Through the activities, the students learn to cooperate, and the activities provide great nature experiences, and through experience they master new skills.

How was the experience for grown-ups?

On our one-day-visit we got to experience a bit of what the students do during their week at the school camp. Our program for the day was adapted to adults, and we got to try much of the same things that the children get to try during their stay. In addition, an important part of the visit was for us, was to learn about how the staff at the camp school approach children to learn them about the coastal culture.

Our experience with trying to do all the practical things and hearing the same stories as the children was a good experience. Doing practical things together with others gives a completely different experience of learning that settles in both body and memory. It gives an understanding of how knowing "how to do it and why" can give you an interest of taking care of and learning more about your local culture.



New experiences

We got to row small boats. The enthusiasm and the joy of being at sea in small boats was displayed by all the participants.

Many of the participants tried rowing a boat for the first time, and several had never pulled up crab pots or nets before.



From sea to table

We pulled up the crabs from the sea, cooked them and learned how to purge crab. Then we ate the fresh crab outside in the sun.





To learn about more than just some parts...

The teachers taught both us and the children not just how to row a boat and go fishing, but also about how it is to live on an island. A holistic way of learning gives a unique insight and understanding.

Storytelling

Living on an island is finding effective way of keeping the children safe important.

The school camp teachers told us about how the parents used scary stories to keep the children safe from the harsh nature. Today, they form a part of the oral traditions that are an integral part of the school camp.

