

Forging Future Leaders: Annual Scout and Guide Camp 2025

The Annual Scout and Guide Camp at DAV Public School, Thane, is a testament to the philosophy espoused by Baden Powell, the founder of the scouting movement. His belief that "the secret of sound education is to get each pupil to learn himself, instead of instructing him by driving knowledge into him on a stereotyped system" underscores the camp's objectives. The event aims to foster the holistic development of students by instilling confidence, self-reliance, leadership skills, teamwork, and essential life skills in an engaging and dynamic environment.

The primary goal of the scout and guide camp is to promote comprehensive personal growth through outdoor activities and communal living. The camp imparts vital lessons in cooperation, camaraderie, sportsmanship, and resilience. It serves as a character-building initiative that transforms youthful energy into mature responsibility, reinforcing discipline and self-sufficiency.

For the academic session 2024-25, the camp was scheduled as follows:

- **January 6th - 7th, 2025:** Std IX C, D, E
- **January 8th - 9th, 2025:** Std IX B, F, H
- **January 13th - 14th, 2025:** Std IX A, G, I

The venue for this year's camp was the picturesque Ambavali Village Resort, Wada, Maharashtra, offering an ideal setting for experiential learning and adventure. The camp was meticulously planned and executed under the leadership of the Scouts and Guides Incharges—Ms. Sunita Gunde, Mr. Nitin Waghmare, and Mr. Lavu Malik. Their guidance played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth conduct of activities and fostering an atmosphere of learning, discipline, and camaraderie. Participants engaged in a wide range of activities designed to enhance their skills and teamwork, including:

- **Outdoor Survival Skills:** Knot tying, tent pitching, first aid, and stretcher making
- **Physical and Mental Wellness:** Yoga, pyramid formations, and adventure sports
- **Communication and Coordination:** Whistle and hand signal training, chart preparation
- **Social and Cultural Engagement:** Street plays, cultural performances, and recreational games
- **Self-Sufficiency Skills:** Cooking and teamwork-based challenges

Special events such as the invigorating 'Prabhat Pheri' march, cultural night with a campfire, and DJ night were among the most cherished experiences, fostering a sense of unity and celebration among the students. The camp provided an invaluable platform for students to step out of their comfort zones, face challenges head-on, and develop resilience. Beyond skill-building, it strengthened friendships, deepened the student-teacher bond, and reinforced the ethos of scouting and guiding.

The Annual Scout and Guide Camp 2025 emerged as a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of students and the dedication of faculty members. Moving forward, it is recommended that future camps incorporate elements of environmental conservation, sustainability, and community service to align with the broader objectives of scouting and guiding. Continued support from school administrators, parents, and the local community will be instrumental in sustaining the impact of this transformative educational initiative, shaping responsible and conscientious citizens of tomorrow.

