

Reportage of Francesco Gianfreda in Lions Camp E Danmark.

I never imagined that this experience would change my life so incredible. I will never cease to thank the Lions Club for all the opportunities in recent years in association has given me. My following travel-diary will report the best moments spent in the company of my host family and the wonderful youth camp.

When I arrived in Denmark I was very disoriented by many factors: the freezing cold despite the winter season, cities and structures totally different from my Rome, a mainly rural life very different from that of large cities, the contact with the animals that really do not I love the language and the Danish food. Fortunately, I was greeted by an amazing family. Klaus, Christie, Mikkel and Amelia made me feel at home from the first moment welcoming me in a gorgeous house in the countryside. Life here is quiet and relaxing was a panacea for all the stress accumulated during the 'year



university. Thanks to them I discovered it means to be in contact with nature. They were lovers of horses



and they possessed many. Here I defeated my fear is towards dogs to horses. I even learned to ride. The family was very friendly and every day we had different activities like going for a swim in the lakes near the city and in the ocean. One day even took me shopping in Germany. Klaus works in the Royal Danish Air Force and he



took me to see the military base where he worked. He was surprised when he opened a Hungar for me and made me get on the F-16 stationed there. Wonderful, I do not know how to describe my state of mind at that moment. Few have the



state of mind at that moment. Few have the

opportunity that the good Klaus has given me. I often played with the children but the best thing was when I taught them how to make pizza, pasta carbonara and bread. They were all very content, both have learned that by eating these delicacies Italian. it was a moment that has enriched us. Last day, when they took me to the camp we all broke down in tears. Klaus said a beautiful thing: "Your father must be proud to have a son like you, we do not lose ourself and soon we will come to see you in Rome." At that moment I was very happy because it meant that even if in a short time I was able to cut out a piece in their hearts.



The 18th of July, we have finally arrived to the Lions youth camp E, located in Lintrup, Denmark. The southern part of Jylland is not very known for us, so we have tried already to discover the surroundings of the place, but we were busy to discover ourselves, so we haven't seen

much of it yet.

So far, the place and the people were nice and friendly. Even though it was the first day here, I do believed that this feeling will stick with us for the rest of the stay. In spite of the tiredness I was still active and hunger to remember all those things (names, hobbies, etc.) we have learned about each other.

The day after, We were divided into 5 teams and every team had it's own battlecry and "team color". All teams had to go through many different games (which wasn't easy at all). There was dirt, water, yelling, falling, but we all managed to do it! Well eating marshmallows in one of the games wasn't difficult at all, to be honest. Battlecries completely replaced "awkward" silence that was (maybe) present yesterday and also helped teammates build spirit of work in group.

We got to know each other much better - both during "team building" and free time.

I immediately made a wonderful friendship with Giorgi from Georgia, a boy with whom I shared a room for 14 days and that surprised me for its

passion and customs about Italy. The last days we even sang several songs together in Italian language.

The third day here and like the other days, we had really a lot of fun. After a typical and delicious danish breakfast, delivered our recipes to Lena and Annisette, who went grocery shopping in Esbjerg for the food-day.

We spent our morning preparing our country presentations, listening to music and relaxing and after lunch, we did a really exciting orienteering race around the camp.

The seven teams competed until the last minute and Sophie's group won!!! (and we finally learnt how to say "Rødgrød med fløde").

Tugay, Melisa and Nilüfer did their country presentation: Turkey!

It was really interesting, we learnt a lot about their culture and we also danced all together on a typical turkish song.

The fourth day we ate breakfast at 8'o'clock. Then we packed our lunch, because we were going to Ribe by bus. First we went to the viking center, where we saw, how the Vikings lived and learned a little about the Nordic mythology. Afterwards we walked to Ribe center and looked at shops and the city. Before we went home, we went to the supermarket to buy snacks. Then we went back to the camp for dinner. We had the traditional Danish dish called tartelletter. An hour later there were country presentations and it was Mexico, France, USA and Thailand. It was a very busy and nice day.

The 22 of June, we had a Sports Day. We were divided into 3 teams – green, red and blue. First we had to paint ourselves with our team colors and create a battlecry and team name. After that we warmed up to the rhythm of music. There was a wheelbarrow race, dodgeball match and some other fun activities. We also played football with cups on our eyes, which was really funny. The best part of our day was the water balloon fight. In the evening we got to enjoy country presentations about Taiwan, Bulgaria and Finland.

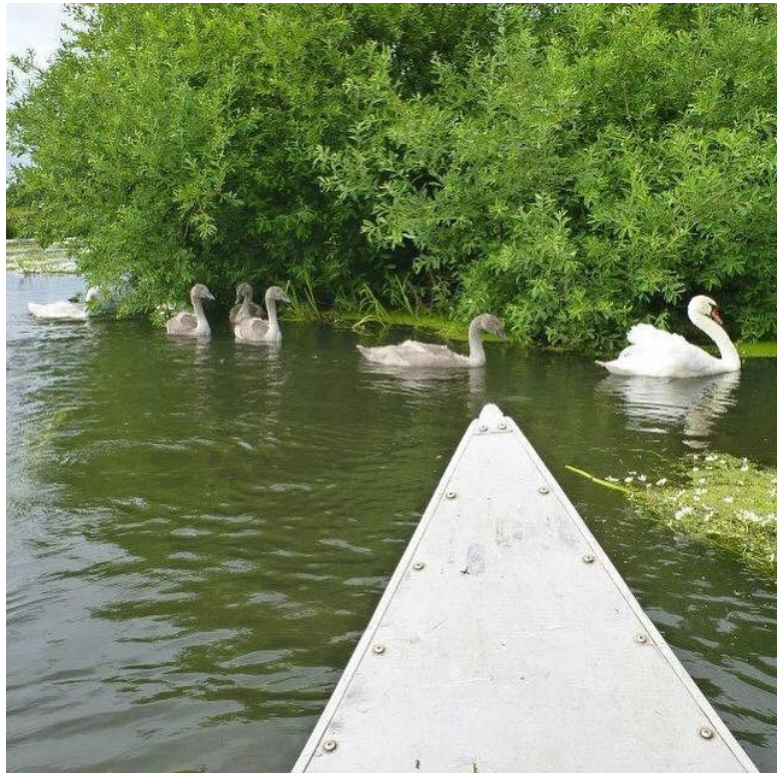
The day after, we ate breakfast at 8'o'clock. Then we packed our lunch, because we were going canoeing.

We walked for an half an hour and then put on life jackets and chose a canoe for three or two. Each of us got a paddle and we started stirring ourselves in the water stream. Some of us got stuck sometimes in the

bushes and some of us got attacked by a swan and fell into the water.

We had a break after two hours of canoeing for a lunch. It was really cold and some of us had original ways to get warm.

Afterwards we went back in the canoe with new mates and kept going till the end after eleven kilometers of canoeing. It was a really difficult activity and I was attacked by swans. So terrible and funny experience!!



When we came back we found out that Sexy Mr LEO, who hasn't been here for three days, pranked us. Some of us got clothes all over the room and some of us got their showers stuck.

In the evening we had a BBQ and rice with broccoli and watched Georgia presentations which were interesting and funny. Later we presented with my presentation our Country. Everyone was amazed by our culture. That moment was a proud for me.

Another incredible day was "Happy Surprise Day"!! (And Merry Christmas - 5 months early!) Our day began with a raucous parade of Christmassy camp staff outside our rooms!

After breakfast at 8.00 we had a photo competition, with themes for 5 photos. Then we had lunch followed by Christmas activities (making paper chains, paper stars, and the most delicious cookies ever), then many of us watched the Christmas movie "Home Alone." Then we had a fancy, traditional Christmas dinner and a Christmas party! We played some crazy games to get presents, then we put on some music and everyone danced into the night. We all enjoyed this day very much.

July 25th, it was the host family day and my birthdate. So in the morning, we practiced for the entertainment ; Bulgarian and Turkish dances, Finnish songs and the camp song: I' m yours from Jason mraz.

At 1pm the hostes families arrived. Many of us didn' t see their families but the ones who welcomed the host families at the camp were very happy. Some of them even got a present.

We had a little coffee and few cakes with them. After Daniel and Anna showed us their



country presentation. It was quiet funny and we learned much about their countries.

Then we went to the stqg to present our spectacular show to the families: we really had a lot of fun. We hope the families enjoyed it too. And after the show the staff had prepared a lot of delicious cakes to celebrate my birthday, my host family too prepared a cake and gave me a lot of sweets for present. Everyone was so kind with me. I was happy because I felt at home.

When the families get back to their home some of us went to the gym to play volley.

July 26th, was a very nice day. We visited a Givskud Zoo, which is one of the biggest in Denmark. It was a wonderful experience, because we had the opportunity to visit some of the animals before the opening hour, like for example, the lions, gorillas, otters and even to feed the rhinos. Bearing in mind that the animals were so much, we visited some of them in our free time like flamingos, elephants, monkeys and hippos and



many others, but the most we were impressed by the dinosaurs which were represented in their real sizes. We also could take a photo with all of the

animals and see them in their natural way of living, surrounded by lakes, trees and bushes. Right after lunch, we went on a Safari trip, where we saw many wild animals from different continents like giraffes, zebras, buffalos and antelopes walking near to our bus or just lying under the sun.

After dinner we saw the presentation of Germany, represented by Susan, who told us very interesting facts about her own country and culture.

It was a very exciting day, although I was tired, we are all satisfied and happy with what we saw, because we all were together in our little trip.

July 27th, we woke up at 8:30 for a change! We had the ordinary breakfast which included bread, bread, bread and bread and yeah some other stuff..

At 10 oclock we had live music by the Chillax band and it was really cool and fun, they played some songs and they also gave us the chance to show some of our "talents" in music. At lunch the Chillax team members joined us and that gave us the chance to talk with them a little bit more and get to know them.



Well, it's girls and boys day, so after lunch we were seprated in two groups, the boys group, and the girls group. The boys had to go to the GYM and have some sports activities like Vollyball, Basketball and that kind of things, and for the girls there was another plans to give them more time to get ready for the party at night, so we played some tablegames put some nail polish and some girly talk and after that we were set free to go get ready for the dinner.

Before dinner we played kind of a game, some of the girls picked a number from a bowl and the rest of the girls with the boys picked the same numbers from another bowl so we would become couples, everyone have found their "date" and we walked on the red carpet taking pictures going into the dinner hall.

DINNER! Well, it was a nice meal, which didn't include bread, we ate some meat, salad and some ovened vegetables and it was really good. After dinner we had a surprise which was a dark room with candels and some juice - alcohol free - and some chips. Another surprise was waiting for us, we went to the Drama Room and there we found the DJ set and the

DJ man putting some music with a little bar and some awesome lights, it was more like a night club, we jumped, danced like crazy people till 1 am. It was a joyfull day full of music and we had a lot of fun.



July 28th, we had breakfast at the usual 8'o'clock, because we had to drive to the Lego Factory at 9:00. It felt a little too early today because the party yesterday ended at 1:00 in the night. But some of us slept in the bus, and we were really excited when we got to Lego. We started at their office and all of it was built like Lego, which was really cool. We began our tour by watching a video of how the factory started, and then our tour-guide, Kalle, who had worked at the factory for 45 years, gave us a challenge. The two girls and two boys, who could build a towtruck the fastest, won a price! It was very exciting. Afterwards we saw another video, and Lego gave lunch. So we got a tour at the actual factory. We splitted into two groups and they told us about how Legos are produced, including many fun facts. We were surprised to find out that Lego blocks have 50 different colours! After the tour we drove back home, and at 15:00 we had country presentations. Today we heard about Denmark, Hungary and Japan. Then we just relaxed until we had dinner. Some of us played a card game called "Cheat", which has gotten quite popular here! At dinner we got "æggekage" and it was really delicious. Later we played football and against the staff. Some played, while the others cheered. And of course, the YES's won beacuse of me! I scored all the goals of my team, I was an Hero in that moment, our cheerleaders were really happy of me! Hahahah. At last, we learned about "hygge" today, so that is what we were doing in that moment.

July 29th, we had a usual breakfast at 8 o'clock. It was a special day for us because it gave us an opportunity to prove our cooking skills. Everyone had to prepare a traditional dish from their own country. Even though the staff had separated us into two groups (one who cooked and the other one who did their best to be creative in arts) we entered the kitchen without any permission to take a look and help our friends.

The first group started at 9 o'clock to make lunch, which was planned to be at 12 o'clock, but most of our dishes took more than an hour so we had to change our time schedule a little bit. While the people in the arts class had a lot of fun drawing each other's faces, the ones in the kitchen also had a good time, even though it was messy and partly stressful.

Since everyone put a lot of effort, we enjoyed a great lunch as well as a tasty and very versatile dinner. I made my popular Carbonara,

everyone was happy except Muslims for our bacon. In the end we were so full that we couldn't move for an hour so we decided to watch "Frozen" – and of course we were all singing along the soundtrack "Let it go"!

Briefly: We just had another wonderful day in this camp!



30th of July, we had breakfast at 8 o'clock as usual and then we went to a company called "Viking life-saving equipment" to see the demonstration of life saving equipment. Some of us got to try on the suits and see how they actually work. We also saw the production area of the equipment. Our schedule said that we'd walk to the beach, but it rained all day so the plans got changed. Instead of that the bus took us to Esbjerg earlier than planned.

We had nearly four hours for shopping and even though it was really cold (or so most people thought) we had a good time. We bought souvenirs and clothes for ourselves and our families. In the evening we got to watch the last country presentations. They were from Israel, Poland and Faroe Islands. Unfortunately the camp is ending so soon, so now we're all writing letters for each other.

31st of July and it's our last day at the camp. This morning we had breakfast at 10.30 and after that we cleaned the school and our rooms. After lunch we had to say goodbye to Anja. Then we finished the letters and signed each others T-shirts. The most of us stayed up all night long to spend as much time together as we can. We are all really sad because tomorrow at 8.20 we have to leave each other. But we are also happy

because of the FUN we had, the FRIENDSHIP we made and the MEMORIES FOR LIFE.

August 1st, everyone woke up early and most left with a bus to the airport 8.40. I was left behind, but don't worry about me. I have had a great camp, so thanks to everyone who was there. Thank you for making this an unforgettable Camp!

