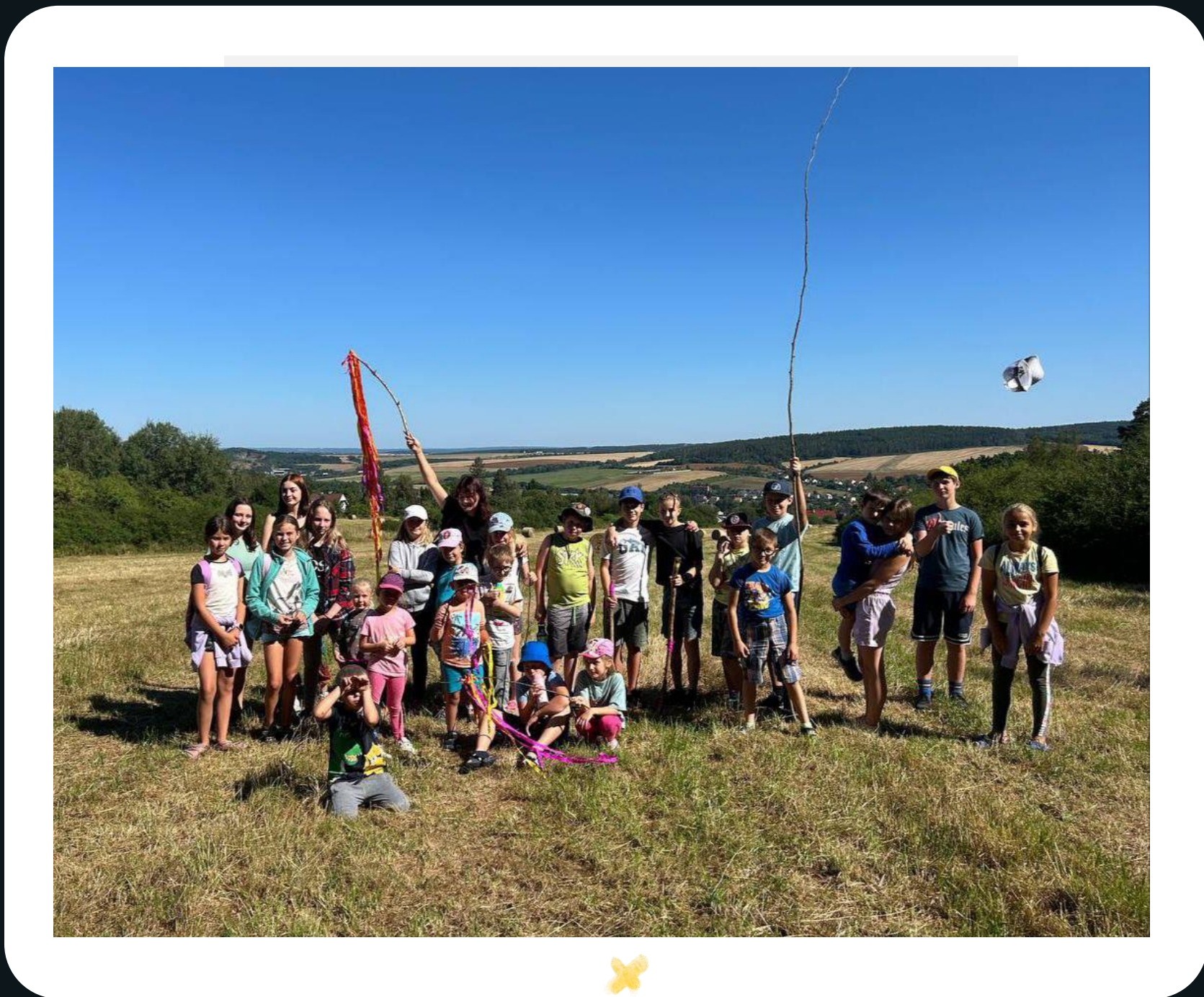




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RESIDENTIAL CAMP

THE LITTLE PRINCE

29.7.-2.8.2024

STARÝ PLZENEC



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THE LITTLE PRINCE

From 29 July to 2 August, a residential camp for Czech and Ukrainian children called The Little Prince is held in Stary Plzenec with the support of the YMCA Europe camp.

The main goal of the camp organizers is to provide children with quality rest during the summer holidays with maximum benefits for them - physical, intellectual and spiritual. All the following activities are based on achieving this goal. This camp brought together all those who love the wonderful fairy tale The Little Prince by French writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry to try to crack the allegories and metaphors he encoded in his work, and also to share their thoughts on the book.





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PHILOSOPHICAL FAIRY TALE

Every day the children discussed different episodes of *The Little Prince* and also did different tasks, of course related to this book. As a reward, they were given small pictures showing all the characters of *The Little Prince* in turn. At the end of the camp, everyone will have their own collection of characters with which they can create their own *Little Prince* story. The tasks are mostly about creativity. For example, it was necessary to represent the solar system from natural materials or to invent and make your own flag and then protect it.





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ENGLISH



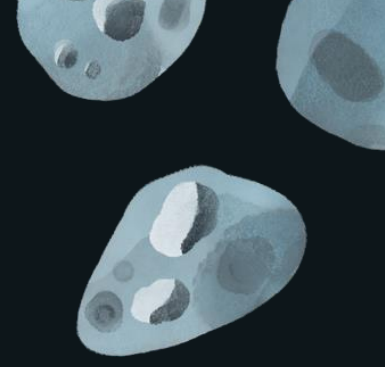
All tasks were accompanied by new English vocabulary. The children learned English in a fun and relaxed way and the activities helped them to remember the new words and repeat them throughout the day. All the children, even the youngest ones, had improved their English skills considerably by the end of the camp.





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VARIOUS GAMES

During the camp a large number of different games were played. At the beginning the games were made by the counsellors, but then the children joined in. How many games our children know! Movement and requiring maximum static, fun and intellectual, developing agility, speed, coordination and endurance. They all required one thing - the maximum number of participants. That's why no one was bored.





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SONGS AND DANCES

The day always started with a morning warm-up - children and adults danced to the cheerful music. Generally there was a lot of dancing and playing - one of the tasks the children were given was to learn three songs in English, sing them and dance to them. At the end of the camp, they showed this to their parents. Every evening the children sang along to the guitar and had real dancing competitions.





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POOL

In hot weather, swimming and diving in the pool is an incredible pleasure. Without exception, everyone loved it, which brought them joyful moments and great photos to remember it by. There was also a grand water gun battle one day, which was fully justified in such hot weather. No one was left dry - everyone was caught and sprayed! In the end everyone won - children and adults alike were wet and happy from head to toe.





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THEATRE

Another of the most important tasks of the camp was to create their own theatrical performance based on *The Little Prince*. The children were divided into teams, or rather in this case into small theatre groups. Each of them presented their own version of the events in this philosophical fairy tale. The performances were completely different from each other, but they all had a very original concept, sense of humour and respect for this work. On the last day of the camp, all four plays were presented to the best audience - the parents - for judging.



DAY TRIP TO ŠVIHOV CASTLE

One day was devoted to a trip to a small town near Klatovy - Švihov. There is a medieval gothic castle, which is famous for the filming of the movie Three Nuts for Cinderella. On one of the excursions, the children saw for themselves how life was like in the 16th century in a noble manor. They were able to enter the old lady's bedroom, the banqueting hall, the Chapel of the Virgin Mary and the ballroom. The children sat at the hostess's table, the girls could try on medieval clothes, and at the very end, the armoury awaited them with a magnificent collection of cold and firearms used in the Middle Ages to defend the castle and for hunting. The children also learned that not only weapons were used for hunting, but also birds. They could see how falcons were used and even take part in a falconry demonstration.



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THE FOREST

The forest is a wonderful place where everyone can find something they enjoy. Someone listens to the birds and watches its inhabitants, someone meditates and someone gathers a group of friends for a fun game. There were many tasks to do in the forest and also natural materials to collect for creative activities. Since the camp itself was located on the edge of the forest, it became a true friend to all who lived there.





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QUESTS



There were fun tasks in the forest, of course related to the main theme of the camp. For example, the children were asked to think about what all could be on the Little Prince's planet and then make it all out of natural materials. Or they had to think of a rain dance to help the prince water the rose. And then there was a real slalom between baobabs, almost identical to the Little Prince's planet. By completing these challenging tasks, the children not only demonstrated their excellent knowledge of the book, but also developed their imagination, wit and intelligence.





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CUSTOM FLAGS

One of the most interesting creative tasks was to create a custom flag for each of the four teams. The children searched for a flagpole in the woods and competed to find the longest one. They then used all their imagination to create four masterpieces. They had to figure out how to attach the flag to the pole, and then how to raise it without being blown away by the wind. It wasn't easy, but it was incredibly fun.





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CULINARY CREATIVITY

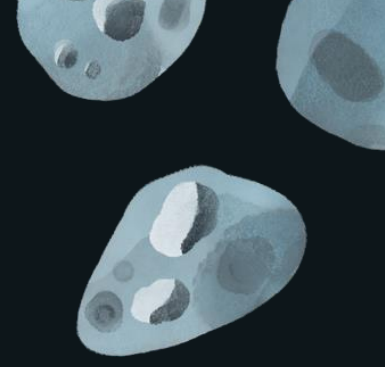
Children together with adults also created culinary creations for snacks, which were closely related to the theme of the camp. One day, for example, it was a delicious sheep made of bananas, strawberries and nuts, and there was something for everyone. On another day it was a milkshake with all sorts of ingredients and toppings, the main requirement of which was to please the Fox. In general, there was no limit to the imagination here either, except for the availability of products.





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FOOD



The nutrition of the camp participants was of course not limited to good snacks. It is important to eat properly and regularly in order to have the strength for a full holiday. If the campers had lunch in a real restaurant, they prepared their own dinner on the camp fire in the kettle. Everything was eaten within minutes! What could be more delicious than a self-cooked meal? And in the fresh air in the company of friends, no one had appetite problems.





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CAMPFIRE EVENINGS

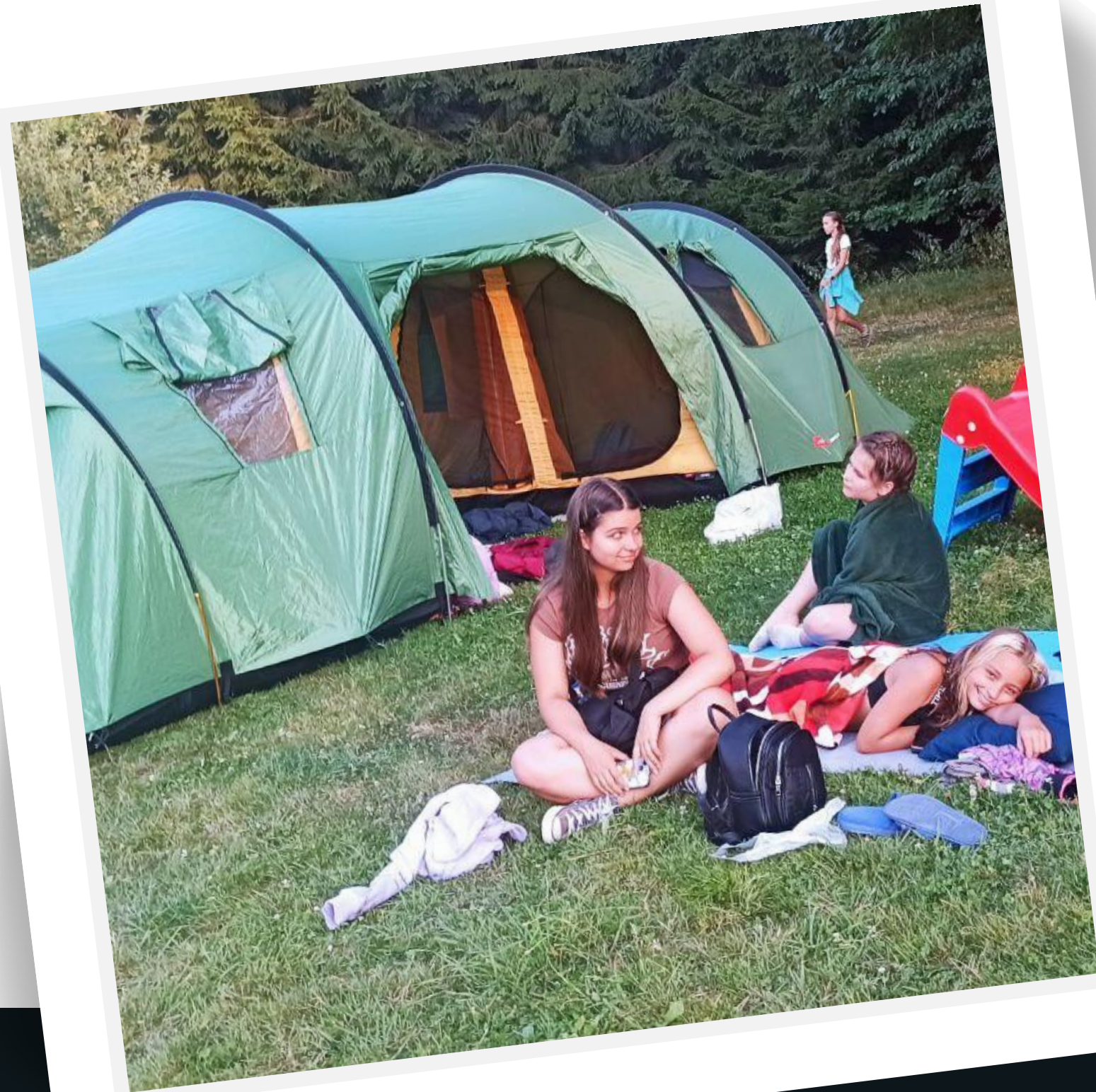
The evenings around the campfire will always remain in our memories. There were songs sung to guitar, dancing, close conversations and secrets, camp scares and flag stealing, first peeled onions and bitter tears, jokes and laughter, interesting guests, mosquito fights and unexpected rain, cookie sandwiches and fire roasted marshmallows - a favorite treat of American camps. Is it possible to forget it?





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SLEEPING IN TENTS

And of course - sleeping in a tent on the edge of the forest is the best end to every day spent at the campsite. Unless you want to sleep right outside under the stars. Lie under a blanket and look up at that big sky with the planets moving around. And maybe you'll get lucky and find the planet where the Little Prince meets the sunsets, where the whimsical but oh-so-beautiful rose grows, and where all dreamers long to go. If you don't find this planet in the sky, maybe you'll see it in your dreams.





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**"WE SEE RIGHTLY ONLY WITH THE HEART.
What is important is invisible to the eyes."
A. Saint-Exupery**

★ The week went by very quickly. Although it is a bit sad to say goodbye, I am glad that the children had a wonderful holiday. They grew up a bit, got a tan, got to know each other and made friends. This camp taught us all a lot. The deep and touching story of The Little Prince made everyone look at the world a little differently - not with their eyes, but with their hearts, and think about something they had never paid attention to before.





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THANK YOU YMCA EUROPE CAMP
for financial support

