



**2nd National Nature Camping Programme
For Eco-Club School children of Himachal Pradesh
From 18-12-2018 to 20-12-2018
at Hail Himalayas camping site, Shimla**



Organized By:

**H.P. Council for Science, Technology & Environment
(HIMCOSTE), Vigyan Bhawan, Bemloe, Shimla-1, H.P.**

Sponsored By:

**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(MOEF&CC), Govt. of India, New Delhi**

Report on National Nature Camping Programme

Introduction

The National Nature Camps Programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Environment Education, which is aimed at creating greater awareness, understanding and empathy of children with and for the environment. Through this initiative it is hoped that every child who goes through middle school (classes VI to X) will get at least one opportunity for a 2-3 day camping experience during these years. The 'Nature experience' for children and teachers has huge potential to trigger their sensitivity towards nature appreciation and conservation, leading to positive environmental actions at different levels.

Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) as a state Nodal Agency has established more than 3000 Eco-Clubs in Schools and about 100 Eco-Clubs in Colleges under National Green Corps (NGC) programme in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment organized National Nature Camping programme in the State. Under National Nature Camping Programme, field visits are being organised in different protected areas of the country for 3 days to create awareness amongst school/college students on environment and nature.

The camp's duration is 3 days and 2 nights with the basic structure of the camp being nature trails, nature games. The activities and nature trails in the camp were designed with the idea of instilling a sense of personal relationship and responsibility towards nature. The schedule was made in such a way that children get an opportunity to explore the nature through activities like trekking, bird watching, and walks to learn the importance of nature and biodiversity in their life along with reflecting on and discussing their learning through presentations, interactive sessions, painting competitions and environmental games.

National Nature camping Programme at Hail Himalayas

The 3 days National Nature Camping programme was organized at Hail Himalayas, Shoghi Distt. Shimla Himachal Pradesh from 18-12-2018 to 20-12-2018. The camping programme was inaugurated by the chief guest **Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist D**, Himalyan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, welcomed by overall programme co-ordinator Sh. Ravi Sharma, (Senior Scientific Assistant, and Sh. Hem Thakur. The day one of camping programme was started with facilitation ceremony. The chief Guest and resource person were welcomed by Programme co-ordinator Mr. Ravi Sharma, Senior Scientific Assistant National Green Corps Programme Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE). 33 Students and Nine escort teachers were present in nature camping Programme.

DAY-1 (Technical session) Activities undertaken on 18-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas, Shoghi Distt. Shimla

The Programme on National Nature camping for Eco-club school children include these activities for the first day:-

- Registration of students and Escort Teachers.
- Camping kit distribution to the participants.
- Theme introduction by Sh. Ravi Sharma , overall programme co-ordinator
- Presentation on Floral Diversity of Himachal Pradesh by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu (Scientist D, Himalayan Forest Research institute).

Firstly Mr. Ravi Sharma (senior scientific Assistant, National green Corps programme) told the students about the three days National Nature camping programme. He told that this is 2nd camp organized by HP Council for Science, Technology and Environment. He told that these types of camps are the golden opportunity for students to enjoy the camping programme.



Day-1 Sh. Ravi Sharma interacting with participants

Dr. Vaneet Jishtu gave presentation on Plant Diversity of H.P. and the emerging threats to its survival. He told students about common plants of Himachal Pradesh, and told about ecosystem and different ecosystem like desert, grassland, forest ecosystem. He told about biodiversity that it is taken from two words Bio-living and diversity means variety. He told that 28% of plants occur in India are endemic. He also told about taxonomy that it is branch of botany that defines plants name. He told that in Himachal Pradesh 3 National Parks are situated Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Simbalbada National Park. He told that 14 types of gymnosperms are present in Himachal Pradesh some are *Pinus roxburgii*, *Cedrus deodara* *Quercus leucotrichophora* etc. He told about medicinal and aromatic plants present in Himachal Pradesh and about wild nuts, wild fresh fruits.



Presentation by Dr. Vaneet jishtu on day 1 (18th December 2018)

After this Hail Himalaya staff briefed about leadership quality and those activities students can do in the camping area after all this students play many games and interact with each other these activities create confidence in them

Day-2 Activities undertaken on 19-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas Nature Camp

Day-2 session starts with the documentation of bird species during bird watching some were Spotted forktail, Jungle babbler, Crested Kingfisher, White capped water redstart etc. after that documentation of plants were done by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, some plants were *Mentha longifolia*, *Euphorbia royleana*, *Pinus roxburgii* etc. he told common names, scientific names of the plants and also told about native species and invasive species of plants because of invasive species our native species comes to an end and told about medicinal uses of plants.

Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, IFS, Member Secretary Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) interact with participants, told them about some bird species and that they should keep their environment clean and

green and told that best students of all the camps will be called for the participation in the World Environment Day.

Then students were taken on nature trails where they learnt about the art of nature interpretation, 8km track was covered by students with experts. All the participants enjoyed about nature core and learned about different birds and plants.



Day-2 Sh. Kunal Satyarthi interacting with participants



Activities done during Nature trail at Hail Himalayas at day 2 (19th December 2018)

After tracking different activities like zip line and ropes course were conducted for participants, all participants done these activities and enjoyed alot.



Different activities done at Camp site Hail Himalayas

Day 3 Activities undertaken on 20-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas Nature Camp

On third day morning session started with cleanliness campaign 3km track was completed and collection of plastic waste was done by participants, after that painting competition was organised in which all students participated and made beautiful paintings. Isha Thakur comes 1st, Abhishek comes 2nd and Mehak comes 3rd in painting competition. The day was completed with valedictory session in which Mr. Ravi Sharma thanked Hail Himalayas staff and all participants. All teachers and participants gave feedback about camping programme and thanked for organizing such type of camp and all knowledge they got from resource persons.



Cleanliness Campaign by participants on day 3 (20th December 2018)



Painting Competition for participants



Valedictory Session

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Schedule of National Nature Camping Programme for Eco-club School Children of Himachal Pradesh from 18-12-2018 to 20-12-2018 at Hail Himalaya camping site, Shimla

Day	TIMING	Activity
18.12.2018	01:00-01:15PM	Registration of school children & escort teachers
	01:15-01:30PM	Introduction of National Nature Camping Programme- Sh. Ravi Sharma (Sr. Scientific Assistant) , Project Coordinator Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE)
	01:30-01:40PM	Inauguration of the programme & Address of Chief Guest- Dr. Vineet Jishtu, Scientist D , Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Panthaghati, Shimla
	01:40-02:00PM	Presentation by the experts about the importance camping site & Nature camps for the students- Sh. Hem Thakur , Hail Himalaya
	2:45-3:00 PM	Tea break
	3:00- 3:45PM	How to Document flora & fauna seen/spotted during nature trail. Do & Don't of Bird watching- Mr. Ishwar , Himachal Forest Department
	3:45-4:30PM	Visit to the nearby forest area.
19.12.2018	7:30 -8:10AM	Breakfast
	8:30-2:00 PM	Bird Watching activity for the participants- Mr. Ishwar , Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
	2:00-2:45	Lunch
	3:00-5:00PM	Demonstration of camping activities

	6:00-7:00PM	Cultural activities.
20.12.2018	7:30-8:15AM	Breakfast
	8:15-9:45AM	Bird watching activity for the Participants- Mr. Ishwar , H.P. Forest Department
	9:45-10:45AM	Cleanliness campaign by the participants near the camping site/venue- Miss Akshita Sharma, Project Associate & Miss Dimple Kumari, Data Entry Operator (NGC) , Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)
	10:45-11:30AM	Green Pledge & Painting activities- Miss Akshita Sharma, Project Associate & Miss Dimple, DEO (NGC) , Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)
	11:30-12:00PM	School wise presentation on sharing of experiences of nature camp and group discussions
	12:00-1:00PM	Valedictory session and certificate distribution followed by lunch