

KIDS SOLVE ONE OF *History's Mysteries* IN *Adventure Camp*



Imagine the hardships the Founding Fathers encountered as they fought for the nation's independence during the Revolutionary War. For many, it was the ultimate survival test as soldiers battled everything from the elements to the enemy. One patriot's experience is at the heart of Adventure Camp: American History Mystery at Frying Pan Farm Park, where kids piece together clues to find the missing soldier.



"It was a lot of fun and very surprising at the end," recalled 10-year-old Gavin Fortuno who attended the camp last summer. "We were trying to save another agent and we had to crack the code to find the bad guy who had him."

"You feel like you're living back in time," said Gavin's older brother, Danny, who also attended the camp. "We learned how to build a shelter if you're stranded in the woods, and we learned how the soldiers would march and overcome obstacles."

The camp is inspired by a true story, and the Fortuno brothers enjoyed the challenge of overcoming obstacles to find their missing comrade. They also walked away with a greater appreciation of the deplorable conditions Revolutionary War soldiers survived and the extreme sacrifices they made in the fight for our nation's independence.

"They didn't have as good medicine back then, and they did not have anesthesia to put you to sleep during amputations," Danny said soberly as he reflected on the will it would take to survive such a horrifying circumstance. "We learned a lot about what the soldiers went through. They had to be strong and stay positive, and they would have to be very lucky people not to get hurt. I should not complain about stuff because they went through a lot worse."

Learning about the hardships left a lasting impression on both boys. In the best of times, they got to experience a unique camaraderie with other campers as they, in the spirit of their forefathers, worked together to defeat a common enemy.

"I made a lot of friends there and talked about what it was like to be in the Revolutionary Army," Gavin said. "Trying to find the bad guy was sometimes hard, but the counselors made it a lot of fun."

The Park Authority offers nearly 2000 camp programs in a wide range of interest areas for children age 3 to 17. To learn more, turn to the Camps section.