

Hi,

My name is Ieva and I am currently 16 years old, living in Šiauliai. I found AKS summer camps while browsing the depths of the internet. At that time finding AKS was a bit harder than it is now. In total I've been in AKS camps three summer's in a row and I also got a chance to come to Winter Camp. I think at this point I can surely call myself a true AKS veteran.

It might sound very cliché, but AKS summer camps have changed my boring and usually repetitive summer holidays into full-filling experiences. I've met loads of people in this camp and strangely enough with some I do to this day keep in touch. Also I've finally got the chance to discover myself as an individual in this camp, which I think crucial for us teenagers.

For newcomers this camp may seem a bit... scary. Believe me I was one of those people who knew nothing here and had no idea whether I was going to have some camp friends or not. So the fact of going up to somebody and talking was a big no-no for me. But as you can see I've successfully managed to get over my fears and made some amazing friends.



It is shocking to me how these people that I've met became my friends in a few hours. But I do believe it is great to get out of your comfort zone for once and experience something new. Personally I find that AKS camps are all about stepping out of your shell. I mean we sleep in tents, eat outside, leave our phones for the whole week aside (well you can call your parents in the evening) and live surrounded by pure nature for a whole week. It sounds and looks crazy, but boy-oh-boy is it worth every second experiencing it.



One thing that made me happy whenever I was leaving the camp is the memories that I was bringing home with me. Of course the last day is all about crying but once you hug it all out you do feel glad that you came here. I reminisce about the memories a lot so I would gladly like to share some with you.

AKS has beautiful traditions. I think the evening circle is one the most beautiful traditions AKS summer camps have. By the end of the day we make a bonfire and sit around it. After we talk about how we felt today and answer funny/interesting questions it is time to hand out the letters we have written for each other throughout the day and shockingly enough you don't have to be friends with the person you are writing the letter for. (I usually like to compliment strangers. I think it makes their day) That is quite wholesome, but here comes the big part. So I've mentioned that AKS #yoursummerinEnglish summer camp is in the middle of nowhere right? And I bet you can't imagine what's above it. By that I mean the



sky. So one day after the evening circle me and my friends decided to do some star-gazing. A shooting star. I saw a shooting star for the first time in my life! It was completely, absolutely magical. I couldn't believe my eyes. I think after this the camp felt even more special to me (or maybe the CEO wished upon the star that I come here each summer who knows).



Another story that I have was also quite surprising to me. I think it's something that all of us learn eventually at the camp. So one night I was sitting at the gazebo and looking at the stars. I sometimes like to be alone and enjoy nature. All of a sudden a guy sat next to me. And for your information I thought he was the meanest guy in the camp. He always looked like he was judging everyone and was a bit of a rule breaker. So I guess you can imagine that I tried to avoid him in camp. But then we started talking and not just "Hey what's up, what's your name" and so on, but had quite a deep

conversation about life and emotions. It was random, but it was nice. So I learned quite a valuable lesson to never judge a book by its cover (such a cliché saying, but it is true). And shockingly enough I became friends with that guy and here in the photo you can see we were both models for the fashion show of AKS.

Do I recommend this camp to everyone? Yes, absolutely. Just like I mentioned before it's a great way of figuring out who you are, what are your best personality traits, stepping out of your comfort zone and living life a bit more differently even if it's for a week. And on that note I am eagerly waiting for the 2021 AKS summer camp.