

Grade 11 Leadership Camp : Spirit of Adventure

During the last week of the first term, the St. Dominic's Senior school corridors become eerily quiet and deserted as every learner, from Grade 8 through to Grade 11, departs for a week away from school for the annual "Tour Week". For the Grade 11 group, this traditionally means a week spent out in the wilderness at **Spirit of Adventure** with Oliver Page and his team of young, vibrant camp facilitators.

Oliver and his team present the group with a Leadership model which the girls then apply over the course of four days in various activities which test the girls, both mentally and physically. At St. Dominic's school, every Grade 12 learner has the option of working on one of six possible committees which help to organize school life with regards to everything from Charity and Ethos, through to Spirit! This model becomes a practical tool for the girls as they approach the tasks which their various committees undertake.

For the staff of St. Dominic's, the tour presents another essential assessment tool in the selection of leaders. For the girls, the camp often cements in their minds who their leaders will be, and introduces them to new candidates who might have been outside of their immediate social circles. The greatest advantage of this camp is that it strengthens the bonds which a senior group of a school needs, in order to lead the rest of the school. The physical challenges which the girls have to face force them to appreciate how strong and capable they are as individuals, and teach them how much a united team is able to achieve.

Above every noble declaration, however, the greatest selling point of this Leadership camp, is that it is just plain, wholesome, "clean" fun! Traditionally, after four days, we return to school with a group of dirty, exhausted, enriched and satisfied campers who wear their numerous war wounds, bruises and scratches with pride, and who have many entertaining stories to tell.