

Duke of Edinburgh – The Award Program March 2015 Provisional tenth standard JIRS students had a chance to attend the world’s best youth leadership program “Duke of Edinburgh”, 5 days of trekking to Shimla and Manali.

Students experienced worst climatic conditions during the adventurous trekking. Students learnt how to be strong and face the situations in such conditions like hailstones and heavy rainfall in Shimla, knee deep snow in Solang and freezing climate throughout the week. Students were very brave and helped elders, children and also vehicles that had got stuck on the roads due to heavy hailstones.

The students enjoyed to the hilt participating in the most awaited trekking and other various adventure activities like Skiing, ropeway, river rafting.

Students also did a residential project in Solang where they had to do a cultural and an educational interaction with the families they interacted. Students interacted with the local people who worked for daily wages in the nearby construction sites. Irrespective of gender, the local people walked uphill and came to the construction sites to work. The people who worked as housemaids didn’t hesitate to do all their household chores in the worst of the climate. When students are hesitant to even wet their hands due to freezing cold, housemaids didn’t hesitate to work for us so that we could get comfortable.

Our students were touched by the plight of the children, who were deprived from the basic necessities of school life. Students tried to get all the basic necessities starting from the stationery to the school bag for the kids. The happiness that reflected on the child’s face was the blessing for our children.

This reinforces the award to get them qualified for the Silver Level. Many international universities and colleges need the documents to be used as credentials for admissions and placements. Their trekking sessions at the Himalayas has got the appreciation for the trekkers and instructors at the Manali base camp.

This expedition made them tougher and taught them many valuable life lessons. The trekking in-charges were supportive and took care of the safety and comfort of the students.