



Ashkan's camp story

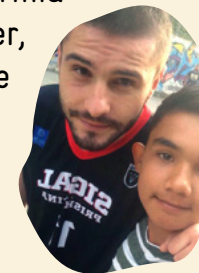


Hi! I am Ashkan Qerimi, a 13-year-old from the village of Magure, in the municipality of Lipjan. I am a 7th grader and love playing basketball, listening to music and hanging out with friends.

The 'Design for Nature' camp was my first camp experience ever, and my first time spending a week away from my home.

My favourite memories are from when I was playing 'Capture the Flag*'.

I made a lot of new friends from all over Kosovo, who are from places I usually don't get to go, and I also met my favourite basketball player when we were playing in the basketball court [in Prishtina, next to the Gërmia Recreational Center, where the camps take place].



*An outdoor game that fosters team-building and problem solving, besides being a fun hiding, running and chasing game.

Although I had a great time, the camp was not all fun, there were some very challenging moments for me. For the first time, I had to work on designing a project and then presented it in front of a large audience, a lot of whom I had not met before.

After the camp I had some other presentations at school and in a community organization, it was so much easier, I remembered the advice of Duresa [his team facilitator at camp] and made myself think this is just like in camp, I can do it.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible for me to attend this camp!





Elita's camp story



Hello – My name is Elita. I am a 15-year-old from Gjakova studying at the natural science high school.

I was able to be part of 'Design for Nature' camp after I was awarded one of TOKA's Camp Scholarship through their essay competition.

The 'Design for Nature' Camp held many firsts for me. It was my first camp ever, my first time being away from family, and my first time sleeping in another place outside of Gjakova.

It was also the first time in my life I dared to experience a hike in the mountains and climb an alpine wall. I cannot believe I hiked, and climbed that alpine wall. I was so afraid at the beginning, I thought I could never do it – but I did!

I am so proud of myself, it was an empowering moment getting to the top of that wall.

I always wanted to help change things in Gjakova, and during this camp I learned how. At camp I saw that enthusiasm, critical thinking, planning, and commitment are important for making the change I want to see in my community.

Thank you TOKA and Kosovaldeas supporters for these unforgettable and life changing experiences! I hope you keep supporting projects like these, because it is important for more youth to get to do what I did.

