



Pontifical Mission Educational and Cultural Center

مركز البعثة البابوية التعليمي الثقافي

“REJOICE!



GOODNESS of
OTHERS”

St. Pedro Poveda



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Summer Camp 2017 - Newsletter

By: Ms. Monnitte V. Monana

Creative ways of developing and improving one's personality

Mission Educational and Cultural Center. The varied activities that they went through during the days of the camp have ensured the



A hundred and fourteen young people from ages six to eighteen years old have joined enthusiastically this year's summer camp aimed at developing their personality. They would come as early as eight-thirty in the morning, full of energy as one could hear their animated conversations and laughter that lingered along the corridors, steps, corner and ground of Marie Doty's park and the Pontifical

valuable learning they got which significantly contributed to the development and improvement of their person.

A time for everything

The participants for this year's summer camp enjoyed learning, working, and playing together as though they had time for everything. Sustained fun and enjoyment from the very first day of the camp until the last day was

evident since activities have been singularly varied for each day. There were activities that required focus and concentration so the participants were quiet and serious, demonstrating the qualitative impact the activities had on them.

This four-week long summer camp which started on the 10th of July until the 4th of August passed unnoticed as majority of the participants got intensely involved in the various activities during the days of the camp.

The organized activities of the day for each age-group level had facilitated the integration as well as the feeling of being one with the others in their respective groupings. No one felt isolated or out of place as they naturally milled around and went through the varied activities. The extreme heat of summer did not hinder them from actively participating in any activity as they maintained a high level of energy and productivity all through the days of the camp.



Shining Star Group

By: Sahar Zrieneh

Personality development refers to a process where a child's personality is cultivated, nourished and enhanced. The development of the child's personality is a long, arduous process of formation and training bringing some positive changes in his/her life to make him/her a better person.



There were 45 participants who joined in our camp this year. The theme of the summer camp activities was about personality development.

The first group that participated in the summer camp for two weeks which started on the 10th July until 21st July in Marie Doty Park,



"Being in the camp was an interesting experience for me. I liked everything and learned many things from the activities. I also made many new friends and enjoyed playing with them."

Majd Shalash

Various interesting activities have been introduced to them such as outdoor games, storytelling & analyzing stories, dancing & singing sessions, values formation



was the Shining Star Group (1st to 3rd graders), ages 5 to 8 years old.



session, A-Z games/contest, art sessions, word scramble, educational games, English power point session, swimming trips and puppets workshop.





Enjoyable moments of learning, doing, playing and working together...



These different activities helped them hone their skills to face the challenges in life. The children learned positive attitudes such as being earnest and orderly, used and managed their time properly, acquired various skills, increased their knowledge about themselves, their interest in being present with the others, strengthening their social skills such as proper etiquette, right conduct and moral character to handle the situations and challenges in life. In addition, the participants young as they are, also improved their communication skills, language proficiency, and capacity for self-expression.



"I learned a lot from the camp and enjoyed the activity such as the contest, sessions, and swimming trips. From the values formation session, I learned how to organize my time and not to waste any minute of it."

Lamar Abdeen



"The camp was wonderful! Every day I would get up early in order to be on time for the activity and not to miss any."

Selen Anastas



Moreover, the summer camp added a dash of style to the child's personality such as changing the way a child looks or walks, assisting the child to overcome any of his/her weaknesses and child's way of thinking and behaving.



Full Blossom Group

By: Agnes Shamieh Sleibi

Despite the heat wave, 48 enthusiastic boys and girls ages between 9 to 13 participated in the two weeks' long summer camp which the Pontifical Mission Educational and Cultural Center organized this year. The theme was about "Personality Development" a fitting subject to take up with this group of boys and girls whose individual personalities are in the process of being molded. Some parents revealed to me that *"the reason why they want their children to join the camp was because their children are in need of proper orientation and guidance to develop self-confidence and to work on their self-identity. Since they spend most of their time uselessly on computers, they exert no effort at self-development."*



The participants went through different enriching activities such as sessions on personality development, art, drama and doing drama skit, spelling contest, singing, educational games, puppet workshop and swimming. All these activities helped the children to learn new things, refine their personality, build their characters, develop their communication skills and motivate them to express their feelings, and most importantly, they also made new friends. Quite a number of them have expressed their desire to extend the duration of the camp indicating/showing how much they enjoyed it.



"I enjoyed all the activities of the camp, however, I liked most of all the swimming, singing and drama sessions. Also, I realized the need for me to work more on my personality through drama."

George Sleibi



The summer camp met the participants' expectations as demonstrated by the excellent reviews of the children. The parents and the staff aligned with the participants in their common perceptions that the camp offered



opportunities for them to experience new things, acquire friendship skills and enjoy a fun-filled program.



in my opinion, they were minor areas to work on for further improvement of the camp.

Undeniably, however, the camp was a success and I think we fulfilled our goals in sharpening the participants' intrapersonal and interpersonal skills in different areas. The activities helped them to adopt a positive attitude towards themselves and to learn how to respect each other. The varied sessions on personality



"We loved everything in this year's camp for it was well organized and offered us lots of fun. We enjoyed more specifically the drama/skit, drawing and swimming which enhanced our creativity and agility. We hope that it would last longer next time."

Ashraf & Ahmad Kudemat

development have boosted their self-reliance, self-awareness, self-confidence, self-esteem, social awareness, independence, perseverance, commitment, initiative, and honesty.

They also grew in the values of caring and respect for others, empathy, in their capacity to make friends and build positive relationships, in their sense of belonging and acceptance of individual differences as well as in acquiring skills in leadership, teamwork, communication, conflict resolution and problem solving.



"It was an enriching experience having participated in this camp as I have learned to be strong, responsible, and had real fun learning and working with others."

Malak Shaheen



A unique experience of the summer camp...

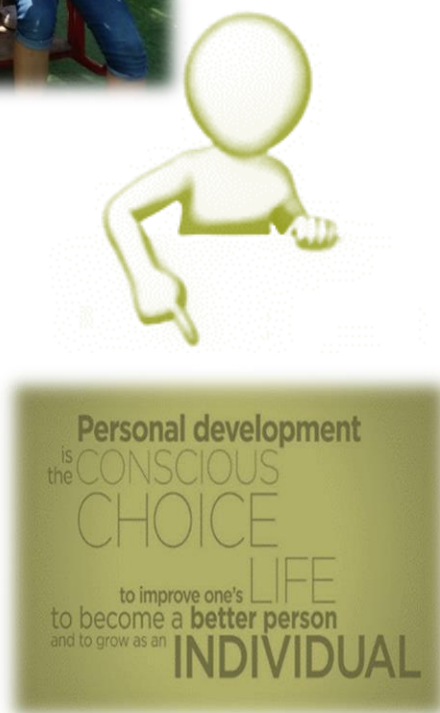
By: Sara Obayat Ghaith



I participated in the Pontifical Mission Educational and Cultural Center summer camp for the ages 6 to 13. Through this experience, I noticed a good interaction from the students in the activities that were prepared including games and trips as well.

Participants showed great interest practically in all the activities, which they enjoyed so much, and actively participated in. I've seen them happy and relaxed during the activities.

The atmosphere in general was charged with energy oozing from the participants. Using the "Marie Doty Park" as venue for the camp favoured the energy and enthusiasm in the atmosphere as the organized activities – both in the interior hall and in the garden – went on smoothly to the satisfaction of everyone.



The camp consisted of varied or various activities, which included educational and sport activities, dance sessions, art craft workshops and theater. All these activities helped the students to develop their self-confidence as well as increase the participation among them and develop a healthy competitive spirit among them.

My first participation was so amazing, as I enjoyed each second



"We were encouraged and motivated in participating all the fun-filled activities of the summer camp, thus, making us a better person."



Yousef Ghaboun



in the camp and the interactions with the participants as well.

Youth Group

By: Mariam Jaraiseh Sleibi

In a joy-filled learning atmosphere, 26 youth from the age group of 14 to 18 years participated in the summer camp on "Personality Development" organized by the Pontifical Mission Educational and Cultural Center, which started from July 24 to August 4, 2017.

Each day of the camp consisted of at least three to four varied activities like personality development sessions, social emotional training sessions, topical discussions, sports, dance such as Cha-cha, Zumba, art-craft, spelling contest, word scramble, guitar lessons, educational games, challenging games, drama and film viewing and forum.



All these activities were extremely helpful to the participants in building and improving their personality. For example, the personality development and drama sessions taught them some skills in leadership through communication and decision-making experiences as well as creative thinking and boosting one's self-confidence. These sessions also helped young people how to understand and appraise situations, think outside the box and be more confident and fearless to explore unfamiliar situations. They learnt how to trust their ideas and abilities. Furthermore, they learned how to concentrate and focus more through playing, practicing, and performing. Their ability and skills were honed toward focusing the mind, body, and voice during the drama sessions. The students had the opportunity to express a range of emotions and were encouraged to understand and deal with similar feelings that they may be experiencing.





gain greater self-awareness, and enjoy an activity that they love the most.

The guitar lessons played a great role in developing their personalities toward a wholistic integration of their mental, emotional, social and physical capacities. It was amazing to see young people connected with one another through music. This activity improved drive and discipline and helped them focus on this new skill and improve concentration. Furthermore, it helped them to



Interestingly, the sport and the dance sessions helped to strengthen the bond among themselves in a joyful and friendly atmosphere. They had great fun, leaving all their worries behind, and shedding off any stress they had. They got involved in team sports quickly since they learned the importance of working alongside their peers to achieve a common goal. Sport also built confidence in them through playing together having the opportunity to show their skills,



"I made many new friends through the camp, improved many of my skills, and become more confident of myself. The only thing that I did not enjoy in the camp was the drama session. I enjoyed most the Zumba and dance classes I wish next year the camp will be longer."

Zeina Abu- Tair



cultivate and improve their memory.



"The camp was so nice and indeed had helped develop my personality. However, without the lovable and energetic teachers/facilitators' presences and inputs, we could not have enjoyed those days of the camp though.

Sadeel Khleef



The varied activities each day kept participants' energy level high and made them always on the go...

They felt that they became better and more well-rounded persons by learning to play the guitar and develop their musical ability.

In general, all of our activities provided the youth with opportunities to learn new skills, challenge themselves, make friends in person rather than online, and create memories that will last a lifetime. They expressed gratefulness verbally and in writing through the evaluations and reviews of the camps and felt blessed to be accompanied by a loving and helpful staff.



BEE CELLS: PARTICIPANTS CREATIVELY DESIGNED EACH CELL WITH THEIR NAMES AND THEIR PROMINENT CHARACTER TRAITS WRITTEN ON IT...

One thing impressed me as a facilitator: when one of the Bible Institute staff came to tell me his impression about the activities that we did, he said: *"It's my first time to see smart students joining your summer camp, they are so friendly and sociable and know how to express themselves. It's not a common thing to see because usually the intelligent and superior person is somewhat isolated"*.

We owe much to the PMEC Center, which complements schools in this role of education by providing a wholistic approach to training and formation sessions for young people such as this year's theme and goal of personality development.

Impressions and feedback...



Ms. Sara Ghaith

"I felt energized having assisted in the activities of the youth. There was an evident atmosphere of cordiality, and I felt welcomed and appreciated by them.

Since I took charge of giving them various educational games such as: making words from word, making sentence from words, words having the same sounds games, freeze game and the circle game, I noticed, their spontaneous interaction with one another. Likewise, through this kind of activities, they were able to develop their mental abilities and critical thinking, learned new words and improved their self-awareness. The most noticeable attitude by majority of them was their being so friendly, lovable and inclusive as they do not discriminate the others whose opinions and ideas were different from the others.

Indeed, this camp influenced my personality, too. Dealing and working for the first time with the youth of the ages from 13-18, I felt happy. I loved the way each one expressed themselves freely and creatively much more in the drama sessions where they developed and improved their personalities and grew in self-confidence."



Leen Abu-Leibdeh

"I gained a lot from this amazing camp as I considered it very useful and enjoyable at the same time. My experience made me think that I can face the future better as I have improved my personality through my relationship with others. The well-thought of and complementary activities given to us like the sport session for example helped me how to be physically fit and healthy while the leadership and formation sessions helped me to think better and adapt an open and positive disposition in life. Thank you Ms. Monnitte, Ms. Mariam, Ms. Sahar, Ms. Agnes and Ms. Sara for all your efforts to make this camp more than amazing."

Saba Abdeen

"I enjoyed the camp fully! Activities were so varied and the atmosphere very wholesome! I did enjoy playing guitar with Ms. Monnitte, doing sports, outdoor games, Zumba and many other activities that just carried us away. I wish next year that the camp will be longer and with more trips."

Deeb Zahran

"This is the most interesting camp I have ever been so far. I think, what made this camp so nice was the accommodating attitudes of both the staff and participants, the open-minded and very cool teachers who facilitated everything to us and for us that we never felt bored at all in going through the varied activities. I think if we have more trips next year,

the camp will be more enjoyable though."

Laila Abdeen

"The camp was so amazing as it developed a lot my personality. Having gone through the activities, I learned how to integrate easily, smoothly and without fear with the others. The drama sessions made me more courageous in dealing and relating with others, helped me expressed myself thus improved my communication skills."



Jezelle Musleh

"It was really a very nice summer camp which was worth attending with all its varied activities that helped me improve my personality!"

Dania Abdeen

"It was a great feeling having joined this year's camp! I enjoyed it a lot, as it increased our sense of self-awareness and developed our self-confidence, too. The activities facilitated by the team of the Bible Institute as well as the drama sessions allowed us to discover more about ourselves. I suggest though for next year's camp - to make it longer and to have it in the evening."





Zeina Omar

"It was an enjoyable summer camp wherein I had a great time with many friends. The varied activities made it so interesting and useful, aside from having nice and lovable staff and facilitators that made me enjoyed it all the more. I wish the following activities and suggestions to be considered next time: to have hiking trips, Dabkeh sessions, more Zumba classes and have a longer camp for at least 3 weeks or more."

Salar Sajdeya

"I loved all the activities in the camp! I did learn a lot from each activity and appreciate the moment spent being with the rest of the youth group. I become more aware of myself too which, strengthened my personality. I hope next year, the camp will be longer and will have more outings so it will be more enjoyable."

Farah Abu-Tair

"I enjoyed the camp so much as it helped me improve my self-confidence and made me grow in many aspects. It was an amazing experience!"

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