



Pontifical Mission
Educational and
Cultural Center
مركز البعثة البابوية التعليمي الثقافي



"You are not required to change
your Personality but to perfect it"
St. Pedro Párraga

Summer Camp Newsletter 2018



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Together with others in putting the best foot forward to grow as a person



More than a hundred participants of the three distinct levels with different age groups varying from 4 to 19 years old have enjoyed the allotted two-week long summer camp for each level. All in all the summer camp lasted for six weeks.

"My experience in this camp was very unique, for I was able to explore new things other than just spending my time playing with my electronic gadgets. I learned something about myself that I didn't realize I was capable of doing. For example, I used to hate sports but in the camp, I enjoyed a lot playing basketball. Also, I am a shy-type of person but in the camp I was able to socialize and made lots of friends. The different activities and sessions in the camp have taught me to organize my time, be disciplined, have a goal/target in my life and think of the good of the others. Thank you PMECC for this well organized camp!!!"

Waseem Sleibi — Youth Group



"The most important thing that I liked in this camp was the way the staff and all the teachers had treated us. I felt like I am with my family. I enjoyed the Arabic and English activities because we worked consciously as a team, which enhanced the team-work spirit in us and reinforced our communication skills in our dealings with one another. The activities also had positive impact on my personality for I have learned to respect others in whatever matter, thus, enabling me to express myself with confidence."

Lourd Abu-Hadeed — Full Blossom Group



"I was able to make new friends, learned to work in a team, and enjoyed my time with others in the different activities..."

Eli Salem — Shining Star

Week One launches the youth group into action. The following photos show the different activities they undertook ...



...it was a respite from their over exposure to social media, with the tendency of isolating themselves from being able to socialize with others...



Small group sharing enhances strong interpersonal connections....helping them in opening up... discovering more of themselves and others... and appreciating the gift that they are to one another...



"This is the most beautiful camp we have ever attended because the activities helped us reinforce our self-esteem and boost our confidence. We have learned also how to be more independent, how to be tough in difficult times and how to persevere in pursuing our dreams. We would like to thank all the staff for their efforts and for the wonderful and memorable time spent in this camp." **Tala & Bilal Abu Salem—Youth Group**



"I liked the camp very much particularly the clock activity because it gave me the chance to know more of myself and about my friends and others. It was also an occasion for me to make new friends. The sessions given by the team of the Palestinian Bible Society had taught me to think positively and to pursue my dreams. The many opportunities of sharing and working together in small groups made me more cooperative and more open with the others."

Maria Mansour- Youth Group

A 2 to 3 hours **Hiking trail and Nature trekking** from Mahkrour to a village called Battir challenged the stamina and physical strength of many of the youth as they traversed a long walk under the scorching heat of the sun...



Participants braved the summer heat, maximized the use of time, and enjoyed each other's company...



"The camp was more than perfect and I really enjoyed it because it geared towards developing the persons that we are. "

Michael Lolas—Youth Group

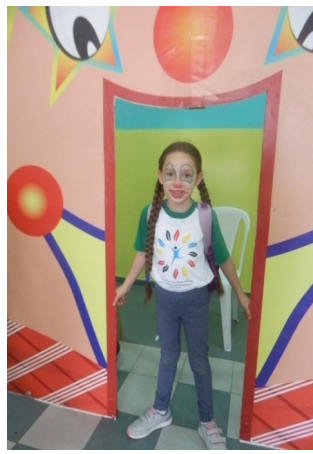


"This camp was the best camp ever. The staff were very nice to us and I had lots of fun with my friends and did enjoy the activities with them. I have also learned positive attitude towards others which made me accept and love them as they are. I have enjoyed a lot the drama sessions as well as the competition games."

Ayana Qumsieh – Full Blossom Group

Experience of an oasis-like **Juice Cocktails session**, took place both in Ramallah and later in Bethlehem, at the Center on the last day, which was a thirst-quenching respite on a hot summer day for the youth group...





Puppet shows, conveyed and instilled in them positive values and proper attitudes towards life situations. These rounded out the last day activity of the younger ones which include the presence of the clowns, costumed cartoon and book characters. Face painting added to the spectacular and entertaining ambiance of the day...



Trips, allowed them to enjoy time together having pure fun, enabling the young participants to gain additional knowledge of their Palestinian culture...



The staff together with the facilitators, hired trainers, entertainers, and student-volunteers, who worked with the participants on the following value-laden sessions: personality development sessions, values of teamwork, good sportsmanship, respect, diversity, dialogue, healthy living, creativity, responsibility, self-sufficiency, etc. Lots of parents both Christians and Muslims alike, encouraged and actually brought their kids to register in our organized camp, since they know that their children will always learn new things in the camp.

Dynamics and inputs brought smiles and laughter to the young audience in the camp as they tried to give the best of themselves whether in sport, Zumba, drama, arts, values-formation sessions and many other educational activities. All these made them get used to small group sharing, working and learning together .



As one of the parents said, *“You just don’t know how the activities that you organized have taught my child so many things and we do value and appreciate your efforts and time spent to make the camp more entertaining and fun-filled activity for the participants...”*



“I learned a lot from the different activities that we did during the two weeks-long camp. They helped me develop and acquire some positive traits. The drama sessions for example have boosted my self-confidence and self-esteem. While the competition games had helped me to be an effective team player which developed my sportsmanship spirit.”

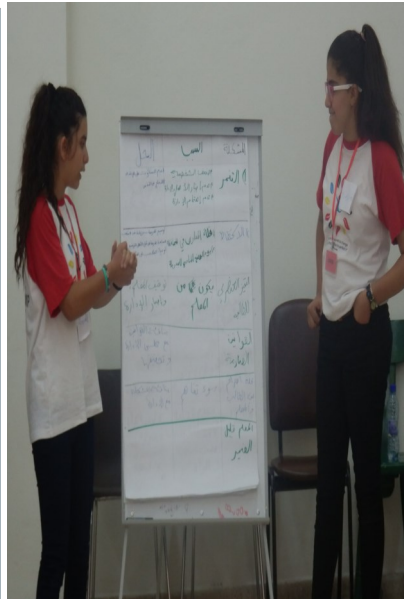
Dana Sajdiya—Full Blossom Group

Developing personality through varied activities...

This year's summer camp with its varied activities was launched as the Library of the Pontifical Mission moves on and branches out. While it continues to have its book loan services, it has developed and expanded into what is presently called, an Educational and Cultural Center which caters to the various needs of different age group levels. As usual, activities get intensified especially during summer time as this year's theme focused on personality development.

In an atmosphere of serious learning, sustained fun, and entertainment during the course of the camp, participants braved the summer heat, came early as scheduled, maximized the use of time, enjoyed each other's company but most of all gave their best in each of the activity.

"I enjoyed a lot the educational trip to the Dinosaurs & Insects Museum and the Palestinian Heritage Museum as well as the swimming trip. I liked also the sports activities and the competition games where we learned to work as a team and how to be organized and systematic in the things we did. In general, the activities have taught me to be a better person and to behave properly, especially being with others." **George Zoughbi-Full Blossom Group**



Despite the hot temperature and the distance from the city center, participants never wanted to miss any day of the summer camp...

Drama, made the participants discover some hidden talents and creative skills that they have, as well as enabled them to overcome shyness and allowed them to feel comfortable with one's self and with one another...

"I enjoyed most of the activities in the camp especially the competition games and tele-match. We really had fun! Also, I have learned a lot from the drama sessions which enabled me to overcome my fear and limitation to communicate. I hope that next year the camp will last for a month."

Nada Sbeih - Youth Group



Challenge games and Sport activity, enhanced the participants' spirit of teamwork, agility, building stamina and coordination of body movements, resourcefulness and creativity...

"This is my second year of involvement as a PE instructor in the Pontifical Mission's summer camps. I considered this a wonderful experience, as participants of all ages went through variety of activities according to their age group's needs and interest. Participants invested their time and energy on useful and worthwhile activities such as sports and other physical exercises where I used to collaborate. What has called my attention in this camp was the organized schedule of activities that they have had, which were being followed punctually and executed efficiently."

Johnny Hazboun – Sport/PE Trainor

Educational-laden, personality-centered, participant-oriented and energy-driven activities, kept the participants always on the go as they maintained their energy level until the end of the day...



Values Formation /Personality Development sessions/Social & Emotional Training, affirmed the participants of the many positive values they uphold and tried to live by. Also a help for them to go deeper in their knowledge of self, as they sharpened some important social skills...

...Building personality...a bit of nature and a bit of nurture...



"I had a wonderful experience in the camp. We learned a lot in many aspects that I am very grateful to the following staff, facilitators and trainers: Ms. Nawal who was in charge of the drama sessions who taught us how to control ourselves, such as our feelings and movements. Mr. Adham and Mr. Akram from the Bible Society taught us how to be successful, how to listen to each other and how to plan for our future. Ms. Monnitte had taught us how to express ourselves in a proper way and how to go deeper in our knowledge of self. Ms. Sara had taught us how to face the challenges and obstacles in life. And the last but not the least, Ms. Sahar and Ms. Agnes who were very helpful, well organized and whose energy during the camp seemed overflowing and contaminating. I wished the duration of the camp had been longer."

Jood Khalifa-Youth Group



... some art sessions that tapped the creative potential which the participants enjoyed in camaraderie...



Varied educational activities tested the participants' learning capacity, as well as challenged and refreshed their memories of what they have learned in school which eventually made them enjoy what they were doing....



Unique personality comes out naturally...



Activities helped the participants explore and improve their personality marking them 'very positively' and making the experience pleasant and enjoyable...



"We were able to make new friends, enjoyed the whole time with them while going through the different activities and improved the way we communicate and relate with one another..." **Wadi' and Adam Al-Wahsh-Shining Star Group**



Participants striving to improve themselves... building self-esteem and self-confidence... being oneself...learning interpersonal skills... enhancing their listening and communication skills...



"All these activities have contributed positively, directly and indirectly to the development of each child's personality...They benefitted a lot from them, as they developed and improved their skills especially in arts, choral singing, storytelling, English & Arabic educational activities, physical education training, tele-match games, reading and comprehension, tracing of alphabets and matching the words with the pictures in English, etc."

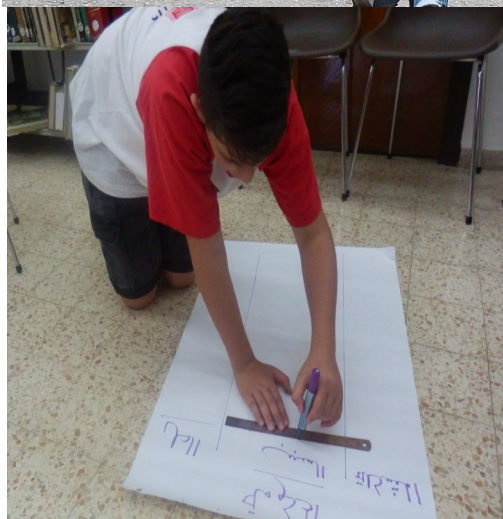
Ms. Sahar Zreineh - Staff

In general, they valued and appreciated the educational-laden, personality-centered, participant-oriented and energy-driven activities, which kept them always on the go maintaining their energy level until the end of the day.

During the days of the camp, use of their phones and other gadgets was minimized since they voluntarily entrusted their cell phones to any of the staff before the start of the first activity each day. Cellphones were used only during break time or when needed. This gave them the opportunity to engage more on inter-personal and inter-relationship encounters.

*You are not required to change your personality.
but to perfect it.*

Saint Pedro Poveda



*"I became more confident
of myself and grew in
awareness of the people
around me. We did enjoy
a lot in the camp..."*

**Seleen Jubran-Shining
Star Group**

*"I learned lots of things in
the camp which helped
me improve myself..."*

**Mira Gideon-Shining Star
Group**

Last Day Celebration of Each Group



Consciously and unconsciously, they worked on the improvement of their personality in the process as they responded actively and positively through the various activities offered to them daily. The activities have undoubtedly helped them in opening up, discovering more of themselves and others, appreciating the gift that they are and the others as well, developing their communication and social skills, enhancing their creative skills, also working on building up their psychomotor and physical strength, among many others.



Wrapping-up...



"Oh young people, valiant in arms, almost all-powerful, strength of the world... you can conquer the world no more, no less..."

St. Pedro Poveda



"Accept every one as he/she is, but you have to be as God wants you to be."

St. Pedro Poveda

"I learned how to listen to others in the camp. I suggest to make it longer though and introduce more English activities next time."

Mustafah Hasasneh – Shining star Group

"I have enjoyed a lot the drama session since I am a shy-type person. So far, it boosted my self-confidence, challenged my fear and helped me overcome my shyness."

Alex Twemeh—Youth Group

"I am very glad that I joined once again this year's summer camp. I met lots of different people some of whom I became friends with as we had great time together. I liked all the activities but the one I liked the most was the session on personality development in which I learned to be a better person."

Maria Handal—Full Blossom Group

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
YOUTH VOLUNTEERS !**

