

Junior Friends Conference
Middle School Friends Conference
June 16-21, 2019
We are Friends!

The 42nd conference week was held at the George School campus. This week is designed for children of members and attenders of Abington Quarterly Meeting and nearby Meetings as an opportunity to live in a community of Friends. The twenty-four Junior Friends Conference, six Middle School Friends Conference students and staff created a loving, friendly home away from home.

Our theme, "We are Friends!" was explored in classes and evening activities. We worked to create a Friendly intergenerational community of love and fun! We felt God's love surround us. Daily Meeting for Worship offered reflection time before an active day for both JFC and MSFC. We experienced thunder and rain, but it did not dampen our spirits.

JFC students enjoyed classes in religion (considering God's love), art (creating oobleck, crafts and drawing), great outdoors (exploring stewardship of earth and shelter building), and SPICES (discovering Friends testimonies). Everyone participated in sports and games and pool time. Each day offered small group time for relaxing, playing games and making friends.

The MSFC students began their week together with a Meeting for Worship for Business to consider the ways they would live together in a community of Friends. The students participated in a ropes course in which individuals attempted to meet personal goals with group support. They learned about recycling and facilitated a recyclable plastics activity with Junior Friends in which small groups created sailing vessels for a creek regatta.

The Faith and Leadership program included sessions that allowed students to explore living their lives as Friends. They built a Little Lending Library to be shared among Meetings in the Quarter. Their visit to Philadelphia incorporated a visit to the National Constitution Center, prompting conversations about leadership. The two students planned and offered Sports and Games activities and provided additional program supports.

The programs spent most evenings together. Activities included a campfire, Capture the Flag, square dancing and cooperative games with new friends, Carolyn and Jim, and a stupendous talent show. Caselli and Sterling of City Love visited us one evening. Students and staff composed lyrics for a song with the chorus of a song we all loved from last year: "Mix those SPICES all together. The world needs Quakers to make it better. A Quaker did that! A Quaker did that!"

Throughout the week children asked questions, offered thoughtful statements, played with enthusiasm, created works of art, told silly jokes and sang! The friendships made in this community last a lifetime. The counselors and staff provided loving care for the children. Their energy and enthusiasm keep JFC and MSFC going. Most were once campers and delight in passing on the traditions of the programs while adapting and creating new ones.

We received a note from Alice Wetherill noting that she was holding us in the Light, and were blessed by visits from Ruth Peterson, Tom Armstrong, and alumni staff: Aidan Sines (who helped build our campfire), Tyler Beaton, David Bartholomew, Rachel D'Angelo, Emily Agoglia, Matt Toto, and Ben Levan with wife, Rachel Peters. We are appreciative to the representatives from Monthly Meetings who helped to connect with families. We are grateful for Abington Quarter's financial and spiritual support.

With love,

Karen Shanoski
Director

Charlie Sines
Assistant Director

Stephanie Rushie
Operations Director

Joe Schatz
Programming Director

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Staff

Jason Lauts	Art Teacher
Justin Lauts	Assistant MSFC Manager
Jason LeVan	Faith and Leadership Co-Coordinator
Nia Lewis	Counselor Coordinator
Amelia Perkins	Faith and Leadership Co-Coordinator
Theo Procyson	Religion Teacher
Stephanie Hunt Rushie	Operations Director/First Aid
Joe Schatz	Program Director/First Aid
Kelsey Schwarzenbach	MSFC Manager
Karen Shanoski	Director
Holly Sdao	SPICES Teacher
Charlie Sines	Assistant Director
Evan Taylor	Great Outdoors

Counselors

JFC

- Group 1: Rachael Ennis, Sophia Perkins
- Group 2: Justin Adler, Sophia Dow, Cole Lewis, Manya Mrozinski,
- Group 3: Sarah Ennis, Owen Doran, Bess Goldstein, Kenan Sayers

MSFC

- Jacob Agoglia, Alexa Doran

Faith and Leadership

- Wesley Lanpher, Clay Lewis