

junior yearly meeting 2023 epistle

this week has been an amazing learning and growing experience for junior yearly meeting. we strengthened our bond as young quakers and made connections through fun experiences and new memories.

welcoming 10 new attendees this year to make a total of 23, on friday we set up our tents at our campsite, including a new light, couch, blanket filled add-on called the "chill zone" which was a big hit (thanks keenan!)

our keynote speakers faith and nora, who spoke wise words about quakerism, growing up quaker and celebration of being quaker resonated with many of us as youth.

we hosted a tie dye activity inviting the whole meeting and people made shirts, tank tops and socks.

our service project was in the mount madonna garden where we had the privilege to work directly with plants, hold chickens, make prayer arrows and learn more about the indigenous land that we are on, and harvest fruits and vegetables.

we played many fun games and community building activities and also spent time with each other in worship doing support groups and worship sharing.

loving linda, tender hearted tom and curious kitty led us in avp (alternatives to violence project) where we learned about blaming versus non blaming language and how to handle conflict.

we had an exciting excursion to the pool/water park where alma wowed us all with her belly flop skills and we spent time on water slides and in the pool escaping the heat.

respectful relations was led by a group of our current friendly adult presences and young adult friends.

we covered subjects like consent, communication and the factors of healthy relationships of all kinds.

afterwards we had an ice cream social with the YAFs playing board games, sharing stories and enjoying spending time together through this inter generational activity. we would have loved to enjoy the low ropes course with the YAFs as well, but unfortunately we were unable to find it and were later informed that it was nonexistent.

tuesday morning we reached consensus on our 2024 JYM committee welcoming nita and dale as our new co clerks of JYM along with our ministry and care consisting of aj, bitsy, sofia, maggie, ezra and aurora with the oversight of linus levi and ash as clerks of ministry and care.

later that evening we collaborated with the whole meeting to make masks for the dance. we had an amazing communal campfire followed by a thrilling dance. we did our best to stay up all night and were mostly successful.

overall throughout this week, we have gained new skills, friendships and memories that we are grateful for. we're looking forward to next year!

-junior yearly meeting epistle committee (agnita wright)