

Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative JYM Epistle 2017

July 28, 2017

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa! Junior Yearly Meeting met here again at Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Sessions from July 25-30. The week was a busy one, full of playing outside, swimming, farming, singing, laughing, and so much more.

We started the week with the daily worship we share with the greater Yearly Meeting, and then discussing this year's theme of "Building Bridges", as well as our own personal experiences with that. Later that day, we collaged our souls onto paper using National Geographic magazines donated to us by Scattergood School, and then put them on display for the rest of the Yearly Meeting to enjoy. We also that first day, had a very exciting ice cream adventure, where it rained so hard, we had to turn around as soon as we arrived at the store because it started to flood, and didn't manage to get ice cream until we made a return trip later that evening. That same evening, we went to a sing-along lead by Tom Rawson, a Friend from Seattle, who also came and did a workshop with us the next morning.

Over the week, we learned about Quakers all over the world, and then wrote letters to Quakers around our age living in Kenya in an effort to get to know them better, and build bridges of our own. Then we went swimming in the pond- an activity that was repeated multiple times over the week. That night, we drove to a movie theater in Iowa City, and watched films that we all enjoyed a lot. We also went to the Scattergood School Farm one morning to help harvest onions for our meals. We ate fresh pears and cherry tomatoes, interacted with sheep, pigs, and baby turkeys, and finally had a blast jumping around on top of freshly rolled hay bales.

We used pastels on the sidewalks of campus to draw the flags of countries all over the world, most importantly a half-Kenyan, half-American flag that we took a picture of to send to our Kenyan pen pals. One night, we had a campfire down by the Scattergood pond, where we swam, sang, told stories, and ate some delicious, sticky s'mores. On our last day, we took our annual trip to the Tipton Swimming Pool, where we enjoyed the water slides. We wrapped up the week by hosting the IYM(C) Talent Show.

Overall, our week was a blast, and we are looking forward to meeting again next summer 😊

In Friendship,

Chris, David, Rhyla, Gillie, Lucia, Liam, and Samuel

JYM Friends, IYM(C) 2017