

Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Young Friends Epistle 2018

7/28/2018

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from Scattergood Friends School and Farm in West Branch, Iowa! The Young Friends met here again at Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative sessions from 7/24-29, 2018. The week was a busy one, full of community building, swimming, farming, canoeing, eating ice cream, laughing and so much more.

Our week started with worship, for which we joined the greater yearly meeting every morning to center ourselves. Then we had a values auction, an activity where we wrote down a collection of values, and with a set amount of "money" had to decide which values were most important to each of us personally, represented by how much we were willing to spend. It was an interesting activity, both to learn more about each other, and as a self-reflection on our own values. Later that day, we reflected on this session's theme "Being Centered in an Uncentered World" as preparation for our *Young Friends Speak* video (inspired by Friends Journal's Quaker speak videos) that we filmed later in the week.

We went swimming at the Scattergood pond, diving off the pond's new wooden raft, and playing with plastic swans, especially after we discovered that their heads could be taken off. That evening, we played an enthralling game of capture the flag alongside Junior Yearly Meeting and IYMC Student Staff. We played until it was too dark to see. The following day, we went on our annual canoe trip, this time paddling almost 8 miles down the Maquoketa River. It was a relaxing trip, complete with a stop for oversized sandwiches on a sandbar. After the trip, we set up a projector in our Young Friends lounge and settled in for a movie night.

We worked all week on an extremely difficult, 890-piece 3D puzzle. Despite our struggles to finish the puzzle, it functioned as a great exercise in teamwork and patience. We also did some service for Scattergood School, helping dig potatoes at the Scattergood Farm. We had a campfire and s'mores at the pond with JYM that same evening. On our final day, we helped our Friend Mary Snyder with a Quaker time line, went on our annual trip to the Tipton swimming pool (and nearby Dairy Queen), and wrapped up our week with the IYMC Talent Show.

We digress, it was a jubilant and joyful week, and we look forward to meeting again next year!

In Friendship,

Rhyla, David, Chris, Reace, Emily and Thomas
IYMC Young Friends 2018