

JUNTOS



Youth For Unity

Joining & Understanding Now Teens Overcome Separation

JUNTOS Second Annual Youth Summit
July 24-26, 2009
Northern New Mexico College -El Rito Campus

Summary – August 2009



Prepared by:
Lori Heimdahl Gibson and Jenn Hanson Bartram

Summary:

The Second Annual JUNTOS Youth Summit was held at Northern New Mexico College – El Rito Campus on July 24th-26th, 2009. Twenty-four youth and nine adult chaperones participated in the three-day event. Half of the youth were experienced JUNTOS youth, and half were totally new to JUNTOS. This year's summit was planned and facilitated by youth. (A special thank you to Jo Zamora and Liz DeWitt-Vigil, our last year's adult facilitators, for meeting with this year's youth facilitators to help prepare for the summit.)

Twelve youth facilitators (see roster on page 12) took turns leading the weekend, starting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their participation. The youth leaders gave a history of JUNTOS, reviewed last year's summit, and presented the JUNTOS vision statement: "a youth-directed initiative to create a new future through unity, by embracing and valuing all people, communities, and cultures." The youth leaders then reviewed ground rules, campus rules, emergency information, what's in your packet, and the agenda. They then acknowledged other youth from Los Alamos, Española, Pojoaque, and Mesa Vista by asking them to stand and be recognized, and then introduced the adult JUNTOS volunteers/chaperones. The JUNTOS youth leaders spoke about why they joined JUNTOS and what the group means to them.

Youth from each community were divided into five different teams where they had an opportunity to get to know each other, dispel community myths and have authentic dialogue. JUNTOS youth facilitators guided their individual teams in a team naming exercise, development of their team's entertainment for the campfire, and a discussion of what they learned most from the youth summit. During the closing ceremony, youth from each team reported on what they liked the most, what was the most uncomfortable, what new thing they learned over the past two days and what they would do differently as a result of the summit.

Over the three-day event, all youth participated in summit activities including ice breakers, speakers, an art project, campfire, and action planning. Five speakers, Erwin Rivera and the three sisters from Ecuador, Claudia, Tatiana, and Tania Espinosa provided their unique cultural perspectives; Jessi Cross gave students some "tools" to deal with racism and prejudice. The youth each created a 12" X 12" section for the JUNTOS quilt art project and then worked in collaboration with their team mates to create a second, smaller quilt. Both quilts pictorially demonstrated what their communities would look like in harmony and/or in chaos.

During the closing ceremony, youth presented their art and explained that the quilts would be shown at different community sites over the next year. Both youth and adults participated in the action planning process where they brainstormed specific activities for JUNTOS to accomplish over the next year and different methods of recruitment.

Outcomes of the entire summit are included on the following pages.

Outcomes:

Ground Rules

- Treat everyone as equals
- Respect each other and the campus
- Be honest – have authentic dialogue
- Be considerate of time
- No side conversations/disruptions
- No cell phones or pagers on during sessions
- 100% participation
- Safety First – do not leave campus without permission
- Follow the rules and curfew
- No boys in girls rooms; no girls in boys rooms

Summit Expectations

- Establish a year plan (09-10) that is doable
- Create a concrete mission – tell our story – possibly through art quilts created at the summit
- Build concrete relationships
- Build political force by developing youth leaders
- Create awareness
- How to be agents for change in our communities
- Have fun and make new friends from other communities

Youth Teams

YELLOW – Lead by Youth Facilitators Tatiana Espinosa, Ariana Brown, KJ Juarez

Name: **7 Wonders**

Why we picked that name: Seven individuals, all different, come together to make a spectacular statement

What we want to accomplish: Artistic wonders.

What we want to overcome: Building friendships

Group Expectations: None listed.

PINK – Lead by Youth Facilitators **Viktorya Martinez, Tania Espinosa**

Name: **Pink Ladies**

Why we picked that name: Our team color is pink, and we are all ladies!

What we want to accomplish: Share feminine qualities; inspire others; bonding and coming together; building friendships; coming out of your comfort zone; build confidence; creating a positive and “incessant” change.

What we want to overcome: To help everyone overcome fear of the feminine side

Group Expectations: To break the barriers of racism, sexism and all-isms.

ORANGE – Lead by Youth Facilitators **Maneesha Chitvanis and Leandra Gallegos**

Name: **Pulp Free**

Why we picked that name: Get rid of the “pulp” – stereotypes, racism

What we want to accomplish: Cultures keeping the flames burning.

What we want to overcome: Stereotypes.

Group Expectations: Shoot for the sky.

GREEN – Lead by Youth Facilitators **Ben Schilling, Chris Armstrong, Claudia Espinosa**

Name: **SLAMME'**

Why we picked that name: Unique to the group (First letter of each name); represents each person.

What we want to accomplish: Spread the idea of JUNTOS; build stronger relationships; learn about other cultures.

What we want to overcome: Racism, stereotypes, separation, shyness,

Group Expectations: Learn how to deal with racism; get to know each other.

BLUE – Lead by Youth Facilitators Kayla Arnone and Cassandra Casius

Name: **Aquarius**

Why we picked that name: It is an astrology sign that represents a refreshing new start.

What we want to accomplish: Making new friends, spreading the word of JUNTOS, and bringing the communities together.

What we want to overcome: Fighting between communities, racism, and to be less anti-social towards other people and their cultures.

Group Expectations: None listed.



JUNTOS Youth arriving at NNMC's El Rito campus, Friday, July 24, 2009

Focus Question

“What do we need to do over the next year in order to sustain JUNTOS and break down the barriers toward creating an all inclusive community?”

Action Plan Brainstorming from each Team:

Team Aquarius:

- TV production class – make a video
- Radio, newspaper articles
- Flyers
- March together in LA parades (and other communities, too.)
- Mention JUNTOS at special events to spread the word
- Announce to younger students at the middle schools
- Tell friends and relatives

Pulp Free:

- Fundraise
- Have a social event every other month (Ex. – Dances)
- Get the word out. . .
 1. Word of mouth
 2. Sell JUNTOS to more youth
 3. More boys!
- Get rid of the art boards

SLAMME':

- Make sure meetings are interesting
- Youth driven
- Leader rankings
- Do more activities that relate to what JUNTOS is about.
- Offer college credit
- Guest speakers – Freedom Writer

Pink Ladies:

- More bonding activities
- Ice skating, skiing, hiking (SF or LA), hockey games (Friday 4 PM?)
- Community service for all the communities
- Start a conversation with someone new
- Do school/home exchanges again, more often. . . check school calendars
- Body language
- Blimp?
- Public service announcements
- Radio
- Invite people
- Make and take your flyers
- Big poster
- Ask friends

7 Wonders:

- Recruitment
- Fundraising
 1. Bake sales
 2. Auctions
 3. Car wash/Bash
 4. World famous chocolate bars
 5. Concession stand
 6. Host dance
- Advertising
 1. Activities – Dance, exchange, bowling, ice skating, swimming, lock-in
 2. Newspapers
 3. Present at schools
 4. Invite students with bad experiences
 5. Parades

Common Threads and Next Steps:

- Peggy Pendergast will get JUNTOS registered to participate in the Los Alamos Fair and Rodeo Parade on August 8, 2009 – Completed and very successful with 13 youth
- Ben Schilling (LAHS) will complete the small quilt.- Completed
- Dulce Avitia will lead the Española JUNTOS Team in planning our first fall activity in early October.
- Nadine Sanchez (LAHS) will write an article about the summit that will go in the SUN and Monitor.
- Jenn and Lori will follow up with grants; United Way and Kellogg Foundation, get the web site up to date, write the summit summary, and tie up loose ends.
- KJ Juarez (LAHS) will set up a JUNTOS Face book page.
- Viktorya Martinez (PVHS) has agreed to be our youth communicator for email and text messaging.
- The youth leaders will communicate during September to complete a more detailed plan for JUNTOS activities and events for the 2009-2010 school year.
- More information needed on racism and prejudice – skills in handling difficult situations.
- Better methods of getting the JUNTOS message out to more people.
- FUNDRAISE!
- Keep **youth** “driving” JUNTOS – adults use more duck tape over their mouths. :>)
- Keep learning about each other’s cultures.



Working on the Quilt



Game Time

Youth Teams Report Out -Closing Ceremony – (Repetitions are from the different teams)

What do you remember most about the past two days?

- Bonding with everyone
- Games
- Erwin's talks
- Games/meeting people
- Games
- Campfire
- Speakers
- Games
- Ice breakers
- Erwin
- Erwin's talk

What did you like best?

- Food
- Games
- Learning about each other
- Presentations
- Art project
- Campfire
- Dorms
- Free time
- Meeting new people
- Bonding with small group
- One-on-one conversations
- Building long-term relationships
- The speakers
- Talent show and skits at the campfire
- Games
- Piano playing by Nadine!

What was the most uncomfortable?

- Getting outside comfort zones
- Speaking/presenting
- Presenting
- Meeting new people
- Speaking out in front of new people
- Dancing
- Participating in action games – putting ourselves out there!
- Too much Cutting Hall and sitting
- Getting out of your comfort zone

What new thing did you learn over the past two days?

- Talking in front of people
- How to become a good leader
- Tools for handling racism
- Work with differences
- Team work
- Learned more about racism
- Up close and personal with Ecuador
- Pressures on teens
- Learned about people and their personalities
- S'mores!
- To be more open
- To be appreciative
- How to become a good leader

What is something different you will do as a result of participating in this summit?

- Be more open to different people
- Respect of others' differences
- Not judging others' appearances
- We will tell more people about the summit
- Will know how to handle racist remarks
- Be more open to different people and their cultures
- Spread the word to boost participation
- Remember that there are two sides to every person
- Will not judge based on appearance
- Be more open to different people

Additional Thoughts from the Youth

JUNTOS is:

- Making changes
- Acceptance of cultures
- Voice being heard
- Non-judgmental
- Respect of others
- Bridging cultural gaps
- Interaction with others not necessarily like you
- Accepting of others – no ignoring

Evaluations

Twenty-six people completed a youth summit evaluation; 24 youth, 2 adults. The majority of the items received a "Good" or "Excellent" rating. Interestingly, the campfire ratings were significantly lower than last years. We had a security issue (local youth trying to harass our group) during the campfire, of which not many youth were aware, and it rained. A few of the new youth were attending not of their own choice. "Game time" received the most "Excellent" ratings with

“Speakers”, “Art Project”, “Ice Breakers”, and “Youth Facilitators” coming in second, third, and tied for fourth, respectively.

	Poor 1	Fair 2	Good 3	Excellent 4
1. The youth facilitators		4	8	14
2. The over-all facility		1	12	13
3. The exercises				
• Ice breakers		2	10	14
• Naming your group/setting expectations		6	12	9
• Team entertainment for campfire		8	9	9
4. The speakers		4	5	17
5. The art project		3	8	15
6. Game time	1		6	19
7. Campfire time		5	13	8
8. The food		4	9	13
9. The dorm rooms		2	11	13
10. The meeting rooms	1	1	13	11

Evaluations (Continued)

What was your favorite part of the summit?

- Meeting and interacting with people
- Erwin! Meeting new people and getting close with them
- I didn’t have a favorite part. I liked all of it.
- Meeting new people and bonding with them
- Meeting new people from other schools and making new friends with them
- Game time
- I loved the presentation on Ecuador and the tutorial on how to dance. I also really enjoyed Erwin and his ending speech.
- The games cuz they were fun.
- My favorite part of the summit was the games and ice breakers.
- The quilt and meeting new people
- Meeting new nice people. . I really didn’t get to meet all of them, but the ones that I did meet were Maneesha and Nadine and Claudia and Kayla and Lilly.
- Helping with the summit. . .meeting new people. . .working in teams. . .spending time with friends. . .knowing about the culture of each school. . .learning to work with different people
- Everything. The part of talking was a little bit boring.

- Bonding with everyone
- The games and movement. The presentation of the sisters.
- The time we got to ourselves on Friday. When our curfew was 12 because it was just cool and fun.
- Campfire
- Erwin! His speech and presentation was very powerful!
- The games
- Meeting new people, learning about them, and learning about myself
- That we made new friends through this summit
- The games
- I liked what Erwin had to say.
- I liked the entire summit, but I liked free time the most. It helped me bond with new people.
- My favorite part of the summit was watching everyone enjoying themselves. It was clear that the only thing in their mind was having fun . . . really cool to see.

What is one thing you would change?

- Nothing. . . no changes recommended
- Wake up times
- Get more of the kids involved in the groups
- The time we have to wake up. . . make it later
- I would change the fact that I went to bed at 4:00 in the morning!
- More games and think that's it
- The thing that I would change would be to make the camp longer.
- I really enjoyed everything. Maybe more one-on-one with people from different schools.
- Make the camp longer
- One thing I would change is the low numbers of people.
- Add more games between each activity
- Maybe TVs in the dorms, but if you couldn't do that, maybe let us watch TV at night in the TV room.
- Nothing
- Too much talk
- I'd probably make it longer.
- Make the facilitators more enthusiastic and active
- Make it more fun and do more outdoors stuff. .. not so many presentations, because it felt like school. It was supposed to be like a camp, but it felt boring.
- Checking dorms. . .a few were very messy or shabby
- Nothing. . . everything was excellent
- Nothing!!
- Have more games
- Make the campfire better
- The time that we woke up. It should be later. I think that Peggy's nasty attitude should change.
- I would want the summit longer than a weekend.

- I would change the small group work. Sometimes people just seemed uninterested and didn't want to contribute.

If this event is held next year what would you do differently? What would you like to see?

- Not a thing. .. everything was great. The youth directed program/format was excellent!!
- More interesting or interactive speakers
- Ways kids can be part of what's happening
- I would like to see more people.
- I would want it to be longer.
- More people and have it longer
- I would not have long speeches. I would like to see more kids come.
- More enthusiasm at the campfire . . . other than that, just continue having inspirational speakers.
- I don't know.
- I would like it to be longer with more people and more speakers.
- I wouldn't do anything different. I would like to see a little more participation from us kids.
- I would like to see all of my new friends that I made over the weekend . . . no changes.
- More time in the summit . . . more people. . . more participation
- More games and more days
- I would probably like to do more active activities.
- More days. . . more people
- I would like to see more "funner" things and less meetings and more get dirty and what not.
- Same place
- I would do more games rather than the same one over and I would love Erwin to come again.
- Everything was good! Yes sir!
- Overall, a longer summit
- I would like to see more people.
- I would like to see more people.
- I think I will not come next year.
- I would have it for a week instead of a weekend.
- I would love to see more people and 24/7, full participation from everyone here! It was fun tho!!

Attendees:

Adult Art Facilitator: Jessi Cross, Art Therapist

Speakers: Adults - Erwin Rivera and Jessi Cross; Youth - Claudia Espinosa, Tatiana Espinosa, Tania Espinosa

Youth Facilitators: Viktorya Martinez (PVHS), Maneesha Chitvanis (LAHS Grad), Tatiana Espinosa (PVHS), Ariana Brown (LAHS), KJ Juarez (LAHS), Tania Espinosa (PVHS), Leandra Gallegos (EVHS), Ben Schilling (LAHS), Chris Armstrong (LAHS), Kayla Arnone (LAHS Grad.), Cassandra Casias (EVHS), Claudia Espinosa (NNMC)

Youth: Jesse Lewis (EVHS), Lilly Martinez (MVHS), Shannon Vigil (EVHS), Nadine Sanchez (LAHS), Tiffany Herrera (EVHS), Kendall Lujan (PVHS), Josh Martinez (LAHS), Izzy Martinez (CFVMS), Kyle Ortiz (EVHS), Tiana Jazquez (EVHS), Kayla Martinez (LAHS), Vangie Solis (LAHS)

Adults: Jenn Hanson Bartram, Peggy Pendergast, Diana Martinez, Mark Martinez, Erwin Rivera, Jessi Cross, Myriam Aguirre, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Michael Lapcevic



JUNTOS Quilt



JUNTOS Team Quilt