



**JUNTOS Youth Summit
May 28-29
Northern New Mexico College
El Rito Campus**

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

June 2008

Prepared by:



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Introduction

The First Annual JUNTOS Youth Summit was held at Northern New Mexico College – El Rito Campus on May 28th-29th, 2008. Over 30 youth and 20 adult chaperones participated in the two-day event.

Lori Heimdahl Gibson kicked off the summit by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their participation. Jo Zamora, summit facilitator, reviewed ground rules, housekeeping items and the agenda. She then acknowledged youth from Los Alamos, Española, and Pojoaque by asking them to stand and be recognized. The JUNTOS youth facilitators then spoke about why they joined JUNTOS and what the group meant to them.

Youth from each community were divided into 5 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 team entertainment for campfire and a discussion of what they remembered most about 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 two-day event, all youth participated in summit activities including ice breakers, speakers, an art project, campfire, and action planning. Four speakers, Georgia Strickfaden, Dr. Jose Griego, Erwin Rivera and Miguel Santistevan provided their unique cultural perspectives. Youth were paired up for the art project and asked to create “art boards” that pictorially demonstrated what their communities would look like in harmony and in chaos. Youth were instructed to include the words, “Peace Maker” and “JUNTOS” on their art boards. During the closing ceremony, youth presented their art and explained that the boards would be shown at different community events 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. Specific steps and expected outcomes were outlined on a one year calendar.

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

Outcomes

Ground Rules

- Treat everyone as equals
- Respect each other
- Be honest
- Be considerate of time
- No side conversations/disruptions
- No cell phones or pagers

- 100% participation
- Safety First

Summit Expectations

- Establish a year plan (08-09) that is doable
- Create a concrete mission – tell our story – possibly through art boards 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

Youth Teams

YELLOW – Lead by Youth Facilitators Dulce Avitia and Maneesha Chitanvis

Name: **The Bees**

Why we picked that name: Pollination – helping communities, pollinating the world one community at a time. Bees are almost going extinct. Team leaders, so we are in small numbers so we are trying to make a big difference.

What we want to accomplish: Understanding, getting the word out.

What we want to overcome: Rivalry, putting it aside.

Group Expectations: Break down barriers for those willing, more numbers/more communities, getting the word out to all communities, getting a better understanding of other cultures, getting to experience cultures, introduced to new ideas/explore.

PINK – Lead by Youth Facilitators Chloe Kuntz-Phillips and Chris Shamy

Name: **Pink Eye**

Why we picked that name: Cool, awesome, random, we are the pink team, watch out for each other.

What we want to accomplish: Become a better leader, become stronger people together, mutual respect and understanding, learn about JUNTOS, how we can make it better.

What we want to overcome: Discomfort with Hispanic community, inherited bias and attitudes, speaking out in uncomfortable situations.

Group Expectations: None listed

ORANGE – Lead by Youth Facilitators Jeremy Kasik and Maria Tapia

Name: **Team Fanta**

Why we picked that name: We are refreshing and we go down smooth and orange.

What we want to accomplish: Friendship, peace, parents made me, exposure to culture and history.

What we want to overcome: Stereotypes, in-group bias, getting to know others, step outside of comfort zone.

Group Expectations: One community, positive competition, equality, authentic dialogue.

GREEN – Lead by Youth Facilitators Asli Unal and Viktorya Martinez

Name: **The Incredible Hulks**

Why we picked that name: We are strong, we are green, we let nothing get in our way, you don't want to make us mad!

What we want to accomplish: Be better leaders, show us that we are all equal, be able to talk to you, make new friends, recognize your own stereotypes.

What we want to overcome: Overcome comfort zone, embrace our differences, 100% participation, overcome judgments.

Group Expectations: None listed

BLUE – Lead by Youth Facilitators Nat Gustafson and Andrew Vierra

Name: **Pojakamos (Our mascot is the Girrafasaurus)**

Why we picked that name: Our group consisted on students from LA and Pojoaque so we combined the two.

What we want to accomplish: We want to meet new people and the JUNTOS mission statement.

What we want to overcome: Public speaking and making judgments.

Group Expectations: To have fun and learn a lot through overcoming stereotypes and expanding our comfort zone.

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

| Team | Title | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Expected Outcome |
|---|--------------------------|------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|-----|---|--|--|--|-----|---|---|
| 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | | | | |
| Owners: Erwin, Cedric Youth: Renee, Dalton, Celestina | Education | | Youth leadership conference July 24-27 (present and learn) | Student-lead parent workshops <i>Child care and food made available</i> | Educational Tools -Web site -Fwds-text -JUNTOS my space page | | | Another race and white privilege workshop for parents and youth | Go speak to legislature about support for JUNTOS | Go speak to legislature about support for JUNTOS | Go speak to legislature about support for JUNTOS | | Annual JUNTOS Youth Summit 1 week | More youth involved More parents involved More cultural competency |
| Owners: Phil, Diane, Janelle Youth: Dulce, Tia, Kat, Tim, Reyanna, Asleigh, Amber, Antonio, Andrew | Publicity | | Radio talk shows Begin film project w/Diego Lopez | Copyright “JUNTOS” Start movie theater ads | Information ready for pamphlets Printed pamphlets ready Letters to the editor | Com-mercialize JUNTOS via You Tube | | | | | | | | May 2009 fully functional web site Significant increase in size |
| Owners: Mr. L, Armando Youth: Maria, Viktorya, Asli, Brandon, Vanessa, Frank, Rena, Kayla | Bond with Schools | | | In house recruitment at schools | Have detailed schedule for presentations | | | | | | | | To have a coordinated plan for the student exchange | To present JUNTOS to all schools at least once Yearly recruitment in our own schools Form a plan to present school exchange program |

| Team | Title | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Expected Outcome |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | 2008 | | | | | | | 2009 | | | | | |
| Owners: Marcella, Maricio Youth: Nat, Shamy, Andrew V., Zach | Community Outreach | Los Alamos Chamber Fest (adults) Hang out together in all communities and meet friends (ongoing) | Espanola Fiesta Parade | Making a community survey | | | | Los Alamos and Espanola light parades | Present survey to city council and school boards | | | Creativity for peace | Work with Habitat for Humanity | Raise awareness about community conditions |
| Owners: Sharon, Min Youth: Jeremy, Chloe, Craig | JUNTOS Infrastructure | | Lessons learned | | | Developed governing board with youth and adults | Developing strategy and business fund to provide for program and staff | | | | | | | Raise \$50K |

Youth Teams Report Out (Closing Ceremony)

What do you remember most about the past two days?

- People we met
- Art project
- Campfire
- Experience of evolving to become more open
- Presentations
- Campfire
- Ice Breakers
- The camp fire/skits
- Amazing participation (100%)
- Lots of fun
- More comfortable with different communities
- Strength of youth at the summit
- Campfire – group presentations
- Cheese and crackers at 11pm
- All the different presentations (Dr. Griego, Mr. Santistevan, Mrs. Strickfaden, Mr. Rivera)
- Art projects
- Los Alamos' undefeated season at foosball!

What did you like best?

- Food
- Location
- Everyone participated
- Campfire
- The Blue Team and facilitators
- Good food
- Everyone participated
- Presentations
- Location
- Learned a lot of people think the same
- Learned not to judge
- Learn to listen
- Art
- Miguel on agriculture!
- Painting project (Thanks Val!)
- Campfire (entertainment and s'mores)
- Art projects
- Campfire
- Guest speakers

What was the most uncomfortable?

- Speaking/presenting
- Hiding weapons/rubbing butts with people you don't know

- Overall conversation of differences
- Being in teams at first
- Being with our rivals
- Presenting to the group
- Wake up early
- Uncomfortable in teams at first
- Needed more “break-like” game activities
- Not so many activities in a short time
- Longer
- Many people with their own voices don’t bother to listen
- Learn more about individual
- Feeling forced to interact with people you don’t know
- Speaking in front of the group
- Feeling “spotlight effect”
- Answering questions
- Embarrassing ourselves at campfire with “the seasons”
- Presenting in front of everyone

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

- History of Los Alamos
- Process of action plan
- Change takes time
- People you don’t know can be really cool
- Acknowledging different perspectives
- Surviving without cell phones
- Learned a lot of people think the same
- Learned not to judge
- Learned to listen
- To respect others (don’t judge a book by its cover)
- Don’t judge (rumors, appearance)
- Be open
- Speak out
- You can have fun with people you don’t really know
- We can make a difference
- We are really pretty similar
- Genetic engineering = rape
- History of Los Alamos (Ashley Pond named after Mr. Pond)
- We are all the same
- Boundaries can be broken!

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

- Talk to more people
- Don’t judge people by their covers
- Stand up for other communities
- Recruit, bring a friend

- Plant a seed!!!
- Being able to talk to someone you don't know
- Making friends with enemies (rivals)
- Think!!
- More open, take a leader role
- More open to Hispanic community
- Think critically before you act
- Tell people about JUNTOS!
- Make "JUNTOS" a household word
- Stand up for what you know is right
- Follow through with the action plans that we came up with as a group to continue JUNTOS and to continue breaking the barriers. "We are the Change"

Campfire Thoughts

- Desire to learn fact from fiction
- Talking about tough stuff; comforting, challenging, open minded, positive, honest, invigorated

Evaluations

21 people completed a youth summit evaluation. Not all items received a rating. The majority of the items received a "Good" or "Excellent" rating with only the dorm rooms receiving four "Fair" ratings. The adult facilitators were the only items to receive all "Excellent" ratings. The second and third highest ratings were the art project, receiving twenty "Excellent" ratings and the youth facilitators receiving nineteen "Excellent" ratings respectively.

| | Poor 1 | Fair 2 | Good 3 | Excellent 4 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. The youth facilitators | | | 1 | 19 |
| 2. The adult facilitators | | | | 21 |
| 3. The exercises | | | | |
| • Ice breakers | | | 6 | 14 |
| • Naming your group/setting expectations | | | 8 | 12 |
| • Team entertainment for campfire | | | 4 | 16 |
| 4. The speakers | | | 4 | 17 |
| 5. The art project | | | 1 | 20 |
| 6. Game time | | | 5 | 15 |
| 7. Campfire time | | | 3 | 17 |
| 8. The food | | | 8 | 13 |
| 9. The dorm rooms | | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 10. The meeting rooms | | | 9 | 12 |

Evaluations (Continued)

What was your favorite part of the summit?

- My favorite part of this retreat was the different teams.
- Experience – the ability to begin to break down the barriers between communities.
- Campfire
- Making new friends
- Being able to go with a smile and lots of new things
- Campfire
- The speakers and youth facilitators
- When we painted those long boards
- The campfire was excellent, I will always remember it
- Art, getting together, campfire
- Meeting new people, campfire
- Art!
- Seeing the youth group excited/committed about our journey
- My favorite part was just getting to know everybody
- The youth
- Campfire
- Action planning
- The campfire and the games we played
- Just getting the opportunity to work with brilliant minds that will help each other for a better future
- All of it

What is one thing you would change?

- I would change the room size!
- Schedule – always seemed short on time. Don't try to fit in so much at one time.
- More speakers
- Nothing
- Nothing – everything was perfect
- Talk to people I never would have talked to
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing, I had a great time
- 3 days-one for discussion, and 2 for extra activities/fund activities, games, etc.
- More fun activities, meeting more groups
- Pace – more physical activities and games
- Not much
- Nothing
- Add a third day
- Food
- The dorm rooms should be bigger
- That there would be one more day to fit some exercise and more rest into the schedule
- The lack of phone service

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

- I would like to see more art work projects.
- More food!
- More time – 1 week
- Would participate next year if event is held again
- More students and more adults would be great
- More youth
- I think they did a good job!!!
- I would like to see it be a few more days longer
- More fun activities and another different location (El Rito was nice though)
- Another location (for variety), more bonding between groups, longer (3 days), less planning, more laid back
- Little bit more time to discuss/plan action items
- Just a longer stay
- Youth presenters, more leadership development training, more music and movies with a positive message or lessons
- More people
- 2-3 days
- I would talk more and meet even more people
- One more day
- Same things, twice as many people

Attendees:

Adult Facilitators: Josephine (Jo) Zamora and Elizabeth (Liz) DeWitt-Vigil
Valerie (Val) Carpenter – Art Project

Speakers: Georgia Strickfaden, Dr. Jose Griego, Erwin Rivera, Miguel Santistevan

Youth Facilitators: Dulce Avitia, Chris Shamy, Maria Tapia, Viktorya Martinez, Maneesha Chitanvis, Chloe Kuntz-Phillips, Jeremy Kasik, Asli Unal, Nat Gustafson, Andrew Vierra

Youth: Brandon Aragon Carter, Zach Fresquez, Rena Aquilar, Vanessa Duran, Tim Cowan, Kat Martinez, Renee Chavez, Bryanna Ellis, Andrew Garcia, Amber Gomez, Celestina Martinez, Ashleigh Muller, Frank Naranjo, Antonio Padilla, Shanee Sanchez, Reyana Segovia, Dalton Torrez, Kayla Arnone, Tia Carmichael, Craig Girrens, Eileen Kysar

Adults: Robert Gibson, Diane Touns, Lynn Finnegan, Phil Lucero, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Marcella Sandoval, Janelle Vigil-Maestas, Maurice de Segovia, Min Park, Armando Rodriguez, Laura Lopez, Patricio Chavez, Shawna Chavez, Donna Schroeder, Lindsay Milligan, Ben Sandoval, Nikki Harnish, Sharon Stover, Michael Lapcevic, Cedric Page, Debbie Gill, Andrea Maestas