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Camp Galaxy Takes on Climate Change in 2023

This year 60 children including 12 Junior Counselors participated in AGPA's Camp Galaxy 2023. Our goal - Climate Change. It was a remarkable day. The AGPA Team included Psychologists, Mental Health Professionals, and Senior Teachers. Thanks to the funding support of Heartfelt Wings Foundation, the children who come from the five boroughs of NY had the opportunity to see each other again and be in the company of other military children.

The children were thrilled with the activities and as reflected in their responses learned a great deal about addressing Climate Change. They were divided into six groups representing the six Biomes – Rain Forest, Ocean, Desert, Savanna-Grassland, Arctic and Deciduous Forest. They started off in groups with leaders sharing pictures and information of animals, climate, vegetation etc. in their Biome. They then created a Biome Flag that they carried throughout the day and explained in detail in the final group ceremony. In the course of the day they made and raced wind powered cars using balloons; created their own Terrariums; set up a tank of water with rubber fish etc., polluted it with oil, cocoa, and plastic, etc, then emptied it and cleaned all of the sea-life.

They played concentration with cards depicting pollutants as Super Villains. They played Ga-Ga ball, participated in a timed-competition with remote trucks that had to be filled with logs and taken to a location where they had to build a log cabin as fast as possible. They created individual dioramas they could keep reflecting the plants, animals and weather of their Biome. In addition to relay races, the final activity was for each group to build an "Off the Grid House" taking into account the need for water, food, toilets, protection, and climate extremes of their Biome etc. They were simply remarkable and their presentations to the entire group really reflected what they had learned and the fun they had in the process.

The 106 Rescue Squad from the Commander to Family Center Staff and the servicemen supporting us-joined us to express their gratitude for The Outreach of the American Group Psychotherapy Association which has brought them Camp Galaxy for 12 years.

Special thanks to our generous donor-Heartfelt Wings Foundation, a remarkable volunteer team, the members of the 106th Family Readiness Center and the back-up of AGPA. We took another step toward building positive memories and connections for military children.

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