

Travel Log – Around the World in Five Days, UUCUC Camp 2017

Once again, I survived another week long, all day camp, in the 90-degree weather, with 24 excited campers, and a wonderful group of volunteers. Here is a brief review of the week:

Monday - We began with making passports and introductions, and learning about principles, being kind, and that each person is important. Then we took off for London, England in our make shift airplane complete with first class and boarding passes. Each passenger even had their own pillow made from plastic bubble pillows (formerly used as packing material). Each pillow was complete with a cover of soft fleece designed by Anne Sharpe. Snacks were served while pilot Dave Stangl flew us over the ocean, complete with sound effects. Once we were in London, we flew our own basal wood planes outside. The afternoon brought many England inspired activities, such as a gathering of girls vying for the prize at Fashion Week, some went to the palace to see if they could make the guards laugh, and some made a crown like the queen and king. Real scones were served as a snack. We even created our own version of Big Ben.

Tuesday - The morning project began with quiet coloring of mandalas. We then read about people of India and the Holi festival, a time of welcoming Spring and sending away evil spirits. We also learned how Diwali lamps are made for the festival of light. We watched a short film about how children live in India. Then we dressed in oversized t-shirts, sunglasses and headed outside for our own Holi Festival. The tossing of dry paint was quite fun! We were covered in paint of all assorted colors, ultimately having a fun time! (See pictures are posted on the R.E. bulletin board). After lunch, we made our own Dali lamps, full of rich colors and shapes. Our afternoon snack was Naan bread and butter.

Wednesday - Today we travelled by hot air balloon to the lovely city of Paris, France. The principle of focus was how we learn from each other. Our morning project was constructing a tower with spaghetti and marshmallows. It was fun but frustrating. To simulate a hot balloon, we flew and dropped little parachute men from the sky. In the afternoon, we visited the Louvre Museum with several paintings by famous artists. Then it was our turn to create pictures with different types of paint. We could have filled our own museum with all the creations. Campers also had an opportunity to make a masquerade mask just like they wear at great French balls. We completed the day with baguettes and cheese.

Thursday - This morning began with a visit from environmental engineer Mary Foltz, since one of our principles for the day was, how we care for our planet. She shared about the water filter system, since China is one country that has water problems. We shared about China, the Chinese New Year, and of course the Chinese Carnival with dragons, fun, games, good food, new clothes and being with friends. We had our own carnival, complete with booths of games, prize tickets, fruit snacks, ring tosses, and of course, carnival prizes and games with the moving dragons we made in morning. The best part was a bounce house obstacle course!

Friday – By the last day, we were all tired. We took the day slow. We searched for the truth, as we travelled to Boston, Massachusetts, to visit the historical sites of UUism. Along the way we planted some wildflowers, watch for them sprouting in the back-church yard, we also had a potato sack race, and appreciated the stories by Rev. Joanne, who served as our tour guide. The day was hot, so we ended the day with a water balloon match. We needed more balloons and more time.

Every day at lunch, we loved playing games after our meal. Chess was a favorite. Leader Julian Barbieri would take on a player and others would watch the match and wait for a turn. Ultimately, all had a week of fun and learning and campers said they had a great time.

A special Thank You to the following who helped make the week-long camp happen again for the fifth year: Leading everyday were Julian Barbieri and Sarah Kimme. Volunteers during the week were Dave Stangl, Beth Cobb, Karen Folk, Marcy Joncich, Mary Foltz, Elly Peirson, and Joanne Giannino. Special thanks to Ralph Dady who came and helped clean up every day.