

THE MISSION TIMES

Mission Possible

Arizona 4-H Teen Leadership Conference

June 15-19, 2009

First Impressions

By Riley Marsh

Mission: Possible JOLT 2009 started out with a stream of enthusiastic campers registering for a week of leadership. During introductions, the disguised staff members emerged randomly from various points in the audience. The agent's disguises ranged from an eye patch to mustaches to hiding in safes and closets. Everyone was then sent to the gym for some mixers. Games ranging from The Captain is Coming to Pictionary broke the ice. Once everyone was comfortable, orientation began to explain the Negotiable and Non-Negotiable. After a scavenger hunt to get to know the grounds, everyone broke up into their Involvement Committees to begin their leadership training.

Terey Time

By Hope Goimarac

TV star, professional theatre regular, potential talk show host, orchestra creator, and a nerd in disguise—a combination not usually expected in a bright pink sweater, striped dress, and fuzzy brown hair. The master of public humiliation with a smile, Terey Summers could easily come off as pure entertainment and comedy. Fluffing her hair and flirting with the audience at the same time, she calmly calls her volunteer's bluffs, not afraid to label somebody as embarrassed or intimidated. I was sincerely puzzled as to her claim to motivation, especially when she morphed into Eunice. Eunice at first appeared to be a diversion, an act from her comedy routine. However, this fictional character was a crystal clear metaphor to the roller coaster ride of



acceptance, the bravado and passions of a misfit. Right about the time Terry started singing, her whole motive became clear. In the words of Eunice herself, "You can do it! You can do it! You can do it, Baby!" The thesis of her speech was also relayed as she said in her conclusion, "You can fly. You know who you are, baby. You can fly. Nobody can hold me down; you can be what you want to be. I'm going to love me as I am. I can fly. I'm going to love me as I am."

Into the IC groups

Drama IC

By Hannah Obele

In the JOLT leadership camp, there are many programs. One of them is called drama. In this I.C. they come up with a play and perform it at the end of the week for all the other campers to enjoy. This year at Jolt, the drama team is doing skits based on the famous poetry book "Where the Sidewalk Ends". In this book, there are many little poems that all have different meanings. A girl name Michaela said, "The poems in the

book are humorous but my favorite has to be My Hobbies." My Hobbies is about a person who talks about his love for spiting off buildings and then having it landing on the other town folk below. Some people weren't quite sure about this type of a play like Madison, another camper who said, "I thought it was weird but when I read the script it was cool." I hope all the campers of JOLT 2009 and future campers find that drama is an exciting and fun way to interact, make friends, and just be you.

PR & Marketing IC:

By Hanna Price

The PR and marketing group is led by youth staff leader Dana Dobbins. The PR and Marketing IC is in charge of getting letters out to all the counties in Arizona telling them about JOLT. They are also doing a *You Tube* video to promote JOLT for next year. Dobbins says that "When in this IC you are creating leadership, by having to take on responsibility or by having to let go and delegate a responsibility." They have been working hard all week taking pictures video taping all the events and

interviewing. When asked, Dobbins says “that it’s exciting to be able to work with the new technology”. Let’s give PR and Marketing a round of applause for all their work!

Playfaire IC:

By Amanda Johnston

The Playfaire IC’s purpose is to learn how to work together and to be a team. Playfaire is lead by Eric Johnston. It teaches you how to have great sportsmanship when you are together in a team or group. The youth involved can accomplish this by working together, coming up with new activities they would do and after they did an activity they would analyze what they learned and what they could do better as a group. Some activities that the youth in this IC came up with to share with the camp are Helium Stick, Gutter Ball, Golf Ladder, and Chuck the Chicken. In Helium Stick they use a light weight stick that they have to try to get to the ground using only one of their fingers. If they don’t work as a team they found out that the force of gravity will lift it out of their hands so they have no control over the stick. They found out that there is no way to accomplish this unless working together. In this they realize that it was hard to accomplish if they didn’t have a plan. Gutter Ball is where they are given enough pieces of eight inch pipe to reach ten feet and through they try to get a marble or water about fifteen to twenty feet, to the other end. Golf Ladder is where you use two golf balls that are connected by a rope that you then throw to catch it on a pipe. This activity teaches sportsmanship through competition. Playfaire involves thinking outside the box. Chuck the Chicken is a game in which you have a rubber chicken and two teams. The first team throws the chicken and while the other team is retrieving it the first team has one player running laps around the circle.

The first team to the said amount of points wins.

The following is what some of the participants had to say:

-You get to play games and you learn leadership skills. ~ Catie Grube

-It’s a challenge because you have to come up with your own game or activity for everyone in the camp. It’s cool and amazing. ~ Raven Honga

-You learn new games. It’s totally the best. ~ Shane Bramblett

News and Views:

By Katie Haas

Led by Ashley Elrod and Riley Marsh “News and Views” worked hard on the “Mission Times”. With Katie Haas as paper editor, Hanna Price as layout editor, and the rest helping with photo editing, we used our free time to take pictures, write, and edit. The following people wrote articles: “Terey Times” and “Talent Show” were covered by Hope Goimarac, “First Impressions” by Riley Marsh, “Team Building” by Savannah Leslie, Luis Teran wrote about the “Challenges”, Heath Johnson covered the campers opinions on “Mission Possible”, Hanna Price covered the 2010 Staff Elections, John Alder covered the New Mexico Dips, and Noble Tanenhaus took opinions on the “Ice Cream Social”. IC presentations were reported by Hannah Obele, Josh Henson, Katie Haas, Amanda Johnston, Michelle Soto, and Hanna Price.

Entertainment IC

By Luis Teran

The Entertainment Involvement Committee is about preparing for the JOLT social events. It is their priority to get everything ready for the talent show and the dances. According to Alex Duke, who is in charge of this IC, says that teamwork and growing as a group is essential in order to produce events that are “entertaining” for all the participants. As a team, the

entertainment group work together to decorate for the events and host them. They all contribute with their own creative ideas and combine them together to make a magnificent setting. This group has a great responsibility to make these events fun and appropriate for all campers. Alex Duke says, “The Entertainment IC makes dances so that JOLT-ers can mingle with each other.” The first dance is on Tuesday, it is done so people can get more comfortable with each other and get the chance to meet people. The second dance is on Thursday and it is more like a good-bye dance. Without the Entertainment IC people would not get the chance to interact with other campers like they are able to do at the social events put on by this IC.

Teen Beat IC

By Josh Henson

Teen beat is about helping teens understand some of the negative influences that are around them in every day life. They want teens to give their opinion about these subjects, and then give each other a different out look on the same subject. The main objective of this IC is to keep kids out of bad situations that are around them. So, to make it more enjoyable, they made up a jeopardy game. Their objective was to help teens make healthier decisions, during their lives, when faced with possible risky behaviors. We were separated by ICs and had to make decisions about the questions. In addition to having fun, we learned how to avoid some risky situations.

Team Building

By Savannah Leslie

With nearly one hundred teens attending the J.O.L.T. leadership camp, forming strong bonds of teamwork and trust with new people was a challenge within itself. On the second day of camp, we gathered and

were put into groups which we were told would be our teams for the upcoming challenge night. When a team is formed, one of the crucial elements to begin with right from the start is team building; which is why we were given the challenge to build a bridge out of newspapers and twelve feet of tape-without talking to each other. Not only did the bridge have to be able to stand by itself and be at least thirty inches long, it had to be tall enough for a bucket to fit under it and had to support a small pile of books. Although not all the teams were successful, we all discovered how to work together as a team and found what our strengths and weaknesses were.

The next morning, we were put in our groups again and participated in a variety of trust-building activities. We started by pairing up with a partner and learning the principles of a simple trust-fall. We then gathered in groups of 10 and performed trust falls within the circle, gently passing the person in the middle to different people in the circle. After doing a few other activities, we rotated to the ladder station-where one person would climb up to five rungs on the ladder and trust-fall into the team supporting them below. Even though we all came together as a new team, where many of us had never met before this point, we were able to put our trust and safety into the hands of our team members below waiting to catch us as we fell.

Talent Show

By: Hope Goimarac

Started by the MCs Sonora Cubillas and Sean Burton, the talent show was “a rainbow, with so many different things, it was surprising,” said first-time camper Heath Johnson. As described by Melody Skiver “completely entertaining, and my hat’s off to all the brave souls who

entered the stage for our entertainment.” The participants were:

- **Entertainment**, dancing (and falling) to *YMCA* by the Village People
- **Abby Economidas**, who clogged to *Black Horse and the Cherry Tree*
- **Zackary James and Garrett Murphy** playing electric and acoustic guitar
- The **NM DIPS**, who performed to *Love Shack*
- **Angela Peterson**, miming a skit
- The **Youth Staff girls**, who sang to Shania Twain’s *That Don’t Impress Me Much*
- **Emily Porter**, singing ocapello to Taylor Swift’s *You Belong With Me*
- **Adjabah James and Carmen Herron** got the crowd to sing to Cher’s *Believe*
- The **Graham County Girls** sang *YMCA* by the Village People with the crowd
- The entire **Youth staff**, with Lifehouse’s *Hanging in a Moment*
- **Johanna Staton** played the piano
- **Garrett Murphy** played the pirate freecreditreport.com theme song
- **Sonora Cubillas** sang Brooks and Dunn’s *Boot Scoot Boogie*
- **Alex and Christian Duke** performed *I’m Not Crying* as created by the Flight of the Concorde

Challenges

By: Luis Teran

On Wednesday, campers got the chance to separate into groups to complete difficult challenges. To get through these challenges you needed teamwork, trust in your co-workers, perseverance and skill. There were six

teams with about fourteen people in each.

The first challenge our team attempted was the Time Portal. In the “Time Portal” challenge, we needed to make a six-sided figure to travel in time. In this challenge it was vital to keep people in an appropriate job for their skill level. We learned not everyone can get involved in what they want, and how hard it was just to sit out and watch your team do it for you.

The second challenge was the Nitro-Fusion. In this challenge we had to rescue the world from Dr. Evil by disarming a bomb. We learned the importance of trust. People had to trust their teammates not to let them fail. If you think someone is not fit for a certain job, you should still give them a chance to prove themselves, for success is achieved as a team.

The third challenge was the Mohawk Walk. In this challenge the whole team had to balance on steel wiring to get around three trees. Many methods were tried but no whole group was able to complete this challenge, although we had five people who did manage to work their way around. In the Mohawk Walk we realized that some people had to sacrifice their own ability to get around the trees to help their other team members to achieve the goal, for success was only achieved when the whole team made it across the wire.

The fourth challenge we tried was the Labyrinth. In this challenge we had to get 4 blinded campers through a maze into the vault to get back the secret JOLT files. The blind people could not touch any object in the maze and had to be guided by people outside the maze, not speaking or asking questions, but only listening to directions. In this challenge we were taught to listen and direct. We realized how important it was for

people to keep calm so that everyone could concentrate and do their job.

The fifth challenge was the Laser Beams. The whole team had to go through a series of lasers without getting hit or they would lose that body part. Teamwork was essential to get everyone through this challenge safely.

The sixth challenge attempted was Security Breach. In this challenge we had to breach the security in a nuclear facility by learning a 25-digit password in 60 seconds, then getting the password right to go free. Here, we learned how important it is for everyone in the team to do their own job right. If one fails we all fail.

To conclude each challenge we talked about what this certain challenge had taught us and how we could use these abilities in our own communities. Fatigue was present in every team, but all endured and kept trying until the end. These activities really showed us that being a leader was not our only job, but being a teammate was more important. We also learned that completing missions is not always possible by yourself. You need other people to get through.

Mission Possible “to the campers”

By Heath Johnson

This year J.O.L.T. was amazing from the start; and I believe everyone will agree on that with me. I sat down and interviewed a handful of campers, and the majority of campers had positive responses to my questions; which I believe is one of the goals of this wonderful camp experience.

I asked some campers what some of their first thoughts arriving at J.O.L.T were. Some said that they were looking forward to meeting old and new friends. All said this was going to be fun and interesting week.

I also wanted to know what campers expected from J.O.L.T. this year. 3 out of 5 said they expected to learn and obtain leadership qualities found

nowhere else. Returning campers said they really wanted to learn more about leadership. Others said they expected to have fun and an amazing experience.

I also asked what some of the goals that the campers expected to accomplish this week. Some said to re-run for staff; others simply said too fit in and make new friends. But some wanted to improve on leadership and self esteem by using other techniques to improve themselves and the only place to do that is right here at J.O.L.T.

One thing that is a tradition at this camp is the workshops; and those include; Laugh Therapy, Goal Setting, Dance, College Prep, New Mexico, and, They Did What? They were all a huge success. I asked some of the campers what their favorite workshop was. Every one said something different there were at least a few votes for workshop.

The last question I decided to ask was how did the campers leadership skills improve over the week? People said they were doing things out of their comfort zone. Campers said they were more outgoing and willing to do different things. People said they wanted to get involved. And some learned that there will always be people who will like you.

This was my sum up of the week in my opinion J.O.L.T. was a huge success this year. I know I'm definitely coming back next year and I hope to see all those who can still come. I'm also looking forward too seeing new faces, so until then good luck and God Bless.

New Mexico

By John Alder

This year we were lucky enough to be accompanied by the New Mexico Diplomats, Shane Bramblett, Hannah Bradshaw, Ellen Bardwell and Wil Hodnett. In total there are three

leadership teams in New Mexico, the Diplomats, the Ambassadors and the State Officers. Every year, a big workshop is put together of about 300 or more kids. This get together is called the New Mexican State Conference and is all about judging, learning skills and of course having fun. The teams also put together a senior leadership retreat (SLR) which is similar to JOLT.

In addition to their other activities, the Diplomats were asked to put on a workshop for JOLT. This workshop was mostly about communication and teamwork. There were several different games that we played to better our communication and our listening skills. When playing we not only had to use verbal but nonverbal communication to achieve our goal. With everything that was going on I had the pleasure of interviewing one of the Diplomats, Shane Bramblitt. In our discussion I asked him how he liked JOLT, “It’s great, I’ve been in 4-H for nine years now and this one of the best things I have ever done.” Another question was how 4-H influenced his life, he said, “In my life I have been around 4-H a long time, it influences me in a way to do a lot, be a better person and do better things in my life.”

On behalf of JOLT I would like to thank the New Mexico Diplomats for coming to camp and making the BEST BETTER.

Thank you for a great week.

Socializing

By: Noble Tanenhaus

The first night at JOLT was great. Ice cream and dancing was a great way to start off the week! People had the opportunity to get to know each other and bond. It was a great opportunity for everyone to learn a new dance and try new ice cream flavors. I don't know about anyone else, but it was my first time having pumpkin pie and cinnamon ice cream. It was for many

of campers their first time folk dancing. It was awesome! Katie Haas said she had fun. It was also her first time folk dancing and her favorite flavor of ice cream was mixed berry. Even long time campers learned new dances like our fellow camper, Scout Harper.

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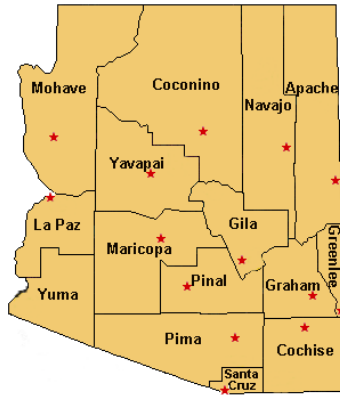
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J.O.L.T - Legacy For Leadership 4-H Endowment

The first J.O.L.T. – or Journey of Opportunities for Leaders of Tomorrow – Camp was held during the summer of 1987. Traditionally held at Camp Shadow Pines in Heber, J.O.L.T. is an Arizona 4-H Teen Leadership camp a camp designed by teens for teens. Over 1400 4-H'ers have attended J.O.L.T. since its inception, where a positive environment promotes personal development, team building and self-confidence. Participants have enjoyed many activities that build trust, leadership and communication skills, and the positive environment at J.O.L.T. promotes personal development and self-confidence among its campers.

At the 15th Anniversary J.O.L.T. Camp in June, 2002, J.O.L.T. participants faced a challenging situation: the devastating Rodeo-Chediski Fire was rapidly advancing and they were forced to evacuate the camp, leaving their personal belongings in the face of the fire and caravanning through thick smoke to a safer location in Northern Arizona. The youth staff and adult leaders came together at the evacuation center to continue the legacy and complete the team-building activities that make J.O.L.T. a special experience – the camp program ended while ash and smoke fell as youth waited to be driven home from the fire, ending the camp several days before the camp was supposed to have ended.

After the camp was over, 86 of the J.O.L.T. participants voted to donate their refund checks (a partial refund was returned to 4-H because the camp ended early), creating the *J.O.L.T. - Legacy for Leadership 4-H Endowment Fund*, the first EVER youth established endowment fund in the history of the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation.

How can I contribute? Pledge \$1.00 for every year enrolled in the 4-H program. Encourage your 4-H Club or Youth Organization to contribute to the endowment or hold a onetime fundraiser as a great way to support youth leadership programs.

Ask your Parents, Grand Parents or Leader to pledge \$1.00 OR more for each year of their involvement in the 4-H Youth Development program.

Example: 7 years in 4-H, Pledge \$7.00 = .14 cents per week OR .02 cents per day!

Arizona 4-H J.O.L.T. Teen Leadership Conference Legacy For Leadership 4-H Endowment Fund Pledge Card

I pledge to support the *J.O.L.T. Legacy for Leadership 4-H Endowment Fund* in the following way:

_____ per year for ____ years.

Name _____ Years in 4-H ____ Years at JOLT ____ Date _____

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Contact me in _____ so I may send you my contribution. **OR** Enclosed is My Check / Cash, made payable to:

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