

A Short Summary of the First Farmington-Scipio Region Youth Institute

Rochester Meetinghouse, March 4th, 2017

From the writings of those present

We had a great get together to talk about youth activities in the FSRM. We wish you had been there. We gathered and deepened community in silence, speech and activity. What a wonderful group of friends. The level of sharing and knowledge was energizing. The near 30 people who were here this day carried concerns for youth and families not only for Spring Gathering but also in their monthly meetings and hopes for visitation and an ongoing relationship with other teens in their region. There was a lot of positive energy and hopefulness. It was good to be gathered with so many people who are interested in supporting youth work. We talked about RE expectations and how there are differences in these expectations if you are a parent, youth worker or youth. We played games together. We shared about all the great things going on in for youth around the region. Melinda shared helpful websites and resources. The youth institute was an experiential day of learning about and practice being a part of a community of practice. Takeaways for the day included: the importance of knowing the why of what we do before we start and starting with what you can do; understanding better the many pieces involved in planning and nurturing quality Quaker youth programs and how complex and challenging this can be; and gaining an appreciation for the work that is already being done on behalf of our youth. There was real joy in seeing old friends and meeting new ones, renewing and creating connections. There was gratitude for the two young friends who joined us in the morning and a heart-felt desire for more youth presence and voice in this work.

Practical Take Aways

- Look for Quaker Speak Videos for when it's my time to teach
- More networking and brainstorming
- Fireball
- Youth visitation and listening for my leadings
- Read last year's youth program report from Spring Gathering
- Talk to Lu
- Set up a meeting for those interested in helping w/ Spring gathering 2017 – person or conference call
- Look at the Quaker Collaborative web site
- Consider inviting youth visitors
- Going with teens from our meeting to visit teens from other meetings
- Ensure communication between Spring Gathering Planning and Youth Committee
- Check out Melinda's resources
- Learn more about Out of the Nest program

- It is possible to do something not just give up b/c we don't have youth coming to meeting. Together we can do more!
- That there is at least one thing we can do right now to reach out to youth – visitation.
- Tools and looking at those expectations
- Promote regional gatherings, more collaboration w/youth workers in meeting
- I will contact youth to see what they would like
- To begin ideas for Spring Gathering
- Find out, after registration, how many and what ages will be @ Spring Gathering so I can best select the books I bring and find out who are the teachers.
- Integrate more games into the programs. I already was doing it on occasion, but will make it a regular practice