

## Young People's Programme Minute (11-15's) Yearly Meeting 2023

To all friends everywhere,

This year, 29 young people, aged 12 – 15, with 5 adult helpers met at Felden Lodge in Hemel Hempstead to consider the theme: 'Truth and Integrity'. Over the weekend, several thought-provoking workshops made us think about how we sustain our truth and integrity in an immoral world.

In our first workshop of the weekend, Tanya Hubbard helped us explore how we speak our truths in different situations through the use of drama and movement, along with some silly chicken impressions. After a tasty lunch, Ellis Brooks used animals to help represent different styles of negotiation and conflict, from the forceful shark to the accommodating teddy bear, and many in between. This helped us think about which strategies are most useful in different situations.

On Sunday morning, the TikTok legend Rhiannon-book-geek, helped us think about which communities we can feel confident in, and comfortable to share our truths with, along with some smaller group discussions. She then joined us in worship. Our chat rooms helped us explore themes further, hearing experiences of our adult volunteers. Some of the young people attended the Swarthmore lecture via zoom and heard Esther Loukin talk about her experiences with using the law to create change. She came to our final speaker session and we explored different types of activism. She was encouraging about us taking action for ourselves and the importance of taking action together.

Our three base group gave us the opportunity to reflect on speaker sessions and discuss these issues further. We also used this time to play games and get to know each other better.

We also had lots of opportunities for fun over the weekend, competing in challenges, and group activities outdoors, such as rugby, capture the flag, along with lots running around in the forest. Additionally, we had a quiz involving the creation of some awful Quaker jokes. We were also able to entertain each other on Sunday evening with our very own Quaker talent show which included: dance routines, singing and origami.

We have had a full on weekend of laughing, talking, playing, eating and reflecting. We worshipped by ourselves and joined the "all-together worship" – an all-age national blended meeting for worship on Sunday, ending with an epilogue of affirmations on Sunday evening.

We've had a weekend of reflection on our own integrity and left with a better idea of how to maintain our own truth in trying times.

Signed in and on behalf of YPP, Quinn Breadon, Emily Fuller, Ilana Jones