

SAC YAC Minutes 2014

Start: 9:39 p.m. January 24, 2014

- ❖ Con Name: Culture Con-nection
- ❖ Please also read Melody MacFarland's and Paul Lawson's notes from their SAC planning meeting, as most of these notes are a commentary on the information in those (The minutes won't make sense without them, you can get them from Melody tarepandarocks@gmail.com if need be).
- ❖ Ideas and Considerations
 - There will probably be no workshops.
 - We will have to watch our normal con language, especially around the adults.
 - Additionally, youth will likely have to greatly tone down the cuddling and open physical affection.
 - So, we must communicate with them to find out their boundaries, as we want to share cultures, but not make them uncomfortable.
 - →Get in touch with the Bhutanese youth organization and leadership to ask them about this.
 - Remember: Hinduism tends to include a more conservation regime behavior-wise, and all the youth came to America only 3-5 years ago. The suicide rate of Bhutanese refugees is about 3 times the rate of the normal population-be sensitive to the duress they're under and that they're trying to preserve their culture here.
 - In general: ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION!
 - Before the con:
 - All UU youth should be fairly well versed in Bhutanese culture and religion (Hinduism)
 - Make sure our youth are mindful and respectful.
 - Create a written communication of our beliefs, behaviors and culture (non evangelical).
 - Danieh (our on-site SAC) can brief them with said communication-this way both sides know what to expect coming in.
 - Long Term Outreach Ideas
 - There are Bhutanese refugee communities in all major cities in America, so it'd be great to have some kind of long term outreach to youth in our home cities.
 - There could be a pen pal system to stay connected in a "buddy system" and continue to learn from each other.
 - Compile a list of other refugee communities.
 - With the Bhutanese youth:

- Most of the Bhutanese youth love to dance, so whatever else, we would definitely love to have them teach us-it would be best to do this after some getting to know each other, likely during the down time before dinner.
- Most of their families are starting over from living in a historically poor country, and education, specifically college, is a way for them to move up. Therefore, some great topics for us to discuss would be high school experiences, the college search, and college applications and scholarships.
- Clothing Exchange Activity
 - We decided to have a clothing exchange and tie dye shirt making session as a sharing activity between the youth.
 - Tie Dye Shirts
 - At the cultural center?
 - Lots of dye (Dharma dyes) and t-shirts will be needed
 - Take home shirts in bags to rinse them, perhaps with an instructions sheet stapled to the bag.
 - We could also do it inside the church, but use tarps.
 - Don't really need puffy paints
 - Get simple dyes that don't require extra steps
 - Maddie and Lily Farr can give a short tie dye tutorial at the event.
 - It's a unique, special item to give away that's a big part of UU culture!
 - Clothing Exchange
 - Bhutanese clothing and jewelry tends to be very vibrant and colorful-even the babies wear makeup sometimes.
 - For the exchange, UU youth should bring multiple items, and ask the Bhutanese youth to bring something only if they already have an item to bring.
 - Possible workshop with Melody MacFarland: DIY clothing cut up clothes and tie them together, cut clothing scraps → tie them together into scarves, etc
- With purchasing tie dye supplies and a higher food budget (extra people), this will be a more expensive con, however it is a exciting and unique opportunity-discuss it with Beth Casebolt?

Break 10:32 p.m.

Restart 10:55 p.m.

- CityScape Offsite
 - Helping to prepare (paint, etc) a new office space for the center and make it look less abandoned.
 - Invite some of the Bhutanese youth along to help us.
- Worship Planning
 - Need some time to plan worship-could post on the OMD Facebook page and refine from there.

- Use and incorporate what we've learned from the Bhutanese.
- Find out whether it would seem too proselytizing, or might cause an issue with the parents.
- It was finally decided we would likely to a pre-dinner worship, so more youth could attend (and we'd know them better), and also have a short worship planning around 1:30 p.m.
- Invitation to our worship instead of the talent show-it's more meaningful and powerful.
- Fused culture combination of worship and dance> → up to them and Oliver Evans
- As they're coming from a more ritualized form of religion, mixing religions might be difficult/tricky.
- It may be better to instead just have them watch and see how we plan our worships.
- Two 15 minute worships?
- → Ask them, see what the adults think regarding cultural misappropriation, etc → We will leave the issue liquid for now
- It would be great to have a short, centering, pre-activity worship for our youth on Saturday morning.
- Ask about doing a short prayer before dinner.
- Small Group Sessions
 - Time for only one normal touch group meeting, but it's still worth it.
 - Small groups must be gender-segregated, so we will use the normal touch group leaders, but switch people around to make same-gender groups.
 - Keep in mind: cap of about 100 people (85 youth)
- Positions at the con
 - Touch Group Leaders
 - Harriet Abigail Ward, Eliza Steffen, Melody MacFarland, Nic Gill, Nick Hurt, Sam Roscigno, Cavan Bonner, Joe Schmittgen, Zoe Casa
 - Chaplains
 - Maddie Farr, Lily Farr, Pete Decker, Paul Lawson (adult chaplain), Caz Tidrick (head)
 - Night Angels
 - Friday night
 - ◆ 1-3 Lydia Hyde and Caz Tidrick
 - ◆ 3-5 Cavan Bonner and Jonah
 - ◆ 5-7 Oliver Evans and Joe Schmittgen
 - Saturday night
 - ◆ 1-3 Pete Decker and Maddie Farr
 - ◆ 3-5 Nick Hurt
 - ◆ 5-7 Aaron Bowie

- This is going to be a very different and intense con, and much more of a serious, working con than previous SACs and it is imperative that we inform everyone beforehand.
 - Extensive disclaimer on the website and Facebook page.
 - Create a more extensive, detailed SAC application form with a questionnaire, ask for explanations, offsite questions, etc
 - Get the newsletter out earlier, try to get more submissions-article about new YAC leadership would be nice.
- Sleeping Issue
 - Everyone must be in their own bedding at night, and can cuddle between it.
 - Everyone absolutely MUST bring their own bedding-make a con to-bring list.
 - Con blanket could maybe be a good idea.
 - This was also discussed at Summer YAC-we really need consensus on it.
 - People in separate bedding with one big blanket on top defeats the purpose of this rule → not allowed.
 - The group voted yes on this issue (separate bedding rule).

End 12:09 a.m. January 25, 2014