

Unit 354's First Youth Bridge Camp a Success

By Kandi Osborne

Unit 354 just completed it's first Youth Bridge Camp. At first glance it may not look very impressive. Only 6 youth signed up and 2 of them only could make it for the first week. Looks can be deceiving

The kids were completely engaged and became quick friends. They learned more quickly and differently than we expected. They had us on the run the entire two weeks. We adjusted and adapted, and all learned together.

The youth learned how to plan the play of the hand using various play techniques, Two over One bidding, and defensive signals.

One of the most heartwarming events was this, a grandparent told me (with tears in her eyes), "Until now we never had a connection. Now she calls me to talk about camp"

Camp concluded with parents and grandparents participating in a day of camp. The guests joined the kids in their favorite games and then played a 12-board game of bridge. The day ended with a pizza party.

Many thanks go to our volunteers who spent their mornings hanging out with use and coming up with grand games ideas!

The note below hangs next to the art the youth created. It is written by Richard Jacobson

Playing the game of bridge is about – among many other concepts- learning to evaluate your points, understanding when to take a finesse, and how to 'transfer' to a different suit.

But adding the game of bridge to your life is also about appreciating the value of working with a partner and sometimes a team.

*During the rigorous process of learning such a rich and complicated game, the young participants **of Unit 354's first Youth Bridge Camp** took breaks for bridge-related scavenger hunts, game-show quizzes, and in this case-art projects.*

Each student chose a small, abstract rectangular design and was asked to creatively (or faithfully) transfer it to a canvas board five times its size. The young artists did not know (at least at first) what the small piece of the puzzle on which they worked would yield.

When finally assembled, besides the fantastic image of the Queen of Diamonds, what our campers got was what most of use receive from bridge;

*Amazing new friends, A strong sense of community, an activity to enjoy for a lifetime,
and an appreciation that something imperfect – like this Queen
(and like bidding, declaring and defending)-can still be wonderful.*

A side note: This week, one of our campers played at In Tempo with her father. They scored a 57% and dad said, "She played most of the hands."