

Faiths for Fun Report 2016

1.Introduction Our annual Faiths for Fun event , organised jointly by Birmingham Council of Faiths and Birmingham Scouts, for children aged 7-12 years has increased in success and popularity year by year for the last 8 years. The event has successively been sponsored by VSO, Near Neighbours, West Midlands Police Property Fund and this year by the Grantham Yorke Trust and the William A.Cadbury Trust.

2.Participation The most recent event, held on Sun 13th March 2016, attracted 106 Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies, and youngsters from Faith Groups, broken down as follows:-

Baha'i – 3, Buddhist – 0, Christian – 54, Hindu - 10
Jewish – 2, Muslim 17, Sikh – 3, No Faith – 17

Boys - 62, Girls – 44

This represented an increase of 21 from the 2015 event.

There were also over 50 baseholders and other adult helpers, including those involved in the parachute game, registration, refreshments, timekeepers, team leaders, team movers, campfire, setting up at the beginning and clearing up at the end.



Unity game on Baha'i Base

3.Changes this year Following the survey after last year's event, a number of changes were made, principally:-

1. Greater streamlining of the registration process
2. Limiting the age range to 7-12 years
3. Having an indoor 'campfire' instead of the sports.

4.Official Guests David Bradnock, Scout County President and Deputy Lord Lieutenant, officially opened the event and visited each base to talk with the children, baseholders and other helpers. Andrew Lloyd, Scout County Commissioner and Dr Andrew Goldstein (Jewish) our BCF Advisory Chair also visited each of the bases. Tarang Shelat, our BCF Vice Chair; Maggie Jones, Guide County Commissioner; Elizabeth Baizon , Assistant County Commissioner (Cubs); and Daryl

Holloway, Chair of the County Scout Faiths and Beliefs Committee, took an active part in running the event.

Mike Tye again took photos, which appeared in the Birchfield Bugle and a recording was made for the Muslim TV channel. Details were also sent to the media office at Gilwell and the (national) Interfaith Network.

The video of a previous year's event can be viewed on You Tube, which can be accessed at:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyfiNu7X68U>



Treasures & Temptations on Christian Base

5.Activities After the ever popular parachute game, which the youngsters join as they register, and the official opening, the youngsters were each allocated to a multifaith team, hosted by an adult leader, who helped the team to gel, guided them between the bases and assisted with getting them involved in the activities, which included:-

Hindu – Yoga & Holi (festival of colour),

Sikh – music & chords

Christian – Treasures & Temptations,

Baha’I – Unity games & songs

Buddhist – different types of meditation

Muslim – Inventions & Traditions

Jewish – Synagogue craft activity

Halfway through the afternoon, the youngsters relax with their friends during the refreshment break, and the event is concluded with an indoor ‘campfire’ and the award of certificates.



Music & Chords on Sikh Base

6.Evaluation

The overall response was that the event was successful, the children got on well together, and was enjoyed by all participants.

Specific comments

- a) The campfire was enjoyed, 'just what was needed at end of the event', but the acoustics made it too noisy & too long'.
- b) Team leaders needed more time to get to know the children and to fill in the form between bases.
- c) Give out certificates earlier in the afternoon.
- d) Improve the balance by increasing activity & reducing talking on bases.
- e) Increase the number of bases to accommodate the larger number of children.
- f) Reduce the number of bases located in the hall to reduce the noise.
- g) Need to be prepared for larger numbers.
- h) Refreshments were generally appreciated, but more suitable Kosher food needs to be provided

These comments have all been noted for the 2017 event.



Yoga on Hindu Base

7.Conclusion

We are grateful to all of our baseholders and other helpers for their hard work and, of course, for the wonderful facilities and outstanding support we get year on year from Mike Watson at Hamstead Hall Academy. The general view is that March or April is the best time to hold the event, so we will announce the date for 2017 as soon as it is confirmed.

Peter & Jean

Dr. Peter Rookes & Mrs Jean Rookes

Secretary & 3rd Sector Liaison Officers, Birmingham Council of Faiths

County International & Faiths Advisers, Birmingham Scout Association