

2/18/08

KIDSQuake!

A newsletter for the Friendsville Quarterly Youth



We all piled into vans and drove six hours up to Ohio for the Mini-Yearly Meeting Lock-in.

We swam, played games, and enjoyed our time together.

As our devotion, we watched an inspirational sermon by a man with no arms or legs.

Introduction

It became evident during the recent Ohio lock-in that we Tennessee folks like spending time with each other and don't get to very often. It seems we only get together when Ohio or someone else is involved. We all like spending time with each other, but get caught up in our hectic lives and we forget how much fun we have. This newsletter is designed to keep us all in contact and informed of, and to organize upcoming events. I will do my best to send one out monthly or as often as possible. I hope this will help keep us in better touch and hopefully lead to more fun activities!

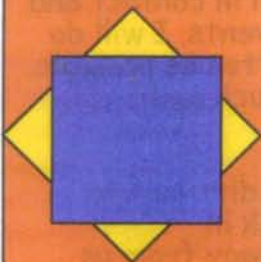
Obviously distance is an obstacle that is difficult to overcome. Friends that attend Lost Creek in Jefferson County are nearly two hours away from us here in Friendsville and Maryville. Still, semi-regular events *could be* organized if given the attention and time...I believe if we work together and *all of us* chip in with effort, we would be able to plan some really fun and beneficial events.

Why?

Why am I so adamant about getting together? Why is it so important? Youth groups are critical because they encourage relationships with God and give a comfortable atmosphere with no pressures. Our youth is especially important because we are the future of Quaker meetings. What the Society of Friends will be twenty years from now rests on our shoulders. It is vital that we get our youth jumpstarted and involved.

Planning Activities

Around Christmas, the Maryville and Friendsville youth go caroling. Even though our singing is off, it makes it worth it to see lonely spirits lifted.



Back in October, several meetings came together for a chili supper and brought canned goods for the Community Food Connection of Blount County.

Whenever we plan activities, I think we should bring something to go to a cause. For example, go bowling, but also bring a can to donate to a food bank. This would make our activities beneficial as well as fun.

I think I speak for most when I say that I have an absolute blast at lock-ins. I propose that we hold two or three Tennessee lock-ins throughout the year. Locations would vary to accommodate transportation conveniences.

However, lock-ins aren't the only way to spend time together. Activities such as laser tag, ice-skating, and go-kart racing could be options as well.

Spring Activity

As of right now, a youth lock-in is scheduled to be held at the Raffers Meeting sometime in April. I will pass along information as I receive it.

I am proposing a trip to Dollywood sometime in May, and to bring along dog collars or leashes to benefit an animal shelter. This is just a suggestion. Below are a few activities to be considered. These are just ideas; I am open to any.

- ✦ Laser tag
- ✦ Bowling
- ✦ Ice/inline skating
- ✦ Go-kart racing
- ✦ Dollywood
- ✦ Arcade
- ✦ Wonderworks
- ✦ Corn maze
- ✦ Aquarium
- ✦ Mini golf

Our Own Committees

Several years ago, the youth used to participate in Quarterly Meetings and other business meetings by forming their own committees and learning how the Quakers operate. I think it would be fun to start that again. We could have our own committees and learn to make our own decisions regarding the youth.

If you have additional information, ideas, photos, or suggestions you would like to print, please e-mail or send them to me at the addresses at the right.

Thanks!
Emily Guillaume

Contact Information

To make contact easier, I would like everyone's name, number, e-mail and/or address that are interested in receiving this newsletter.

You can contact me by e-mail eg_747@yahoo.com or by phone at either 865-995-9400 (home) or 865-456-8286 (cell). My 'snail mail' address is P.O. Box 244 Friendsville, TN 37737.

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