



Camp fYrefly: Program Themes

Five themes comprise the framework that guides the development and delivery of the Camp fYrefly program:

1. **Creating a Socially Just and Inclusive Community:** As citizens, we all have a social responsibility to foster a sense of community spirit and to take care of one another. Creating a community that is inclusive, welcoming, and harmonious is crucial to ensuring that everyone is connected, included, and accorded respect and dignity regardless of their differences. At Camp fYrefly, we build a community that demonstrates acceptance, accommodation, inclusivity, and respect through engagement with individuals from different ethnocultural backgrounds, faiths, beliefs, abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexualities, and genders. Presentations and workshops developed around this theme function to raise awareness and build understanding of democratic and inclusive citizenship in innovative ways that address barriers to full participation in our society.
2. **Building Resiliency and Youth Leadership Capacity:** Engaging youth in learning how to make significant contributions to their own lives and to their schools, families, and communities helps to build a strong, ethical, and just community for tomorrow. By helping youth to develop a resilient mindset, they can make informed and healthy decisions about the issues and challenges that impact their lives and social interactions. Topics and workshops developed around this theme focus on social and cultural learning about human rights, advocacy, media awareness, public speaking, peer-to-peer mentoring, sex and gender stereotyping, healthy living, protective factors, harm reduction, and leadership skill development.
3. **Empowering Youth to Address Bullying, Harassment, Hate Crimes, and Knowing Their Rights:** Knowing one's rights as persons and citizens comes with concomitant responsibility to advocate for others to advance a socially just society. Helping youth to feel supported and empowered to address discrimination, bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and hate crimes is key to changing processes focused on the self as well as schools, families, and communities. Presentations and workshops developed around this theme focus on personal wellbeing, social activism, anti-oppression, inclusive cultural work, healthy decision-making, safety, and coalition building.
4. **Learning Through Art, Music, Writing, Performing Arts, and Games:** The arts have the power to open up both the heart and mind. At camp, youth learn about themselves and others through creative exploration and expression. This helps them to develop new forms of communication, understanding, and community building. Presentations and workshops developed around these themes focus on topics such as song writing, leadership through games, improvisation, dance, personal journaling, movement, poetry, and photography.
5. **Self and Social Development:** In a complex and rapidly changing world, youth often struggle to find support, purpose, and a sense of space and place. Finding access to non-judgmental information about the issues that impact their lives is critical to self and social development. Presentations developed around this theme focus on personal development, personal wellness, self- and social-esteem, healthy minds and healthy bodies, spirituality, family (as they construct it), and overcoming internalized homophobia and transphobia.