

HPHC Las Vegas Youth Camp July 2022 Report

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From July 28th to 31st, 16 middle and high schoolers from Las Vegas Holy Community were invited to join the first-ever-youth-summer camp at True Parent's House. For most of the participants, it was their first experience of summer camp and first-ever sleepovers.

After attending the Camp Journey organized by Denver and Salt Lake City Church community leaders, Las Vegas families felt called and inspired to organize this type of experience for our own youth. Coordinated by Ohichi Watanabe and Josh Yanai, a group of young adults volunteered to be staff members, and several parents came to cook and prepare safe environments for our participants. Special thanks to Jeffrey Silerio and Pierre Vasquez (who took time off from his work to be there), Raquel and Joy Hirano, Cassi Sosa, and Taichi Watanabe who took good care of all the participants.



They started each day with exciting activities to wake up, followed by short guidance. After the breakfast, they received 2 presentations by Co-Pastor Gregg Smith and Assistant Pastor Makiko Watanabe on basic principles and core values such as Living for the Sake of Others and Midway position geared towards a younger audience. Afternoon activities included water balloon fights and swimming, and a lot of board games. In the evenings, Tora Ota and Yoshiha Tsuchida were invited to share their personal testimonies and wisdom as experienced elder brothers.

Some of the participants usually are reluctant to attend regular church events; some are extremely shy. However, they enjoyed this experience of being together as a family. When he was getting picked up at the end of the camp, one middle school participant told his mom that he wished this camp was longer. Many parents expressed sincere gratitude for this type of opportunity for their children.

Overall, it was a meaningful experience, and the organizers are definitely thinking of a next camp during the winter break.