

## The Urban Methodist Youth Camp 2021 - Theme: "New Beginnings."

*Children and youth crave attention, love, and opportunities to develop positive self-esteem. Children and youth need environments where they feel safe and cared for.*

The Urban Methodist Youth Camp (UMYC) provides opportunities for young people to develop values as they connect with peers and adult leaders through important conversations about God, and through nature, sports, and fun activities. All that happens at the Urban Methodist Youth Camp points to God's amazing love and our individual response to it. We can imitate the love of God on the basketball court, on the high ropes course, at mealtime, and at home, church, and school.



**Senior boys enjoy impromptu jump-roping.** The UMYC encourages youth to be free to experience the healing joys of nature and to make new friends. While waiting for an activity, this small group took an opportunity to jump rope with Nurse Donna and Ms. Regina, Sr. High Girls' Counselor.



### At the Nature Center

These campers exhibit no fear and are delighted to handle the animals.



### High and Low Ropes Challenge

These campers were the first to volunteer.





**Career and Job Search Skills Seminar with Mr. Darren Campbell, Quicken Loans.** The 3-day seminar ended with a mock interview. Campers were given the tablets at the end of camp.



**The “Occupation Rotation” has become a staple at the UMY Camp.** Invited leaders describe their career/industry, present information, education needed, and some life-lessons learned...all in 7-10 minutes. Below, an FBI Community Liaison provides information on FBI careers and passes out give-aways.



**Who would have thought that Sand Volleyball could beat out Basketball as the final intergroup challenge!?**



## Values Education/Spiritual Development

With Pastor Combs and Pastor Suzy



Pastor John and Pastor Suzy helps group with presentation.



Each camper wrote their name on a leaf and placed it on our 5' "New Beginnings Tree."

Camper groups take turns leading Devotions and prayer each day. Thursday evening Worship is a time for Holy Communion and individual prayer for each camper (if they so desire).



Pastor Suzy and group discussing careers.



Pastor Jonathan, Nurse Donna, and 2021 counselors.



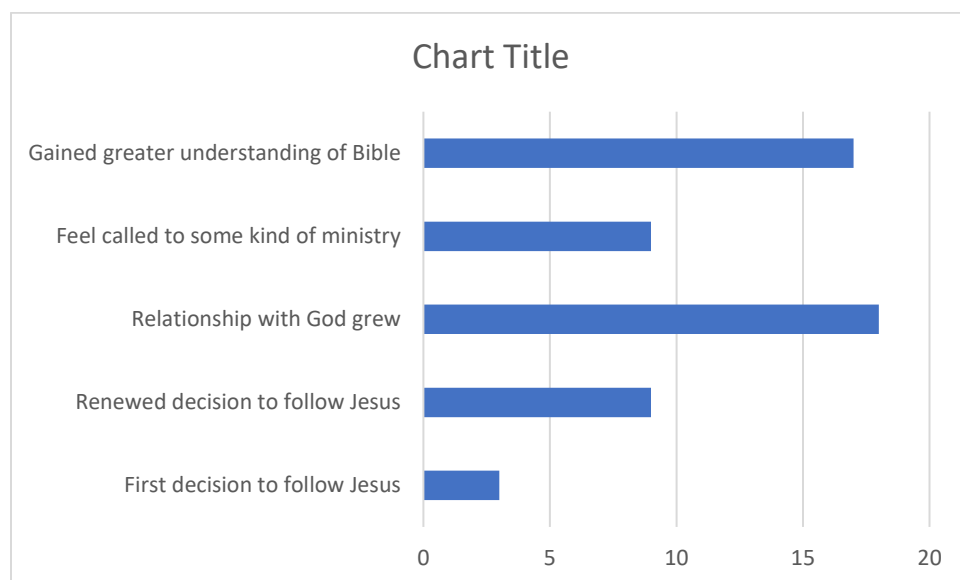
## 2020-21 Challenges

2020 and 2021 proved to be a challenging year for camping programs. After our camp site closed unexpectedly in 2020, the UMYC raced to find an appropriate site, only to pivot once again to place everything online because of COVID-19. There were 35 virtual participants in 2020, who reminded us of the value our youth place on in-person camping and the depth of sadness many experienced over the closing of the Judson Collins camp site. The UMYC resolved to hold an in-person camp in 2021, if it was possible. By July 1, the parents of 18 campers obtained vaccinations for their children. The UMYC's leadership also became fully vaccinated, the condition for which we could attend an in-person camp in 2021. The 2021 small camp size was ideal not only for exploring a new site, but also for evaluating many new activities. Our 2021 camp was a time that all will remember.

## Camper Evaluations

Overall, campers were pleased with the new Michindoh site and enjoyed the new activities offered there.

**Campers checked the statements that were true for themselves. Total number of respondents: 18 Total number of campers: 18.**



**Campers responded to the following question in their own words: How has your relationship with God changed this week?**

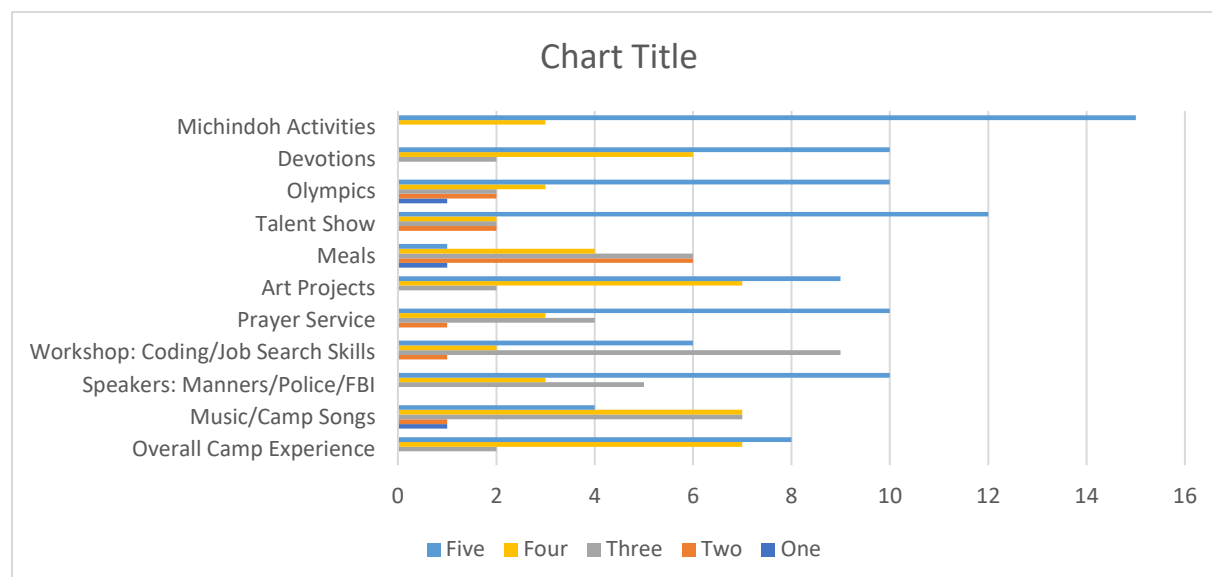
*I had started to loose connection, the week made me reconnect.*

*I feel like I was forgiven from bad things I've done last year.*

*I've gotten into the habit of waking up and thanking God each day.*

*Praying more and talking to God.*

**Campers used a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best) to rate their experiences:**



**Campers described what they liked about camp in their own words:**

*Nature Center (11)*

*Enjoyed all activities; new activities; everything; the activities got rid of my fears; activities and devotions*

*Meeting new people; meeting new people and getting close to God*

*Banana Boat (2); Talent Show; Olympics*

*This was the best experience of my life.*

**Campers described what they did not like about camp in their own words:**

*Walking (5), bugs (4), food (3), music, bathrooms*

*Not having breaks (H-hour)*

*No time for art; Need more prep time for talent show*

*The police talk*

**Campers described what they would like to see next year:**

*H-hour, more free time, less walking, more campers*

*More Banana Boat, Camper vs. Staff Basketball Game, Paintball*

*More campers*

*Allow the talent show to be judged*

*For myself to improve as a better person*

*Liked everything*