

My Experience at the Girls Retreat

On the 8th of July 6 Muslim girls & 6 non-Muslim girls, left from the Islamic Center in Darwin to go on a two day retreat at Base Camp Wallaroo. At the start of this camp between the Muslim community and the Non-Muslim community, not many girls knew each other. We were partnered up with our Buddy for the rest of the camp. Our main leader (Omeima) introduced us to the Unity Bowl, which involved us putting away something we treasured a lot into a bowl and by doing this it sort of made us all one.

The main activities for the first day were the stereotypical activity, which involved us understanding what it's like be in each other's shoes and labeled something we are not. The second main activity was based around team work and leadership, this had us working together to help each other and looking towards someone to lead us the right way. The third main activity was rock climbing which was more on the side of fun but we did learn how to get over some fears and help each other. Later that night we all gathered around a camp fire. We discovered that one of the fellow campers had a gift for singing and we enjoyed a few songs before going to bed.

The next morning some of the Muslim girls woke up at 4 am to pray. The rest of us woke up at around 7:30 to get ready for the days main event: The Flying Fox. The flying fox was originally planned to go for about two hours but didn't finish until after lunch which pushed a few activities out but it was worth it. It helped many of the girls get over their fears and believe in themselves.

This camp has been a great experience for all of us that went. We've learnt a lot about believing in ourselves, working together and getting to know people before judging them. At the end of this camp all of the girls (including myself) have become good friends with each other and we all intend on staying in touch. We all would like to thank everyone who participated for doing an awesome job.

Susan Crute