



JUMP!

DEVELOPMENT

GP/JUMP 2015
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE REPORT

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I. SUMMARY:

Global Potential (GP) and the JUMP! Foundation are two non-profit organizations that use practical, holistic techniques to teach leadership and changemaking skills, in addition to advocating for community growth and global citizenship. GP and JUMP! empower youth around the world, irregardless of their socio-economic background, to be strong community leaders and inspire them to cultivate personal, community and global development.

Over the past six years GP and JUMP! have co-organized and brought to life Youth Leadership Conferences in communities throughout Haiti, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. This year they had the honor of expanding the Youth Conference to Senegal.

These conferences give youth from all these locations, in solidarity and partnership with youth from inner-city neighborhoods in Paris, Boston, and New York City, the opportunity to work together and empower each other. Students learn to build their confidence, and become more connected to their local and global community by voicing their ideas on how to tackle problems facing their villages and neighborhoods, and the world at large.

GP and JUMP! began the Youth Summer Conference tradition in 2009 with just 57 youth participants. This year there were 615 participants from both urban and rural communities. The annual tradition has increasingly gained interest due to its ever-growing reputation. Devoted community members spread the word in anticipation of the annual gathering, and demonstrate their learning and increased connection to each other and commitment to advancing their communities, throughout the year.

The popularity of these conferences for community members is no surprise, as they provide a platform for exciting and transformative participant-led discussion groups. The discussions this summer were no exception, and they covered a wide variety of local and international issues- allowing for youths to engage with each other to troubleshoot topics designed to provide positive progression.

II. ATTENDANCE INFORMATION:

The 2014 summer conferences served over 600 youth. The four conferences brought together members of 109 communities from eight different countries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

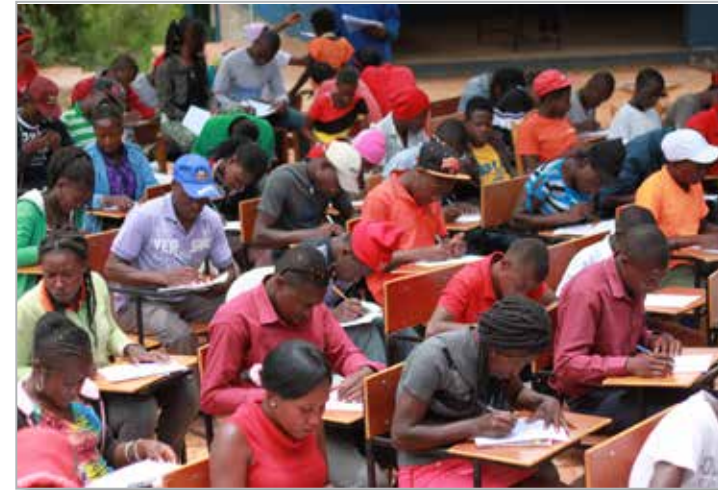
Los Block
Mena Abajo
Cuchilla
Batey # 9
Batey # 8
Batey # 7
Batey # 3
Batey # 2
Batey # 1

NICARAGUA

Caracol
Chaguitillo
El Almirante
El Hatillo
La Joya
Lalabranza
Las Minas
Las Posas
Molino
Ocotillo
Ocote
Portero Redondo
Portrero Largo
Rincon
San Miguel

HAITI

Barassa
Boucanchat
Cite Soleil
Port Au Prince
Doguimby
Fonds
Foret Des Pins
Matboeuf
Thoman
Ouanamithe
St. Louis D'Haiti
Terre Froide
Tet Sous
Yati
Bwa Tombe
Bas Terre Froide



Attendance Information continued

SENEGAL

Soussane
Nianiar
Dakar
Fandene (Thiès)
Sanghe (Thiès)
Yoff
Yoff Apepsy 2
Yoff Dagoudone
Yoff Ndeungagne
Keur Massar
Ndianda (Mbour)
Liberte 6 Extension
Lampoul (Kebemer)
Yoff Mbenguène
Pikine
Louly Bentégné
Louly
Guireine (Gandiol)
Pout (Thiès)
Libere 6 extension
Nord Foire Yoff
Extension 1

UNITED STATES

New York

Flatbush
E. Flatbush
Bedford-Stuyvesant
Bushwick
Sunset Park
Canarsie
Crown Heights
Prospect Heights
Chinatown
Harlem
Washington Heights
Mott Haven
Parkchester
Hunts Point

Boston

Dorchester
Jamaica Plain
Roxbury
Mattapan
East Boston
Roslindale
Allston
Malden
Lawrence
Mission Hill
Charlestown

EUROPE

Paris, France

La Courneuve,
Cayenne, France
Carefour, France

Piacenza, Italy
Codogno, Italy



III. OPEN SPACE METHODOLOGY:

Open Space is an established approach that allows for increased collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas, tailored by Global Potential to the particular context of the youth we work with. The content of each Youth Conference is determined by the participants themselves, all leaders (current or potential) within their communities are recruited from surrounding villages and urban slum areas. Conference organizers, who are themselves youth participants who have gone through GP/JUMP conferences, target

- A. an even breakdown of Males and Females from each community,
- B. youth between the ages of 15-25
- C. with demonstrated commitment to improving their communities.

Upon arrival, youth have some time to get to know each other and become familiar with the area, play some icebreakers, do introductions, and learn about our Open Space Conference Guiding Framework:

1. Whoever is here is the right person to be here, and is an expert.
2. Law of 2 feet: if you are neither benefitting nor contributing to a session, move to another session where you can be benefitting and/or contributing.
3. The Best thing about Open Space is that it Always works. The worst thing about Open Space is that it always works. Open Space is youth-led, and its success creates opportunities for, and is dependent upon, youth stepping up as leaders, protagonists, and active participants



4. The most important issues are the ones that will be raised.
5. One person speaks at a time. Respect each other.
6. Translate always—most of our youth participants are bi or tri-lingual, and are expected to engage in participatory translation, allowing discussions to take place in spaces of linguistic comfort, in Spanish, Haitian Creole, English, and French

Participants are shown the schedule, and 3 to 6 breakout spaces. They are then given small bits of paper to write down topics they would like to discuss, or change-making projects they would like to propose, and those ideas are then collected, organized, and allocated among the breakout spaces. Participants then choose which space they would like to attend and participate in, and begin sharing experiences, ideas, opinions, and solutions.

Participants are free to join or leave any group at any time, but one person must be a note-taker. After smaller group discussions conclude, participants join together once again, and depending on time, representatives from each small group are invited to present the group's findings and consequent solutions, and to hand their notes in.

Conference organizers also divide up roles among all participants on a daily basis, including: Waste Management, Icebreakers/dynamics, Role coordinator, Water, Management of small children, Food, Notebooks/pens, Schedule, Registration, First aid, Organizing the themes, Cleaning the space, 'Mezclador'/'Mixmaster', Translation coordinator, and Notes Collector.



IV. 2014 TOPICS DISCUSSED:

1. Dominican Republic - Homosexuality, Urban Music, Documentation, Water Systems and Pollution, Urbanization, Love, Gender, Economic Development, Racism, How to Clean the Environment, Abortion and Infidelity
2. Nicaragua - Drugs, Good Communication Techniques, Teen Pregnancy, Sexuality, Drought, Immigration, Responsibility, Relationships, and Education
3. Haiti - Leadership, Environmental Issues (Land Erosion), Violence, Education, Sexuality and Relationships, Early Pregnancy and Contraception, Road and Traffic Dangers, Racism and Discrimination
4. Senegal - How to Keep Youth from the Rural Exodus, Agriculture, Access to Potable Water, Raising Kids, Protection of the Coastline, AIDS, Deforestation, Library, Education, and Health



V. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECTS:

Due to a lack of funding in 2014, there were only a reduced number of Social Venture Project Prizes awarded. In Nicaragua and Senegal, the local conference organizing committees elected to reduce funds from other areas in their summer budget (non-conference funds) in order to be able to offer these prizes.

Nicaragua:

There were two winners at the 2014 Nicaragua Youth Summer Conference. Both winners for the Social Entrepreneurship Projects focused on addressing the Drought and on initiating a path towards availability of potable water for their communities. In the communities of Chaguitillo and La Joya they lack any kind of water system that enables them to extract water for use and consumption.

The Conference participants from 12 different communities all spent several hours together discussing what project(s) to present, deciding what their communities could benefit from, and then created and presented projects, which they could potentially initiate with minimal resources.

The 150+ conference participants, with the support of the GP Youth Leaders, listened to and evaluated each of the projects presented at the Conference. They then decided to assemble a judging panel of 15 (one person from each community present) and



together voted on the two projects they found most impressive, in the end selecting the two that demonstrated the most profound need and chance for success.

In the week following the conference, the two young girls from Chaguitillo and La Joya who were leading their community's proposals traveled with the Executive Director of Global Potential to the nearby town of Terrabona, to meet with the Mayor and several NGOs, to advocate for additional support for their projects.

VI. EVALUATIONS:

After each of the GP/JUMP conferences, participants answer questions to give their feedback as to the value that the conference had for them. A selected committee from among the conference participants, typically those who have participated in more than one conference, developed the questions. In 2013, we decided to change our evaluation framework, and use a set of uniform questions for all participants, which we used again this year. There were over 300 respondents, giving us valuable data feedback.

- 96% of the participants felt that the conference increased their interest in and commitment to pursuing their educations
- 90% of the participants felt that the conference improved their chances of career success
- 94% of the participants felt that after the conference their relationships with their families and neighbors would improve
- 96% of the participants felt that after the conference their participation in their communities would increase
- 95% of the participants felt that after the conference they had increased connection to local youth
- Participants gave the conference organization an average rating of 8.8/10
- 143 of the participants rated the conference 10/10

- » The majority of evaluations included responses that the conference helped individuals to be more focused on their education and that it helped them to achieve their personal goals.
- » Many of the participants noted there was better communication in the community a result of the conference.
- » Individual participants felt that they had built better connections with their community, including strengthening current relationships and the cultivation of new relationships.
- » The conference gave them the opportunity to interact with community members they did not know before and allowed them the opportunity to connect with the GP group and youth from communities near by.
- » One of the participants notes that the conference “was positive because it helped us to be more united and to know more about problems in the community”.
- » Many of the participants shared that the conference helped to build public speaking, leadership, and organizational skills.
- » A common theme throughout the evaluations is positive change in the community as a result of the conference.
- » The majority of participants expressed that they would like to create a similar conference in their community.



VII. COMMUNITY TESTIMONIALS:

"It helped me communicate better with my family" -Nicaragua

"Develop a mind of solidarity" - Senegal

"I am more focused on my education" - Nicaragua

"You come to learn about how we live, what we do. People in other communities have asked about what GP does, and I tell them and recommend it." - Nicaragua

"I learned to let go of my fear and shyness and to participate more in the community." - Nicaragua

"I learned that you should always dream big. The development of your community depends on the youth and that you must always be solitary." - Senegal

GP & JUMP did a lot of things for me, it is the only program that comes in Terre Froide and makes some changes. - Haiti



VII. STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:

"I realized in order to enjoy the moment you need to LIVE in the moment. Inhale all that's happening and don't worry about what has or what has yet to come." Yamela, GP NYC

"This experience finally opened my eyes and I recognize that nothing is impossible if you really work for it." – Silas, GP Boston

"I had no idea that I would accomplish so many of my goals in just 45 days, which I realize is not even a very long time. I have stepped out of my comfort zone, developed life changing relationships, and created everlasting memories." – Vanessa, GP Boston

"I end with this sentence, 'To change is simply having the idea to start with the smaller community,' like mine in Cite Soleil" – Esterline, GP Haiti

"Obviously we are not perfect. There are still many things we can improve. But I'm sure that this is a good way to get experience you will never ever forget." – Marlana, GP France

"I learned about myself. When I was with the youth I asked a lot about their culture and country. The two countries do not have the same culture and I learned a lot about them." – Seydi, Nicaragua

"It's helped me because we've been doing all these projects that before we didn't do. I've learned how to make friends with new people. It wasn't difficult. I've also learned to work more united. If you are united, you can achieve whatever you want." – Alexander, Nicaragua



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