



Camping with Tao

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“Who are we?” I ask. “MILA!” yells team 10. Michigan Los Angeles was the team I spent six days and five nights with. Located so far away from one another, our team symbolizes what the camp hoped to achieve-- the ability to learn from one another and realize our one similarity-- Tao.

This camp has truly been awe-inspiring. Never have I seen so many youth Taoists congregated in one place. Never have I seen so many young adults focused in lectures and group activities. Never have I seen so many people so kind and polite to one another. Never have I seen so much youth potential cultivated Tao and devoted to Tao communities around America. Yet these all happened for the first time at Loma Mar, CA- our first I-Kuan Tao USA Youth Summer Camp.

Our camp consisted of great lectures and lecturers. We learned about Filial Piety, Going Green, the Four Qs, and many more. These lectures were unlike typical school lessons. Many youth members were moved to tears by the touching stories and videos. We were taught many ideals that would forever be embedded within us. For example, the Going Green lecture has convinced many Taoists to become vegetarians. Their “streak” will last as long as they remember all the reasons how vegetarianism is good for the environment, for the animals, and most importantly- for their own health. These lectures helped change lives as we became more respecting and appreciating of our parents. We no longer placed significance in material goods and we shall forever treasure the life that we possess to cultivate Tao and help out the world.



道氣滿滿的營隊

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「我們是誰？」後學問。「彌勒！」第10小隊大喊著。後學與來自密西根與洛杉磯的中堂所組成的小隊一起生活了6天5夜，雖然兩地相距非常遠，但是這象徵著我們小隊的精神——也是這次夏令營的宗旨——向他人學習，並了解彼此的共同點：道。

這次的營隊真是讓人讚嘆。後學從來沒看過那麼多青少年道親齊聚一堂，從未看過那麼多年輕人專注在課堂上及團體活動中，從未看過人們如此親切有禮地互相對待，從未在美國看過那麼多將來可能願意修道並奉獻道場的年輕人。所有這些都出現於我們在加州紅杉木峽谷初次舉辦的美國一貫道總會暑期青少年身心靈成長營。

營隊中有很棒的課程及講師群。除了孝道、環保、4Q（AQ- 逆境商數、EQ- 情緒商數、IQ- 智力商數、MQ- 道德商數）外，我們還學了很多。這些課程與一般學校制式的課程不同，很多年輕的成員因為課堂上一則則的故事和影片感動落淚；講師們還傳授了很多讓我們終身受用的觀念、想法，例如，在講述環保的課堂上就說服了很多道親成為素食者，他們的「道念」會深植心中，只要他們記得吃素對環境、對動物，最重要的是對自己身體有益的所有原因。這些課程也改變了我們的生活，讓我們更尊敬、更感謝我們的父母。我們不再過於看重物質生活，且將永遠珍惜我們所擁有的生命，進而去修道及幫助這個世界。



▲ 感性的星光夜語時間。

Besides lectures, we had many group activities to give us hands-on experience and “lessons”. For instance, we played a game where we would call out our parents’ name and they would rush out to help us even though they were busy with their own work. This filial piety activity showed us how hard-working our parents are and how we have to appreciate all the time they dedicate to us. Another game out of many that we played was where we would take items on the ground and create works of art. This made us think about all the trash, waste and dead organic materials that were located on the ground. Although the art was quite beautiful, it was quite sad to see what the world would become if we didn’t take care of it. Using these group activities, we were able to bond with our group and enhance our understanding of the lessons being taught.

Most importantly, the activity that stood out the most was the group showcase. This began starting on the first day of camp. We started prepping, assigning characters, creating an outline, writing lines, practicing, and finalizing. This was where groups showed their creative ideas and integrated moral learnings and teachings about Buddha’s mercy. Having fun at the same time, our group was able to create a funny plot with random characters to make the audience laugh and educate them about being kind to others and giving people a second chance. With ten groups and ten showcases, our last full day of camp became a fun and educational experience. This activity truly ended the camp memorably and showed us the power of creative youths in our Taoist community. All in all, the camp brought potential-filled youths together and cultivated us to keep the “light” burning bright.



▲ 從體驗活動中了解志工使命。

除了聽課外，我們透過許多小組活動去實踐課堂上所學，從中實際體會。例如，我們玩了一個遊戲，當我們呼叫我們的父母，他們就算手中的事情忙不過來，依然會馬上衝過來幫助我們；這個孝道體驗活動讓我們知道，父母們是多麼地竭盡心力在疼愛與照顧我們，而我們應當感激他們在我們身上花費的所有時間。我們還玩了非常多遊戲，其中一個是撿起地上的物品並創作出藝術作品，這個遊戲讓我們想到地上所有的垃圾、廢棄物以及死掉的有機生物；雖然這些藝術品都很漂亮，但是如果我們不關照這個世界，它將變成我們不想要看到的樣子。透過這些團體活動，我們小組可以團結一心，也讓我們對所聽的課程有更深入的了解。

最讓人印象深刻的活動則非「任務驗收」莫屬了，這項活動始於營隊的第一天，我們即開始準備前置作業：舉凡角色的安排、劇本大綱及台詞的撰寫、走位的排練以及最後的定案。這些步驟除了讓各個小組發揮創意之外，也將學習到的菩薩的慈悲、道德的觀念，一一呈現在表演中。享受表演的同時，我們這組透過隨機的角色人物創作了許多搞笑的情節，除了讓觀眾們捧腹大笑外，也希望觀眾都能善待他人，並給予犯錯者第二次機會。夏令營的最後一天，就因10個小隊的表演，給予我們有趣又富有教育意義的經驗。「任務驗收」活動讓這次夏令營畫下了充滿回憶的句點，也展現了道場中年輕學子們的創造力。總而言之，這個營隊集結了許多潛力無限的修道年輕人，並藉由此活動培育我們把「道」繼續薪火相傳。