

gance/reeya. He informed them that arrogance/reeya is an obstacle for them to enter Jannah. One can be very sincere before an action, very sincere during an action, and then become an arrogant, which therefore removes the blessings and reward from what already transpired. Many of the sisters reflected upon the speech and realized that they too have this characteristic and wanted to free themselves from this evil quality. They asked Allaah azz wa jal to protect them before, during and AFTER the good works He allowed them to do. They learned that trying and hoping sincerely for Allah's pleasure is the only intention that brings a sense of real inner peace and happiness in both worlds.

Dr. Sayyedur Rahman Choudhury, MUNA National President explained to them on how they could save their souls by doing good deeds. He highlighted on how they can push themselves to get to Jannah. He encouraged them that in this life their primary goal should be entering Jannah.

There was open Questions and Answers discussion by Sister Salma Afroze who is MUNA National Women Shura Member & Women Secretary Eastern Zone and Sister Shahana Masum who is also MUNA National Women Shura Member. In this session, the campers were able to freely ask any type of questions they had without any hesitation that they would have in any other gatherings.

National Leadership Projects

Seerah of the Prophet

Muhammad (saw) Project

Saturday began with campers getting up at 4:00 am and offering their salah in Jama'ah. After the salah, the campers got ready and went to the main hall with their designated groups for the day's gathering and activities. At 5:30 am, they began their session with the recitation from the Holy Qur'aan. Then the Seerah group from the National Leadership Program started their

project. The members who were involved in this group were Masuma Sultana, Salma Sultana, Nazia Anwar, Lipa Yeasmin, Israht Rhui, Muslima Solaiman, and Khadija Begum.

This project was divided into three parts: Introduction, activity, and conclusion.

In the introduction, they discussed briefly the importance of studying the Seerah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw).

The second part was the 'Seerah Hunt', which had the same concept as the Scavenger Hunt. However, they have made some alteration to make it enlightening for the campers. The idea behind this hunt was to provide the sisters with both enjoyment and education. All of the questions for the handout were taken from the life of our beloved Prophet Muhammad SallAllaahu Alyhe Wassalaam. The answers to the questions were creatively and cleverly designed into clues, and the sisters joyfully searched for clues. Part of their goals for this second part was to get the campers energized as well as getting rid of any sleepiness since it was early morning.

In the third part, they asked the campers to return to their selected area with their group members collecting their clues and answers to their questions. Once all the members were seated with their group members, they started to go over the answers to the questions on the handout. The winning team was based on who collected the most clues and answered the most questions correctly. The team who had finished the hunt with the least amount of time was considered the winner. The winning team received a bag of chocolate as their prize. Administrators were caught by surprise when the winning team shared their gift with all the other seven groups. That just was amazing! It shows how considerate they are about their sisters' feelings. This simple action of the group shows how they managed to create sisterhood bond in a relatively short amount of time. The 'Seerah Hunt' taught the sisters time management skills since it was being timed and it helped them developed teamwork spirit. A few minutes were given to them to

enjoy the treat they have just received. After eating their treat, the sisters were more energized and enthusiastic. At the end of this project, the group's members handed out a colorful and eye-catching brochure which briefly outlined the importance of studying Seerah.

Qur'aan Project

The Qur'aan Project was presented by Qur'aan group of Leadership Program. The sisters that were involved in this project are Shamim Akther, Rokeya Begum Rina, Amina Kalam, Shahinoor Taleb Sema, Sadia, Salma, and Mariam Tanzilla.

The presentation was divided into two sessions:

First, through PowerPoint, they discussed Surah Alaq (1-5), Surah Mudhthir (1-7) and Surah Muzammil (first roko).

The second session was the activity among the sisters which was the Jeopardy game. The subject matter of this game was Qur'aan, Ahadeeth, Islamic Manner and the Prophets of Allaah. The sisters really enjoyed this activity and expressed that they gained a lot of new knowledge and lessons about life.

Islamic Manner

Islamic Manner project was very gratifying and emotional. They started their discussion analyzing the Islamic Moral System. Sr. Nipa Royees discussed the history and Islamic ruling, and explained what ethics, akhlaaq/ khuluq and adaab are in Islam.

Sr. Tamanna spoke about Salah, which is the first manner of dealing with Allaah subhaana wa ta'ala. We all know that after Allah (swt) and the Prophet Muhammad (saw), our mother is the most important figure in our lives.

Sr. Umya Habiba gave an outstanding speech on the topic, "Parents and Children Relationship". This speech had made a tremendous difference on our youth. By the end of her speech, most of the sisters had tears on their

eyes.

The rights and etiquettes with others was presented by Sr. Zannatul Rezwans with an extraordinary play about "Treating Guest". The play was an eye-opener for many of the sisters. After the play, a lot of sisters realized that they need to change their attitude on how they treat their guests.

Sr. Toma presented on how our body is 'an Amaanah' from Allaah subhaana wa ta'ala. Our body is a gift from Allaah (swt) and we must use it according to His guidelines and treat it the best way. Through her presentation they became aware that the western media is teaching them the exact opposite of what Allaah is commanding them to do. It's also helping them to destroy their amaanah of the body. This presentation also made many sisters become conscious that their body is not for them to keep and it must be returned to Allaah azza wa jal in the condition it was given to them.

The last etiquette deals with how their outlook should be toward the Environment. It was created by Sr. Ferdaus. In Islam they are obligated to take care of their surroundings. After the presentation the sisters became more environmentally aware, and they realized the importance of conservation and recycling. In-sha-Allah they will try to put their utmost effort to contribute to this movement.

History of Islam (Prophets of Allah)

This project was presented by the following sisters – Umya khadiza, Naima Akhter, Najia Akhter, Sabrina, Tasnia Kusum, Fatima Jafor, Jannatul Ferdous and Hiramoni.

They discussed the life of Prophet Adam (aws) through letting the audiences listen to an amazing lecture by Imam Anwar Al Awlaki. A power point presentation was shown parallel during the lecture. The main point they wanted to get across was the purpose of their creation and the consequences of being proud (Shaytaan being a great example).

After the presentation, each group was given a

poster and they were asked to write the Prophet's name, special qualities and Qur'aanic references regarding the Prophets. All the eight groups tried their best to name as many Prophets as they know with the references. SubhaanAllaah, it was an amazing activity which inspired all sisters to learn about the Prophets and their da'wah styles among their people.

A skit about arrogance was directed by Lima and played by sister Nushrat Jahan (Lima), Zakia, Maliha, Zomor and Koli. It was a great example of arrogance of ignorant people. Through out the history, arrogance is what killed each nation.

Dua'aa Game

For the dua'aa game, they selected dua'aas that they use daily in their lives. They had two sets of dua'aa cards: one set contained the transliteration of the Arabic text and the other set had the translation. The cards were given out randomly to each sister. The sisters' task was to find their partner who has the translation or vice versa. While they were searching for their partner, they were not allowed to say any words beside just to repeat their dua'aas. The sisters who have found they partners were to sit down and introduce themselves to get to know each other better.

This game was very emotional for some of the sisters. They mentioned that they felt like they were at the Arafah when they were reciting the dua'aas. Through this game, the sisters were introduced to a dua'aa with the meaning, met new sisters and attempted to build a strong sisterhood among them.

Far Rockway Beach

On Saturday afternoon, the campers had an amazing experience in Far Rockway Beach. Alhamdulillah when they arrived at the beach,

there were no other people beside them which gave them the opportunity to use the beach to themselves. They were able to enjoy their time freely such as climbing the rocks on the beach and getting their feet wet. They were able to witness the beautiful scene of sun setting. Through this they are able to see the perfection of their Creator Allaah subhaana wa ta'ala. If his creation is this pleasing, imagine how beautiful He can be!

Gem Board:

For the whole three days of the camp they had a 'GEMS BOARD' placed at the main hall, which was the basement. Sisters were encouraged to share their reflections, lessons, or any enlightening moments they have stumbled upon. Alhamdulillah, by the end of third day, they had the gem board filled with GEMS. The GEM BORAD is now located in the second floor of Baitul Ma'mur Masjid. Anyone is welcomed to come and read the gems and ponder upon it.

Departments:

The following departments were created to organize the camp. Without these departments' dedication and hard work, it would not have been possible to keep things timely and in order. The departments are:

The Coordinator: Sr Shahana Masum

Office Registration: Sr. Ummiya Habiba, Sabrina Hoque and Ishrat Ruhi (Farrah)

Food: Sr. Shamima Akhter Sheuli and Sr. Amena Kalam

Transportation: Sr. Tasnia Kusum and Sr. Masuma Sultana

Programming: Sr. Muslima Sulaiman, Sr. Fatima Jafor, and Khadija Begum .



MUNA Youth : **The Debate Champions!**

Organized by the Mafiq Foundation, the Muslim Youth Debate Tournament had over 20 teams participating from about a dozen local Islamic Centers and Organizations. In this tournament, Washington DC Metro area's middle and high school teams improved their oratory and reasoning power by participating in this debate competition, masha'allah.

The MUNA Youth DC Debate Team did very well in representing the MUNA Youth organization in the competition. In the MUNA Youth DC Team, there were two people from Virginia, and six people from Maryland. The team members participated in debate workshops and also took on mock debates over two months before the actual debate tournament, which took place during the 4th of July weekend. The team had a total of four debate workshops and over ten mock debates within the group/team.

At the debate tournament the middle school team got all the way to the finals and actually even further, while the high school team got to the semifinals, only; al hamdulillah – for both. The high school team lost once at the elimination rounds, but since they won two out of three elimination rounds, they made it to the semifinals. At the semifinals, the high school team were defeated by a group consisting entirely of college students. Who somehow entered as a high school debate team and eventually won the semifinals and the finals.

This so-called “high school team” did not debate at the annual ISNA convention because they did not meet the qualifications necessary, although they did come in first place at the debate tournament. However, the middle school MUNA Youth team won the finals and was undefeated in the three elimination rounds as well. The team also got to compete at the annual ISNA convention where they won once again. The middle school team has not lost once, and we are very proud of their sweeping success.

All in all, MUNA Youth DC represented MUNA Youth as a whole very well and very proudly, al hamdulillah. The team wearing the official grey polo shirts with the MUNA Youth logo embedded on its chest, they were given as gifts to the debate team from Power Camp 2009. The MUNA Youth debate teams did not enter as an Islamic center or a school like most of the other participating teams. Rather, the brothers proudly entered as members of the MUNA Youth organization, a nationwide youth organization. MUNA Youth DC Debate Team joined the caravan of hope – al hamdulillah.

Power Camp 2009 - Poconos, Pennsylvania

By: **Kazi Sumon and Rakibul Mazumder**

There were balconies on every floor. The attic had two couches with a telescope on the balcony, from which the view was breath taking and softened the heart by inducing thoughts of Allah (SWT's) greatness. There were three bathrooms, each equipped with a shower and only the master bathroom on the top floor containing a Jacuzzi. The basement had a pool table, air-hockey table, and even a poker table. But these details are just specs of the house, mere appetizers for the satisfying experience of the Power Camp '09. These are only descriptions of what was basically a shelter, a structure whose walls served to separate us from the vast and gorgeous wilderness of the Poconos Mountains. What's more important is who was living inside the house.

Upon arriving at 75 Buckhill Road in Blakeslee, Pennsylvania, the brothers met new and old faces. MUNA Youth administration had selected thirty-two aspiring young individuals from all over the nation – ranging from California, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Immediately, this camp displayed the unity of the youth from around the country in their efforts to do something good, maybe even great.

The next day, presentations began. Each Power Camper was to present a PowerPoint slideshow that he had prepared on the particular chapter assigned to him from In the Early Hours, by Khurram Murad. The overall theme of the book and the Power Camp was Tazkiya (purification), personal development and growth towards becoming more righteous and an active positive contributing member of society. From the oldest to the youngest, the most professional to the not-so-professional presentations, everyone shared something in common—the experi-

ence of teaching. While a brother spoke before his beloved peers, the rest learned what Tazkiya entailed—focusing on Jannah, constantly doing dhikr, loving Allah (SWT), controlling and eliminating evil characteristics, holding dear the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his Sunnah, spending in the way of Allah (SWT), respecting parents, family, children, neighbors, employees, bosses, animals, the rest of Allah (SWT's) creation, and always remembering death. With one lesson after another, MUNA youth's presenting and speaking skills became apparent. Indeed these were the leaders of tomorrow, al hamdulillah.

These PowerPoint slideshows were not the end of all the presentations. High ranking MUNA officials, such as the National Vice President, brother Abu Ahmed Nuruzzaman, MUNA Youth Director, brother Arman Chowdhury, and MUNA Youth Assistant Director, brother Abdullah al-Ma'mun gave presentations and delivered workshops of their own on a variety of topics regarding the goals and agendas of MUNA Youth. Also various guests visited the Power Camp site, East Zone and New York City Zone Vice Presidents respectively joined the Power Campers and wished them well with their advice and dua'. To see these and other presentations from the Power Camp 2009 for yourself, check out MUNA Youth's youtube page and do not forget to tell others about it and subscribe

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MUNAYouthVideo>

In one of the nights, we had a movie session, during which we watched the Amistad, an inspiring film that was produced in 1997. It centers on an African slave named Cinqué who leads a rebellion on a Spanish slave ship and ends up on