Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

Si View Community Center, studio room (400 SE Orchard Dr, North Bend, WA)
November 16, 2011 at 7:00pm

Board Members in attendance:
President – Chuck Wolber
Vice President – Brennon Church
Secretary – Jami Blackann
Treasurer – Jerry Schiffelbein
Members at Large – John Keiser, Mary Keiser, Jennifer Jackson, Yuichi Shoda

Action Items:

* Chuck: Set up Flickr account. Start moving August photos to our own online gallery.

* Chuck: Buy bottles of water and canola oil.

* Chuck: Send message to Meetup and volunteer list to reassure everyone that the event is still on, even if it's cold and snowing.

* Jami: Bring SA banner holder and white string.

* Jami: Send email to board and volunteer list about bringing food and supplies for potluck.

* Jami: Start putting together list of volunteers and counselors.

* Jami: Prepare materials for information table.

* Jennifer: Have Sam call Chuck about working on the website.

* Jennifer: Post message (with instructions, link, deadline, etc.) to the board list about training session.

* Jerry: Bring Seattle Atheists PA system, projector, and screen.

*Jerry: Bring purple CQNW t-shirts.

* Jerry: Put Solstice Party on CQNW Meetup.

* Jerry: Coordinate sale of white SA canopy to CQNW. Negotiate a reasonable price.

* Jerry and John: Work on registration tools. Talk to Amanda about Wufoo.

* John: Set up Google Apps/Docs for CQNW.

* Mary: Bring white duct tape.

* Mary and John: Bring coolers of ice.

* Everyone: Bring power strips.

* Everyone: Review and update inventory Google doc with supplies you have, and the supplies you're bringing.

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 7:15 p.m.

* Previous meeting minutes were adopted.

Financial Report:

* Contributions so far: $7,703.29

* Expenses: $3,160.76

* Balance: $4,542.53

* Amanda said a check for $2,500 is in the mail.

November 19th Event:

* We get the room at noon. Everyone should get there with your CQNW shirts on.

* Icebreaker activities: Chuck has four, will probably use three.
  * Two truths and a lie.
  * Ducks and cows. Find each other based on sound of animal.
  * Finding twins. Hand out slips of paper to everybody. Pick a theme.
  * Kids from Mars. Set up boundaries. Two participants are from Mars, have to tag people.

* Suggestion: Don't have the "sound" activities right next to each other. Too much stimulation.

Younger Activities:

* Jennifer still needs tape and string. Mary will bring white duct tape. Jami will bring white yarn.

1. Rolling, rolling, rolling: The inclined plane or ramp is a tool used to study the force and energy of a rolling body. It is also a surface for marbles or other things to roll down. Children can easily learn that certain objects roll or don't roll but the inclined plane offers a tool to really explore which objects roll best.

2. Dinosaur Den: This activity looks at a very popular subject from a mathematical angle. How many rocks does it take to build a dinosaur den that's not too little, not too big, but just the right size? Children use informal measurement skills to select the number of rocks needed for their

cave. With practice, they become increasingly accurate. In the meantime, they refine motor skills and learn a little more about dinosaurs.

3. Blast Off: Paper Rockets: Make and launch paper rocket by blowing air through a straw

4. Sugar Tower Absorption: Build a tower of 4 sugar cubes in a saucer. Add food coloring to some water, and place the water in the saucer, and watch what happens.

5. Learn about Spiders: Demonstrate how spiders catch prey by making a web out of tape and string. Play "musical spider web."

Game: Musical Spiderweb
Materials:
Kids
Open floor space
Music
Procedure:
1. Select two children to start the game and ask the rest of the children to pretend they are the sticky silk web.
2. Ask the sticky silks to lay on the floor, twisting their bodies like parts of a spider web.
3. Instruct the sticky silks to touch the child next to them with a hand and a foot, making a continuous web.
4. The two children selected at the beginning start the game by carefully walking around the web to music. When the music stops, the two children standing touch the nearest child to them and that child becomes the next to walk the web.

Materials needed:
1. Inclined plane and objects to roll
2. Plastic dinosaurs and river rock to build dens (building surface?)
3. Straws; copy paper; tape (I will precut all strips)
4. Sugar cubes; water; food coloring; disposable saucers for each child
5. Access to power outlet if music is from my computer is difficult to hear

Older Activities:

Name of Lesson: Optical Illusions
Subject: Psychology
Prepared by: Brennon Church

Overview and Purpose:
Show through a variety of examples that what we think we see isn't always what's really there. i.e. Our brains don't always process things as they really are.

Materials needed (per camper):
Color printouts of various hollow-face illusions such as the Gathering for Gardner dragon (Shared in Google Docs)
Scissors

Scotch Tape
8.5”x11” paper, a couple sheets each
Pre-sliced paper (3 long slices per 8.5”x11” sheets) for Mobius strips
Eye patch
Two sharpened pencils

Materials need (demonstration)

White/Chalk board or display board for drawing examples
Printed examples of optical illusions (Shared in Google Docs)
M.C. Escher drawings
Shepard drawings

Activity:

What we see is not always what’s really happening. Our brains are hard-wired (evolved) to interpret things in a certain way. When we are faced with something that doesn’t fit into our preconceived notion of how things should be we often see them “incorrectly.” For example, take a look at a drawing of two tables (Sheperd’s table illusion). What can you tell me about these tables? (most people see them as different sizes, even though they are identical) What’s happening here is that our brains are so wired for 3 dimensional viewing that we can’t perceive these tables as flat parallelograms of exactly the same size.

(Draw a 3D cube on a piece of paper) What do you see here? Most of us see a 3 dimensional cube. Which face is pointing towards us and which is pointing away from us? In a wire-frame cube such as this if you try you can see it either way.

(Hand out scissors, and tape. Have campers select one or two hollow-face illusions for this next part.) What we’re going to do next is called a hollow-face illusion. Once you’ve cut out and taped together your figure I’ll show you how to give yourself the illusion that it is turning its head to follow you as you move around. (Have campers put together their figures) Now put your eye patches on and put your figures in front of you about 2 feet away, looking directly at them. Move your head slowly up and down, left and right. Some people see this immediately and for some it takes a little time, but ultimately you should notice that the figures head turns whenever you move yours. This happens because your brain expects the figure to match what it knows about how things look. In this case, the hollow face is translated by your brain into a normal one, pushed out rather than in. As a result, the face appears to follow you around as you look at it.

(Hand out two pencils for each camper) Now try this. Keeping your eye patches on, put your pencils out in front of you with the tips pointing to each other and about two feet apart. Now bring your pencils together and try to touch the tips. Only touch them head-on (not sideways or front-to-back). If you can’t, pull them apart and try again. You’ll probably find that this is pretty hard to do. This is because your brain is used to functioning with 3 dimensional vision and wearing the eye patch drops you down to only 2 dimensions. Take the eye patch off and try it now. It should be much easier.

(Draw a smiley face, two circles and an arc beneath them for a mouth) What is this? Most people

will see a face. In reality, it's just a couple circles and an arc, not a face. Here again our brain is hard wired for something. In this case, to see patterns that we can recognize. The term for this is pareidolia, when vague or random stimulus is perceived as having some sort of meaning. In the case of our drawing we see a face where there is none. The same is true for sound, such as hearing words when a recording is played backwards. Look around the room and see if you can find other examples of this.

(Hand out the Mobius strip papers) Since we are talking about 3 and 2 dimensional viewing, I figured I'd give one example of a 1 dimensional construct. In this case, a Mobius strip. Take your paper and twist one end over and tape it to the other end. Make sure you only twist it a single time. Now, follow along the paper (with a finger or a pencil) and see what happens. You should find that you can traverse the entire length of the paper without ever crossing an edge, something that would be impossible on a standard, 2 dimensional sheet of paper. Now, just for fun, take your scissors and cut along that same line you just traced or drew. What happens?

(Show Shepard and M.C. Escher drawings) Here are some works of art that contain optical illusions in them. Can you draw your own?

Northwest Freethought Coalition Solstice Potluck:

* December 4, at the 2100 Building.

* We're a part of the coalition, so we should advertise this on our Meetup.

* Request for a raffle item: CQNW t-shirt.

Marketing Team:

* Jennifer passed out her marketing plan for review.

* Jerry: We should participate in street fairs and farmers' markets. Need a canopy. Could buy the white one from Seattle Atheists and waterproof it.

* Parent publications. *Parent Map* and *Seattle's Child*

* Use the volunteer list to solicit help. Create a Google doc. Maintain a list, have some others do the heavy lifting. Contact volunteers individually – will get a better response.

* Jennifer also has "how to be a great board member" training. Because people are busy, she thinks it might be best to do it online. Should only take two or three hours. Deadline: January 15. You administer the training material to yourself.

Registration:

* John, ping Amanda again about using Wufoo. Give her a list of questions.

* Focus of next meeting: Cost analysis, all things related to registration.

Next Meeting:

Jennifer's home (1703 NW 62nd St., Seattle, WA 98107)
Wednesday, November 30, 7pm sharp

End time: 9:30pm