SUMMARY OF DALLAS TWST MEETING

3-27-19

This month’s Dallas TWST meeting was attended by 5 teens, 7 parents, 2 slp’s and 1 slp grad student intern. We began the meeting with a choral reading of the Welcoming Words followed by popcorn introductions. The icebreaker required the entire group to line up in order of birthdays from January on one side of the room to December on the other side of the room. The key is that this had to be accomplished with NO TALKING and within 5 minutes. We were amazed that we succeeded in correctly ordering all 15 of us without talking in 3 minutes!! Woo Hoo, way to go Dallas TWST group!

The theme for this meeting was “Dallas TWST – Who Are We?” We’ve had a few new teens join the group in the last 3 months, so we thought it would be good to have a meeting with activities designed to help them get to know each other better. Because it has been a while since we broke up the teens in one group and the parents in another, we decided to do that. The parents went with Jeff Miller and he opened up the floor to whatever questions the parents might have. They spent the rest of the meeting in conversation. The first activity for the teens was “Would you rather”. A statement was read aloud that began with “Would you rather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Each teen could tell the group which was their preference and explain why, if they wanted to. Some of the teens had very interesting rationales for their choices and they had fun influencing others in the group with their explanations.

For the next activity, each teen was given a piece of paper and a pencil. They were told to write down a few things about themselves that they feel are important. We then explained that I would gather up everyone’s piece of paper and mix them up and then read each one aloud. They would try to guess whose paper I had just read aloud. Once the author of the paper admitted it was his/her paper, then he/she had the opportunity to expand on any of the things written on the paper or people could ask about something that had been written down. The teens were all quite verbal and happy to share with the group. It was wonderful to hear even the quieter group members contributing willingly.

We then discussed the possibility of having a social get-together sometime in the near future and some ideas were thrown out for possible activities including bowling, an escape room, laser tag, and whirly ball. We will send an e-mail out to the group and see what their preferences are for activities. The Closing Words were read in unison and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Tricia Krauss-Lehrman