

Central Region

Report on Central Region Youth Day July 16, 2011.

Assalamo Alaikum,

Central Region Youth Day was held July 16, 2011 at Baitur Rahman Mosque. 48 youth attended the event. The following is a break down of events from the day:

9:00 am to 10:00 am: Sign in and Breakfast.

10:30am to 12:30: Talawat—verses from Holy Quran were recited on requirements of Purdah.

Welcome—girls were welcomed by National Youth Secretary. They introduced themselves and were asked what they like or disliked about the recent U.S. Jalsa. There was a resounding preference for the men's speeches over the ladies' program and good comments on the organization and function of the Jalsa. Some girls had attended the Canadian Jalsa and had a few negative comments about their experience.

Workshop 1: the National Youth Secretary conducted an interactive guided discussion on personal experiences of Purdah. Girls were asked to share their experiences preparing and starting to observe Purdah. Common excuses/challenges to observing were discussed. Girls were asked to explain their understanding of the Quranic requirements for Purdah and its purpose. Many girls shared positive experiences and were honest about the challenges and changes they experienced by covering regularly. The workshop was meant to help those girls who are not observing without putting them on the spot.

Group Project: Girls were divided into teams and provided materials to come up with a pamphlet/brochure marketing purdah to youth. They were asked to come up with an original tagline and images/text for their ad. The girls spent a lot of time on their projects and were enthusiastic. The youth secretary kept their projects to refer to when she works on a pamphlet for the national youth program. One of the youth read out all the slogans and taglines from the projects to which the girls cheered with narays.

2:30pm-4:30pm Sports: Youth could choose between soccer or badminton. Board games were provided for those waiting for their turn at badminton. The girls played enthusiastically in both sports.

5:00pm—7:00pm Workshop 2: was conducted by guest speaker, Safiyya Salam, National Tarbiyyat Secretary of UK Lajna. She held a workshop on 'obedience to Khilafat'. The girls were asked to answer questions in groups on nizam e jamaat and directives from Huzoor (aba). The girls enjoyed the workshop very much as they were able to hear first hand information about what it is like to work under Huzoor. They had many of their

questions about directives of Huzoor addressed and cleared up. They had to answer scenarios about obedience to nizame jamaat as well. Many of them met with the Tarbiyat Secretary after the workshop.

The Youth Day closed with awarding of participation certificates and chocolate. Many girls said that the two workshops were very helpful and used a different approach than what they normally heard and they enjoyed them a lot.

Special thanks to Nudrat Qureshi and Farida Ahmed of York/Harrisburg for providing all of the meals and serving for the day.

Wasalam,
Ruaqaya Asad
National In charge of Youth Programs

