



English Access Microscholarship Program



Preserving the Environment through English Language Learning

AVEA was established as a result of discussions between the Regional English Language Office and the Ministry of Education to develop a summer, multi-cultural experience, based on the Seeds for Peace program, for the students of Aqaba.



On June 14 – June 30, 2010, AVEA hosted 240 students at the Youth Scouts Camp on the outskirts of the City of Aqaba.

The Summer 2010 American Village English Access (AVEA) is a camp for the underprivileged children of Aqaba where they can learn about American culture, practice their English and enjoy fun interactive and collaborative games, drama, arts and crafts (A&C), as well as teamwork and leadership skills during their summer break. The main theme of the camp is the environment with a focus on preserving the maritime life of Aqaba.

Activities emphasized critical and creative thinking as an applied process in all the projects. Each day, the AVEA camp started with leadership and teamwork activities which were followed by drama and Environmental English interactive classes. Anticipating that some participants would need and/or want more time than others with individual activities, the AVEA team structured the Arts and Crafts room into learning centers with 2-4 activities simultaneously available. The low teacher:student ratio—due to the very welcome presence and contributions of 10-15 regional Peace Corps Volunteers each week—made this possible. This year's activities included making a scrapbook, starting with "About Me Now, And About Me in the Future" on the first day and adding new materials and content each day in keeping with camp themes and experiences. Students also enjoyed making Friendship Bracelets and hand-painted hijabs and ghutras.

One of the main benefits of the camp was to provide students with opportunity to meet and speak with native speakers of English. Some of the students had had some past contact with native speakers whereas for other students this was their first time. Two-hundred and forty (240) students were able to interact with a significant number of Americans including the US Ambassador to Jordan, Stephen Beecroft, and the Country Director for the Peace Corps, Alex Boston, both of whom participated in the VIP interview session with AVEA kids.

Students were provided an opportunity to play games, practice their English, make new friends and came away with both tangible and intangible memories that they will be thinking about long after the close of the camp. The AVEA camp is now being replicated, through the English Access Microscholarship Program, to students throughout Jordan.

