

reconnect teens 2018 has been a life changing, friendship making, fun-packed week. We once again spent time enjoying the facilities of the Peak Centre and breathtaking Peak District scenery. The week was attended by 19 teens who have just returned to the UK from spending the majority of their youth in over 10 different countries. The nine leaders had first hand experience of living or working abroad which was invaluable in identifying with the impending changes the young people were about to face.



Throughout the week we enjoyed participating in a plethora of team building challenges, plenty of outdoor sports matches, hikes up the surrounding peaks and streams and getting creative with drama and music. Interspersed were talks from TCK leaders on topics such as coping with change, becoming resilient and how to connect with people.

We enjoyed a day trip to Sheffield (it was the first time on a British train for many!) and in small groups completed challenges around the city. On the Thursday, we participated in 'The UK is OK day' which included a full English breakfast, high tea, a ceilidh and a pub quiz style team game.



Our priorities included focusing on 'reconnecting' our relationships with God and creating new friendships with each other. In the evenings we heard leaders' testimonies about transitioning back to the UK and also their faith journeys. In addition, we looked at the Bible character of Joseph and how he approached his period of transition and uncertainty. We enjoyed plenty of time worshipping around the campfire (with obligatory marshmallows!) and building up a friendship network of those who can support us over the upcoming transition in the next few months.

A couple of the young people and their parents wrote:

"Words can't really express our gratitude – but THANK YOU."

"Thank you so much for a fabulous week. Our daughter, 'X' doesn't open up easily but it seems she had a number of significant conversations with the younger leaders. She is more positive about the UK and she is smiling more. It is beautiful. Thanks from a happy Mum."

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed either practically, prayerfully or financially towards the camp. We cannot wait for next year!

reconnect 2019

kids: 29 July – 2 August 2019

teens: 4 – 9 August 2019

Families can book to stay: 2-3 Aug

Visit www.globalconnections.org.uk
and search for 'reconnect'

Enquiries about camp and 2-3 August:
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Swimming, den building, treasure hunt, hill walking, salt paper-weights, memory books, learning new songs, early morning football and late night extra: Picnic in the park, water fights and s'mores round the campfire. These aren't what make reconnect special rather it is the way the children connect to make friends, and help each other to understand what it means to be a Third Culture Kid. When we arrived everyone was a bit nervous. By Monday evening, tucking in to BBQ sausages, everyone was chatting happily, and friendships were being made.

reconnect kids (6-10 August) met in the beautiful Peak District, to help kids transition back to the UK. Most of the 12 leaders were adult TCKs; they came together with 29 kids who have lived in Asia, Africa, Central America and Europe. We saw God at work in conversations where kids really opened up and in flashes of insight and under-

standing. One kid said: **"I've only known people here for a few days, but I'm more friends with them than people at school. People here understand."**

We used the book of Ruth as a base to talk about moving, transition and being the new person in a new place – all things our TCKs could relate to. The Night Market was a favourite activity as they bargained for treasures from around the world, while practising using English coins.



WOW evenings, are always special as each family shares their 'Window On the World' about the country where they have lived. One of the youngest campers shared in a little, quiet voice. You could have heard a pin drop as all the children listened.

Some great moments:

- 25 kids crammed into a den in the woods. A shrill voice from inside: "This den doesn't have a fire exit!!"
- A 7 year old's beautiful prayer, summing up the whole week.
- 4 older boys dancing on a bench round the camp fire singing 'Let it GO!'

Parents wrote: **"The kids came back saying it was the best week of their lives."** and **"They all really enjoyed it and benefited so much from it. We have loved talking through all the activities and looking at their thoughts, prayers, processing etc. It is such an important role that you and the camp play. Thank you."**

Lots of answered prayer: the shy kids opened up; one sore throat went; one nervous sleeper went to bed happily; a deleted file of photos reappeared; the team gelled quickly and God blessed us with amazing weather.

"It was a week of home. It was a week with Jesus."

Huge thanks to all who have helped: financially, practically or prayerfully. It has been a brilliant week. We are looking forward to 2019!

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