

Director's Committee Notes 2/22/19

Opener: Most interesting thing that you learned this week

Assigned roles

Approval of Agenda

New Agenda:

Cellphone proposal

Goal: getting consensus on the proposal; getting questions, concerns

THIS IS THE PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION:

You MAY bring & use your personal cell phone. Please keep it in your pocket. Your family is permitted to contact you & we especially encourage this to happen in the evenings and on your day off. Please do not use your phone during scheduled program activities, field trips & guest lectures.

We ask you to leave your I-Pad, laptop, Apple watch, game player, Fit Bit & other internet-connected devices at home. The INVST summer is an opportunity to disconnect. You should stay off your phone as often as possible. However, bringing it along will give you, your significant other(s) & your parent(s) an extra measure of safety & security while you travel in cities & communities that are unfamiliar to you. Please use your phone only for safety & family check-ins, not as a social media browsing device. You will be on an honor system. It will be up to you to self-monitor.

Discussion:

Jennilee: communicating between each other on the trip and what 2020 cohort needs or wants to.

Sabrina: logistic wise, you are all together; it is in the evenings, all together all the time; it wouldn't make sense to text each other.

Danielle: why first year there are no phones and second year we want phones

Katie: my understanding for Climate justice that an integral part is to bond; phones can get in the way; economic justice phones are for safety; partly because of what happened in Chicago; brings comfort for cohort, parents, staff, and university

Sabrina: keep it the same for climate; keep tech free for wilderness; have opportunity to connect deeply is important; the only change is to the second summer, since the setting is different; city centric; different degree of external factors with each component.

Kaisa: logistically too; climate summer you wouldn't opportunity to charge until second. And Daniel probably won't want people to fill up chargers.

Katie: clarification: proposal wouldn't just be for 2020 cohort but for all the cohorts

Kate: set expectations amongst cohort in 2020; not use it in car rides; only use it for guardians/parent

Allie: something I noticed that it was distracting for her that people were on their phones in the church when first and second year cohorts met; honor system is good; propose maybe add something to the ground rules; really upset that cohort of 2019 is on their phones; Really detracts from the experience; first year and second year coming together it was a weird dynamic; people weren't engaging; ratify and say that people don't have phones in Denver; have some plan in place if that is abused in some way. Thinking of summer facilitators; having to babysit cellphones sounds terrible; should set up support system. What does this actually look like.

Amanda: phones are incredibly addictive and don't notice that you are on it; strong precedent in the beginning set at the beginning; for her follow suit on phone. I don't know how well it will go if somebody tells me to get off my phone; it needs to be coming from within the cohort; self-accountability important as well

Sabrina; there is simplicity with a ban; there is a precedent of knowing how it can go; individual on invst summer has a family emergency; took their cell phone so they can be available for the health of the parent; lead to unfortunate downward side; the person would gravitate towards the phone. We have to maybe make extra layers of safeguards and agreements; proposal invites amendments.

Kaisa: mentioned not put responsibility on facilitator ; maybe having physical accountability structures and routine; tub ware put phone in; at 7:00 can use their phone; different per cohort member can enforce this and the tub ware belongs with facilitator; norm is the goal of this structure; not about people not trusting future members; goal not to treat people like children
Kayla: logistics question; Chicago; walking alone within the group; walking to host families; what is alone time walking alone

Adi: not having phones is super awesome and there is something beautiful about that but understand safety measures; makes me think what people did before phones; maybe way to have flip phone per group; having own phone is distracting; as much as we want to put our phones at certain times, because easy to break. Really value not having my phone but find alternative solutions.

Danielle: shouldn't be as much of a burden on facilitator; it should be in a community; shouldn't be in a bin; should have it on us; learn self control

Kate: really don't see how phones equal safety; took year off and were in sketchy situations ;never used phone for safety reasons; if we are going to have them, excuse shouldn't be for safety reasons; For first week will be at A-house, will be all together; hard core be like don't have it out. Only have phones on Sunday to talk with guardians

Sabrina: reminder that the whole reason that people came with proposal is because of family members; attempt to evolve; hold onto wisdom we know; if family members were at the table, what perspectives would be at the table

Jennilee: underlying assumption that safety is with phone; have good faith with our cohort; are all on the same page; like no phone policy; we can make commitment as cohort.

Katie: Wrap up convo at 3:30 ; hearing having phones on the trip for emergencies; once a week phone call; have it off and with you can be new proposal; objections for proposal to be more restrictive

Kaisa: think about loved ones at the table; consider the impact on other people of not getting to hear from you

Annie: having phones on you not on is going to serve the purpose of parents getting in touch if they are off.

Josh: two sides to the issue; if you have phone and you are approach by someone, they can take it. It wouldn't be a tool for safety; But I think that it makes sense for people to have someway to reach out for parents; not necessarily a bad idea; not guarantee, phone can put you in more dangerous situation.

Allie: not biggest fan of having phones at all; parents will be able to contact facilitator; kids can call on their days off; no one went three weeks without talking with their parents; on second year; there is homestay, so maybe have one person in each homestay have a phone; BUT really don't see a need for phone. as long as facilitator has the phone; it should be fine

Katie: no conclusion; should we take more time.

Sabrina: wisest thing agendawise; make substantial headway NOW

Phoebe; for homestays it is the most important; it depends on structure of economic summer; I am somebody really bad with directions; it was weird without my phone; we grew up on phones so maps disagree with the idea that maps can be used. If we had phones in certain situation, we would find people easier; one group member got separated from the group.

Mable: resonated with Allie's suggestion that some people bring phone. Question for Allie

Allie; clarify suggestion of having one person in each homestay having a phone.

Mable: should entertain the idea of at least one person in homestay taking a phone; one person in charge of having a phone in a group could be a solution. Lunch can be dangerous

Kayla: i like Allie's suggestion; I don't entirely know what the training is for facilitators but DID not feel like we had the option that Allie mentioned (cohort 2020 able to call their families); We felt like we couldn't ask about using the phone. Maybe we can highlight phone use in facilitator

Danielle: implement that training that Allie did for us for facilitator; what phoebe said about maps was important but I really like the idea of knowing where people are

Kaylee: a problem if you person can have phone and you person cannot have phone; how do we decide who has phones; and how do we tell parents about which children can have their phone.

Jennilee: Facilitator idea was a good idea; good structure; the way that we should facilitate it as have phones but treat it as emergency; and still continue to have facilitator phone thing; talk with families when you have it scheduled ; we all individually have phone though.

Kate: way to get 16 burner phones? Nokia?

Amanda: we got our phones back because of something horrible and scary and didn't have a precedent; all these people had to get in contact with families; we have to learn how to keep phone away; it is your choice to take yourself away; it is a skill that we should learn because a lot of us don't have this skill. Can take this into our own life. It is a big problem with cohort 2019 and that is because we didn't have precedent and a lot of us felt like we needed our family because it was a scary

Sabrina; remember having with bags of phone; there was chaos and no process of giving back phones;The way it happened last summer won't ever happen again. We can't afford 16 burner phones; environmental sustainability reasons, a lot of trash. It isn't a terrible idea.

Katie: I hear what Amanda and everyone is saying; i see it as we all should have our phones; shouldn't have phones until we need to and everyone's definition of needing phone is different. BUT need to Be respectful of everyone's learning experience is huge; have big discussion about this; it is everyone's role to hold people accountable; be only used when needed.

Kaisa: it is hard to give up everything and go on this trip; Sometimes people need lifeline outside of this immersive trip;

Sabrina: process question; did you change the proposal;

Katie: took facilitator hat off to give opinion and not give proposal; facilitator hat back on.

Katie: consensus; bring phone if you want to; only use it phone when you need it; need is subjective; (whether emergency/or need phone to call at night) but be respectful of learning experience; hold ourselves accountable

Allie: Hold ourselves accountable is not realistic; maybe could do guidelines per cohort. thinking really about facilitators; really hesitant about the proposal; want more specific things in place in terms of accountability; want ratification that we revisit after one year; and make it not a forever thing

Kayla: could there be space made for ground rules and guidelines during summer orientation

Allie: thing that it comes back to is how your actions personally impact other people; we are growing towards this; if you are making choice to keep being on phone, it does impact other people; it would be anxious to facilitate that trip since you are responsible for the experience for 16 people; I think 15 out of 16 it could work fine; 1 person disregards everything can disrupt everybody; facilitator's job is not to discipline people

Jennilee: make this a one year proposal; two cohorts are involved in this but future cohort won't have same context; they wouldn't take phone conversation as seriously;

Danielle: make this one year; we will always have disruption; conversations need to happen when you have challenge; people might not take it seriously about emotional impact of phone

Kate: already looking ahead for Denver and feelings about wanting to be home; being with second year cohort when they had their phones was hard. It was hard to connect with them. If people don't want to bring them but I don't want to police them; I don't think we need them; maybe shame people who bring them.

Katie: Allie is looking for specific accountability for structures so that facilitators don't have this responsibility; have this discussion in group time or facilitation; should the conversation should just move on to the first year cohort

Sabrina: phone conversation is appropriate in directors committee; where as we moved conversation to orientation; context is different; will be focused on different things; will make a different decision then now. I think DC is right place to decision; i think we got really close. Maybe there is a way to gather up what we have done and shape it into something.

Amanda: it is make a difference is cohort is like no; phones are an escape; three weeks are intense; every year facilitator has to tell people off being disrespectful. Go through emotional experience and phones are another way to numb out. Facilitators do take on the role of discipline.

Katie: consensus on form of proposals; make specific accountability structures for next year; **consensus on moving this discussion to next DC meeting with these amendments; the proposal is to be revisited again in one-year proposal where people bring phones, limit use, and develop specific accountability structures that has specific things people will do when people disregards phone use.**

Kaisa: would those accountability structures be talked about separately in cohort 2020 time.

Katie: feels like accountability structures should be talked about in the next DC meeting.

Josh will be the next DC facilitator on Friday April 12.

Agenda:

food waste

Talk about phones

Talk budget

Feedback for Katie:

Kayla: handled the situation well for an this unexpected conversation.

Allie: I like intro question; agree with that you get to learn. At times it was clear what the stack was, but at times it wasn't. Good job.

5 minute break; anti-oppression.

Art together.