

## The Peace Camp

The week I spent in Austria was one of the best weeks of my life. The Peace Camp was a once in a lifetime experience and I will never forget it. During that week I was introduced to a new culture- the Austrian culture, and got to know even better the somehow familiar culture- the Arab culture.

To my great surprise the connection between the Jewish- Israeli group and the Austrian group was immediate and the bonds we've made were very strong. By the second day of camp it seemed as if we have already known them for weeks. We found many things we had in common and had great conversations.

Unfortunately, the connection between the Arab- Israeli group to the Austrian and Jewish group was not as good. There were a few factors that stood in the way such as the language, the tradition and the customs. There were big gaps between the cultures.

During the 10 days of camp we got to do many different activities. We went navigating through the mountains, we went swimming in the lake; we went to see a ballet and many more.

We also had political discussions about the Israeli conflict. I was very surprised to see that the Austrians knew a lot about it. I was happy to hear objective opinions about the conflict, something I'm not used to.

We also had Identity Workshops, in which we talked about our personal and group identities. We also had some creative assignments that had to do with the subject.

All in all I can say that I had a great time in Austria. This project, personally, gave me a lot. It might not be a big step towards peace, but I'm sure it touched and affected each and every one of its participants.

Mor Benor- Jewish Israeli group.