

Laidlaw Scholars Programme

Leadership-in-Action Weekly Blogs



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Week 4: Aug5 – Aug 9

Background:

The traditional Chinese festival, Qixi—the “Chinese Valentine’s Day”, is on August 7th this year. In order to enhance neighborhood relations and pass on traditional culture, we worked together with volunteers of other organizations to Schedule a themed event celebration.

Our duties:

For previous preparation, our main goal is to bring back interest into ancient Chinese



traditions by combining them with behaviors in current society. According to the reflection on the division of labor last week, we choose to take charge of the cultural part including searching and selecting lantern riddles enjoyable for all ages and help with coming up games especially entertaining schooled children that are linked to Qixi traditions.



During the festival, after helping to set up and tying all the lantern riddles, we took turns to help with 3 of the sections-- inviting passers-by to participate, helping with children’s bracelet DIY (which represent the tradition of “Qiqiao”, that is making handcrafts with thread), and clothing photo shoot.

Self-reflection:

Planning the entire festival seems to be a very huge project. We also had various doubts about our abilities and retreating thoughts before the whole implementation. However, when we reasonably distributed the work and each performed their duties, we formed a small working machine. After breaking down the big problems into small problems and solving them one by one, we found that this festival was incredibly successful. Seeing the happen looks on participants faces as well as people’s aroused interest in Chinese traditional culture, the hidden inner sense of achievement brought by volunteering actions was fulfilled. The success of this event is the collective result of communication and cooperation between different volunteer teams. It is a very lucky, passionate and heartwarming experience to work with like-minded people for the same goal.

Leadership lessons learnt:

When a project’s goal is out of one team’s reach, don’t be reluctant to invite other

teams and make a combined effort. What's more, when one needs to arouse interest in the target audience with a distant subject, he can try to make connections by combining the subject with or changing its form to what's available anywhere for the audiences to reach. This will help fill in the gap between audiences and the subject.