



CISV New Zealand

Building global friendship

September 2026 Minicamp Report

It was great to welcome everyone back together for another successful minicamp this September, some new faces were present which was great to see! This camp's theme was 'Camp is a party!'.

At minicamps, the participants are split into 'Juniors' (9-13 years old) and the 'Junior Branch' (JB - 14+) to ensure the activity content suits the participants ages!





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Activity One: Juniors

Lead by Francois

In this activity session the Juniors participated in various fun mini games aimed towards demonstrating the importance of teamwork and communication in simple ways. The activity began with some energisers and a game putting the kids into teams. The first mini game was team racing between a start and finish line, but teams were limited in how many total limbs could be used to touch the floor across their entire team. These got progressively more difficult until the participants were forced to come up with creative solutions together.

Next they were rearranged into two teams and sat in a line facing the same direction. The person at the back was shown a shape, and this was passed forward by drawing on the back of whoever was in front of them until the end of the line was reached. This taught them how information can easily change as it is passed between people - as an example a basic triangle drawing even managed to turn into an umbrella by the end of the line!



The final part of the activity involved two teams lying down on their backs next to each other in a line. The front person of each line watched as cards were drawn, and when a picture card was pulled they squeezed the hands of the person next to them. This was passed down the line to the end, where that person had to jump up and find a specific hidden object around the room first. This focused on how it takes everyone to make a team, and just one missing person can cause the team to not be able to function properly. Overall the kids enjoyed their time during this activity, which gave them a simple but effective way to learn about the importance of teamwork and communication.



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Activity One: JB

Lead by Maya, Sia and Lila

For our activity we decided to base it on prejudice and bias in the real world. We split up the group into two groups, strawberries and kales. Through different small games we gave the strawberries team many advantages, while the kales got disadvantages. For example in charades, the strawberries team got very easy prompts while the kales got hard ones which meant that the strawberries won. This was to show how in the real world many minorities get disadvantages and have a much harder time doing the same as other groups.

Activity Two: Juniors

Lead by Olive & Sean

We started off our Saturday morning by activating our minds and bodies with a New Zealand themed running strategy game!

Our Juniors and JJB were split into three groups: Kiwi, Possum and dogs.

Our kiwis got a head start and started with 10 pieces of “food”. Their job was to either run, or hide, from the possums and dogs before they were released to catch them! If they were caught by a possum they had to give up 2 pieces of their food, and if they were caught by a dog, they gave up three!

Our leaders were stationed around the camp, and those kiwis that were clever and quick were able to find them and scavenge some food to keep up their supply, but if they weren't careful and were caught too many times by the predators they were sent back to the hall!

Our possums also got started with food, albeit a little less than our friendly kiwis! They were only hunted by the dogs, however, couldn't claim any food from the leaders hiding about, but they were certainly good at poaching any kiwis that went in to grab their supplies!

This activity helped our juniors and JB get warmed up for camp, got them thinking about our environment around us in the beautiful Hunua and the different pests and creatures around us, and played a part in helping them get started on their communication, our key theme for the weekend ahead!



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Activity Two: Junior Branch (14+)

Lead by Sam & Louis

Sam and Louis ran a simulated debate between two fictional countries. Participants were provided views, resources, and geographical information about their countries. Two participants represented each country and negotiated agreements on areas such as trade, education, transport, and policing. The objective of the activity was to better understand other people's perspectives by arguing for views they didn't necessarily agree with.





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Activity Three: Juniors

Lead by Olive & Sean

The kids were split into 5 teams and given a checklist of 5 colours they had to tick off before the other teams. Each team had to move around holding hands, with one member blindfolded, and work together to complete challenges at different stations. Once they completed a challenge, they could guess a colour with the leader and, if correct, tick it off their list. Some stations also had power-ups to collect! The activity encouraged us to strategise, communicate and, most importantly, work as a team. It was a close race, with first and second place only narrowly separated!

Activity Three: Junior Branch (14+)

Lead by Ella

At Minicamp my activity was called CISV Jeopardy. In this activity everybody was put into 3 groups, and they had to guess the answers from 6 different topics that related to CISV. The topics were Conflict and Resolution, Diversity, Human Rights, Sustainability, CISV Facts and Mystery Challenge. The first 4 topics are the four educational content areas that we use for planning activities at CISV camps all over the world. My intent with this activity was to get its participants to think about the questions they answered and how they could use this new information they have learnt to plan activities in the future. I mixed up who was with each other so people could plan activities with new people.

Activity Four: Whole camp activity!

Lead by Olive & Sean

Activity 4 was a camp-wide highlight, with 6 groups of Juniors and JB's creating their own nations. Each group came up with a name, greeting, national animal, three national values and a creative map featuring a town, nature and a body of water.

The nations then competed in 5 rounds of auctions, bidding on 25 different items, from schools and hospitals, to data centres and oil rigs. As nations became richer, they had to strategise, form alliances and share money to maximise their returns.

But there was a catch! After the auction, the environmental impact of their purchases was revealed, with black paint representing the damage caused by unsustainable industries. The richest nation ended up being hit the hardest.

We finished with a lively debrief about what the activity represented and how it connected to the real world. It was an exciting, competitive and very loud activity that was just as much fun for the leaders to run as it was for the campers!



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Sunday activity: Junior Branch

Lead by Ana

This activity was designed to help the JB think and feel more hopeful and positive about their futures and who they want to be. This was achieved through a section of learning how to make paper cranes together and then learning the story of the 1000 paper cranes - and how we can learn from it and be inspired by the achievement. We then did group discussions and brainstorming, and then some solo silent and prompted visualising and thinking, and then writing of who each person wanted to become, and taking care to consider each aspect- what they did, how they felt, how they spoke to themselves in this future self, and then making goals and steps towards achieving this- taking note of what skills they already possessed and what obstacles might come in their way and how they could combat that. We were rushed for time near the end so the debrief was cut short but there was still some great discussion and thinking and planning.



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We'd like to extend a special thanks to the leaders Francois, Sean, Olive and Lucie for their hard work organising and running this camp! Also a thank you to the National Junior Representatives Christophe and Ana, for their hard work organising the JB aspect on minicamp.

We can't wait to see you all in February!