

VOV CAMP HELD IN DENVER BY GARY RUSSELL, DENVER

For one fun-filled weekend on Aug. 19–20, the Jr. High and High School members of the Rocky Mountain Region gathered at Pickle Gulch for a camping experience. The theme of this activity focused on the Victory Over Violence project.

After dinner and dialogue, discussion groups explored various topics related to violence, such as ways of dealing with anger in a constructive way. One youth talked about how he took all his anger to the Gohonzon and chanted about it. Other discussions led to sports and entertainment media, and how they sometimes have a tendency to glorify violence. Suggestions to counter this problem included encouraging parents to discuss openly with their children what they see and hear so that the children can understand the difference between reality and fiction, right and wrong.

Of course, amid all this heavy discussion, there was also plenty of time for food and fun, from hiking to playing ball to swapping “Blair Witch” jokes.

On the second day, the participants read and discussed SGI President Ikeda’s recent poem, “Soar — Into the Vast Skies of Freedom! Into the New Century!” The consensus of this discussion was that this poem was President Ikeda’s expectation of the members of the SGI-USA, especially the youth, to be victors in life who are unshackled by the past or by baseless criticism. Unrestrained by these things, the youth can then soar, fulfilling President Ikeda’s vision and becoming leaders of the global peace movement.