

The Lantern

Mentor Programs, August Newsletter

August 2025

THE LANTERN



The Lantern - Who are we?

As a new year begins, our mentor programs open with fresh energy. This newsletter highlights the Men's Retreat Camp; the launch of our Afterschool Program; the Mid Atlantic Mentor Seminar; the kickoff of our Boys & Girls Programs; and the LeadUP Brazil trip, taking Divan's vision abroad through global learning. We welcome this new chapter in Divan's guidance programs as we begin our new mentoring year.

The Lantern Media

The Lantern is a youth-led newsletter shining a light on the stories that matter in our community and beyond. As part of Divan Center, we cover everything from youth mentoring and camps to dialogue events and creative initiatives that bring people together.

But our focus doesn't end there. We also reflect on major world events, celebrating moments of hope and acknowledging times of hardship. Whether it's a local activity or a global headline, The Lantern aims to inform, connect, and inspire.

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In this newsletter you can expect:

Men's Retreat
Camp

Afterschool
Program Start

Mentoring Seminar

Boys & Girls
Programs Kickoff

Leadup Brazil Trip

About us

Camp Activities



“Nothing brings people together like a fresh pot of tea.”



MEN'S RETREAT CAMP

Program Overview

One of our men's group recently gathered for a retreat camp focused on spiritual growth and brotherhood. The program included a variety of religious readings, discussions, and reflections centered on strengthening faith and deepening our understanding of key teachings.

The retreat was a refreshing opportunity to step away from daily routines, deepen our understanding of key teachings, and connect with one another in a meaningful ways.

Retreat isn't just time away, it is proven to strengthen community bonds, lower stress, and deepen spiritual connection. Studies show that participants in such programs often return with a renewed sense of purpose, stronger friendships, and lasting motivation to continue their journey in faith.



The retreat wasn't just about study and reflection but, it was also about enjoying each other's company. From preparing meals to sharing laughs around the grill, the group created memories that brought everyone closer together.



Activities

On Sundays, the 8th graders have their activity day. For example, on the last week of August, the students went to SkyZone for their activity.

They had a great time playing dodgeball and jumping on the trampolines.

For activities, the students also went to Walmart, where they each had a budget of \$6 to buy the snacks they wished. Through this activity, the students learned to budget better while they tried to acquire their favorite snacks.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM START

Program Overview

The afterschool program for 8th graders is a great opportunity for students to make connections that will last a lifetime and learn about their religion. During this program, 8th grade students come to an abiler house on Sundays and stay there until Tuesday. The older brothers in charge bring the kids from the house to the school and back.

During their three day weekly stay, the students go outside for activities on Sunday, followed by islamic lessons. During the morning, on Mondays and Tuesdays, the students start off their day with Fajr and breakfast, followed by making their own lunch. Afterwards, the older brothers drop off the students at school.

In the afternoon, the students pray Dhuhr, followed by free time. Afterwards, they eat dinner and finish their homework. After homework, the students resume their islamic studies and Quran classes.

The Mid-Atlantic mentors and aspiring mentors came together for a meaningful and impactful program that combined learning, collaboration, and community spirit. The event provided valuable insights and created an environment where participants could connect and share their experiences together.



MID ATLANTIC MENTOR SEMINAR



Program Overview

Speakers from several regions delivered insightful seminars. The participants also took part in engaging activities such as Kahoot games, picnics, volleyball tournaments, and peach picking. In addition, the LeadUp coffee stand received strong support, and clubs including Blossom Together and LeadUp gave informative presentations. The program provided a valuable learning and enjoyment, with the hope that the knowledge and experiences gained will be passed on to students in the best possible way.



Learning Points

More than just a meal, the picnic set the tone for the months ahead. It marked the beginning of a semester full of opportunities for growth, friendship, and shared experiences.

Everyone left with joy in their hearts, full stomachs, and a renewed sense of energy. It was truly a yippy start to a semester that promises both learning and lasting bonds.



BOYS & GIRLS MENTORING PROGRAM KICKOFF



Program Overview

Our community came together for a wonderful picnic kick off that welcomed both girls and boys to the start of another semester of weekend gatherings. The event was filled with laughter, connection, and the excitement of beginning a new season of learning and togetherness. The picnic featured a delicious spread of food, with grilled chicken as the highlight, and thoughtful gifts that brought smiles to many faces. It was a chance to enjoy the outdoors, strengthen friendships, and celebrate the blessings of community.



Fundraising activities were enacted for the tutoring center to be opened.

A suitable place was found in Brazil, and renovations began.

Soon after, the long-awaited day arrived, and the tutoring center finally opened on August 2025.

In the tutoring center, LeadUP provides education and guidance to children in need, while also supporting families with food.



LeadUP BRAZIL TRIP

It is truly heartwarming to see that the donations collected and the efforts made over such a long time have finally come to serve a meaningful purpose.

With the support of several LeadUP chapters, a tutoring center was opened in August 2025. Members from a few chapters even traveled to Brazil in person to be part of this wonderful experience. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.



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The New Mentoring Year

We are glad to be able to publish the August edition of The Lantern Mentor newsletter. August was the month of new beginnings for Divan Center mentoring programs. We hope to cover new programs on The Lantern's socials and keep you updated.

Recently, we've made new socials at Youtube and Twitter. You can also follow us on those platforms as well.

Sincerely,
The Lantern Team



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