

## PROGRAM:

7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Cohort Campus Visits

## OBJECTIVES:

- Provide students from remote towns the opportunity to explore a college campus, as well as become familiar and comfortable with a college campus.
- Provide hands-on activities and an interactive experience.
- Introduce adolescents to new things in a safe environment.
- Encourage students to take four years of math.
- Acquaint 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with what needs to be done to apply for college.
- Introduce students to a college tuition pay schedule and payment options.
- At the end of the day, the students can see themselves in college – *the seed is planted*; students are talking about college and college programs when they're returning home.

## LOCATION:

University Campus

## DESCRIPTION:

Campus visits are set-up for 40 to 50 students per day. This makes it a more personal experience for everyone, guest middle school students as well as college hosts. Campus visits are usually scheduled in May.

During the three years that 7<sup>th</sup> grade campus visits have been provided by GEAR UP at Eastern Washington University, the events have become fine-tuned and an adventurous campus experience. For example, the first year that the campus tour for GEAR UP 7<sup>th</sup> grade students was organized, student housing could not be included as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade cohort event. EWU was concerned about mixing middle school students in a college setting and invading the privacy of college students. Now that EWU has provided early outreach for three years, the college campus has learned how to meet the needs of curious adolescents, while providing a quality and well-rounded introduction to campus life.

The day includes a Tailgate BBQ for lunch and is always a big hit.

It is easier to meet the special needs of adolescents in a small group setting, which includes a smaller adult/student ratio. EWU staff that help host these events also benefit from this.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

1. EWU GEAR UP Grant Director contacts GEAR UP school districts in January to schedule the event.
2. After Winter Break, the EWU GEAR UP Grant Director begins recruiting college departments for the event.

3. GEAR UP schools confirm participation by no later than February.
4. In February, begins working with the campus' food service contractor for lunch service.
5. After Spring Break, EWU GEAR UP Grant Director works with campus admissions, which provide college student leaders/tour guides.
6. Late March, EWU confirms bus drop-off and pick-up times with GEAR UP schools. A head count for student guests is finalized.
7. Late April/Early May, EWU departments are close to final, which influences itinerary development for the college tours.
8. Safety Preparation:
9. Know how to handle various types of emergencies.
10. Know whether there are special accommodations needed by any of the students and prepare for that.
11. Middle school staff is responsible for student medications.
12. Late April, EWU provides final schedules to GEAR UP schools.
13. Mid-May, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students visit EWU campus. One or two schools (approximately 50 students) visit at a time.

### PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

Recruiting presenters/college representatives who will help provide a quality campus experience for middle school students is a large responsibility. Event coordinators must explore the college campus and find programs and/or instructors who can provide hands on, experiential activities to meet the needs of adolescents. The coordinator looks for "Those who will help take the sterility out of the college campus and provide hands on activities." Some departments who have helped in the past include: Archeology, Drama, Library, Planetarium, and Surveying. College Admissions provides the following:

- Leads campus tours.
  - a. College Ambassadors are a tremendous help. They are the primary tour guides and are also positive role models for middle school students.
- Provides college program overview.
- Introduces 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to dorm life.
- Encourages 7<sup>th</sup> graders to take 4 years of math and science in high school.
- Acquaints guest students with the new environment.
- Helps 7<sup>th</sup> grade students understand that 4-year colleges have general education requirements to satisfy before beginning major coursework.

Tip: Find siblings of middle school students who are attending the college and figure-out how they can be a part of the event. Ideas include: talk to students during lunch, students visit their dorm room, or create a panel for a Q & A session.

Tip: Graduate students with a passion are a tremendous help and are positive role models for the college program that they represent.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

Take home materials include:

- EWU Information Booklet
- EWU pen
- Mascot decal

Students are encouraged to share their information booklet at school and at home.

Through the years, middle school staff has consistently reported that students are talking about what they want to do when they go to EWU, while riding the bus home.

## COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Event Coordinator (Eastern Washington University GEAR UP Contract Director)
2. Due to distance, some schools need to provide breakfast
3. Transportation (school busses)
4. Event Supplies
5. Lunch

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## ATTACHMENT:

### *Sample Schedule for the Week*

#### GEAR UP 7th Grade Trip To EWU - 2008

DATE	SCHOOL	Arrive at 10 Campus Tour until 11:30	Admissions Presentation 11:30- 12:00	Lunch 12:00- 12:25	Library 12:30- 12:50	Planet- arium 1:00- 1:50	Music Activity 2:00- 2:50	Drama Activity 3:00- 3:50	Depart at 4
Tuesday	Columbia	<b>AM10:00</b>	PUB 206	PUB 206	Yes	Yes	Jazz Choir	No	Depart at 3:00
May 13th	Cusick	<b>AM10:00</b>	PUB 206	PUB 206	Yes	Yes	Jazz Choir	Theater	Depart at 4:00
Wed. May 14th	Mary Walker	<b>AM10:00</b>	PUB 206	PUB 206	Yes	Yes	Wind Ensem.	No	Depart at 3:00
Thurs. May 15th	Republic	<b>AM10:00</b>	PUB 206	PUB 206	Yes	Yes	Jazz Choir	Theater Yard	Depart at 4:00
Monday	Northport	<b>AM10:00</b>	PUB 204/5	PUB 204/5	Yes	Yes	Wind Ensemble	Theater	Depart at 4:00
May 19th	Wellpinit	<b>AM10:00</b>	PUB 204/5	PUB 204/5	Yes	Yes	Wind Ensemble	Theater	Depart at 4:00
Tuesday	Curlew	<b>Arr. at 10:30</b>	PUB 206	PUB 206	Yes	Yes	Jazz Choir	Theater	Depart at 4:00
May 20th	Selkirk	<b>Arr. at 10:30</b>	PUB 206	PUB 206	Yes	Yes	Jazz Choir	Theater	Depart at 4:00