

PROGRAM:

Science and Leadership Camp

OBJECTIVES:

Provide 6th grade students with hands-on experience with science, while promoting leadership and academic skills, personal self-confidence, and the perception that they should attend college, as well as give students the ability to succeed as college students by participating in the program in a university environment.

LOCATION:

University Campus

DESCRIPTION:

Sixty 6th grade students participated in the Science and Leadership Camp. They participated in three days of leadership training and science curriculum on a college campus.

One of the main programs of SEMY is the Student Leadership Program (SLP), “which focuses on supporting the educational success of migrant youth through development of leadership skills (SEMY web site, 2009).” The Student Leadership Program, “...combines nationally recognized curriculum which is aligned with Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements and staff trained in student-centered learning to conduct leadership conferences. Students learn to set goals, solve problems, work as a team, communicate and make decisions (Ibid.).”

The activities of the Science and Leadership Camp used a tight itinerary. For example, when the students arrived at the camp at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, they signed in, received their registration packet, lanyards, tags and backpacks. They were checked into the dormitory, their luggage was put into storage rooms, and they were provided a snack in the lounge.

The adult leaders were divided into two roles: chaperones and facilitators. The chaperones were with the students at the dorm and lounge and ushered the students into the college theatre to start the official activities at 10:00 a.m. The chaperones led the same small group throughout the entire conference, and color flags were used to identify small groups, and to remind students which group they belonged to. Students belonged to groups that included chaperones and other students of the same gender. Chaperones included the five GEAR UP site coordinators from the participating schools. The schedule allowed for chaperones to have time off when the students were being trained in science and leadership by the facilitators. Facilitators were those adult leaders trained in either the leadership curriculum of SEMY or the science facilitators from Central Washington University.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

Planning for the Science and Leadership Camp begins at the Post Activity Workshop held during the summer a week after the camp. Planning gathers steam during February and March meetings before the summer camp.

Every year, the program planners revise program details and curriculum based on knowledge gained from the previous year.

They begin intensive planning for the summer program in February or March. CWU representatives include GEAR UP site directors in the planning. For instance, site directors help determine the criterion for selecting student participants. With this, they do try to enroll an equal numbers of girls and boys. In addition to the students accepted for the program, long lists of alternates were developed in case students drop out before the event.

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

Permission slips for attendance and taking photographs of the students were also created, and the program planners made certain to include relevant health questions on the student application such as allergies, health issues, emergency contacts, and the like.

There was extensive program training. Adult and student leaders were trained to expect the unexpected, and to make immediate program changes reflecting new knowledge and circumstances. For example, during camp one year a boy jumped off the high dive board and failed to come up for air. He was rescued and it was determined that he was OK, but it was also discovered that he did not know how to swim! Although procedures for permitting children to jump off the diving boards, and swim in the deep end of the pool were already in place, they were immediately tightened to reflect knowledge gained from this incident. Throughout the history of the program no serious harm has come to any of the participants.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

The program leaders hold a Post-Activity Workshop and go over issues that occurred during the conference. They also analyze and review the results of the student evaluation surveys.

One important outcome of the workshop has been the conclusion that too large a group of students is not effective, raises safety issues, and waters down the quality experience. The program leaders advise that 50 students is a good number, and that if you want 50 students on board, you should register 60 because several will drop out before the camp begins.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

Six college chaperones received stipends of \$250 each. Ten facilitators received \$250 each. The program coordinator for the Leadership program was paid \$1,000. Course materials cost \$800. Dormitory lodging and food for 50-60 sixth grade students, plus transportation costs, are important cost considerations.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Beverly Vifian, Director
GEAR UP Program
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 925-2607
vifianbb@fairpoint.net

Professor Martha Kurtz
Chair, Chemistry Department
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 963-1422
kurtzm@cwu.edu

Linda Roberts, Director
Secondary Education for Migrant Youth (SEMY)
810-A, East Custer Avenue
Sunnyside, WA 98944
(509) 836-7500
Linda@semy.org

ATTACHMENT:

Sample Camp Itinerary (Next Page)

Sample Camp Itinerary

Tuesday	
9:00-10:00am	Students arrive at CWU: Check in, get snacks
10:00-11:00am	Opening Session and Speaker (SubRec Theater)
11:00-12:00am	Campus Tours
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00pm	Science Workshops (Science Building)
4:00 – 4:15pm	Snacks
4:15 – 5:30pm	Leadership Workshops (SubRec)
5:30 – 6:30pm	Dinner
6:30 - 7:15pm	Move into dorm room, wind down, get snacks
7:15 – 9:20pm	Swimming & Recreation
9:20–10:00pm	Return to dorm, wind down, get snacks
10:00pm	Lights out

Wednesday	
6:15am	Wake-up!
7:30 – 8:30am	Breakfast
8:15 – 11:45am	Leadership Workshops (SubRec)
12:00 – 12:45pm	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00pm	Science Workshops (Science Building)
4:00 – 4:15pm	Snacks
4:15 – 5:30pm	Leadership Workshops (SubRec)
5:30 – 6:30pm	Dinner – barbeque
6:45 – 8:00pm	Games/Sports Activities/Talent show planning
8:15 – 9:15pm	Talent Show (SubRec Theater)
9:15 – 9:45pm	Return to dorm, wind down, get snacks
10:00pm	Lights out

Thursday	
6:30am	Wake-up!
7:00 – 7:15am	Check out of dorms, Transition to Dining Hall
7:30 – 8:30am	Breakfast
8:30 -11:30am	Leadership Workshops (SubRec)
11:30-12:15am	Lunch
12:20- 1:25pm	Science Workshops (Science Building)
1:25- 2:00pm	Town Caucus (Science Building)
2:05- 2:45pm	Science Camp Group Demonstration (Science 101)
3:00- 4:00pm	Closing Session (SubRec Theater)
4:00- 4:15pm	Students get snacks & collect luggage
4:15pm	Board buses and leave for home