



Insect World Science Camp July 18-21, 2010

AUDIENCE

This 4-day camp is held annually in mid-July for 9-12 year olds, maximum 60, from across the country. Counselors are assisted by Junior Counselors who have attained the age of 13 and have attended this camp for a minimum of 2 years. This year we had a 60/40 male/female split up from 90/10 in our first year.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Camper fees, \$325 for the regular program and \$350 for the advanced program covers the cost. A limited number of scholarships are available which cover half of the fees. Usually 6-8 scholarships are available each year.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

As a result of this camp experience, youth will achieve:

- An appreciation for insects and their value
- How to make a bug collection
- Social skills - meeting new people
- Comfort level in a dorm setting
- What's out there after high school

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This camp was designed for kids who have a natural curiosity about bugs. Camp is held here on campus to take advantage of the many resources that this campus offers, such as 4-H Children's Garden, Baker Wood Lot, the Red Cedar, all of which are great areas for observing and collecting insects. Mornings are spent out in the field collecting. Most kids find this to be the most fun and informational time. In the afternoon, campers spend time in the lab to use the microscopes and also to pin the catch of the day. Campers are engaged in science/entomology activities. This year we had a 90 minute session at the Cyclotron. In the past, we have had sessions in chemistry, geology and botany. They also spend a lot of time, both in the lab and out in the field, observing insect behavior.

MSU faculty, graduate students and staff volunteer their time to assist in giving our campers a valuable educational experience.

PROGRAM IMPACTS

The impact of this program has been significant. Each year, we have a 60-70% return rate. Some campers have attended up to 8 years. Due to this interest, we added a more advanced program, then the junior counselor program was added for age 13 and older returnees and finally our most advanced program which puts campers in the labs of various faculty. Over the course of 4 days, our most advanced campers will spend time in 5 labs learning what faculty are doing and how they do it. Our intention is to make them aware of the significance of insects as they relate to some of the problems we currently face, such as Emerald Ash Bore, Mosquito transmitted diseases, crop problems.

Our main goal for this camp has always been to introduce young campers to the possibilities that MSU has to offer. This year, two of our original 9 year olds began their careers here at MSU, one in Entomology and one in Lyman Briggs. Both of these young people attended camp every year for 9 years.

Each year an evaluation is filled out by all campers / parents. Over the year's these evaluations have been used to up-date and refine the learning experience. Many good suggestions come from both campers and their parents. Where possible, we try to incorporate these suggestions in an effort to provide a better experience for our campers. A few of their comments were "Thanks for assigning a black roommate with my son. It was his first close contact with someone of a different race and it was a truly positive experience" and "Once again, we were very impressed with the camp! Thanks for another great experience for my son"

ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Camp is sponsored by the Department of Entomology's Bug House. The Bug House is the flagship of all Entomology Outreach Programs. From this base, we have evolved into educational programs, not only here on campus with several thousand visiting the Bug House each year, but through outside activities such as science fairs, classroom visits throughout the community and various 4-H programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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