



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

July 31 to August 6, 2011 (29th year)

Audience

Seventy teens ages 13 to 15 (grades 8th-10th) from across Michigan attend this week-long camp annually. The 2011 campers were 36 males, 39 females and 9% people of color.

Funding

Sponsorship funding was provided by donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation (\$5,000) and Michigan Sea Grant (\$3,000). Partial scholarships were given to those who could not attend without financial assistance. Remaining costs were covered by camper fees or locally secured scholarships.

Objectives

This camp is designed to:

- Increase teens' appreciation and enjoyment of the outdoors, natural resources, and science
- Increase teens' knowledge about the Great Lakes, natural resources ecology and management issues
- Develop strong attitudinal attachment to Michigan's unique natural resources and bioregional features
- Foster scientifically rooted environmental stewardship
- Develop and expand career and personal interests
- Develop leadership skills and self-confidence
- Increase social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult

Description

The residential camp has 70 intentional contact hours. The content and instructional methods are research-based (environmental education, place-based education, experiential learning and youth development). The camp is located near northern Lake Huron in Presque Isle. The diverse, natural resources-rich area includes lighthouses, a marina, unique coastal wetlands, dunes, a limestone quarry, diverse watersheds, state parks and a national marine sanctuary.

Sessions teach ecological concepts such as coastal ecology, fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, invasive species and forestry. Recreation options such as kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, and archery let campers try something new and have fun responsibly in the outdoors. Evening programs develop ownership and empowerment for taking leadership, teaching others and participating in environmental policy making. Camp sessions expose youth to 4 of the 5 Michigan science curriculum standards in earth science and 3 of the 5 standards in biology for grades 8 to 12.

MSU Extension faculty/staff (6), graduate students (6), undergraduate students (3) and natural resources experts (and 4-H volunteers (11) served as resource people and chaperones. Camp alumni ages 16 to 21 served as counselors.

Outcomes

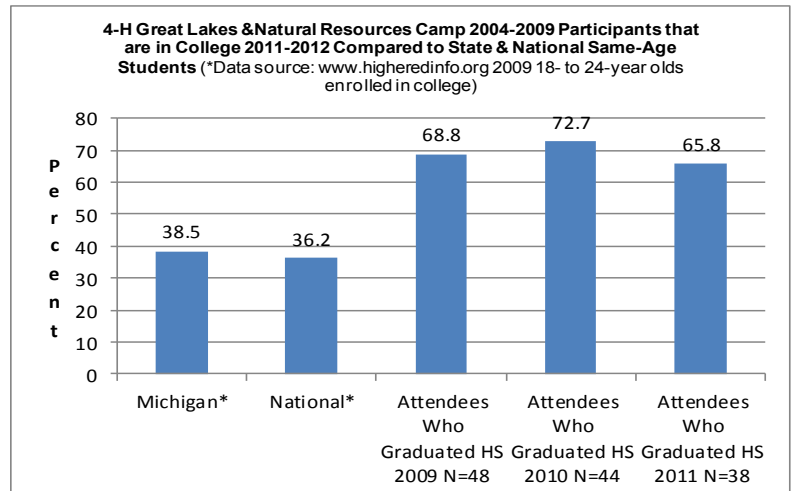
- 2011 surveys showed the program increased participants' interest in and readiness for college as well as science:
- 100% increased their interest in the environment, natural resources or the Great Lakes
- 97.0% plan to attend college
- 95.5% increased their knowledge of different majors, career paths and opportunities at MSU
- 92.5% said the program better prepared them for college
- 89.4% increased their interest in science
- 78.1% are interested in attending MSU

The top life skills participants indicated they developed by attending this program were:

- 97.0% Working with a group
 - 97.0% Communication
 - 97.0% Leadership
 - 97.0% Adapting to new living arrangements
 - 95.5% Accepting people who are different from them
 - 92.5% Problem-solving skills
 - 92.5% Seeking resources that can help me succeed
- Sample participant testimonial: "It changed my life. I've learned tremendously about natural resources and myself."

Additional Significant Information

Program alumni's college attendance rate comparison:



Prestigious national recognitions received by this program:

- 2011 - Selected for an in-depth case study of high quality 4-H Science programs across the United States
- 2009 - National 4-H and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Natural Resources Conservation Education Award
- 2008 - National 4-H Program of Distinction

Contact Information

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