



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp July 29 to August 4, 2012 (30th year)

Audience

Sixty-nine teens ages 13 to 15 (primarily grades 8-10th) from 28 counties across Michigan attended. The 2012 campers were 37 males, 32 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.

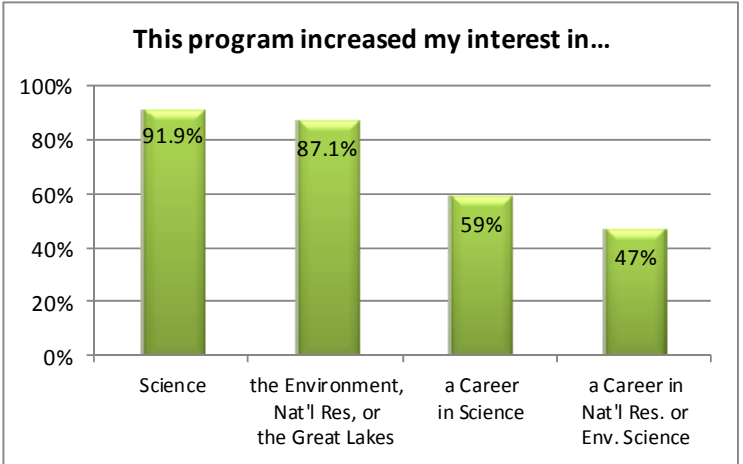
Sessions teach ecological concepts such as coastal ecology, fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, invasive species and forestry. Recreation options such as kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, and archery let campers try something new and have fun responsibly in the outdoors. Evening programs develop 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 (4), graduate students (5), an undergraduate student, outside resource experts (9) and 4-H volunteers (5) served as camp staff and chaperones. Camp alumni ages 16 to 21 served as counselors.

Outcomes

2012 surveys showed the program increased participants' interest in science, readiness for college, awareness of potential careers, and environmental stewardship:

- 100% plan to attend college
- 92.1% said the program made them excited to go to college
- 92.1% increased their knowledge of different majors, career paths and opportunities at MSU
- 90.3% said the program better prepared them for college
- 81.7% are interested in attending MSU



The top life skills participants indicated they developed were:

- 98.4% Communication
- 98.4% Working with a group
- 98.4% Socializing and making new friends
- 94.8% Adapting to new living arrangements
- 96.8% Problem-solving skills
- 95.2% Seeking resources that can help them succeed
- 93.7% Accepting people who are different from them
- 92.1% Leadership

Sample participant testimonials:

- It increased my interest in biology and the environment.
- I learned was how to analyze science data.
- I'm inspired to go outside more and pursue a degree and career involving Michigan's natural resources and wildlife.
- Learning about wetlands, watersheds, fisheries and wildlife were the best. I learned so much and had tons of fun!
- It helped me understand issues, gain leadership skills and made me want to work with environmental policy.

Additional Significant Information

Prestigious national recognitions received by this program:
2011 - Picked as 1 of 8 top 4-H science programs nationally
2009 - National 4-H and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Natural Resources Conservation Education Award

Contact Information

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