



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

August 2 – 8, 2015 (33rd year)

Audience

Sixty-one teens ages 13 to 15 (primarily grades 8-10th) from 30 counties across Michigan attended. The 2015 campers were 31 males, 30 females and 11.5% 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. The evening programs focus on team building, environmental policy making, teaching others, and empowering youth to take on leadership roles. 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 (14), outside resource experts (5), graduate students (3), and 4-H volunteers (4) served as camp staff and chaperones. Twelve camp alumni ages 16 to 20 served as counselors.

Outcomes

2015 surveys showed the program increased participants' interest in science, environmental stewardship, readiness for college, and awareness of potential careers:

92% plan to attend college

95% are more knowledgeable about career opportunities in environmental science-related fields

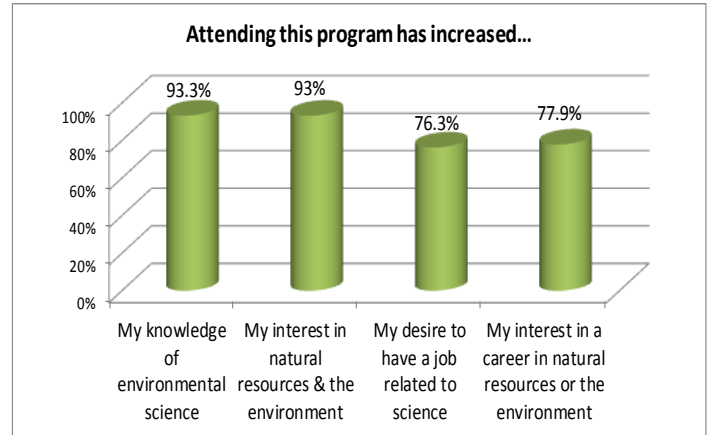
81% said the program made them excited to go to college.

81% said the program better prepared them for college.

93% gained awareness of career and job possibilities related to their skills and interests.

81% increased their knowledge of different majors, career paths and opportunities at MSU

73% are interested in attending MSU



The top life skills participants indicated they developed were:

- 95% Accepting people who are different from them
- 93% Socializing and making new friends
- 91% Seeking resources that can help them succeed
- 90% Adapting to new living arrangements
- 97% Problem-solving skills

Sample testimonials that reflect views expressed by many:

- This camp has opened new doors for my career and I will use the things I learned.
- It has increased my confidence with socializing and public speaking. It has also given me an idea of job opportunities.
- I feel more confident about my future.
- Camp has taught me more about job ideas and to never give up.
- This camp has really helped me find my way.

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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