



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

August 1-7, 2010

Audience

Seventy teens ages 13 to 15 from across Michigan attend this week-long camp annually. Grade levels reached were: 4 7th, 22 8th, 24 9th, 14 10th, 6 11th graders; 37 were male and 33 female. Six percent were people of color.

Funding

Sponsorship funding was provided by 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

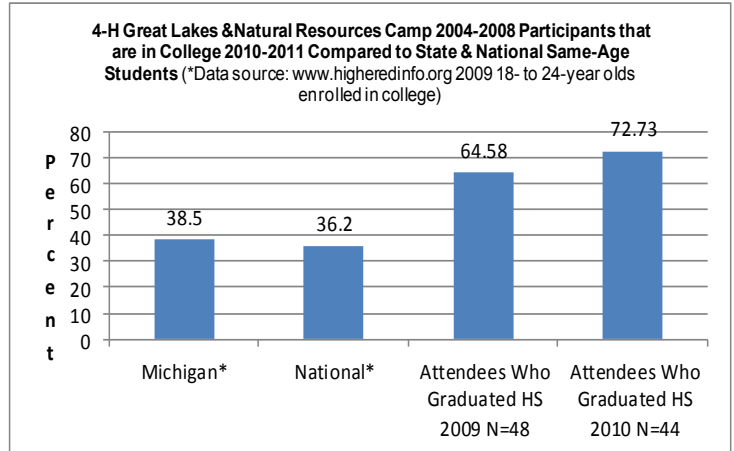
The residential camp has 70 intentional contact hours. The content and instructional methods are research-based (environmental education, place-based education, experiential learning and youth development). The camp is located near the shore of Lake Huron in Presque Isle. The diverse, natural resources-rich 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 and forestry. Recreation options such as kayaking, sailing, shipwreck 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 faculty/staff (11), students (7), and volunteer natural resources experts (10) served as resource people and chaperones. Camp alumni ages 16 to 21 served as counselors.

Impacts

Program alumni attend college at a higher rate than their peers.



Pre- and post-evaluations from 66 2010 campers show:

- 99% rated the camp as overall excellent or good
- 67% said they were interested in a career that is outdoors, works with the Great Lakes or is connected to some type of environmental science.
- 91% plan to use the information learned at camp.
- At the end of camp 81% reported they felt confident in their abilities to give a lesson or presentation to others Only 55% felt this way before camp.
- 67% intend to work with others to do an environmental community service project within the next year
- 81% reported that attending camp helped them to develop leadership, caring, and citizenship skills.

Camper quote samples: "This camp has really opened my eyes. I have learned tremendously about Michigan, our natural resources and myself through experiences at camp." "Camp has changed my life. I learned that nature needs our help to preserve it and I feel I can help."

Additional Significant Information

Two prestigious national awards: National 4-H and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Natural Resources Conservation Education Award and National 4-H Program of Distinction.

Presentations include: National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference, North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference, MSU Extension Conference, ANR Week, and North Central Regional 4-H Volunteers Forum.

Contact Information

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