



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

July 28 to August 3, 2013 (31st year)

Audience

Seventy teens ages 13 to 15 (primarily grades 8-10th) from 37 counties across Michigan attended. The 2013 campers were 38 males, 32 females and 15.7% 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 (8), outside resource experts (7), graduate students (3), undergraduate students (2), and 4-H volunteers (6) served as camp staff and chaperones. Twelve camp alumni ages 16 to 21 served as counselors.

Outcomes

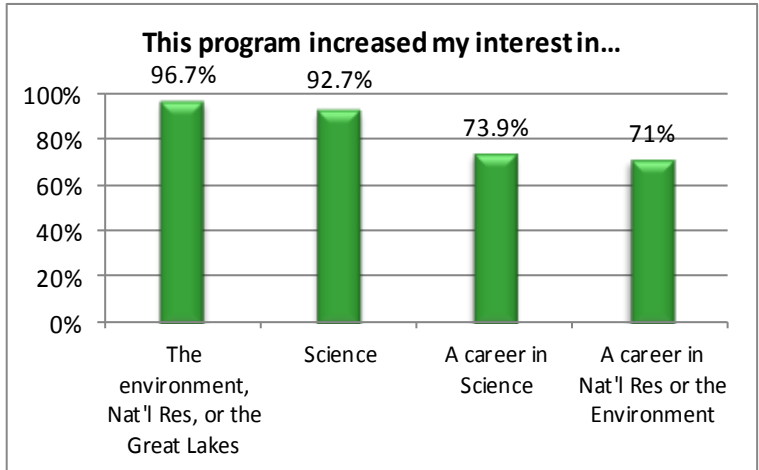
2013 surveys showed the program increased participants' interest in science, environmental stewardship, readiness for college, and awareness of potential careers:

98.6% plan to attend college

77.9% are more knowledgeable about career opportunities in environmental science-related fields

97.1% increased their knowledge of different majors, career paths and opportunities at MSU

74.6% are interested in attending MSU



The top life skills participants indicated they developed were:

98.5% Adapting to new living arrangements

97.1% Communication

97.1% Seeking resources that can help them succeed

95.5% Accepting people who are different from them

92.7% Socializing and making new friends

92.5% Leadership

89.9% Problem-solving skills

Sample testimonials that reflect views expressed by many:

- This camp has deepened my passion for science and made me more knowledgeable about the environment.
- I learned new things, tried new things and met new people. I'm much more confident now plus I really had a lot of fun.
- This camp definitely made me more interested in science.
- I am now more interested in protecting the environment and more interested in having a natural resource career.
- I had a lot of fun and learned so much from all the hands-on scientific experiments.

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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