



Spartan Writing Camp

June 15 – July 16, 2015

Audience

This year Spartan Writing Camp (SWC) offered 22 sessions for 1st – 2nd grade, 3rd – 5th grade, and 6th – 8th grade students.

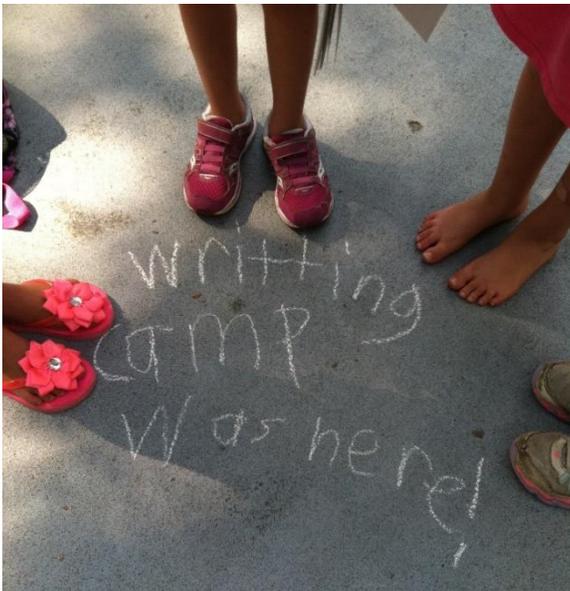
The following camps were offered:

- **Sports Write Now!** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8
- **Songwriting** Middle School 6-8
- **Creative Writing** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8
- **Creative Writing: Starting with Pictures** Elementary 3-5
- **Growing Young Writers** Elementary 1-2
- **Writing with Girls—Yes, We Can!** Elementary 3-5
- **Animal Facts and Fables** Elementary 3-5
- **Responding to Remarkable Books** Elementary 3-5
- **Restaurant Reviews** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8
- **Playing with Digital Writing** Middle 6-8
- **Skits and Scripts** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8

Full- and half-day camps were offered Monday – Thursdays over the weeks of June 15th, June 22nd, June 20th, and July 13th.

The 2015 participants included:

- 13 Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP) Teacher Consultants. The RCWP is MSU's chapter of the National Writing Project (NWP).
- 184 young writers, 1st – 8th grade



Funding

Spartan Writing Camps are funded primarily from registration fees: 'Early bird' rates of \$110 and \$200 for full & half-day

camps, respectively; or \$121 and \$220 for regular registration fees. SWC also receives financial support from Red Cedar Writing Project.

Spartan Writing Campers receive a Spartan Writing Camp t-shirt, a writing journal, a treat from the MSU Dairy Store, and a handout of writing tips and activities to take home.

Objectives

Spartan Writing Camp is designed to create an atmosphere of community to help campers lead a writerly life and to gain new "writing tools" and experiences for their "writing toolboxes." Teachers and campers model how to collect ideas from the world around them to use in their writing. Campers are introduced to a variety of authors through mentor texts and try their hand at writing alongside these distant mentors.

Outcomes

Camper Feedback:

- "I want camp to go on forever."
- "You really should offer a full week camp."
- "I'm coming back next year. It was CRAZY...in a good way. It's not just about the writing; it's about making friends with similar interests."
- "My favorite activity was the chalk-a-bration because it made me feel proud."
- "[Camp] is so much fun! Not only is it fun, but it is also a fantastic opportunity to get feedback on your writing and try new forms of writing."
- "Sacred writing time gives you the freedom to write whatever you want and to let your imagination flow."
- "Camp was very thought-provoking and gave me inspiration."
- "My favorite activity was working on a story with my friend. It was so much fun to collaborate because we don't get to do that at school."

Contact hours between Teacher Consultants and campers totaled 5,168.

Additional Significant Information

- SWC has a high rate of returning attendees, which bodes well for future recruitment efforts.
- We serve a high number of faculty children and youth, which contributes to faculty retention and investment in the community.
- Final note: It would be good to take these writing camps into the community in order to broaden access and fulfill our land-grant mission.

Contact Information

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