

5420 Webster St.
Downers Grove, IL 60515

September 14, 2012

Tim Magill
Holiday Home Camp
P.O. Box 10
Williams Bay, WI 53191



Y.O.P.P.

Dear Mr. Magill,

My name is Neal Prokop and I have served as a counselor at Holiday Home and am soon going to be the new intern at HHC pursuing a career in camp administration. I am eager to present an exceptional program for your consideration. I believe this proposed program supports the values and goals of HHC. My studies and time at camp have led me to believe that there is a problem facing American youth today and this problem is particularly more acute with disadvantaged youth. Studies show that in the Midwest, slightly over fifty percent of the population participates in outdoor recreation. However seventy eight percent of those who pursue outdoor recreation are Caucasian. Disturbingly, families with under a twenty five thousand dollar annual income are 88% less likely to participate in outdoor recreation (ORPR, 2012). These statistics lead us to conclude that more and more disadvantaged youth are not experiencing the invaluable benefits of the natural environment. Thus, there is a severe and ever growing disconnect between these children and the natural world.

I believe that a Youth Outdoor Participation Project can address these issues, while also meeting the standards of Holiday Home Camp. Y.O.P.P. is structured to cater to the interests and needs of each age group at Holiday Home Camp. Y.O.P.P. activities are designed for specific ages and individual groups. It is the duty of Y.O.P.P. staff to assess the progression of individuals and groups so that they can more effectively facilitate the growth of each cabin and individual within a cabin. Activities are intended to teach campers about environmental awareness, outdoor stewardship, and challenge by nature. Y.O.P.P. programs also include teambuilding and the development of confidence and essential life skills. The way in which Y.O.P.P. will deliver its program is through specific activities, offered multiple times a session during all six sessions.

For Y.O.P.P. to run efficiently it will need at a minimum of two facilitators. With my prior experience I will train these staff. With the exception of staff, equipment and transportation, Y.O.P.P. costs are fairly minimal. We will use already existing facilities and equipment to help keep costs low.

The Youth Outdoor Participation Project's main goal is to provide disadvantaged youth with an opportunity to experience and learn in a natural environment. Through the instruction we provide, the campers will be granted a setting where they can challenge themselves at their own pace and discover that failure is the best way to succeed. I believe that learning through play is the best way to reach all kids and this program is a

reflection of that. All of our activities include some element of outdoor education and environmental education. These activities target the specific age group of participants, challenging them as a group and individuals. It is through these activities that we aim to increase confidence, trust, and group cohesion. As a result we believe that campers will naturally build positive relationships with their fellow campers and staff. With the help of Holiday Home Camp I believe that Y.O.P.P. and HHC can achieve our mutual goals. I would like to discuss this opportunity further I will follow up with a letter in a few weeks. I have left my phone number and e-mail. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Neal Prokop

Cc: Holiday Home Camp Board of Directors