

Neal Prokop
Holiday Home Camp
October 12, 2012
Structure Report



Youth Outdoor Participation Project is a rare opportunity for youth to develop essential life skills and gain a closer understanding and connection to the natural world. The mission of HHC as stated is "To provide educational and recreational programming that helps disadvantaged youth develop the life skills necessary to become self-reliant, productive members of their families, schools and communities". Holiday Home Camp has been my inspiration and a primary driving force in my desire to create Y.O.P.P. Naturally many of the values and goals are shared between Holiday Home Camp and Y.O.P.P. The core theme within Holiday Home Camp is Respect Responsibility and Relationships. My program is designed with these core values already built in. Y.O.P.P. is catered specifically with at risk youth in mind. It is my goal and intent that through this program kids will learn to not only respect others but also themselves. They will learn the value of responsibility, and that they will be held accountable for their actions, both positive and negative. Lastly they will not only learn the value of positive relationships, but they will also have the opportunity to build positive relationships. I believe that it is my job to create a program in which these kids will face activities that challenge them both physically and mentally. Most importantly Y.O.P.P. activities are designed to create an environment that supports the development of confidence. Children without confidence in themselves will not be able to succeed in setting or meeting their goals. Through the Youth Outdoor Participation Project kids will be able to identify challenges and with the tools we have given them, they will have the confidence and skills needed to overcome it.

As the designer of Y.O.P.P. and the new Assistant Director at HHC the program would fall under my responsibilities. In addition to my current responsibilities as Assistant Director I will be in charge of programming for Y.O.P.P. Also I will be responsible for any planning of activities within and outside of camp. My responsibilities also include the constant evaluation of Y.O.P.P. This entails assessments aimed to highlight the need for Y.O.P.P. and surveys to measure the success of Y.O.P.P. programming. In addition I will also oversee the financial duties required to keep the program running efficiently. Y.O.P.P. is designed to work within the current system at HHC, both structurally and financially. Recognizing funds are limited we try to work within already available resources. The primary funding needed for the program will be in the two facilitators needed lead the weekly activities. These facilitators will answer directly to the Assistant Director. As I have had training myself and experience as a facilitator, interpretation and environmental education topics it will also be my duty to train these individuals. Y.O.P.P. activities will compliment the daily routines for each cabin, bringing each cabin closer together functionally and socially further enhancing the overall camp experience.

Y.O.P.P. facilitators are responsible for monitoring the dynamics of each cabin they are assigned. It is imperative that each cabin is evaluated and facilitated to meet the needs of that specific group and the individuals within that group. Facilitators will document their observations of a group and organize activities that will cater to the current level that a group may be at. In addition to facilitator

responsibilities, Y.O.P.P. staff should be considered support staff when they are not working with a group or preparing for a group. This will allow them to assist counselors who are in need, and further building a positive relationship with the kids. Facilitators will need to be organized, motivated and patient. Prior experience in outdoor education, facilitation or recreation major is preferred. Child First aid, CPR and Anaphylaxis workshop certification is required.

I will need to discuss with the Board and Executive Director the options for a permanent site on camp designated for Y.O.P.P. activities. The Associate Director and I will be in constant communication as they are in charge of programming; I will need their assistance and knowledge as to when we can use certain facilities around camp. In addition Y.O.P.P. will need access to the camp van's to transport campers to and from the Kishwauketoe nature conservancy.

HHC offers many excellent programs to youth who otherwise would not be able to experience these opportunities. However, HHC severely lacks programming in outdoor and environmental education. In addition the current system for teambuilding and individual development is ineffective and in most cases counterproductive. HHC competitors currently have programs that synthesize all of these components; this is a clear advantage that opponents have over HHC. Y.O.P.P. is the solution to this problem; Y.O.P.P. offers teambuilding, life skills activities, outstanding environmental education and outdoor education lessons. In addition Y.O.P.P. partnerships offer an opportunity for the kids to experience unique ecosystems outside of camp, while also building a positive relationship for HHC with local community. The Youth Outdoor Participation Project will be an excellent addition and contributor to the growth of our kids at Holiday Home Camp.

