Something For Summer

Informational Paper

By

Cathy S. Duesterhoeft
Assistant Professor
Department of Youth Development
University of Wisconsin-Extension

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UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX requirements
Abstract

Something For Summer is a series of mini sessions conducted in Wood County for community youth between the ages of eight and eighteen. The program began over twenty years ago when the state funded the program to target community youth audiences. When state funding came to an end, Wood County decided to continue the program because of its popularity. Now, participant fees are used to cover the majority of the costs. In recent years the program has gone through changes and improvements to make it the successful program it is today. This paper serves as an explanation of the program in Wood County that can be replicated in other counties.
Situation

Something For Summer is a series of mini sessions conducted in Wood County for community youth between the ages of eight and eighteen. Over twenty years ago, University of Wisconsin Extension funded a program that would target community youth. When the state funds were depleted, Wood County continued to offer the program with participant fees covering the majority of the cost of the program. The program continues to be popular with participants and their parents today and continues to change and improve.

Something For Summer (SFS) is similar to 4-H in the sense that it targets life skill development among the participants. Life skills developed through SFS include, but are not limited to:

- Decision-Making
- Problem Solving
- Relating to Others
- Planning & Organizing
- Learning to Learn
- Communicating with Others
- Leading Self and Others
- Relating to Change
- Applying Science & Technology
- Developing Self
- Mental & Physical Health
**Objectives**

The following objectives are used in meeting the needs of the participants overall:

- 90% of youth participating in UW Extension’s Something For Summer program will develop at least one life skill, such as decision making and responsibility, that they can carry over into other areas of interest

- 50% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer program will also participate in Something For Winter the same year

- 10% of youth participating in Something For Summer will exhibit a project at the Central Wisconsin State Fair

In addition, the following objectives are used for the individual classes listed:

- 90% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Babysitting Certification class will be able to apply the FIND Decision-Making Model in common babysitting situations

- 100% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Whales Tales water safety class will be able to identify rules for safe participation in water activities

- 75% of youth participating in the table etiquette class, This Is Not A Horse’s Stable will demonstrate the proper procedure for setting the table

- 90% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Fishing class will be able to identify at least one reason why good sportsmanship is important in the sport
90% of participants in the Something For Summer Isn’t That What I Said? Communication class will increase their skills in being an attentive and reflective listener

75% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Dyeing To B-Free class will be able to identify at least one reason why tobacco is deadly and addictive

**Methods**

Planning for Something For Summer begins in January or February with an informal brainstorming session among Extension staff to formulate ideas for class topics and instructors. This faculty member then contacts potential instructors to discuss fees and schedules during the next couple of months. It is preferable to have the schedule completed by the first part of May so brochures can be distributed through the schools. In 2002, almost four thousand brochures were printed and distributed to third, fourth and fifth graders, which make up the majority of participants (appendix a). This faculty member processes the registration forms with classes being filled on a first come first served basis. A waiting list is maintained if necessary and instructors contacted to schedule another class if possible. Participants are sent a confirmation letter prior to the class as a measure to keep absences to a minimum. At this time a member of the 4-H staff attends each class to act as a liaison for the UW Extension Office. This policy will be reevaluated in the future however because the current budget crisis the county is in will have an effect on the number of 4-H staff positions in the office.

Something For Summer depends on volunteer instructors to keep fees to a minimum. Due to this dependency, subjects taught vary depending on instructor availability. In
2001, sessions included: ceramics, horses, baby sitter training, cake decorating, flower arranging, pizza making, basic aid training, tie-dyeing, and leather craft. In 2002, sessions included: ceramics, horses, tae kwon do, rocketry, pizza making, water safety, fishing, bowling, baby sitter training, scrap-booking and oil painting. Some sessions meet one time, others meet multiple times, some sessions meet for two hours, others meet longer. The instructors decide on the number of sessions needed and time allotted based on guidance from staff. All sessions are fairly short, most are fun, and all sessions are educational. This faculty member facilitates several classes throughout the summer.

The following teaching methods are used in conducting Something For Summer classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Demonstration</td>
<td>To show the participants how to properly complete their project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Lecturette</td>
<td>To provide information about safety, the process, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Exhibit</td>
<td>To show participants examples of the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Informational Sheets</td>
<td>To provide additional information about the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Hands-on Experiences</td>
<td>To allow participants to experience the project</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All Something For Summer classes focus on a hands-on approach, allowing the participant to experience the project fully. Each session allows for a project to be completed and taken home with the participant. Participants have the option of exhibiting finished projects at the Central Wisconsin State Fair for judging.

**Results:**

**Objective One:** 90% of youth participating in UW Extension’s Something For Summer program will develop at least one life skill, such as decision making and responsibility, that they can carry over into other areas of interest
A survey sent to parents and participants after the program resulted in a 37% return (74 surveys were returned). This faculty member could not determine from the small percentage returned that 90% of the youth participating had indeed gained a life skill. However, anecdotal comments from those surveys indicate that parents observed changes in behavior and attitude after their children attended class:

- “Greater confidence in self and ability to go into a new situation with new people.”
- “Wants to be a DJ, likes to listen to that radio station now. Better understanding of how a radio station operates.”
- “Has learned to be more appreciative and understanding in sports.”
- “Patience, self confidence, cooperation, not afraid to try new things.”
- “He seemed happier and in better spirits. He loved practicing his new skills and his self esteem increased.”
- “It opened up a new area for him to research-solar power.”
- “More in control of herself and the kids.”
- “Had time with her dad in archery.”
- “Helps around the house better.”
- “She is a lot less bossy to her sister when babysitting. More patient.”
- “At home: during arguments with her sister, my daughter looks for solutions in a more open and positive way. It is not like “who wins or loses” anymore with her sister. It is more like “what is best for everyone.”

**Objective Two: 50% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer program will also participate in Something For Winter the same year**
Something For Winter is a small program compared to Something For Summer. The program runs for a shorter time period so fewer classes are scheduled. Because the program is small, SFW brochures are not distributed through the schools. Brochures are mailed to participants of SFS in order to limit the potential number of participants. As the SFW program grows, this method will be reviewed. In 2000, there were 35 participants in the SFW program of which all had participated in SFS. The same thing in 2001, there were 49 participants in the winter program that had also participated in the summer program. Until the program grows and brochures are distributed differently, all SFW participants will have been recruited from the summer program. As the summer program continues to grow there may not be space available in SFW for 50% of the participation.

**Objective Three:** 10% of youth participating in Something For Summer will exhibit a project at the Central Wisconsin State Fair

This objective was not met, however, seven SFS participants exhibited their finished product at the Central Wisconsin State Fair. An oil painting entered by a SFS participant received an honorable mention.

**Additional Objectives:**

90% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Babysitting Certification class will be able to apply the FIND Decision-Making Model in common babysitting situations

During the baby sitter certification class this faculty member taught, participants were asked to pick out a problem they were dealing with at the time and solve that problem using the FIND Decision-Making Model. All of the participants were able to use the model, resulting in 100% of the youth understanding and using the model.
100% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Whales Tales water safety class will be able to identify rules for safe participation in water activities
During class, this faculty member had participants list the rules of water safety. Half of the participants listed all of the rules and the other half were able to list 75% of the rules.

75% of youth participating in the table etiquette class, This Is Not A Horse’s Stable will demonstrate the proper procedure for setting the table
At the beginning of class, this faculty member had participants draw a proper table setting and found that many could not. At the end of class participants were again asked to draw a proper table setting resulting in 100% being able to do it correctly.

90% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Fishing class will be able to identify at least one reason why good sportsmanship is important in the sport
After class, this faculty member surveyed parents of the youth participating in the fishing class. Only 18% responded yes, a change in how the child related with parents, friends or siblings had been noticed. However, other comments included, “Kyle needs to be considerate of others and we are strongly enforcing this everywhere, sports & everyday.” “Answering “no” above seems to be insulting, but you need to understand that our child has always been a good sportsman because he has those examples in his everyday life. It is good however that the instructors promoted that concept throughout the course—not all parents teach their kids that at home!”

90% of participants in the Something For Summer Isn’t That What I Said? Communication class will increase their skills in being an attentive and reflective listener
Through observation the day of class, 100% of the participants demonstrated effective listening skills through a question and answer session conducted by this faculty member. **75% of youth who participate in the Something For Summer Dyeing To B-Free class will be able to identify at least one reason why tobacco is deadly and addictive**

This faculty member observed 83% of the youth reciting a reason why tobacco is deadly.

**Implications:**

- Something For Winter (SFW), modeled after Something For Summer was implemented two years ago and has proven successful.
- 4-H staff has attended each class to act as a representative of UW-Extension but may not be able to in the future due to budget impacts on staff positions.
- The program is flexible so that it can fit around a 4-H staff member’s busy summer calendar.
- Objectives may not be met exactly as listed, however participants benefit as a result of attending (appendix b).
- Objectives may need to be rewritten so they can be met, or means of collecting data may need to be altered so there is a better chance of objectives being met.
Appendices
(appendix a)

SFS 2001

Number of Participants

Breakdown of Participants

Ages

Race

SFS 2002

Number of Participants

Breakdown of Participants

Ages

Race
## SOMETHING FOR SUMMER/WINTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs (Resources)</th>
<th>Activities (Services)</th>
<th>Outputs (Product)</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Instructors</td>
<td>Mini sessions in 2000: Woodworking, Basic Aid Training, Scrap Booking, Tin Can Ice Cream, Crafts, Horses, Babysitter’s Training, Ceramics</td>
<td><strong>Something for Summer</strong> 17 classes conducted 85 participants (2000)</td>
<td>Exposure to new things at a low price Gives kids the chance to try something they might never get to do otherwise Often gives kids something constructive to do with idle time Allows an outing for the youth (maybe away from parents which helps build confidence in ones own abilities) Parent Comments: “Great learning experience” “More responsible” “Learning to be more social” “Working in kitchen” “New Friends” “Learned how to shred cheese” Participant comments: “Learned how to take care of kids” “Learned how to ride horse”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Meeting space</td>
<td><strong>Something for Winter</strong> 6 classes conducted 35 participants (2000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting space</td>
<td>Mini sessions in 2001: Horses, Babysitter’s Training, Pizza Pizzazz, Butterfly Gardening, Tie Dye Frenzy, Cake Decorating, Leather craft, Farm visit, Basic Aid Training, Ceramics</td>
<td><strong>Something for Summer</strong> 33 classes conducted 197 participants (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Something for Winter</strong> 13 classes conducted 49 participants (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Something for Summer</strong> 47 classes conducted 190 participants (2002)</td>
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