

Project Title:

A 4-H Winter Leadership Adventure

Project Contact & Collaborators:

Contact: René L. Mehlberg, Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent

Collaborators: Planning Committee (plus project contact)

Paula Huff, Oconto County 4-H Youth Development Agent
Merry Klemme, Calumet County 4-H Youth Development Agent
James Pointer, Kewaunee County 4-H Youth Development Agent
Karla Voss, Brown County 4-H Youth Development Educator
Kristen Wegner, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Agent

Other Collaborators:

Jeanne Baum, Outagamie County 4-H Youth Development Agent
Wally Hitt, Marinette County 4-H Youth Development Agent
Denise Retzleff, Fond du Lac County 4-H Youth Development Agent
Joe Stellato, Shawano County 4-H Youth Development Agent

Situation Statement:

The Northeast District 4-H program has a history of hosting a Teen Winter Camp. This event used to be planned and organized by the district youth leader council with their agent advisor. The camp was an opportunity for older youth (grades 7-13) to take part in educational and recreational activities. The last winter before district youth leader councils were disbanded, approximately 4 years ago, Teen Winter Camp was cancelled due to low registration. However, an adult volunteer with Teen Winter Camp revived the camp the next year, with the help of her county. The following year, a different county volunteered to take leadership for the camp. Yet, registrations have still been poor, and there has been limited youth involvement in the planning and teaching of the weekend.

Numerous discussions took place by the 4-H agents throughout 2001-02 regarding Teen Winter Camp. Discussions focused on the lack of youth input into the program, the amount of work being done for the number of youth who attend, and the educational component of the program. It was decided at the May 2002 district 4-H meeting to revamp Teen Winter Camp into a leadership camp for middle school youth. The intention was for youth to receive leadership training that they could bring back to implement at the club or county level. Because of the increased educational content agents would take a lead role in planning and teaching.

A sub-group of agents formed the planning committee. Leadership development is a direct tie into each person's plan of work. The committee decided the camp would focus on teamwork, communication, decision-making, and planning and organizing. In addition to the educational components, recreational opportunities will be provided. The committee will serve as the teaching team, but will invite high school youth from their county to help serve as co-teachers for their sessions. The high school youth will also help organize and/or oversee the recreational portions.

Each county in the district has the opportunity to send four youth and one adult. The youth are to be involved in an Extension program. Adults are being recruited because for the youth to be successful, they need an adult mentor to assist them in implementing their skills upon return to their county. If a county does not send its four youth, a county who may have more youth interested will be contacted to send additional youth.

Project Goals & Expected Outcomes:

Goals:

- Middle school youth will learn, practice, and apply leadership skills focusing on teamwork, communication, decision-making, and planning and organizing.
- Middle school youth will learn leadership skills they can take back to their counties to implement at the club and/or county level.
- Adults will learn, practice, and apply skills to serve as a mentor for middle school youth in implementing leadership skills.
- Participants will meet other youth and adults from the Northeast District in formal and informal settings.

Outcomes:

- Forty-four middle school youth will receive training in leadership skills (teamwork, communication, decision-making, and planning and organizing) to be applied in their home club and/or county.
- Eleven adults will receive training on how to serve as a mentor for middle school youth.
- Youth participants will develop an action plan to take back to their club and/or county.

Project Timeline:

- December 20, 2002 Applications due
- Early January Participants (youth and adult) notified for acceptance and receive pre-camp questionnaire regarding leadership skills
- February 7-9 Winter Leadership Camp
- Middle/late February Post-camp evaluation & follow-up
- Spring - Fall Evaluation follow-up for participants (youth and adult)

Evaluation Plan:

- Participants will complete a pre-camp self-assessment of leadership skills.
- Gather recommendations from adults selected by the participants for assessment of the participants leadership skills.
- During the weekend use a variety of methods for assessment including participant and adult evaluation material content and leadership growth following the training. Adults will be asked to comment on the youths' leadership skills after the training. Video footage will also be taken.
- Gather follow-up information from participants (youth and adult) as well as other key individuals who have opportunity to notice a change in youth participants such as teachers, parents, 4-H leaders, etc.

Detailed Budget:

Income:

Registrations:	
Youth 44 @ \$40	\$1,760
Adults 11 @ \$15	\$ 165
RMT funds	\$ 300
 Total	 \$2,225

Expenses:

Camp TaPaWingo Rental	\$ 230
Food	\$1,800
(Breakfast, 2 lunches, dinner & snacks for 70 people)	
Supplies	\$ 195
 Total:	 \$2,225

Past RMT Funds:

The Northeast District 4-H program has received past RMT funds that supported other collaborative projects. The last project was the NE District Curriculum Kits. The funds supported the development of ready-to-go project kits primarily to be used in an after school setting, but which could be used in a variety of settings for youth grades 2-5. This project focuses on a different age range of youth with different goals and outcomes.