

Eastern District Funding for Innovative Programs

Application Form

Project Title: T.E.A.M. - Together Everyone Achieves More

Project Timeline: 2005 and beyond

Funding Requested: \$3,912

Project Lead/Grant Applicant: Kevin A. Palmer, 4-H Youth Development Educator

Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable): Eastern District Winter Leadership Camp team; Faye Malek, Manitowoc County Family Living Educator; Neil Klemme, Executive Director, Camp TaPaWingo; Manitowoc County 4-H Leaders Association; Judy Wiesbrook, Lakeshore Community Action Partners (CAP) Inc.; Two Rivers Public School District; and Manitowoc Public School District.

Situation Statement:

Group challenge courses are a unique way to develop a group's ability to communicate, cooperate, trust, and problem solve. For some people, these abilities come naturally, for others they must be practiced. Everyone has the ability to improve their skills when facing challenges and, with determination, achieve their goals. Challenges come in an infinite number of shapes and forms. Reaching goals and overcoming challenges requires special skills. The skills learned and practiced during a Group Challenge Course session are essential building blocks to individual and group success.

In Manitowoc County I have integrated group challenge activities into many of the programs that I teach. Group challenge activities are now part of our summer camp counselor training, Boomerang! facilitator training, Eastern District Winter Leadership Camp, summer and winter camping programs at Camp TaPaWingo, and Manitowoc Public School District's summer school program. Last summer I also piloted an asset building program with Lakeshore CAP Inc., which involved group challenge activities for youth involved in the juvenile restitution program. This program will be expanded this coming summer to include more sessions and more youth.

Proposal:

To keep group challenge activities fresh and challenging for participants, a variety of activities must be used. The current equipment that I possess is limited, and it is appropriate for only one group challenge session. I have utilized the equipment located in Outagamie County, however, for multiple programs it is cost prohibitive to travel two hours and 100 miles round trip to use the equipment.

The purchase of a portable challenge kit with over 200 activities will keep group challenge activities fresh and challenging for participants, and it will enable me to incorporate group challenge activities into more programs. It would also make it possible for me to conduct multiple sessions with the same group, which is anticipated for a number of the programs that I

teach. Evaluation of group challenge activities will be incorporated into the evaluation for each program.

Goals:

1. Expand the variety of group challenge activities being offered through existing youth development programs.
2. Incorporate group challenge activities into other existing youth development programs such as: 4-H club officer training, 4-H club leader and volunteer training, 4-H club visits, and outdoor education programs at Camp TaPaWingo.
3. Further develop an asset building program for juvenile restitution program participants, which would incorporate group challenge activities as part of the curriculum.

Budget:

Regular Portable Challenge Kit	\$3,670.00
Shipping	\$242.00
Total	\$3912.00

Applied for and Received Resource Management Dollars:

- I applied for and received \$625 in Resource Management funds with Faye Malek in 2004 to begin a character education program in two school districts. The Boomerang! character education program was initiated in 2004, and it has been a tremendous asset building activity for the 10 high school youth and 135 fourth grade students involved in the program.
- I applied for and received \$1300 in Resource Management funds in 2004 to initiate a youth community garden at Southfield Townhouses in Manitowoc. The garden was initiated in the summer of 2004, and twenty-eight racially diverse youth participated in the gardening program throughout the summer learning skills associated with the Circle of Courage.

Signature:



Grant Applicant/Lead

