

Sand Lake Nature Conservation/Leadership Camp

Eastern District Innovative Grant **REPORT**
Fiscal Year 2005-06

Project Lead/ Grant Applicant: Wally Hitt, Marinette County 4-H Youth Development Agent

Project Collaborators: WI and MI Extension, WI and MI Land & Water Conservation, DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Situation Statement: The Extension Offices from counties on the WI-MI border met in 2005 and were looking for ways to work together more, an important need expressed was for a leadership camp. Wally thought that putting the two ideas together would enable both concepts to happen. With the many types of invasive species this camp sought to educate the public as well as to empower teens, by developing leadership skills, to enable them to take action to prevent the spread/control of invasive species.

Teamwork and collaboration with other agencies: Land Conservation prepared the agenda and recruited instructors from collaborators, Extension helped plan., promote and recruit campers and counselors **Program Direction and a new audience:** We involved 27 persons with a special interest in nature. It is also a new program direction: combining nature education and leadership. We used hands-on experiences to teach youth about nature: including wildlife, aquatic habitats, water quality, pollution, and ecosystems as well as about invasive species, good stewardship and how to be a leader. Career awareness is also part of the camp experience.

Outcomes: The Camp created nature awareness as well as awareness of the growing problems with invasive species and what individuals can do about it (applying leadership). One definition of leadership is "taking action", this camp will empower youth to apply what they have learned. Campers can work with existing 4-H clubs or be involved in creating a nature club, a club which could involve more than one county and would also involve youth who did not attend camp. We will invite adults to serve as cabin counselors who are then potential leaders for a nature club.

Project Time line: The camp was held June 29 to July 1, 2006 at Camp Bird in Marinette County.

Evaluation Results Sand Lake Conservation Camp 2007

Numbers in red parentheses indicate the number of times the comment was chosen.

(From 27 total evaluations: 23 total campers + 4 staff)

Camp Goals <i>Please circle one</i>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>	<u>Agree</u>	Strongly <u>Agree</u>
• Had fun	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (1)	4 (10)	5 (16)
• Learned new things about nature	1 (0)	2 (2)	3 (0)	4 (7)	5 (17)
• Tried something new	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (3)	4 (9)	5 (15)
• Learned a new outdoor skill	1 (0)	2 (2)	3 (1)	4 (11)	5 (11)
• Made one or more new friends	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (2)	4 (4)	5 (17)
• Worked with someone to accomplish a goal	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (3)	4 (8)	5 (12)
• Accepted leadership in some way	1 (1)	2 (0)	3 (1)	4 (8)	5 (11)
• Learned more about careers in Natural Resources and Conservation	1 (1)	2 (0)	3 (0)	4 (5)	5 (20)
Sessions	Very <u>Poor</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Okay</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
• Challenge Course/Activities	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (6)	4 (8)	5 (11)
• DNR Warden	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (11)	5 (12)
• Wildlife	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (7)	5 (17)
• Forestry	1 (1)	2 (0)	3 (3)	4 (10)	5 (13)
• Orienteering/Scavenger Hunt	1 (1)	2 (0)	3 (3)	4 (9)	5 (14)
• Fisheries Biologist	1 (1)	2 (0)	3 (3)	4 (6)	5 (16)
• Canoeing	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (2)	4 (4)	5 (21)
• Archery	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (1)	4 (3)	5 (21)
• Campfires	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (0)	4 (3)	5 (23)
• Astronomy	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (0)	4 (4)	5 (14)
• Aquatic Insect Study	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (7)	5 (17)
• Bird Habitat	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (4)	4 (10)	5 (13)
• Invasives	1 (2)	2 (0)	3 (7)	4 (7)	5 (11)
• Conservation Jeopardy	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (1)	4 (7)	5 (15)
How were the meals?	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (6)	4 (5)	5 (14)
How were the facilities?	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (6)	4 (4)	5 (16)

What did you think of the counselors and instructors?

Pretty cool; excellent; they were nice & fun; great; cool at explaining things; I liked them; awesome; they were nice; very good for the most part; ok; made things fun; good & kind; fun; very helpful; all nice & funny; they were great, goofy & actually joined in and had fun with us; I think they made everything interesting & fun; great; nice; good information; excellent; they rocked

Did you find the confirmation packet helpful? (it was sent to them after we received their registration)

Yes – 18 No – 3 Maybe – 1

Anything you would change about camp to make it better?

Make it longer – instead of 3 days, make it 5-6 days; more free time; crayfish hunt at night; more swim time; older girls; food; improve/cut least popular sessions; beds; longer days; a couple of days longer; curtains in the cabins; do other things; no waking up early & beds; change Jeopardy so just answer the questions; longer if possible; more hands-on stuff; curtains on the cabins

Would you come back again next year?

Yes – 21 No – 0 *Getting too old but could be a helper – 1*

Other comments:

- *I would come back, I had so much fun!*
- *I loved it all.*
- *[I would come back because] it is a lot more fun than just sitting at home watching TV.*
- *I would come back if I can – I really had fun!*
- *It is fun and I get to do more things and meet people and gives me something to do in the summer.*
- *Could provide more hands-on and walk around more instead of stand & listen (ex. forester & invasives)*