

1995-1996: Kent McIntosh and Jessica Salsbury

Fall Semester

PWILD sought a meeting with the Duke Board of Trustees to attract attention to the program and garner support, but the board declined a possible presentation in favor of a panel exploring the overall first-year experience. PWILD did not get much exposure.

Fall Retreat

PWILD contracted NCOBS to run a weekend workshop focusing on methodology and staff cohesiveness. To afford the course, PWILD received a grant from Duke and utilized the NCOBS Instructor Development Practicum (IDP) program. This was somewhat unsatisfactory because the IDP instructors (instructors in training) had little more experience (and precious little OB experience!) than much of the PWILD staff.

Spring Semester

PWILD advisor Frank McNutt located and secured a new locker space in the subbasement of the Trent Dormitory. Equipment transfer took place after the March Trip.

PWILD and the Duke Outing Club (DOC), after 21 years of conflict over shared equipment, mutually decided to end forever their shared equipment agreement and separated equipment and locker space. For more information, see the PWILD/DOC equipment policy.

The drug policy was revised after staff deemed that it was vague and took much of their discretion away. The procedures for handling violations and punishment were more clearly defined in the new policy.

The second Wilderness First Responder course took place at Duke in May. This was also partially funded by a Duke grant.

House Course

An overflow of participants and especially staff made the House Course huge and unwieldy. Many crews (except March) had four leaders and a very low participant: staff ratio. This was deemed by staff to be a very serious fault of the course.

March Trip

Number of Participants: 61

Number of Staff: 45 (two staff crews)

Course Cost: \$185

Number of Participants on Finaid: 20

% of Finaid Awarded: 90%

Because of the large number of staff, PDs decided to make staff crew a more appealing option, since no one had indicated a preference for it last year. Staff were encouraged to think of the staff crew as a chance to improve PWILD and explore new ideas. The PDs allocated money to fund staff crew proposals. The group of 18 split into two crews, one of which hiked in Pisgah as usual, while the other hiked in Nantahala

National Forest and went river rafting. The rafters had an excellent time and suggested it could be a potential course area for expanding PWILD in the August Trip.

August Trip

Number of Participants: 76

Number of Staff Applied/Accepted: 46/34 (18 basecamp)

Course Cost: \$375

Number of Participants on Finaid: 21

% of Finaid Awarded: 95%

Some members of the rafting staff crew last March proposed to explore PWILD expansion into Nantahala with rafting in place of climbing. Most staff at a meeting in April were against expansion, but the trip was approved, pending Duke grant funding, only as an exploratory trip and no more. While there were many initial communication and organizational problems, the trip went well. One good point of the trip was that there was space for all who were rejected from the August Trip, if they wanted it. The discussion on expansion was to take place after a presentation by the crew who went on the trip.

Because of its improved image last year and the continued veteran selection, basecamp enjoyed more respect and there were far fewer issues of a “second-class” status.

Due to PD interest in returning challenge to the forefront of PWILD philosophy, the Fun Run (which had initially been called the Marathon) was renamed the Personal Challenge. This refocus on challenge turned a lifeless event into a trip highlight for many.

Neglect to follow set rules during staff training held at Trent made our locker space agreement tenuous.

Ropes Course

After an August participant broke her hand on the swinging log event, it was later deemed unsafe and was dismantled.

