

1997-1998: Barbara Wyse and Curtis Seymour

Fall Semester

The Fall Semester was fairly uneventful. Barbara and Curtis were both sophomores and were trying to get oriented in the position.

Fall Retreat

PWILD went to Turtle Island Preserve for a weekend workshop on this nature preserve in western North Carolina. The weekend was paid for out of the PWILD budget. About 25 staff attended to learn about "other ways" to live in the outdoors.

Spring Semester

The Project WILD Safety Committee was formed by the PDs and advisor Frank McNutt. This committee consists of Penny Sparacino (Head Nurse), David Malone (Professor of Education), Kathy Van Nest (Corporate Risk Manager), Barbara Baker (Dean of OSD), and Frank McNutt (PWILD advisor). This committee was set up to build stronger relationships between Project WILD and various other relevant branches of the University. It was also set up as a means of obtaining useful feedback concerning the safety aspects of PWILD from these members of the University community.

House Course

The House Course was extremely under enrolled this year. One possible reason for this may be the permission number system that was in place in order to register for the course. Any one interested had to call the House Course Directors to obtain a permission number. It is possible that this system turned some participants away. This system was unnecessary and accidentally put in place. For the future, DON'T HAVE PERMISSION NUMBERS.

March Trip

Number of participants: 48
Number of staff: 30
Course Cost: \$210
Staff Cost: \$25
Financial Aid awarded: \$555
% of Financial aid awarded: 100%

30

The low numbers of staff and participants did not have an adverse effect on the trip. There was one staff crew and eight participant crews. Each of these crews had three leaders except for one that had only two as a result of one crew leader getting bronchitis right before the trip.

The trip saw a lot of rain and nasty weather, but staff felt this made for a better trip. many of the crews became closer because of this.

August Trip

Number of participants: 75

Number of Staff Applied/Accepted: 37/34 (18 base camp)

Course Cost: \$400

Financial Aid awarded: \$5000

% of Financial aid awarded: 80%

Wonderful weather made for another wonderful trip. Every crew was able to climb, and there was only one evacuation the whole trip. The evacuated participant ended up returning to join the crew. There was one participant who had to return early to Duke for ROTC orientation and he was taken to the Brevard bus station where he had made plans for himself to leave before the trip began. This departure was less of a problem than anticipated when it was first mentioned.

Ropes Course

With the construction of a new High Ropes Course in the summer of 1997 the Ropes Course was seen as an underused resource. This year a new system was set up for operations on the Ropes Course. The Outreach Director position was formed to be in charge of communicating with non-PWILD groups interested in using the course and passing this information to the Ropes Course Directors. The new Outreach system had many kinks that were worked out during the year and ultimately a manual for the position of Outreach Director was formed. In addition, Safety Manuals for the High Ropes Course and the Team Challenge Course(formerly the Low Ropes Course) were produced.

