

## **2000 - 2001 Project WILD End-of-Year Report**

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#### **Fall Semester**

For Duke's annual fall Ocktoberfest, Project WILD advertised the House Course and sold cookies in a fundraising attempt. For the second year in a row, the Parents Weekend Pancake Breakfast and Slideshow for the August Participants and their parents was a great success. Five Project WILD staffers attended the International Conference on Outdoor Recreation and Education (ICORE) at Miami University in Ohio. The Safety Committee convened and discussed several policies. Many Outreach courses were also completed. Overall the semester was busier than it has been for PWILD in the past, but staff energy and excitement made each of the events a success!

#### **Fall Retreat**

About 15 Project WILD staffers went sea kayaking with Kayak Carolina located near Wilmington. We kayaked out to Masonborough Island and camped for the night. The Program Directors organized and ran the retreat. We did a teaching seminar and had discussion on PWILD philosophies and the House Course. We felt that overall the retreat was great at energizing staff and discussing Project WILD in general.

#### **Spring Semester**

Aside from the House Course and March Trip, there were many Outreach courses and one medical accident on the HRC. Overall the Spring Semester went very well and was very busy. However as staff energy was already invested in the House Course and the March Trip, ideas such as a PWILD alumni weekend gathering, Earth Day programming, fun fairy events, and others were not realized.

#### **House Course**

The House Course started off with a huge enrollment of a little over 70 participants. However after the first two weeks the number dropped to the high fifties. Due to a negative reaction from the previous year, the service-learning component of the House Course was dropped and personal projects were readopted. Also as an option for their personal projects, participants were trained for and then staffed Team Challenge Courses. This worked as a dual benefit, in that Outreach was able to get more staff for their courses.

#### **March Trip**

Number of Participants: 53  
Number of Staff applied/accepted: 30/30  
Course Cost: \$235 (Included course pack and T- shirt)  
Staff Cost: \$0  
Total Cost of AWFA: \$179 (PWILD subsidized \$79 and charged \$100 per staffer)  
Financial Aid Awarded: \$600  
% of Financial Aid Awarded: 100%

We had ten participant crews ranging from two leaders and five participants to three leaders and six participants and one staff crew of four. Given that we had such a

high number of drop outs the crew sizes dwindled from what we had originally planned. March also saw a large number of evacuations, mostly due to the cold and wet weather. However the trip was still a rockin' good time!

### **August Trip**

Number of Participants: 81

Number of Staff applied/accepted: 41/41 (However only 38 made it on the trip)

Course Cost: \$410

Staff Cost: \$0

Total Cost of AWFA: \$179 (PWILD subsidized \$79 and charged \$100 per staffer)

Financial Aid Awarded: \$4871.10

% of Financial Aid Awarded: 61%

We decided to try having nine crews. Every day that was possible to climb, we climbed. We also decided that accepting the extra staff would be worthwhile. More staff on Basecamp would allow the climbing to flow more smoothly and for staff to have more time off. We also felt the extra staff would bring that much more extra energy for the coming year. We continued the Bedouin (Crewleader) and Djibouti (Basecamp) theme inaugurated from 2000 and added a little Space Odyssey 2001 spice of our own. We also continued having Jamborees for crews as they came through Djibouti. However we had them every other night and for two crews instead of every night and for one, which we found worked especially well. It saved Djibouti energy, allowed for more Djibouti bonding, and participants were able to meet participants from other crews.

Project WILD 2001 saw one van accident and about ten evacuations, depending on how you define evacuation. Performing a drop-off on our very first day at Pisgah, one of the vans unluckily slipped off the side of Cathy's Creek Road. Luckily there were no injuries and the van escaped significant damage. The driver however was not yet 21 years old and our insurance with Enterprise became voided. The accident has potential to change Project WILD's Van Driver Policy for the future. All but one of the evacuations during the August Trip were relatively minor. One participant had to be evacuated by the Brevard Rescue Squad when she was unable to hike after she got a deep near her right knee.

### **Ropes Course**

Ropes Courses ran throughout the school year and were abound with different and new groups. The price for the TCC was increase from \$5 a person to \$8 a person; the price for the HRC was increased from \$10 a person to \$15 a person. There was one medical accident on the HRC in February that required a rescue lower and a visit to the Emergency Room and Operating Room. As a result of the injury, training for HRC now includes performing a rescue lower for everyone stationed in the trees.

