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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

#4238 – History of a Summer Camp

Organization Information

The host organization is an accredited day camp in the Peterborough area. Our programs focus on sport and nature activities and we have been a leader in providing traditional and innovative camp activities, caring leadership, and meaningful experiences to grow as individuals and teams.

Project Information

The purpose of the project is to document the milestones and history of the camp – with a particular focus on youth development, traditions, community impact and organizational growth. This research will contribute to a number of publications (online and in print) being coordinated by the camp in preparation for our 20th anniversary in 2012.

Students will work with camp staff to research the camp's history utilizing pictures and text, conducting interviews with former staff alumni, camp alumni, past directors and current campers and families. The information will be compiled in a variety of formats depending on the chosen methodology, the overall anniversary communications plan and the interests and abilities of students. For example, a historical summary of the camp and summarized interviews could be handed over to a designer for inclusion in a commemorative book; alumni interview videos and audio clips could be edited for posting on the camp's website.

Research questions will be oriented towards how the camp started, what it was like 20 years ago and how it has grown and changed. What traditions have remained? How has camp impacted the lives of staff and campers? What kind of impact has it had on the community?

Benefit to the Host Organization and Community

The host organization will benefit from a well-documented history of its existence. As the old saying goes, you don't know where you're going if you don't know where you're from. The documented history will be invaluable for future staff training, fundraising and raising public awareness about the camp. This project will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the camp and be a record of our history for the Ontario Camps Association archives.

From a community perspective, we feel that the camp offers one of the best summertime opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills and grow positively as individuals. With a well-documented history, local citizens will gain further awareness about this valuable opportunity in their midst.

What Students Might Learn

The student will learn research skills by accessing the camp archives and data. The student will gain experience interviewing staff, alumni and campers, extracting and compiling data. Students will also learn project management and communication skills. Students will also learn about the camping movement as it relates to education and leadership development.

Screening or Training Requirements

If the student were to be interviewing campers without a parent present, they would need to have a police check done. There would need to be a host organization confidentiality agreement in place before access to any records would be granted.

Skills or Experience Needed

Working with children, writing historical documents, research, working independently and any experience with camps.

Resources Required for Project Provided by Host

We can provide access to all camp archives, and records, cover any expenses related to the project. The camp will endeavour to have all archives well organized before the students begin their research – especially contact information for camp alumni. The budget for this would need to be discussed with the Camp Director before expenses are incurred.