



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

July 27 to August 2, 2014 (32nd year)

Audience

Sixty-seven teens ages 13 to 15 (primarily grades 8-10th) from 37 counties across Michigan attended. The 2014 campers were 37 males, 30 females and 12% people of color.

Funding

Sponsorship funding was provided by donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation (\$5,000) and Michigan Sea Grant (\$3,000). Partial scholarships were given to those who could not attend without financial assistance. Remaining costs were covered by camper fees or locally secured scholarships.

Objectives

This camp is designed to:

- Increase teens' appreciation and enjoyment of the outdoors, natural resources, and science
- Increase teens' knowledge about the Great Lakes, natural resources ecology and management issues
- Develop strong attitudinal attachment to Michigan's unique natural resources and bioregional features
- Foster scientifically rooted environmental stewardship
- Develop and expand career and personal interests
- Develop leadership skills and self-confidence
- Increase social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult

Description

The residential camp has 70 intentional contact hours. The content and instructional methods are research-based (environmental education, place-based education, experiential learning and youth development). The camp is located near northern Lake Huron in Presque Isle. The diverse, natural resources-rich area includes lighthouses, a marina, unique coastal wetlands, dunes, a limestone quarry, diverse watersheds, state parks and a national marine sanctuary.

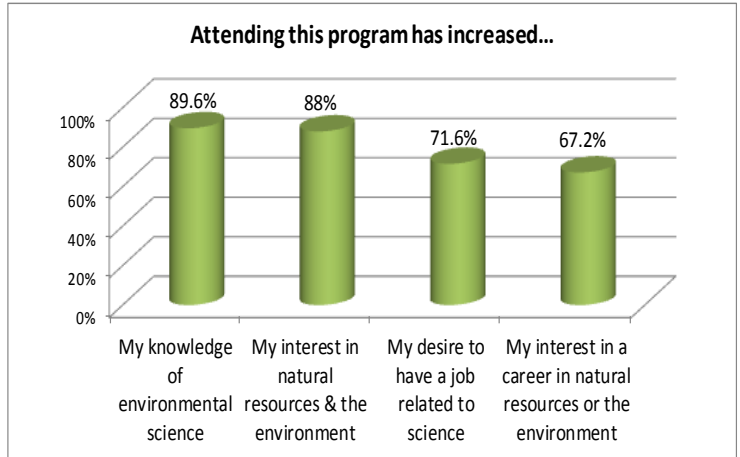
Sessions teach ecological concepts such as coastal ecology, fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, invasive species and forestry. Recreation options such as kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, and archery let campers try something new and have fun responsibly in the outdoors. The evening programs focus on team building, environmental policy making, teaching others, and empowering youth to take on leadership roles. Camp sessions expose youth to 4 of the 5 Michigan science curriculum standards in earth science and 3 of the 5 standards in biology for grades 8 to 12.

MSU Extension faculty/staff (9), outside resource experts (5), graduate students (3), and 4-H volunteers (6) served as camp staff and chaperones. Twelve camp alumni ages 16 to 20 served as counselors.

Outcomes

2014 surveys showed the program increased participants' interest in science, environmental stewardship, readiness for college, and awareness of potential careers:

- 94% plan to attend college
- 87% are more knowledgeable about career opportunities in environmental science-related fields
- 84% said the program made them excited to go to college.
- 81% said the program better prepared them for college.
- 81% gained awareness of career and job possibilities related to their skills and interests.
- 79% increased their knowledge of different majors, career paths and opportunities at MSU
- 72% are interested in attending MSU



The top life skills participants indicated they developed were:

- 96% Accepting people who are different from them
- 90% Socializing and making new friends
- 88% Adapting to new living arrangements
- 87% Problem-solving skills
- 89% Seeking resources that can help them succeed

Sample testimonials that reflect views expressed by many:

- This camp was very enjoyable and a great chance to learn about the environment in a fun and interactive way.
- I appreciated being able to learn science on a higher level.
- This camp enhances your ability to think and use the knowledge. It also really helps you meet new people.
- It opened up a lot of career options I didn't know about.
- I gained confidence for working in a group and being a leader. It was super fun!

Additional Significant Information

Prestigious national recognitions received by this program:
 2011 - Picked as 1 of 8 top 4-H science programs nationally
 2009 - National 4-H and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Natural Resources Conservation Education Award

Contact Information

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