Outdoor Programs

It has been another fun filled year for Outdoor Programs and trip participants. We had many action-packed weekends and weekdays with a wide variety of scheduled and impromptu trips. A new addition this year was the Thursday afternoon adventure days. Some day’s people went paddling; others days were biking and others were orienteering adventures.

Rock climbing and horse back riding seemed to be favorites among students and the trips filled up quickly. Also offered were many day hikes and weekend trips on a number of North Carolina’s finest trails and forests. Outdoor Programs offered another surf trip to Charleston, where several students promptly got hooked on surfing.

The funniest Outdoor Programs activity was probably the second annual Jones Mountain Challenge, which featured another mud crawl and a Tyrolean traverse, which got every ones attention! Next year Outdoor Programs will continue to offer the regular favorites and continue the Thursday afternoon adventure days. We are all looking forward to the fun that next year has to offer.

Internships 2005: Woo Hoo, look what folks are doing!

Mary Scherer served as a Sailing Instructor on the 70’ Schooner Swift of Ipswich at the TopSail Youth Program in San Pedro, California. The program uses sail training and adventure education to provide youth with real-life challenges that develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to lead healthy, productive lives.

Julie Walicki served as a Trip Leader for Camp Manito-wish YMCA in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. She led extended canoe trips for 13 and 14 year-old girls in northern Wisconsin.

Leah Bauman-smith served as Leadership Director for YMCA Camp Icaghowan in Amery, Wisconsin. She designed and facilitated programs designed to incorporate service, teamwork and leadership in three week long canoe and hiking program for youth ages 15-16.

Andy Biddle served as activities specialist for SOAR in western North Carolina. SOAR provides educational programming for youth with LD, ADD and ADHD. He was site manager and lead instructor for rock climbing trips, rafting trips and high and low challenges course activities.

Joshua Jackson served as Adventure Educator for the Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville Florida. He planned and led adventure education programs including repelling, white water rafting, rock climbing, backpacking, and caving. He also coordinated Sandlot Baseball tournaments for inner-city youth.

Kirra Seaburg served as a field instructor for adjudicated youth at Camp Woodson in Swannanoa NC. She was responsible for programming that incorporated rock climbing, backpacking, canoeing, basic camp crafts and horseback riding in a therapeutic context.

Leave NO Trace Trainers Course

This spring 10 students completed the first Leave No Trace Trainers course offered here. Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainers are able to offer educational programs teaching the principles of LNT and wild land ethics.

The Outdoor Leadership Department is a sponsoring partner with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Leave No Trace (LNT) is a national education program that unites the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and educational programs in teaching the principles of LNT and wild land ethics.
An Old Course...  
With a New Focus

We’ve been offering a course called Universal Adventure Programming since 1996. “Universal Adventure Programming” has traditionally been defined as “accessible” adventure programming on a programmatic, environmental, leadership, legal, and equipment modification level for people with and without disabilities. Through field experiences, guest speakers, experiential class sessions, and active leadership opportunities students had a great time opening their own eyes to the possibilities of providing people with disabilities the same opportunities for challenges and risk taking that they know are so rewarding for participants without disabilities.

In the spring of 2005 we sought to expand that definition to assist students in gaining the knowledge, understanding, and abilities to provide quality adventure programming in relation to staff and clientele’s race, class, gender, and ability – thereby seeking to create socially just outdoor education opportunities for all. By truly understanding ourselves, our clients, and the environment within which we work, we can provide quality inclusive programming for all.

So, this course is keeping us hopping and expanding our knowledge, expertise, and perspective as we continue to learn and grow within this filed of adventure programming – and what an adventure it is for all of us!

Women’s Voices In Experiential Education Class: A Day of Adventure with Renolds High School

In the fall, 2004 the Women’s Voices in Experiential Education class provided a day of initiatives and climbing for a group of high school girls from Renolds High School. The class itself focuses on the exploration of feminist theory and practice as it relates to experiential education and outdoor adventure education. Through readings, discussions, speakers, presentations and a retreat, students explore feminist perspectives of outdoor leadership, the historical contributions of women and some current issues and concerns of women and girls in the field. The students applied their knowledge and new perspectives in planning and carrying out this one-day event. We took over Bryson Gym on a cold and rainy fall day and made it come alive with laughter, creativity, and some gutsy moves on the climbing wall! It was truly rewarding to see both the Warren Wilson students and the high school girls have so much fun together, and walk away with new skills, confidence, and bonds developed over the day!

Adventure and Learning in New Zealand.

What a Learning Expedition! It started with a Term Class studying the history, politics, geology, culture, Flora and Fauna, Mori traditions, and a sharing of New Zealand literature.

After the completion of the on campus course, we left Asheville and flew over to the north island (30 hours travel time from Asheville) to begin a five-day paddle down the Wanganui River in Wanganui National Park. Lots of rain and extra ordinary sites (115 waterfalls counted the first two days on the river!). We camped at ancient Maori sites, visited the “Road to No where”, hiked up several small mountains, saw wondrous forests, met some great people and listened to beautiful bird calls. At the take out we came upon a large Maori family reunion and spent time visiting and talking to them about the area. They had come back there to go and visit an ancient family dwelling on the river that had been abandoned.

The next component of the course took us backpacking (aka “Tramping”) to explore the volcanic regions of Tongariro National Park. We summited Mt. Ngarahoe, which is an active volcano...trekked through desert, camped in forests and on the last day hiked nine miles out in a fierce rain and wind storm.

After drying out a bit, we met our shuttle and drove west to the Town of Opunake to stay and do some service work at the Parihaka Marae. Parihaka Marae was the only Maori community to use non-violence to resist against the take over of their lands in the 1890’s. In fact, Gandhi studied their practices and used them in India! The people of Parihaka Marae were wonderful; they shared their stories, history, community and customs. Students got to learn weaving skills, hear stories about the ancient times, and sing songs in the Maori language.

At the completion of our stay at the Marae, everyone went off for home stays with local farmers and teachers in the Opunake area. We ended the course with a day in Auckland exploring the city.