

1994-1995: Sarah Boonin and Gene Ehrbar

Fall Semester

The 20th Annual Project WILD Reunion was held at Camp Chestnut Ridge, west of Durham in Efland, NC. Staff from all years came and participated in a weekend of activities and a slide show. This was a moving experience for all who attended.

PWILD drafted a new first aid certification policy in which all staff (including basecamp and staff crews) would be required to hold, at the minimum, current Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification. The program would run contract courses before each March and August Trip and subsidize the cost to make it the same price as the old Advanced First Aid course price of \$35.

Fall Retreat

Staff ventured to the Genessee Valley Outdoor Learning Center (GVOLC) in Maryland to partake in initiatives and high and low challenge course elements. This trip was very worthwhile for the small number of staff who attended.

House Course

House Course Directors tried unsuccessfully to implement a service-learning component into Experience Weekend trips. The time for Experience Weekend trips seemed too short to incorporate a project of sufficient length.

March Trip

Number of Participants: 62

Number of Staff: 34

Course Cost: \$175

Staff Cost: \$20 (optional)

% of Finaid Awarded: 100% (full match)

Staff were asked to pay \$20 to staff the March Trip because the account had been completely drained by the 93-94 PDs. Staff (mainly Seniors) raised considerable objections, mostly because they felt that they paid for the trip with their time and effort. It was decided that the fee would stand, but individuals could refuse to pay if they wished.

Most crews opted to receive dropoffs instead of pickups, which meant for a long night for many crews as well as staff crew. Dropoffs were also lengthened by the closing of the Blue Ridge Parkway and road disrepair from the tropical storm.

Staff crew used a van for the entire trip, which left just one van at the Davidson Ranger Station for evacuations. Many staff were concerned about this safety breach.

August Trip

Number of Participants: 76

Number of Staff Applied/Accepted: 54/34 (18 basecamp)

Course Cost: \$365

Number of Participants on Finaid: 24

% of Finaid Awarded: 85%

PWILD lost its locker space over the summer. PWILD and the Duke Outing Club moved into a temporary space in the basement of the Old Public Safety Building for the year.

The PDs and CDs took exceptional measures to change the position of climbing leader into a more respected and desirable role. They did this by assigning a few veteran seniors to basecamp and allowing individual climbing leaders to spend more time with their crews, even on dayhikes. This was a great success.

Yet basecamp was a fragmented and messy group which was admonished by NCOBS for poor minimum impact practices.