
1998-1999: Fielding Arnold and Tim Wojcik

Fall Semester

Project WILD partially subsidized the conference fee for the Program Directors, the Climbing Directors and one staff member to attend the international AEE conference in Lake Tahoe, California. Otherwise, the semester was fairly uneventful.

Fall Retreat

Project WILD went to the Bend of Ivy lodge in Asheville, NC for a weekend retreat facilitated by Carrie Mozena, PD'77. The weekend was dedicated to creating mission statements for Project WILD and re-energizing staff. The weekend was paid out of the Project WILD budget. About 25 staff members attended.

Spring Semester

Project WILD did three events with Phoenix and Dove Houses, living groups that are a part of Housing for New Hope in Durham. A grant was given to Project WILD by President Keohane three years ago to work with Phoenix and Dove. Staff members who facilitated the two groups in the spring and then later the HRC in the summer said it was a good experience that provided a different facilitating opportunity.

House Course

The house course registration almost reached capacity this year with 59 students enrolled. About two-thirds of the participants were female, which created uneven ratios on crews, these numbers contributed into an overwhelmingly majority of new staff women applying for the August trip.

March Trip

Number of participants: 56
Number of staff: 34
Course Cost: \$205
Staff Cost: \$0
Financial Aid awarded: \$1404
% of Financial Aid awarded: 100%

There were nine participant crews and two mission crews of four staff members each. The mission crews were designed to give a different experience and purpose to the staff crews in hope that it would excite staff to be a part of them. The objective of the mission crews was to have a Project WILD crew experience, but to use the time to do something productive for PWILD. There were mixed responses to how the experience of having smaller crews and a mission. One of the mission crews reported it to be a great experience while the other did not enjoy it as much.

Summer

Project WILD was approached Fuqua's LEAD program to run a weekend trip for the thirty students in the program. High numbers of staff members in the Durham area for the summer allowed Project WILD to run the program, which required eight staff

members. Past Program Director Barbara Wyse and staff member Pete Maniloff organized the trip to Pisgah with only three weeks of preparation time. Staff described the trip as a phenomenal facilitation experience, but the success of the trip was viewed differently for each of the different groups. Difficulties arose within crews because there was one LEAD RA to each crew, some of which were not enthusiastic about the trip. This created leadership problems within crews. Overall the trip was rated as a success because of the unique facilitation experience it provided for staff and because many participants enjoyed the new experience.

August Trip

Number of Participants: 74

Number of Staff Applied/Accepted: 33/33 (17 Basecamp)

Course Cost: \$405

Financial Aid Awarded: \$ 4295

% of Financial Aid Awarded: 90%

This August trip we learned that it can rain in cove, but despite the wet weather at the end of the trip Pisgah turned out two beautiful weeks. A 48 hour stomach flu circulated within staff during the final days of staff training. One staff member and one participant had to be evacuated because of this virus during the trip. Only one other evacuation occurred because of injured heels caused by boots that had not been broken in before the trip. The evacuation occurred towards the end of the trip, allowing the participant to stay at the Ziegler's house for a few days and then rejoin her crew at cove.

There were three early crews the day the participants came (two 10 person, one eight person), instead of two as there has been in years past. This completely solved the time issue associated with getting all the crews through the ropes course before leaving for Pisgah, though it meant that we started group games when it was almost dark.

We exhausted our waitlist this year and so were only able to get 74 participants for the trip. We initially let in 81 people for 76 spots, but feel we could have done more. The inability to find replacement participants likely could have been solved earlier by calling students who had not sent in the second half of their payment the day they were due instead of letting a week pass by to see what trickled in.

Ropes Course/Outreach

Outreach got off to a slow start this year as the new Outreach and Ropes Course Directors were not chosen until mid October. The proposal was made to change the nature of the outreach position to be three semesters long, instead of an academic year position, so that the old outreach director can make sure that courses are scheduled and run in the fall until the new director is selected. It was felt that directly after the August trip is when staff has the most energy and interest in facilitating courses. The change would assure that the first half of the fall semester would be full of courses. It was decided to try this change for fall 1999 and see how it worked out.

