

Project Portfolio

North Carolina



Conservation Education and Stewardship: More Kids in the Woods

Grant Source: U.S. Forest Service

BACKGROUND

NWTF chapters across the country host hundreds of JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) Conservation Field Days. These events are a blend of hands-on activities in which boys and girls are introduced to outdoor skills, safety, ethics and the need to manage our natural resources.

Currently, the eleven events funded by this grant will reach a total audience of more than 2,300 youth – the majority of which are underserved youth who range in age from 6-12. The NWTF estimates that 50% of program participants are experiencing the outdoors for the first time.

LOCATION

North Carolina
South Carolina
Virginia

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

This project builds upon the research documented in Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods – Saving Children from Nature Deficit Disorder; as well as the U.S. Forest Service's More Kids in the Woods Program, which was established to address Louv's findings. The ultimate goal of the More Kids program is to engage children in recreational activities and in nature-based learning, thereby establishing meaningful and lasting connections with nature. The NWTF project will incorporate a strong educational component combined with fun, outdoor activities.

We expect the participants to not only increase their knowledge of wildlife, conservation, and natural resources but also improve their health and physical activity awareness, self-esteem and self-reliance. Three measurable outcomes of the JAKES events will be the Attitude, Skills, and Knowledge of the participants. Prior to the JAKES event, the NWTF will use an ASK questionnaire to assess the participants current attitude, skills, and knowledge of wildlife conservation, and general life skills. The same ASK questionnaire will be utilized after each

event. An independent evaluation of the pre and post event questionnaire will measure the success of the project. The evaluation strategy for the Stewardship Project will consist of both quantitative and qualitative measures. A pre-test will be used to provide a knowledge and attitude baseline, information captured before the stewardship project that can be compared with post-service changes. Both the pre and post-test will incorporate quantitative or "selection-type" responses that can be compared during the analysis. A written evaluation form will be used to measure the overall success of the project. The evaluation form will include a scale allowing participants to rate various aspects of the project.

OBJECTIVES

To inform, educate and involve youth in wildlife conservation and in the wise stewardship of our natural resources.

PARTNERS

Boys and Girls Clubs

FUTURE PLANS

Project just beginning

TIMEFRAME

Project Start Date: August 2008
Project End Date: August 2009

NWTF PROJECT STAFF

Project Manager: Mandy Harling

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT

\$ 38,500