

NEWS IN BRIEF



August 21, 2008

Go Underground with Project WET & Go FishIN!

Did you know that Indiana has close to 3000 caves? Did you know that Indiana has blind cave fish?

Come find out about Indiana's mysterious cave habitat and this little known fish as we **GO UNDERGROUND with PROJECT WET & GO FISHIN** on **September 12, 2008** from **9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** at **Spring Mill State Park Nature Center** located in **Mitchell, Indiana.**

Indiana Project WET and Go FishIN are once again teaming up to provide another advanced topic workshop for educators. Join us as we explore the world underground...karst ecosystems, aquatic cave wildlife and underground watersheds. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that support the technical, science-based workshop content. In addition participants will explore a local cave system!

Pre-registration is required. There is a \$10.00 fee for this workshop and checks can be made payable to IDNR-Project WET. To register, contact Marie at the Natural Resources Education Center at nrec@dnr.in.gov or 317-562-1338.

MISCELLANEOUS

Let's get it started! The **Heineman Foundation** supports **start-up projects and new projects** within existing organizations. The foundation funds a wide range of activities, including programs that **enable youth to think, create and communicate effectively.**

Grant range: **\$20,000 - \$50,000.** Deadline: **September 1, 2008.** More info: <http://www.heinemanfoundation.org/guidelines>

STUDENT CAMP LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Student Camp Leadership Academy (SCLA) is a weekend retreat that brings together students, camp professionals, national ACA staff and leadership to explore, learn, and understand what the camp professional of the future must be and the leadership opportunities within the ACA structure at the local and National levels to impact the development of youth and others" (ACA, 2008, p. 1). Logistically, the SCLA is a three-day weekend retreat that takes place in the fall of each year. SCLA is specifically designed for undergraduate and graduate student members of ACA who have spent at least one summer working at a camp and who plan to make camp a career.

The next SCLA will take place November 7-9, 2008, at Camp White Eagle in Leaf River, Illinois (thirty miles from Rockford, Illinois). College students wanting to attend SCLA must apply and be approved to participate through their ACA local offices regardless of where the funding for the students' SCLA fee is coming from (even if the student is paying for himself or herself). The ACA local offices and education/scholarship committees serve as a critical screening tool for ensuring that students attending SCLA have demonstrated a keen interest in the camp profession, as well as the maturity to attend an advanced collegiate training event. For further information, application deadlines, or application packets for the 2008 SCLA, please visit the SCLA Web site: <http://www.acacamps.org/scla/>. Please, note that all application packets should be submitted to the executive director of the college students' ACA section office. All attendees must be a member of ACA.

Adam Hotchkiss, a previous participant, said, "For me, SCLA was a huge opportunity that I'm glad I didn't pass up. The weekend took my focus from one camp I will work at, and instead put it on the entire camp industry as a whole. I was able to begin building a large network of contacts with both other students and camp professional. Finally it has inspired me to become involved within my own ACA section, especially in the area of student and young professional involvement. Each participating section pays for one to three participants. Camps can also sponsor a student.

TECH TIPS

Toolfind is a free directory designed to help professionals in youth-serving programs find measurement tools for up to 11 youth outcome areas. Your time is valuable, so we have identified 46 tools to help you get started. All tools address one or more of the outcome areas, are tested, low-cost and have few restrictions. Tools included in this database address elementary, middle and/or high school students and youth, parent, staff and teacher respondents.

<http://www.toolfind.org/>

\$

6 steps to getting selected for federal grants

Federal regulations can be Byzantine, but the White House, through its office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, offered a guide called "Developing a Quality Grant Proposal" that offers guidance about selection criteria for a federal grant.

The criteria listed include:

- Need for the project. Explain how community need ties into the grant program's purpose. Use recent statistics, compare target areas to region and nation, demonstrate through facts and avoid jargon and rhetoric.
- Project design. It should meet the stated need, reflect the life of the project, demonstrate a well thought-out plan, detail recruitment of target population, build community partnerships and develop a contingency plan.
- Project services. These should incorporate proven methods, tailor services to benefit the community, vary methods of meeting the need, emphasize individual services and cite examples of activities.
- Personnel. Provide detailed job descriptions of both paid staff and volunteers, highlight their qualifications, demonstrate their ability to relate to target populations, address professional development and align salaries with time and effort.
- Project evaluation. Measure goals and objectives to see if they are ambitious and attainable, what indicators will demonstrate progress and if they are achieved through services. Review project performance monthly or quarterly to see if it meets the needs in the proposal and if it can be used to replicate success. Include staff and participant input.
- Budget. It should be for the life of the grant, address matching requirements, seek other support and focus on sustainability.

STANDARDS SECRETS

The Storms of July & August – From wide-open Nebraska, Chris Klingenberg of Camp Kitaki writes: "We've up graded what we use for weather information. We have had "weather alert" on the internet. We now have 5 weather radios around camp including 1 in each full time staff member's cabins. We subscribed to the www.weather.com service that calls my cell phone and the camp phone each time a warning is issued for our zip code. We have established a weather monitoring staff team that has a system of communication and decision making roles. We also made some changes in appropriate activities in case of weather watches.

Last week we had our local EMS response team come out and tour our facilities and we put together a action plan in case of a disaster situation. They recommended we purchase a hand held scanner to monitor their communications. This would give us a direct communication when they spot severe weather, and we would not have to wait for it to be reported by the local news or weather service.

*** some great suggestions even for less wide-open Indiana***

MANAGEMENT

7 steps to great team decisions

If an organization has made a commitment to a team approach, rather than a rigidly hierarchical one, the decision-making process can take on a far different look from one residing with one person. The good thing about the team approach is that it can reflect decisions reflecting the contributions of many people. That can also be its downfall. In his book *Great Business Teams*, Howard M. Guttman identifies certain steps that teams can take to ensure that their decisions are both as speedy and effective as possible.

The steps are:

- Identify the decisions that need to be made. The question is not who will make the decision but which key decisions the team will be making.
- Identify decision subteams. Subteams become steering committees, based on the nature and type of decisions that must be made.
- Assign accountability. The individual who is responsible for driving closure should be process focused, able to depersonalize and able to see the big picture.
- Set objectives and timelines. Because not every subteam makes decisions but rather gathers facts, clarify how much authority it has and when it will present findings.
- Select the decision-making mode. There are three basic types: unilateral, consultative and consensus.
- Identify information sources. Learn who should be tapped for information.
- Determine the shelf life of the decision. Few decisions are forever. Set a postdecision review date.

PROGRAM

[Youth Governance Can Help Out-Of-School Programs Involve At-Risk Youth](#)

Children and youth who are the most "at risk" are also the least likely to participate in out-of-school programs. A new [Child Trends](#) brief discusses the benefits of involving at-risk youth in out-of-school time program governance. It also identifies steps that programs may consider when implementing a youth governance model and presents recommendations for dealing with potential challenges to implementation, including: Guidance in establishing clear goals for how youth will be integrated into leadership roles.

http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_06_18_YouthGovernance.pdf

Take a Child Outside Week

September 24—September 30, 2008

Take A Child Outside Week is an international program designed to help break down obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world. By arming parents, teachers and other caregivers with resources on outdoor activities, our goal is to help children across the country develop a better understanding and appreciation of the environment in which they live, and a burgeoning enthusiasm for its exploration.

Come, be a part of this national movement!

Please take a look at our website

www.takeachildoutside.org

and let me know if you would be available to contact or interested in participating. The participation and membership is free and each venue can advertise their own events for the week on our partners map as a location promoting Take a Child Outside Week.

Thank you, Aimee Dobberstein
919-733-7450 ext. 616

The information presented here does not necessarily reflect the views of ACA Indiana. Special thanks for contributions: Nonprofit Times, Connect For Kids, National Assembly, Gary Forster/Y-USA Camping Update, IYI, Kosciusko Community Foundation, EEAI,

During the week of August 25th, join advocates from around the country and call your congress member's district office to introduce his/her staff to the important role that parks and recreation play in the local community in their district.

1. Tell them you care about parks and recreation and the benefits they bring to your community.
2. Make the connection between federal funding for programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the local benefits to the families and children in your community.
3. Thank them for their support of parks and recreation.
4. Ask to be added to their mailing list and ask them to call you if they have any questions about parks and recreation.

<http://www.house.gov/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Form 990 Webinar

September 9, 2008,

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Information on the most significant consequences of the new IRS form 990 on not-for-profit fundraising, communications, financial management and disclosure capacities. The Community Foundation will be participating in this webinar. We have paid the registration fee to participate and may include a few other attendees. Limited availability. Reserve your participation by emailing suzie@kcfoundation.org.

INSIDE ACA INDIANA

Years of membership in ACA

55+ Years: Patricia Mayer

40-49: Connie Coutellier, Norma Crabtree, Samuel Wentworth

30-39: Marquita Manley, Frederick Lane, Chuck Tavel, Sharon Livingston, Bernard Schrader, Susie Davis, Rex Miller, Mary Morley

20-29: Dan Seeber, Curtis Rowland, Dave Burland, Janet Ridenour, Julie Marsh, Bonnie Closey, Kimberly Johnson, William Kalbac, Robert Adams, Anthony Mayfield, Colleen Anderson, Kate Weidner, Mike Kauffman, Lea Pitcher

10-19: Mark Anderson, Emily Ryman, Richard Smikle, Mike Hoffman, Van Beers, Mike Phillips, James Walter, David Deckard, Dave Wright, Scott Brosman, Brigitta Adkins, Richard Swartwood, Ronald Klotz, Bobby Deckard, Kevin Sullivan, Nathan Schaumleffel, Jill Frey, Richard Armstrong, Collean Loucks, Tamara Nordhoff, Duane Vanorder, Sonny Adkins, William Viar, Angi Sullivan, Nancy Short, Jeanette Randall, Carrie Gates, Mark Scoular, Steve Heiny

5-9: Marcy Klapper, Elizabeth Snell, Erin Policinski, Anne Reel, Mary Beth O'Brien, Erin Fischer, Vince Pattengale, Robert Dailey, Peter Rekitze, Alice Lorenz, Craig Cheney, Anna Weigand, Sandy Pasch, Theresa Plotz, Bill Young, Sallee Shelley, Christopher Rasmussen, Coleman Knight, Jeffrey Salyer, Jennie Smith, Paul Wengel, Ron Mattox

0-4: Katie Wall, Shawn Renner, Lyn DeLozier, Sara Noyed, Sandee Howle, Christopher Chappell, Lisa Kisor, Max Scott, Carol Szaks, Erica Miller, Michele Kight, Megan Stephenson, Sally Herrholz, Andy Adelman, Sandy Whiteley, Molly McConnell, Jacob Reardon-McSoley, Weston Outlaw, James Farmer, Andrew Sitte, Chuck Kime, Paula Hartzler, Rick Crosslin, Amy Rehs, Angi Liston, Terri Hargrove, Hillary Garvey, Becky Phillips, Kyle Linback, Thomas Elliott, Ryan Schiesser, Laura Longfellow, Shannon Kaake, Kevin Gould, Mary Allen, Kendra Nowell, Nicole Davis, John Keonig, Laura Hanna, Rebekah Carmichael, Steve Wilson, Matt Decker, Heather McCarver, Elizabeth Piazza, Karly Beaven, Megan Owens, Shane Hartman, Dan Shepley, Chris Martini, Mark Battig, Tami Waniger, Elizabeth Grey, Tim Nowak, Silvra Tosi, Shay Dawson, Peck Axton, Jamie Mitchell, Shannon Clark, C Amber Havens, Coral Hamlin, Kathleen Hopkins, Alice Weber, Anna Weaver, Scott Slater, Jennifer Carrier, Catherine Bishop, Ingrid Weiland, Brooke Gittings, Anthony Dean, Blaire Beach, Erin Habgood, Lindsay Halbig, Brian Myers, Zachary Dickerson, Barb Nichols, Collette Huffman, Kathryn Wietmarschen, Abigail James, Jeffrey Sandoe, Linda Chambers