Hakuna Matata 4-H Camp

The Situation
Every year, four southeastern Idaho counties (Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, and Power) combine to offer a 4-H camp with varying success. Each youth that attends the camp completes a 4-H project and produces a fair exhibit. In the past, this exhibit has been the only means of evaluating the effectiveness of the camp. There was no formal evaluation of each class or the satisfaction of the 4-H members with the camp experience.

Our Response
The 2005 4-H Camp, entitled Hakuna Matata (a Swahili phrase meaning no worries), was held in Afton, Wyoming on June 13, 14, 15. Eight classes (approximately 55 minutes each) were taught that focused on outdoor education. The subjects included “Tracking Animals,” “Learning about Prey and Predators,” “How to Make a Fire,” “Rifle Safety and Skills,” “Fish, where they live and what they eat,” “Archery Safety and Skills,” “Making a Movie,” and “Designing and Making T-Shirts.”

A questionnaire was given to the campers and teen counselors at the end of camp to evaluate the effectiveness of camp. There were questions about number of years that individuals had attended camp, what was liked most, what was liked least, if they learned anything new from classes, most interesting things learned, and overall rating of camp.

Program Outcomes
There were 151 youth, 97 females, 54 males, 144 Caucasians, 6 Hispanics, and 5 of other ethnicities that attended camp. One hundred thirty-four youth filled out the survey. When asked to rate the overall camp experience, 109 (81%) indicated that it was very good or great. Sixty-eight (51%) youth reported this being their first year of camp with 29 (22%) second years, 16 (12%) third years, 10 (7%) fourth years or above.

The survey asked whether participants learned something new from the classes. The number of 4-H campers that reported learning something new for each class are as follows: Making a Movie 103 (77%), Tracking Animals 89 (66%), Fish 82 (61%), Prey and Predators 60 (45%), Rifle Safety and Skills 59 (44%), Designing a Painted T-Shirt 53 (40%), Archery Safety and Skills 50 (37%), How to Make a Fire 44 (33%).

The top item that campers liked most about camp was being with friends. The least favorite item at camp was the cabins.

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