



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
2002-2003

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Education in the Great Outdoors

List of group members: Steve Busch, Tim Conner, Joe Roosa, Angela Pagano, Grey Reid, Larry Brooks

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

The goal of our study group was to improve and add to the outdoor education facility and to create a multi use trail system. We were able to finish three low elements but did not finish the trail. Our goal changed to getting the trail at least half done. Our secondary goal was to not only improve the facility but to work towards an interdisciplinary approach to our outdoor classroom utilization.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

1. Meet and brain storm about possible trail usage.
2. Design trail
3. Discuss the building of three additional low elements
4. Map out the trail
5. Cut trail
6. Chip trail
7. Collect materials for lows
8. Construct lows
9. Begin groundwork for interdisciplinary outdoor education.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

Things went well we were able to accomplish all of our goals and even created a sign to be used for the self guided nature trail. We divided the labor and accomplished a great deal in the short amount of time. It took longer then we thought to map out exactly where the trail would run because it had to be used for so many purposes. Two of us with climbing experience worked primarily on the low elements while the rest of the group worked on the trail.

We were lucky enough to have a very multi talented group that worked well together. It was great to see everyone collaborate in such a positive manner on such a great project.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Have any of your teaching practices changed?

We were able to gain a better perspective about how the outdoor facility can be used by various disciplines. Students will begin to utilize the new facility this month. The low elements have already added great team building opportunities for our students. They are working together and solving problems with both their brains and their muscles. We are attempting to incorporate science and PE into a combined adventure elective.

- What evidence is there that student achievement is improving as a result of your participating in this study group? What kind of difference are you observing in your students?

Students will get the full impact of the trail system in the fall of next year. Since we have just started using the low elements the only impact I can comment on is that the students are very enthusiastic and are having great success and a lot of fun.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?

Trail system still needs to be finished this summer. All members of the group are committed to finishing it. We even have gotten our maintenance crew involved.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

This was a great opportunity to get some work done that we have been talking about for years. Although we did not finish We started something that can be utilized by so many kids for years to come.

How can we make this study group program better?

It may help if you could possibly extend the time for finishing the project. We ran into weather problems this spring.