

## Ohio 4-H Foundation Grant Impact Report

Title of Grant: An "Egg"cellent Counselor College Experience

Applicant Name & Title: Cassie Turner Extension Educator 4-H Youth Development

Unit Reporting: Meigs County

Amount Funded: \$ \$1700.00

Amount Used: \$ \$1694.81

Grant Funds Remaining: \$5.19

Calendar Year of Grant: 2008

Type of Grant (please mark all that apply):

State Grant	Priority Area Grant
Cashman Grant	Lewis/Barnhart/Jenkins Grant
Cleveland Grant	Ebling Urban Extension Grant
<b>Helt Family Grant X</b>	Nationwide Volunteer Development Grant
Sauder Grant	Wadlington Grant
Ulrich Grant	

**Please use as much space as needed to answer the following requests for information.**

Please give an overview of your project. Assume the reader knows nothing about the program.

Ohio 4-H Camps do not work without great counselors. Traditionally the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Educational Center operated by Canter's Cave 4-H Camp holds a multi-county overnight training for all of the counties that camp there. All of the counselor candidates went to the exact same sessions. From feedback from the youth and in their evaluations counselors that were more experience were not feeling engaged in the training. It was beginner level information and they were not being challenged. Counselor College was developed to address these issues. First year counselors need information and sessions that will help them start their learning experience as being a camp counselor. More experienced counselors still need to have basic information be reinforced but they also need to be developing more with their experience and knowledge. For each year of experience required and elective classes were developed. First year counselors classes were all required sessions that established the baseline of their counseling knowledge. Second, Third and Fourth year counselors had less required and more electives that they chose to meet their needs. For the purpose of maintaining more of a college situation there were no tribes or teams established each counselor candidate received a personalized class schedule for the weekend training.

In addition to their course work the counselor candidates had an additional challenge of caring for an "egg camper" during the course of the weekend. Each teen received an egg that they had to give a personality and background by decorating and filling out a camper registration form for. The "egg camper" was to be with the counselor and

participating throughout the weekend. While there were several fatalities and injuries to the "egg campers" it was a great way to teach camper responsibility and how a small action could lead to unfortunate consequences.

The program was taught by educators, summer staff, past counselors and some 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year counselors. This was another attempt to engage older counselors who had experience and knowledge to share with the new counselors. These individuals helped 117 youth complete the Counselor College training.

Another method to engage the counselor candidates further into the College idea of the training was the establishment of Counselor Degrees. First year counselors were working towards an Associates Degree, and all the others were working towards their Bachelors Degree for the first year. In the future counselors will have the opportunity to work towards a Masters or PhD degree by taking extra steps including teaching and service. In addition to the degree program each counselor candidate was given a basic counselor manual in a notebook. Then from their session work and their personal interest the notebooks will become very personalized to the individual youth. They will also be expected to continue bringing their notebooks to future trainings.

Please list the objectives of the project and evaluate the measurable objectives achieved. Explain how you measured those objectives.

One of the goals of the counselor training format is to engage the different needs of different levels of experience counselors. To achieve this objective the counselor candidate will have some choice in his or her classes. First year counselors will have more required classes to assure they are getting the basic foundation they need to be a counselor. Second, third, and fourth year counselors will have more choices to engage their past camp experiences and to build beyond basic counselor skills. This was measured by counselors self evaluations. The counselor candidates indicated in evaluations that they had an increase in knowledge or skills in understanding roles and responsibilities, being a good steward to camp, learning how to reduce risks to campers, and increased in teaching skills. This was indicated in a pre/post evaluation. Overall when asked about the new format of the training 90% of the youth that responded indicated they learned more with the change. One counselor said "Good way to keep increasing knowledge and expanding on issues."

Another goal of the Counselor College was to teach camper responsibility. This was accomplished via the "egg campers". This was measured by the "egg camper" survival rate and counselor comments during the debriefing session. About 40% of "egg campers" came to an early end of life throughout the exercise. Comments made by counselor candidates included: "Accidents can easily happen", "the campers are my responsibility no matter what happens", "make sure you know where your camper is at all times".

Describe the population(s) or target audience(s) served. List how many individuals benefited or were impacted by this program.

4-H Summer Camps do not work without great youth camp counselors. This year Counselor College hosted 117 potential camp counselors from 10 counties. These youth

went on to serve as counselor at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center operated by Canter's Cave 4-H Camp and other camps the following summer. At Canter's Cave our counselors from 9 counties went on to serve over 800 youth throughout the 2008 4-H Summer Camp season. Our target audience is any potential teen 4-H camp counselor that camps at Canter's Cave or elsewhere. Developing engaging and challenging training for our camp counselors makes for better camps. 4-H Campers and camping programs benefit as do the counselors themselves. This program works towards helping potential counselors know what they need to be successful as well as developing valuable workforce preparation skills for their futures.

Which of the 8 critical elements were realized in the program and how was this accomplished?

All 8 key elements were incorporated into the Counselor College program. Youth were at a safe environment at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. All youth were welcomed by friendly adults and older peers upon their arrival and encourage participating right off the back. The whole concept of Counselor College is to help youth learn mastery and competency in a chose area, have self determination in what they are doing, engage in learning, and to see one's self as an active participant in the future. This was accomplished by choosing class work, incorporating older counselors as teachers, establishing a venue that encourages youth to build on what they know, and by sessions that also focused on how they can use what they have learned and do in the future as adults.

Provide a **detailed** budget and actual expenditures. Original receipts or copies are not necessary, but be sure that your expenditures are detailed with specific dollar amounts.

**Requested Budget**

4-H Foundation

Counselor College Curriculum Development - \$300  
(training and evaluation materials, exercises, consumables, ie eggs)

Counselor Resource Pack – 150 packs@ \$8 = \$1200  
(Binder, copies, and other supplies)

Statewide Resources

(curriculum notebooks 1 per participating county  
Cd of resources for rest of the counties statewide) \$200

Total Grant Dollars Requested **\$1700**

**Final Budget:**

4-H Foundation

Copies for binders, sessions, nametags, etc \$358.75

Program Supplies for notebooks, nametags, curriculum  
egg buddies, statewide recources cds for educators \$1304.13

PR supplies \$ 31.93

Total Dollars Spent **\$1694.81**

If this is a continuing program, please describe future plans/program objectives.

Counselor College is a continuing camp counselor training program at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. Future plans include growing the number of attendees, encouraging youth to

pursue the counselor degree program, and to further engage camp counselor candidates with self-determination classes, opportunities to peer teach, and further development of their personal camp counseling manuals.

*Cassie Turner*

Grant Recipient Signature

12-30-08

Date