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The Camping at the Presidio (CAP) program completed its second season, 2008, serving hundreds of young people around the Bay Area with a unique urban camping experience in one of this country’s premiere urban national parks. Participants broadly include a segment of the community who have never been camping, as well as many considered “disadvantaged.” The CAP experience has provided an important new audience with a greater sense of comfort and familiarity in the natural world, including a connection to local national parks and public open space. CAP continues to make a significant contribution towards increasing the diversity of people who regularly enjoy outdoor experiences.

**Primary Goals of the CAP program:**

- To provide children/youth who traditionally have not visited national parks with overnight camping experiences.
- To provide a dynamic and affordable way to enrich the lives of young people.
- To serve as the “bridge” to breaking down barriers that often prevent underserved youth from visiting national parks and experiencing an overnight camping experience.
- To train public school teachers and leaders of youth organizations to become CAP-trained “Camp Leaders,” skilled in all aspects of camping and safety. (Camp Leaders will then team with park educators to provide first-time camping and national park experiences to urban youth).

**A look at the last two seasons:**

During the 2007 pilot season, CAP provided overnight camping trips to 17 groups and served over 500 people, including day trips and opportunities for other Crissy Center programs. The overnight program served nearly 300 participants and 50 leaders were trained to facilitate trips with their organizations. In 2008, seven organizations from last year (season one) returned and 18 new organizations took part in the CAP experience for the first time. In total, 40 overnight trips and 3 leader trainings were completed in the 2008 season (March thru November). The 2008 season served 857 people; a 70% growth in numbers served from the previous year. In addition, 35 leaders were trained in three Outdoor Leadership Trainings (March, May, and October). The trained leaders were then responsible for facilitating their organization’s camping experience with assistance from the CAP staff.

**What did we learn from these two studies?**

This report includes results from the evaluation process (2008 season) focusing on the youth, adult participants, and group leader experiences. Where applicable and worth noting, comparisons are made with the results of the 2007 pilot season evaluation. This 2008 evaluation was completed with the intent of better understanding the most influential aspects of the program to provide future participants with an even more enjoyable and memorable CAP experience. The pilot year evaluation in 2007 was comprised of an in-depth investigation of the entire program including operations and management. That is, the 2007 study included survey analysis, focus groups with 24 youth from three organizations, interviews with select CAP staff, and an online leader program-related survey.
The 2008 evaluation was completed with youth and adult participants on-site, following their CAP trips. In addition, leader evaluations were administered, also on-site, following each Outdoor Leadership Training (OLT). These surveys were designed to determine the impacts of the CAP experience on participants, and provide feedback on the highlights and challenges of the program. Responses from the surveys were explored using quantitative analysis and an examination of qualitative, open-ended responses to discover themes and patterns relating to the CAP experience.

**Core Evaluation Objectives:**

- Examine basic demographics of the youth participants.
- Determine how the participants view the park in terms of general attitudes and experiences, and whether they “connected” with the park (e.g., sense of place).
- Investigate what the youth anticipated prior to arrival; how did they feel before their camping experience?
- Learn how they felt after their camping experience? (including “likes and dislikes”).
- Discover the most meaningful aspect of their camping experience (comprehend affect).
- Determine desire for camping at another location/visiting a different national park in the future.
- Examine the camping experience of the leaders and how this influences their group/youth.
- Determine overall benefits youth receive from Camping at the Presidio based on perspectives of both youth and leaders.

**Major Findings**

Results of the evaluation reveal there are many positive benefits for youth who participate in the program. Important to note that questions asked of leaders relate to their personal experiences as well as perceptions and what they believe the youth may have gained from participation. This evaluation process cannot determine cause and effect; perceptions as provided by leaders on the trip are reported. The following findings are highlights from the analyses:

**Program (Overall)**

- Hiking and the guided programs, overall, were highlights of the trip for youth, adults, and leaders. Responses show these activities enhanced participants’ connection to the outdoors.
- The campfire and the ranger-led activities were the “most enjoyable” activities for many youth and adult leader participants. Campfire activities such as stories and s’mores were highly regarded among the youth while hiking was indicated as the most popular guided activity.
- Similar to the 2007 finding, CAP is not actually reaching “first-time campers” in its entirety. In 2008, 75% of youth and 90% of adults/leaders had been camping before.
- Both youth and adult leader participants indicated the tent sent up and take down was enjoyable.
- Suggested improvements range from desire for warm water, cleaner bathrooms, and possibly installing showers. In general, youth and adult leader participants would like to see an improvement in the bathrooms and wash rooms.
- Leaders felt that CAP taught their youth important camping skills and environmental knowledge. They also report believing CAP helped their youth gain an appreciation for the outdoors and respect for nature.

**Youth Participants**

**Top 5 favorite parts of the trip:**

1. Campfire (stories and s’mores)
2. Hikes (day, night and beach trips)
3. Camping gear (setting up/taking down tents)
4. Activities (scavenger hunt and playing sports)
5. Nature experience (being outdoors in nature, the woods)

**Top 5 suggested changes for trip improvement:**

1. Hike (too long for some younger groups yet too short for some older youth)
2. Bathroom facilities (desire for bathrooms with flushing toilets, warm water and showers)
3. Camping gear (warmer gear, roomier tents, flash lights and lanterns)
4. Campsite (access to BBQ grills, fire pit closer, and reduce disturbances from typical urban life)
5. Desire for “more” (longer CAP trip, more activities, more time at the beach, and more free time)

• Between 70-75% of youth participants from each race/ethnicity group have already been camping.
• 77% of youth agreed/strongly agreed they “learned how to camp” (e.g., for many youth indicating they’ve been camping previously, learning new skills is the probable outcome).
• The majority of youth (60%) are more interested in nature after this experience.
• 60% of all youth are more interested in camping again, in general, after this experience.
• Combining agree and strongly agree, nearly 80% across all ages would like to camp in another national park. More females, 83%, rated agree/strongly agreed than males (73%).
• In accord with the narratives provided, the most frequent response to “The guided program was fun and I enjoyed all of the activities” was a 5 (strongly agree). Interesting to note, however, is that as the age of the youth increased, the older participants chose “agree” over “strongly agree”.

• A vast majority of the youth responded they learned about Leave No Trace. Out of 478 responses to that question, 157 agreed and 211 strongly agreed (nearly 80%)
• 24% of blacks, 17% of whites and 21% of Biracial/Multiracial youth disagreed/strongly disagreed that spending time in the outdoors would make them a better person compared to 10% of Latinos and 6% of youth from Asian/Pacific Islander heritage.
• 64% of youth think that “spending time in the outdoors” could help them become a better person.

Adult Leader Participants

Top 3 most important themes regarding benefits of CAP to their group experience:

1. Camping and environmental knowledge (camping skills and natural/cultural history)
2. Appreciation of the outdoors (connecting with nature and increased comfort level in nature)
3. Youth bonding (teamwork and friendship)

Top 3 most important themes for suggested changes:

1. Activities (shorter hikes, different activities for different age groups)
2. Location (more natural site and farther away from roads and lights)
3. Safety (safer path to the beach and install/use crosswalks)

Note: These were also concerns resulting from the 2007 survey.

• Overall responses from the adult leaders were positive and they concur CAP is enjoyable. Community leaders believe the program can play a positive role in the lives of youth. The following five key questions resulted in more than 85% of all adult participants who completed the survey responding favorably to these items, in some capacity (“agree” or “strongly agree”):
  o 96% felt the staff was enthusiastic, professional, and knowledgeable.
  o 90% of the adult leaders believe the youth learned camping skills.
  o 89% believe the trip may help the youth become better people.
  o 87% believe the youth are now more interested in nature.
  o 86% felt the guided programs were educational and fun.

• As mentioned, a majority of adult leader responses were overwhelming positive. Still, when asked if the youth are aware of their consequences of their actions on the environment after the trip only 75% of adult leaders agreed/strongly agreed and 22% marked neutral.
There was an overall agreement between the adult’s responses and the youth’s perceptions of the CAP program.

Outdoor Leadership Training

- The most important reason reported for attending the training was to learn about how the leaders could bring their kids camping.

- All community leaders who participated in the training, responding to the question about signing up for CAP, felt the enrollment process was “easy” (100%).

- Out of 26 leaders providing their previous experience leading camping trips for youth, 35% (n=9) indicated “A Lot”, 42% (n=11) reported “Some”, and 23% (n=6) checked “None”.

- Almost 30% of the outdoor leaders did not know if the Manual was useful or not because they reported not having a chance to look at it and use it. For those that did see it, 70% did find the Manual useful. Leaders in both 2007 and 2008 requested to have copy of the Manual for review prior to the actual training.

- Similar to the youth and adult leader participant responses, individuals involved at the Outdoor Leadership Training believed “hiking” was the most useful part of the training.

- The training, overall, was rated as being beneficial in some capacity as over 97% of the Outdoor Leadership Training participants reported the training was helpful, very helpful, or extremely helpful for them in preparation for their CAP experience.

Findings reveal the goals and objectives of the program, broadly, are being met. Overall, community leaders, adults, and youth perceive the CAP program quite positively. These viewpoints and experiences will likely ensure continued interest and support for the CAP program.
We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have provided their support, collaboration, and feedback throughout the evaluation, analysis and reporting process. First and foremost, thanks to the Crissy Field Center of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the Presidio Trust for funding this valuable study. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for continuing to manage these precious resources. We appreciate all of the individuals and organizations that nourished continued success of this project.

First and foremost, thanks to Christy Rocca, Center Director, for her enthusiasm and commitment to the sustained growth and progress of the CAP program. Michele Gee, Deputy Director, has provided valuable program support, ongoing communication, and essential supervision for the past two years. Miguel Gutierrez, CAP Program Manager, has been instrumental in the evaluation process by providing the guidance and communication necessary to more fully understand the many facets of the CAP program. Roshan Segatol-Islami, Education and Outreach Coordinator, has contributed to the development of the program during this second season; for her time and involvement we are very thankful.

The BAWT staff, especially Eve Skylar, CAP Program Associate, has contributed greatly to the success of the CAP program since its inception. Eve has since moved on to new endeavors and we wish her well. We also are extremely appreciative of The Presidio Trust staff, notably Damien Raffa, Education and Volunteer Program Manager, for his dedication to the CAP program and participants. Damien helped lead the very popular Guided Programs in both the 2007 and 2008 seasons. The Ranger-led interpretive programs were a highlight of the trip for youth and adults and would not have been possible without the spectacular NPS Rangers: Edward Arias, Yvea Eaton, James Osborne, Fatima Colindres, and Supervisor Kelli English.

We are extremely grateful for the CAP interns, Deante Metts, Linda Loi, and Anjie Diaz, for helping administer and copy hundreds of surveys and for their invaluable assistance to the CAP program operations and logistics.

Dr. Emilyn Sheffield is a Professor at Chico State University and is currently exploring community engagement strategies in volunteerism and conservation stewardship at the Golden Gate National Parks. Special thanks to Emilyn for her enduring social science support and advice.

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Camping at the Presidio (CAP) is a program of the Presidio Trust, Crissy Field Center (a partnership of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service) and Bay Area Wilderness Training. CAP provides one and two-night camping opportunities based in The Presidio. The regular campground is situated at Rob Hill which was being renovated in 2008; Dragonfly Creek campground was therefore used as the preferred alternative. The approximate location of Dragonfly Creek between Rob Hill and Fort Scott on the west side (Fig. 1). Rob Hill campground was used by the CAP program for the inaugural year in 2007, and will be available for future CAP programs once construction is completed in 2009.

The program started in 2006, with the first camping season commencing in March of 2007. CAP serves local San Francisco Bay Area community organizations and schools. The primary goal of the program is to provide under-served youth, specifically inner-city and low income, a recreational and educational experience within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (one of five urban national parks). This is achieved through outreach to local youth and community-based organizations. CAP addresses a couple of traditional barriers to camping such as gear and transportation. Community organization leaders are provided a comprehensive, pre-program training to become Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT) trained leaders, and facilitate their organization’s CAP trip. Staff support on trips is also offered and the sponsors/organizers supply camping gear and a transportation option for all participating groups. The CAP staff recognizes the importance of environmental and outdoor education by connecting youth with nature through a safe and affordable recreational camping experience.

In the 2007 pilot season, CAP provided overnight camping trips to 17 groups and served over 500 people, including day trips and opportunities for other Crissy Center programs. The overnight program served nearly 300 participants and 50 leaders were trained to facilitate trips with their organizations. In 2008, 7 organizations from season one and 18 new organizations took part in the CAP experience for the first time. In total, 40 overnight trips and 3 leader trainings were completed in the 2008 season; which began in March and ended November 1st. The 2008 season served 857 people; a 70% growth in numbers served from the previous year. In addition, 35 leaders were trained in three Outdoor Leadership Trainings (March, May, and October). The trained leaders are then responsible for facilitating their organization’s CAP experience with assistance from the CAP staff.

A comprehensive evaluation was again conducted in 2008, to follow up on the participant and programmatic evaluation completed
for the 2007 season. Research studies focusing on environmental and outdoor education programs commonly investigate the impacts of the programs on participants. The CAP program evaluation follows research trends and incorporates both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

The 2008 evaluation included administration of surveys to youth and adult participants (on-site) following their CAP trips (see Appendix A & B). In addition, leader evaluations were administered on-site following each Outdoor Leadership Training (Appendix C). These surveys were designed to determine the impacts of the CAP experience on participants, and provide feedback on the highlights and challenges of the program. Responses from the surveys were explored using both qualitative and quantitative analyses to discover themes and patterns relating to the CAP experience. This evaluation was completed with the intent of better understanding the most influential aspects of the program in order to provide future participants with an enjoyable and memorable CAP experience.
Primary Goals of the CAP program

- To provide children/youth who traditionally have not visited national parks with overnight camping experiences.
- To provide a dynamic and affordable way to enrich the lives of young people.
- To serve as the “bridge” to breaking down barriers that often prevent underserved youth from visiting national parks and experiencing an overnight camping experience.
- To train public school teachers and leaders of youth organizations to become CAP-trained “Camp Leaders,” skilled in all aspects of camping and safety. (Camp Leaders will then team with park educators to provide first-time camping and national park experiences to urban youth).

Evaluation Objectives

A baseline study for year one occurred in 2007. This was comprised of an in-depth investigation of the entire program including operations and management. The 2007 study included survey analysis, focus groups with 24 youth from three organizations that participated in CAP, interviews with CAP staff, and an online leader program-related survey.

Evaluation for 2008 focused on the campers and community leader experience. Core objectives included the following:

- Examine basic demographics of the youth participants.
- Determine how the participants view the park in terms of general attitudes and experiences, and whether they “connected” with the park (e.g., sense of place).
- Investigate what the youth anticipated prior to arrival; how did they feel before their camping experience?
- Learn how they felt after their camping experience? (including “likes and dislikes”).
- Discover the most meaningful aspect of their camping experience (comprehend affect).
- Determine desire for camping at another location/visiting a different national park in the future.
- Examine the camping experience of the leaders and how this influences their group/youth.
- Determine overall benefits youth receive from Camping at the Presidio based on perspectives of both youth and leaders.
One of the main goals of Camping at the Presidio (CAP) is to provide low-income and inner-city youth with an overnight camping experience that will enhance their connection to the outdoors. CAP strives to overcome typical constraints such as access to camping programs, gear, transportation, and economic factors that often prevent many youth from connecting with nature. The program provides an affordable and safe camping experience to community organizations most in need and deserving of this unique experience they may never have had in the past. Participants have the opportunity to be immersed in an urban natural environment for either two-days and one-night, or a three-day and two-night program.

Research shows that “positive interactions with the natural environment are an important part of healthy child development, and these interactions enhance learning and the quality of life over the span of one’s lifetime” (Wilson 1999). The focus of CAP to connect youth to the outdoors is related to reports confirming that today’s youth are spending less time outside. Recent studies show that American children under the age of 13 reportedly spend only 30 minutes of unstructured time outdoors each week (Hofferth & Sandberg, 2001; Zaradic & Pergams 2007).

One main reason reported, to-date, regarding why children are spending less time outdoors is that they are consumed with indoor sedentary activities, such as TV, Internet, and video-games (Clements, 2004; Roberts et al. 2005; Zaradic, Faber-Taylor & Kuo, 2006; Pergams, 2007). Furthermore, research shows youth are limited to outdoor play spaces due to fear of safety, both from their parents and their own concerns. Hence, another constraint is that children have limited access to safe outdoor play spaces (Wridt, 2004; Farmer, 2005). Camping at the Presidio helps youth overcome these constraints through leader supervised camping in a controlled and safe “urban wilderness” setting: The Presidio, Golden Gate National Park. This location provides youth with the opportunity to connect with, appreciate, and learn about their local natural environment. This is imperative because studies show that humans have an inherent need for connecting with nature (Wilson, 1984; Kaplan, 1995).

It is vital to provide youth with opportunities to directly experience nature. Multiple studies confirm that outdoor educational environments enhance students’ knowledge gain, overall, compared to indoor classroom environments (Leiberman & Hoody, 1998; Basile, 2000). Environmental education being delivered in an outdoor setting augments the efficacy of these teaching opportunities. The CAP program incorporates environmental education through park ranger-led interpretive programs (and Crissy Field Center staff when rangers were unavailable). The CAP program offers an exceptional opportunity for schools and community organizations to teach youth about the Earth in a setting that is proven to help students with knowledge gain.

Research studies that focus on camping and outdoor education programs tend to investigate the impacts of the programs on the participants. The CAP program evaluation has incorporated both quantitative and qualitative analyses in the research methods used. Current research trends show that while environmental education research is mostly dominated by quantitative statistical analysis, it is moving away from exclusively using the traditional scientific paradigm, and towards qualitative analysis research using interpretive, constructivist, and socially critical methods (Palmer & Birch, 2005).

There are a number of studies showing that outdoor education programs provide valuable learning and growth opportunities for youth. In 2004, Rickinson et al. conducted
a meta-analysis of 150 outdoor education research studies and found that all of these programs facilitated positive outcomes for youth, including changed attitudes toward the environment as well as increased independence, confidence, self-esteem, locus of control, self-efficacy, personal effectiveness and coping strategies. Other documented outcomes include enhanced interpersonal and social skills, such as social effectiveness, communication skills, group cohesion and teamwork. Another study focused on the educational and social outcomes of day camp on 40 inner-city, low-income youth (Portnoy, et al. 1973). This study found that after participants finished the camping program they showed a significant increase in the following: Visual-motor functioning, abstract conceptual thinking, and self-image and self-worth.

CAP recognizes the importance of environmental and outdoor education and supports connecting youth with nature through a safe, fun, and affordable camping experience. CAP seeks to not only combat “nature deficit disorder” (Louv, 2005) by teaching participants about their local natural environment, the program builds camping skills to increase their sense of comfort in nature, broadly. Given the predominant underprivileged

A Few Youth Trends...

**Nationwide**

- There are 73.7 million children 18 and under living in the U.S.
- 67.8% live with married parents, 23% live with one parent, 2.9% live with two unmarried parents/partners, 6.3% live with one or both grandparents.
- Kids ages 3-17: 86% = public school; 14% private.
- 18.3% of families with children under 18 considered to be living below poverty level.
- 16% of all young people between 6-19 are “obese”
- More than one in six adolescents, ages 12 to 19 were overweight in the U.S. in 2003-2004, more than triple the rate more than 20 years ago between 1976-1980.
- Regular, vigorous physical activity among high school students increased notably between 2003 and 2005, from 63 percent to 69 percent

**Urban Youth Statistics**

- Currently there are over 26 million urban teens
- 1 in 3 is a member of a minority group.
- The Hispanic, African American, and Asian American youth population is expected to increase more than three times as fast as the non-Hispanic White youth population.

**Household arrangement**

- Nearly two out of three (64.9%) youth live in two-parent families.
- A substantial minority (35.1%) live with only one parent (29.1%) or with neither parent (6.0%).

**Income**

- About 40% of youth live in a household with an income of less than $50,000/yr
- Another 40% of youth live in households with an income of $75,000 or more

**Technology trends**

- A computer is the #1 product youth say they “can’t live without”
- Internet – 60% of youth age 16-24 years have 1-2 email addresses
- Gaming Consoles – Over 80% play electronic games regularly
- Over 80% of youth age 16-18 years own mobile phones

**Outdoor Activity Related Statistics**

- Youth (all ages) who come in contact with nature: Found to be less violent, have better social relationships, and experience overall less stress than children who don’t.
- Youth who tend to play outdoors (including urban environments): Greater ability to focus; enhanced cognitive abilities; and considered physically healthier – broadly.

Sources: Census Bureau, 2007; ChildTrends.org; ChildTrendsDataBank.org; Kunjufu, 2002
backgrounds of the majority of youth served, the program also leads to increased environmental awareness in innovative ways and sparks an enhanced interest in being outdoors including the joy of camping. In addition to focusing on the benefits of being immersed in nature, this study investigates broad impacts of the program on nearly 500 participants.

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**A Few San Francisco Youth Statistics**

- San Francisco is home to 108,670 children (ages 0-17) which is 1% of California’s total child population
- 36% of all SF households have children under 18 years old
- 89% of children are in school
- 94% of children are U.S. citizens
- 51% of all SF children speak another language at home
- 13% of children in SF are living in poverty
- 7% of households receive food stamps
- 27% of children are overweight
- 72% of children never exercise
- Teen birth rate (per 1,000): 22
- In San Francisco, there are over 31,300 students enrolled in public K-12 schools considered “economically disadvantaged” based on family income.

(Source: ChildrenNow.org)

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**METHODOLOGY**

Given the nature and scope of this study, multiple methods were used. Of the 40 groups who participated in overnight CAP trips, 38 were administered the survey and 35 of those groups were used in the evaluations. According to the CAP Manager, two groups were not given the surveys because one group was a special day event (not an overnight) and the other group did not participate in the traditional CAP program (“no bus, no welcome, no rules, no interpretive tour, etc.”). The group only used the campsite and gear.

Surveys from groups included in the database yet who did not experience the “traditional” CAP program, by design, were not used in the aggregate analysis. For instance, none of the 3 Outward Bound groups used CAP gear, and only one of the groups received a guided program. These surveys were therefore omitted from the overall analysis because the different program aspects and activities made these surveys incomparable to traditional CAP trips.

The data collected from adult and youth participants completing the on-site evaluations were two key segments of the data collection process. In addition, after the Outdoor Leadership Training (OLT) leaders were given an evaluation that related to their training experience. All three evaluation surveys included open-ended and closed-ended elements. The close-ended statements were developed on a Likert-type scale and asked people to respond to statements on a 5-item scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The responses were then entered into a master Excel spreadsheet, coded, and analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), ver. 15. Open-ended, qualitative data were analyzed using a content analysis approach by developing analytic patterns, conceptual schemes, and emerging themes (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Patton, 1990).
POST-PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Youth Participants

Of the 35 groups that ultimately completed the evaluation, all youth participants received a survey at the completion of their camping program, while still on-site (Appendix A). The CAP staff and SF State research team designed the evaluation form, which incorporated many of the 2007 questions in addition to a few added questions that captured information that was previously omitted. For instance, 2008 included two questions about prior camping experience: “Have you ever been camping before” and “Have you ever camped at the Presidio before”. The repetition of key questions for each year allowed a few comparisons to be made across the two seasons. The youth survey included questions about the kids likes and dislikes from the trip as well as seeking responses to statements about their camping experience and what they learned from the trip overall. Basic demographic data were also requested and provided on a self-reporting basis.

While all youth were invited and clearly encouraged to complete the survey, it was optional for them to participate. A limiting factor to this analysis was the younger children, ages 6 and under. This evaluation was designed for children 7 or older, as also reflected in the literature on written surveys/evaluations used with children this decision was based on their ability to understand the questions and provide legitimate feedback as best as possible in order to create valid inferences. Evaluations from participants ages 6 and under were therefore omitted from the study (n=47 unusable surveys based on age). In total, 497 useable surveys were evaluated (out of 616 participants) for this second season (87% response rate).

Adult Participants

In 2008, a separate evaluation was created by the CAP Program Manager, and reviewed by the SF State research team, to capture information about the trip from adult volunteers and program leaders specifically (Appendix B). In 2007, adults and leaders completed the same survey as the youth participants. Results from the 2007 study revealed that a separate evaluation for adults would collect additional insight about their perceptions of their groups’ experience. Questions asked on the 2008 evaluation allowed information to be compiled about the leaders regarding a few demographics, prior camping experience, what they liked most about the trip, and what they would change.

The adult surveys were evaluated separately from the youth; these were also used to compare to youth surveys within the same organizational groups.
to gather additional feedback about specific trips. From the adult groups, none of the surveys were considered “unusable”, however not all adults participated in the process. In total, nearly 200 adults participated ($n=199$) in the 2008 CAP program (including community leaders trained at the OLT). 117 surveys were completed used in this analysis (response rate = 59%). According to the CAP Manager, some adults were unable to stay for the entire length of the trip, and therefore could have been absent when the evaluations were administered.

**Outdoor Leadership Training Evaluations**

Adult leaders, from local community organizations, who were trained in the Outdoor Leadership Trainings (OLT) were all invited to complete a survey that focused on their OLT experience (Appendix C). A total of 42 adult leaders participated in the OLTs, and 35 leaders completed the surveys. The survey captured specific details about their camping and youth leadership experience. It also offered leaders an opportunity to provide comments about what they liked most about the training and what could be improved. Three OLTs were held in 2008: March, May, and October. Each training lasted two-days with an overnight experience at Dragonfly Creek. The OLTs gave CAP and BAWT staff an opportunity to teach community-based staff site-specific camping skills and familiarize leaders with gear, park resources, and The Presidio.
Youth Participants

The 2008 season served 40 groups with over 600 youth participants in total. Of these, 35 groups participated in the evaluation process. A total of 497 surveys were considered usable for analysis. Surveys that were completed by youth under the age of six were omitted from the analysis; also a few surveys were considered unrelated and removed from the evaluation process (i.e. Outward Bound registration with CAP for different purposes). Of the 497 surveys analyzed, approximately 450 participants provided demographic information. Note: calculations will vary because items people responded to were not consistent across evaluations. Table 1 provides a summary of the self-reported demographics.

### Table 1. Youth Participant Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n (NUMBER OF RESPONSES)</th>
<th>% OF RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>52 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age range (7-19)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>59 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
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<td>18-19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>County of Residence</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>74 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Mateo</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Race / Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American / Black</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>34 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian / Asian American / Pacific Islander</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic / Latino</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-racial(^2)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) The top 3 counties are represented in this table and examples of the cities of where the most youth reported where they live include: San Francisco, Oakland, Brisbane, Richmond, Fairfield, and Daly City.

\(^2\)Youth were asked to fill-in their race / ethnic background. The answers were then grouped using standard census categories. Examples of multi-racial ethnic backgrounds that people identified were: Black and Puerto Rican; Black, Indian, French, and Mexican; White and Black; White/Middle Eastern.
Qualitative Evaluation (Youth)

A content analysis of the qualitative responses showed several key themes apparent across all groups’ experiences. Recurring themes were used to infer the most meaningful aspects of the CAP program to the participants and to determine how youth felt after their camping experience, including their likes, dislikes, and general affect. Specific activity related themes, for example, emerged through analysis of the open-ended statements. Table 2 (on page 23) provides an at-a-glance look at themes and content summary.

The top 5 favorite parts of the trip were:

1. Campfire
2. Guided tour / hike
3. Camping gear
4. Activities
5. Experiencing Nature

When asked what they liked most about their trip, the most popular response was time spent around the campfire. During the campfire, youth made and enjoyed s’mores. In many instances “s’mores” was specifically written as the best part of the trip for the youth. This response was grouped with the campfire response group as these activities occurred simultaneously. In 2007, campfire time was also one of the most frequently discussed favorite activities. Spending time around a campfire is clearly a unique camping activity and special experience for youth. The campfire element is significantly important to the CAP program as shown by youth responses highlighting this as a favorite part of their trip in both the 2007 and 2008 seasons.
“s’mores, and the campfire”
female, 11, from Jr. Rangers

“sitting around the campfire”
Chinese, female, 19, from Chinatown Beacon
The other most popular aspects of the trip, based on participant comments on the evaluations, were: Hiking, the camping equipment/gear, recreational activities and experiencing nature. Hiking includes both day and night hikes as well as hiking to the beach, for those groups that participated in the Baker Beach Guided Tour. The hikes were lead by Rangers (from GGNRA, The Presidio Trust, or CAP staff and/or interns) and provided an environmental and historical education component to the CAP program.
The camping gear is maintained by BAWT and many youth mentioned having fun setting up the tents and hanging out in the tents. The CAP staff incorporated the youth’s interest in the tents with a fun game where groups raced to set up the tents that they slept in. Both youth and adult evaluations indicated that the tent set-up was enjoyable.

The activities theme refers to youth answers such as: playing sports, capture the flag, the scavenger hunt, the treasure hunt, and playing. CAP staff developed some recreational activities, such as the scavenger and treasure hunts, and included these in the leader’s training manual as optional additions to the trip. These activities were separated from the guided tours/hiking in the analysis because they represented different events and themes. The activities were more recreational than educational, when compared to the guided tours.

Another frequent response related to nature experiences. For example, youth mentioned being excited about seeing wildlife, being outside, bird watching, learning about the native plants and animals, enjoying the natural scenery, being in the woods, and seeing the ocean. The popularity of these activities demonstrates how the CAP program is providing opportunities for youth to experience and bond with nature.

The other open-ended questions on the survey asked youth what part of the trip they would change and if there was anything else they would like to share. Many youth did not have any additional responses to share and this space was left blank the majority of the time. The bulk of youth that did add responses commented on items / issues that they would like to change. About a quarter of youth responded to the question with thanks and gratitude for the trip. Since most responses were suggestions, these were incorporated into the analyses for changes that youth would like to see in the trip.

Interestingly, the hike was one of the most popular activities of the trip, however many youth responded that they would change the length of the hike. Some youth felt the hikes were too long, especially younger groups with youth in Elementary School. Other youth felt that the hike was too short, or they wanted an option of going on multiple hikes. There were no clearly defined preferences for longer or shorter hikes overall. Many responses were difficult to interpret; for example many youth simply responded “the hike” without explaining what they would change about it. In the future, the CAP staff and park rangers could check in with group leaders before hand about hiking experience and preferences. This could allow additional insight into what type of hike would be most enjoyable for the specific group, since there are four guided program / hike options.

The second most frequent response to what youth would like to see change was the bathroom facilities.
The Dragonfly Creek campground is not equipped with plumbing or flush toilets, only port-o-potties. Many youth disliked the portable toilets and expressed a desire for bathrooms with flushing toilets, warm water, and showers. In the 2007 season, bathrooms were the most frequent complaint on the surveys. In 2007, the campground at Rob Hill was equipped with a bathroom facility.

The majority of comments about the bathroom in 2007 related to cleanliness and safety issues. A suggestion for the future is to double check the bathroom facilities before groups arrive and after each group leaves. Since the bathrooms are open to the public, frequent inspections are needed to ensure that they are sanitary and safe to use.

Youth also mentioned gear as something they would change about the trip. Many youth felt cold at night and wanted either warmer sleeping bags or additional gear to keep them warm enough. BAWT responded to this concern in the 2008 season by buying sleeping bags; this consisted of purchasing “zero degree” sleeping bags mid-season. Additional gear requests were for lighting equipment, such as flashlights and lanterns. A theme that emerged from these responses was that bigger groups, with more than 15-20 people, felt crowded in the tents. Perhaps the 2009 season could supply a few more tents for large groups so that the campers are more comfortable, or ask group leaders to bring extra tents if possible. A few youth also expressed interest in having grills available at the campsite so they could BBQ. In the future, groups will have the option of camping at Rob Hill, once the renovation is complete, and will have additional camping amenities at that site. These suggestions mainly apply to Dragonfly Creek; however the request for more lighting equipment could be relevant for all future trips.

The Dragonfly Creek campsite had some unfavorable reviews from youth. A number of youth commented that they felt too close to urban areas and there were a few complaints about the urban noises (e.g., traffic) and lights. A common grievance by both adults and youth was that the fire pit was too far away from the campsite. Many youth commented that they would change the campsite, but did not explain their responses.

To better understand and interpret how youth felt about the campsite, further pictures and descriptions are provided. The campsite is located next to tennis courts and a restoration project. The restoration project is ongoing and the vegetation has not filled in yet. The view from the campsite can be seen in Exhibit 1. During the first half of the season, the campground had a green wall in the middle of it (Exhibit 2).

In comparison to the Rob Hill site used in 2007, the Dragonfly Creek campground is smaller. The Rob Hill campground had two sites with a 30 person capacity per-site (Exhibit 3). In contrast, the Dragonfly Creek campground can hold up to 40 people. The 2008 groups ranged in size from 8 to 40 people per trip. The larger groups had frequent comments in their surveys about needing more space, or more tents to sleep in. The vague responses make it difficult to interpret how youth felt about the campsite, or specifics about what they would like to change. However, specific reoccurring comments were in regards to the view and the proximity to urban areas.
The fifth most frequent response to what they would change related to youth expressing a desire for more. Some youth wanted a longer trip, or more activities. Others wanted more time at the beach or more free time. Responses varied across groups and participants, therefore specific suggestions cannot be made. However, in the future, group leaders could discuss the CAP program options with their youth to design a timeline that the majority of participants would be comfortable with.

While many youth commented on specific physical aspects of the program or campsite that they would change, a considerable amount of surveys left this question blank. From this you could infer that many youth enjoyed their CAP experience exactly as it was.
Table 2. The one part of this trip I liked the most was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPING (n=184)</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES (n=130)</th>
<th>OUTDOORS/NATURE (n=30)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Campfire</td>
<td>• Hiking:</td>
<td>• Fresh air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Eating s’mores</td>
<td>o Night hike</td>
<td>• Sounds of nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Roasting</td>
<td>o The beach</td>
<td>• Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marshmallows</td>
<td>o Exploring the</td>
<td>• Seeing coyote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>battery</td>
<td>• Bugs and critters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Learning about</td>
<td>• View of ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the history of the</td>
<td>• Redwoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presidio</td>
<td>• Being outdoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Going across the</td>
<td>• The woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bridge</td>
<td>• Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Haunted hospital</td>
<td>• Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Scenery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sleeping</td>
<td>• Recreational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outdoors</td>
<td>Activities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Setting up/taking down tents</td>
<td>o Anza Trail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spending time in tents</td>
<td>o Lobos Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Battery Chamberlin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Battery to Bluffs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Environmental Activities</td>
<td>o Replanting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Birds</td>
<td>o Bird watching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Ocean</td>
<td>o Playing at the beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Scenery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Others:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Cooking</td>
<td>• Hanging out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Eating</td>
<td>• Talking with friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Sleeping</td>
<td>• Meeting new people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Being in the tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Spending time with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>everyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bonding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Playing/talking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with friends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By far the aspect of the trip that youth enjoyed most the campfire. Many youth specifically mentioned roasting/ cooking marshmallows and making s’mores. The youth also enjoyed putting up and taking down the tents. Some youth mentioned that they enjoyed sleeping and camping outdoors.

In general, the youth enjoyed being outdoors within the forest area and seeing wildlife (bugs, animals).

The youth overwhelmingly liked hiking/walking activities, both during the day and at night. Specifically, hikes to the beach and around the Presidio were enjoyable. Recreational activities, such as sports and the scavenger hunt, were enjoyed by the youth. Helping with cooking was pleasurable and a few youth mentioned that they liked sleeping the most.

The youth enjoyed hanging out with each other, talking and bonding with friends.

Note: Numbers in parentheses relate to the number of times comments occurred and are formatted in order of most frequent responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOGETHERNESS (n=21)</th>
<th>EQUIPMENT/PROVISIONS (n=14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hanging out</td>
<td>• Camping gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Talking with</td>
<td>• Tent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friends</td>
<td>• Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meeting new</td>
<td>• Setting up/taking down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people</td>
<td>camp (tent, sleeping bags, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Being in the tents with friends</td>
<td>• Spending time in tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spending time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with everyone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bonding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Playing/talking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with friends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some youth enjoyed the food (breakfast and dinner), and having gear to camp with. The tent set-up activity seemed to be pleasurable for the youth.
Table 3. The one part of the trip I would change is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES (n=90)</th>
<th>INFRASTRUCTURE (n=65)</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION (n=30)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Changes to hike (shorter, longer, more options)</td>
<td>• Bathrooms</td>
<td>• Avoid getting lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More sports / more recreational activities</td>
<td>o Warm water</td>
<td>• Bedtime hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More activity options</td>
<td>o Showers</td>
<td>• Longer camping experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More time at the beach</td>
<td>• Lighting in camping area</td>
<td>• Smaller groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More exploring</td>
<td>• Fire pit was not in campsite</td>
<td>• Sleeping arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More history of place</td>
<td>o Closer fire pits</td>
<td>• More time / More free time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More nature-learning activities</td>
<td>o Smoke from camp fires</td>
<td>• Give everyone individual tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More late night activities</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Stop kids from cursing/behaving bad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More ghost stories</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Remove green wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No scary stories</td>
<td>Majority of the youth would like to see new or better bathrooms and more lighting in the camping area. They would also like to see showers and warm water. Some youth felt that the campfire pit was too far away from the tents. Also, a couple mentioned that they would like to change setting up the tents.</td>
<td>Various youth suggested that they would like to have a longer camping experience. Also the sleeping arrangements and bedtime hours were sources of complaints for youth. Many youth wanted to stay up later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More difficult scavenger hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A lot of youth put down “hiking” and “walking” but it’s difficult to say if they want shorter or longer hikes or they just didn’t like them. Still, some youth were more specific suggesting equally that the hikes were either too long or too short. It was also requested that there be no scary stories. It made it difficult for youth to sleep.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies (n=29)</th>
<th>Location/Camping Area (n=27)</th>
<th>Comfort (n=17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Bigger sleeping bags</td>
<td>• Clean up trash, campsite, and equipment</td>
<td>• Warmer place to sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bigger / more tents</td>
<td>• Move camping site away from haunted hospital/buildings</td>
<td>• Getting dirty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bug spray</td>
<td>• Too close to freeway / urban areas</td>
<td>• Too many bugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Softer pads</td>
<td>• More trees</td>
<td>• Problems with bees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cleaner Sleeping bags</td>
<td>• Move camp to Rob Hill</td>
<td>• Less work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Maps (make sure leaders have these)</td>
<td>• Too much poison oak</td>
<td>• Things too far away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Food</td>
<td>• Remove green wall</td>
<td>• No sleeping outside (cabins)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The biggest change the youth would like to see is bigger tents and sleeping bags. A few mentioned the need to have softer sleeping pads and more food. However, all groups bring their own food, so this complaint cannot be addressed by CAP staff.

Location of the campsite was not as important an issue as others, but some did not like the camping site begin close to the freeway, urban areas and/or “haunted” buildings, and would like to see the campsite moved. A couple of youth didn’t like the poison oak and thought the campsite was unclean.

Some of the youth mentioned they were cold and did not enjoy sleeping outside. A desire for camping in cabins was mentioned by a few youth. Also, a small number of youth expressed concern with the bees and bugs.

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1 Important some of these comments are taken with a grain of salt. For example, given 2008 was an alternate campsite, while the results offer information for CAP staff, findings may be irrelevant when groups move back to Rob Hill Campground. However, if Dragonfly campground continues to be an option, then these comments should receive attention and consideration. Also, some issues are largely the responsibility of the group leaders (e.g., behavior problems).
Quantitative Evaluation (Youth)

Responses to the close-ended questions on the youth evaluation (Appendix A) were coded and entered into the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), ver. 15. Frequencies of responses can be used to gain insight about youth experiences across the board because the frequencies include all youth responses. The data were gathered on a scale of Strongly Disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Neutral = 3, Agree = 4, and Strongly Agree = 5. Happy face icons were used to help the children and youth denote the best meaning of each rating. This is a common feature used in many different evaluations with kids across the country.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Any ideas about camping? To evaluate how youth felt about their trip prior to arrival, youth were asked to respond to the statement “Before my trip to the Presidio, I had an idea what the camping experience would be like.” The majority of youth, 61%, agreed or strongly agreed with this statement (n=300). While 24% of youth felt neutral about this statement, 15% either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. From the frequency breakdown, one could infer that the majority of youth understood what their CAP experience would be like, but almost one-fifth of all youth were unsure of what to expect from the trip.

By Age: When analyzing the ‘idea of camping experience’ by the age of the participant, for the most part all age groups had a good idea about what this would be like (as reflected in the above overall findings. When combining agree and strongly agree, over 50% of youth ages 7-14 had an idea of what the experience would be like prior to this Presidio trip (there were fewer 15 to 19 year olds in the sample). Where they got the “idea” of camping would be interesting to learn (e.g., school trips? community organizations? family outings? other?).

Ever been camping before? The 2008 survey captured the prior camping experience of the youth. The vast majority of youth, 75% had been camping before, and 13% of the participants had camped at The Presidio before. The fact that many youth had camping experience is relevant when assessing the youth responses relating to their feelings before the trip as well as whether they learned to camp.
Sample skills developed

Youth were asked to respond to the statement “I learned how to camp.” As shown in Figure 2, 77% of youth agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

It is possible that youth who either disagreed or were neutral in response to this statement had been camping before and already knew how to camp. Despite the majority of youth having camping experience, the response rates show that CAP did teach youth valuable camping skills.

By Age: More than two-thirds of all youth responding to this question, in each age group, had already been camping prior to this current experience with CAP.

By Race: Across all racial groups, it is interesting to note a significant proportion of youth equally across races (70% or more) have been camping before. Specifically with African Americans and Latinos, the ‘myth’ (and based on research) these groups tend to experience camping much less than other racial groups. It would be interesting to learn in future where they have camped before and who brought them, who did they go with (e.g., school group, neighborhood community center, family, etc). Also, while some of the youth are returning CAP participants, a majority are not. Thus, where did the youth get their prior experience and what do they consider “camping”? If possible, holding focus groups with a few participants from community groups could provide additional insight into the ‘prior camping experiences’, and perception of their experiences.

By Age: 40-55% of ages 7 to 15 strongly agreed they learned how to camp yet less than 30% of youth ages 16-18 rated this to the same extent. These differences are statistically significant. Furthermore, approximately 16% of these older youth between 16-18 years old either disagreed or strongly disagreed in learning how to camp. Based on how the question is phrased, one of two aspects could occur – the youth really did not learn how to camp during this trip, or they already knew prior to arriving. Depending on future program modifications and/or youth served, a suggestion could be to introduce more challenging camping skills to older youth and young adults with experience.

Recommendation: Given the high percentage of youth with prior experience during both 2007 and 2008, this question should be omitted or revised.

Interest in future camping opportunities

Consequently, 60% of all youth agreed/strongly agreed they are more interested in camping after this experience (n=295). In addition, over ¾ (78%) of youth would like to go camping again at another National Park (n=378) and 69% would encourage friends and family to come back to the park [GGNRA] with them (n=240).

“I learned about my national park” and desire to camp at another national park by age:

This is the only item on the evaluation that had a more than 50% (n=227) rating for strongly agree across all ages. If agree and strongly agree were combined, as noted above, nearly 80% across ages reported they would like to camp in another national park. Interesting

Figure 2. I Learned How To Camp
to note is the strength of agreement level decreases as the youth get older until the age of 13 and up (except for age 16 that is evenly split across neutral to strongly agree ratings). That is, the extent to which the youth choose “strongly agree” over just “agree” diminishes with older kids who choose “agree” more often than the higher rating of “strongly agree” like the younger cohort. This finding is statistically significant. Could this be because the information they are receiving is too elementary or possibly the information is not being presented in an enjoyable way for the older-aged youth? Could it be that older kids are more guarded, cynical, or “too cool” to show strong agreement or emotions? In general, 77% of all participants noted either agree or strongly agree that they learned about the national park they were camping and recreating in.

Youth commented on enjoying the educational components of the trip. The vast majority of the youth also indicated they learned about “Leave No Trace” (LNT) principals (Fig. 3).

For added insight about the participant’s perception of the CAP program, responses were compared across gender and determine if girls and boys felt differently about certain program elements. Figure 4 shows how females and males responded to “I learned about Leave No Trace.”

Across gender, both males and females predominately agreed or strongly agreed with learning about LNT. However, females rated their responses higher than males. 84% of females either agreed or strongly agreed, compared to 70% of males. In contrast, 10% of males disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, compared to 4% of females.

**Personal development**

The following three charts (Figure 5-7) show the breakdown of responses by gender to other, more personal, statements on the surveys.

**Figure 5. “I think spending time in the outdoors could help me become better person” by Gender**
Across the board, 64% of all youth agreed or strongly agreed that spending time in the outdoors could help them become a better person. Males and females responded similarly to this statement, with 62% of males and 66% of females agreeing/strongly agreeing. On the other hand, 22% of males and 21% of females felt ‘neutral’ about this statement. This statement received a lower rating than most questions with an aggregate mean response of 3.76 (3 correlates with neutral and 4 correlates with agree). However, the most frequent response was 5 (strongly agree).

**Spending time outdoors by Race:**
Out of 123 African American youth responding to this item, 31% strongly agreed spending time outdoors could help them become a better person. This is followed by nearly ¼ Asians/Pacific Islanders (24.6%; n=117) and 22% (n=60) Latinos responding to this item. Of all biracial/multiracial kids responding, 20% agreed in some capacity (n=38). Not all young people agreed with this statement. For example, 24% of Blacks, 17% Whites, and 21% of the Biracial/Multiracial youth either disagreed or strongly disagreed that spending time outdoors could make them a better person yet only 10% of Latinos and 6% of kids of Asian heritage disagreed at all. While the data were not weighed in the analyses, it would be interesting to obtain more qualitative data to explore why one group feels one way over the other. How much does culture come into play versus peer influences, leadership and mentoring or lack thereof, historical factors/family traditions, or other explanations either known or more novel given 21st century youth experiences?

**Interest in nature:** Overall, the collective mean response to this question was 3.7 (out of 5) and the most frequent response was 5 (strongly agree). A total of 60% of youth agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. However, responses varied across gender with males ranking this statement higher than females. 64% of males agreed/strongly agreed with this compared to 57% of females. Females were more likely to respond in the middle/more neutral to this statement at 28%, compared to the male response of 24%. Also, 15% of females disagreed/strongly disagreed with this statement (Fig.6).

Interesting to note is that despite these responses, girls were slightly more likely than boys to agree in some capacity they would like to go camping again at another National Park. That is, 83% of females rated agree/strongly agree compared to 73% of males. 17% of males had a neutral response to this statement. Overall, the majority of youth strongly agreed they would like to camp again at another National Park. This enthusiasm is also evident in responses to the following statement about comfort.

**Comfort:** The majority of youth strongly agreed with feeling more comfortable outdoors and that being close to nature made them feel good (Fig.7). Girls and boys responded similarly to this statement, with 66% of females (n=138) and 67% of males (n=157) agreeing/strongly agreeing to the statement.
CAP program staff and activities

As also evident in the open-ended responses, youth enjoyed the guided activities. The mean rating of the statement “The guided program was fun and I enjoyed all of the activities” was a 4.05; and the most frequent response was a 5 (strongly agree). The majority of youth also strongly agreed with “I feel like the park staff was enthusiastic.”

By Age: As the youth get older, the ratings for “strongly agree” give way to “agree and neutral” with statistically significant results. 10% (n=41) disagree in some capacity that the guided program was ‘fun’ and they lacked enjoyment of activities. It could be interesting to discern if this is a case example of trying to capture the attention of teenagers, through outdoor recreation and natural resource education, who are more immersed and wrapped up in electronics, interest in the opposite sex, preference for socializing, etc.?

There is an overall concurrence across racial groups that the guided program was “fun” and the activities were enjoyable. The percentages noted are within each racial group. For instance, out of all the African Americans that responded to this question, 73% agreed or strongly agreed about fun/enjoyment of the ranger-led programs and activities. Similarly, 76% of all Latinos who answered this question agreed in some capacity as well. Overall, more than 70% of students in each racial/ethnic group agree/strongly agree; this adds to program success as reflected in these findings.

Again, percentages relate to results within each group, not across/between groups. For Hispanic/Latino, White, and Biracial/Multiracial racial groups, 74% of the youth within each group agree/strongly agree that they “feel comfortable outdoors” and nature made them feel good! A lower percentage of all Black youth, yet still 62%, and an even lower percentage of youth with Asian heritage, slightly more than ½ (55%), agree/strongly agree with this question. It may be useful in future to explore deeper into what is it that actually makes
them feel or not feel comfortable in nature and \textbf{why or why not} “being close to nature” makes them feel good. Also, with more information, we could possibly infer why there is a 7% difference between youth from Asian heritage and Black youth and why only slightly more than 50\% of youth from Asian heritage agree/strongly agree.

\textit{Final thoughts (Youth)}
Results show there were many overall benefits of youth participation in CAP. Both the qualitative and quantitative analysis provided specific indicators regarding how the CAP program positively influenced participants. Broadly, findings convey youth learned about their National Park, how to camp, and about Leave No Trace. Gender seems to have less of a differential effect whereas age (developmental stages) and race (cultural factors) have clear and distinctly different results among the participants regarding some of the evaluation statements.

Also, the majority of youth showed an increased interest in camping and a desire to go camping again. Many youth also felt that spending time in the outdoors could help them to become a better person. There were many highlights to the trip, such as hiking, the guided activities, campfire time, bonding with nature, and the experience of using the camping gear. Additional insights into the participants’ experience were gathered through the analysis and subsequent findings from the adult evaluations.

\textbf{Adult Participants-Evaluations}

\textbf{Qualitative Evaluations (Adults)}

As noted in the methods section, 117 adults completed surveys on-site, post-trip that were used for this analysis. Leaders were asked to respond to what they enjoyed most about their experience, what they would change, and what benefits they observed or perceived from their groups’ participation in CAP. The qualitative evaluation resulted in common responses across all adult participants that were identified as well as quantified in terms of most frequent responses.

The most frequent response to “the one part of this trip I liked most” related to the unique opportunities provided by CAP. A total of 48 leaders mentioned some aspect of their trip that corresponded to this category. Some specific examples of unique opportunities mentioned were: Park ranger involvement, provision of gear, staff support, suggested activities for youth (e.g., scavenger hunt), flexibility with trip activities, and transportation.

The leader training opportunity, transportation option, and availability of gear specifically address impediments to camping trips for these urbanites. In addition, the CAP program offers ranger-guided programs that add an educational component to the trip. The ranger led activities were favorite parts of the trip for both youth and adults. Findings show hiking/guided programs were the second most frequently mentioned part of the trip. For example, 28 people mentioned either hiking, the ranger led interpretive hikes, hikes to the beach, and/or night hikes as their highlight of the trip.

The campfire time was the youth’s top favorite part of the trip and the adult’s third most common response. A total of 17 adults specifically mentioned campfire time. Another theme that emerged as a common highlight of the trip was the camping experience itself. That is, adults mentioned that they enjoyed sleeping outside ($n=3$), being

\begin{quote}
This is really a wonderful planned trip to a campsite. The logistics and provision of gear and transfer of knowledge for gear handling were very well organized. Great knowledge of the park and DeAnza history was shared! Thank you!

\textit{~ Community Leader from Chinatown Beacon}
\end{quote}
Results and findings

The one part of this trip I liked most was: The Lobos Creek hike with Ranger Eddy and Miguel. The Quest curriculum was well written and in a kid friendly format. The presentation at our school by Miguel and May gave the kids more information and set the expectation level and behavior in a positive way. Scavenger hunt was terrific! (We revised it for 3rd graders).

~ Teacher from Brisbane Elementary School

in the natural environment \( (n=5) \), having bonding time with their youth \( (n=7) \), teaching environmental values to youth \( (n=3) \), and eating and cooking together \( (n=3) \). While camping experience was not one of the top five most frequent responses by the kids, there were youth, however, that did mention they enjoyed sleeping outside, being in the tents, bonding with others, learning about the environment, and eating and cooking together as their favorite parts of the trip.

The commonality of responses between youth and adults shows that CAP provides a program that is enjoyable by people of all ages. From the specific recurring favorite parts of campfire time and guided activities, one could infer these are the most memorable parts of the trip and may have the greatest impact on participants. It is important to note that campfire time and guided activities were favorite elements of the 2007 program as well.

Sample quotes:

What benefits do you see from your group’s participation in this camping experience?

“Better understanding of each other, nature, and maturity. I hope they take this beyond the past couple of days!”
~ Leader from Telegraph Hill Community Center

“They broke down barriers and became more of a cohesive unit than ever, they overcame their fear of the outdoors.”
~ Leader from Glide Memorial Teen program

“Our youth feel more connected to their city and nature, as well as the YMCA, and their peers from other schools.”
~ Leader from Presidio YMCA

“Teamwork, overcoming social challenges and finding a spiritual and physical connection with nature.”
~ Parent from Grattan Elementary School group

Adult leaders and volunteers who participated in the CAP program were asked: “What benefits do you see from your group’s participation in this camping experience?” Results were organized into three overarching themes: Camping and environmental knowledge, Appreciation for the outdoors, and Youth bonding.
Common themes between adults and youth also emerged in response to “The one part of this trip I would change is...” The most frequent feedback related to the path to the beach, which crosses heavily trafficked Lincoln Blvd. Many leaders and participants perceived the path to the beach as “unsafe”. Suggestions included: Installing a crosswalk and making a wider path through the vegetation in the park. This was also a major complaint in the 2007 results; the Crissy Center and Presidio Trust managers recognize this problem. However, no decisions have been made regarding how best to improve the infrastructure for people crossing Lincoln Blvd. This is a difficult topic because Lincoln Blvd. falls between both city and park boundaries. One important suggestion made by a group leader is to ensure that the group stays together while crossing the road. The CAP staff may need to work with groups to ease this concern until this issue can be resolved.

Complaints about the Dragonfly campsite specifically were common across both youth and adults. Some adults commented they would change the location of the camping trip. The most recurrent responses were about the location; some people felt it was too close to other highly developed facilities such as a major road, lights, and tennis courts and those lights. This correlates with responses that leaders wanted a more natural campsite. Specific requests were for more trees and no wall in the middle of the campsite. It is worth noting that a few leaders loved the site and prefer it to Rob Hill campground. In future years, Dragonfly Creek and Rob Hill could be adequate campsite options for different groups.

Other concerns were about some of the camp amenities. Similar to youth responses, the bathrooms were something that adults would like to see improved. Specific requests were for bathroom facilities with hot water and/or showers. A few adults mentioned the location of the fire pit as something they would change. The fire pit was not in the campsite and was a short walk away. Some leaders also mentioned they felt the fire pit location was unsafe because there was no water to put the fire out. While this was found to be a specific complaint as part of the analysis, later communication with the CAP Manager informed the research team that leaders are given a large bucket and shown the water spigot. Leaders are reminded during check-in about fire procedures, the bucket, and the water spigot. Moreover, they are also provided with a fire extinguisher. There might be some disconnect; many (almost 50%) adult chaperones that filled out surveys did not attend OLT. Other responses about camp amenities included critiques that some equipment provided was “dirty” or in “disrepair”.

The interns were knowledgeable on issues, but scared the heck out of me while walking on a busy road with kids. They also need to keep the group together, rather than walking quickly and allowing our one group to turn into 2 or 3 groups trailing behind. That aspect was very unsafe and scary for me.

~ Group Leader, RDASC

**RESEARCHER NOTE:**

The following sample safety protocols have since been implemented:

- Uniformed and visible Park Rangers (or Conservancy staff) assist the interns.
- High visibility safety jackets and vests have been purchased for hike leaders.
- Incorporate “check-in” with group leaders who are “sweeping” (back of the group) to help facilitate stragglers or youth unable to keep up with the pace.
- Interns will continue to lead hikes but with tighter communication and proper route planning using the group leader as support.
- Cross-walks will be added or more clearly marked and wider trails are under construction.
The condition and cleanliness of the equipment was disappointing. Our tent was torn and full of garbage (candy wrappers, socks, forest debris) when we took it out of the bag. Several of the sleeping bags were in disrepair (broken zippers, tears, visibly soiled). The kitchen equipment was greasy, wet, and smelled. While every group that uses the space should be held accountable for cleaning up the materials that they use, I feel the park staff should examine the camping materials more closely before passing them on to the next group.

Otherwise, I was pleased by the site itself, the guided programs that were offered, and with the level of training that our group leader was provided with.

~ Adult Volunteer

Another theme that emerged across adult responses was a request for the option to add or change the guided activities. Some people wanted an option for shorter hikes. Others wanted to refine guided activities for youth of varying ages. For example, “speeding it up for high school student’s or break it into two smaller groups” were specific comments provided. A few people wanted longer trips and more time with the park rangers.

In the beginning of the season, there were complaints about shuttle difficulties, such as late pick-up times or the driver getting lost. This was not an issue after changing the transportation vendor to “Teacher with a Bus,” which happened in the spring of 2008. Teacher with a Bus was 100% reliable and reduced the carbon footprint of CAP by running on bio-fuels. This also provided participants with a “teachable moment” to learn about bio-fuels, emissions, etc.

A few adults were also concerned about gear. For example, there were requests for bigger tents, bigger sleeping bags, and for CAP to provide lanterns.

The open-ended questions on the adult evaluations made it possible to briefly examine the camping experience of the leaders. The similar responses to favorite parts of the trip amongst adults and youth shows that certain parts of the trip are instrumental to the CAP experience and should be kept and expanded upon in future. The evaluation also helped to determine overall benefits youth receive from Camping at the Presidio from the perspective of the leaders. The perceived benefits to youth are expanded on in the quantitative analysis that follows.

The at-a-glance table on the following pages provides an overview of findings regarding:

- Activities liked the most, part of the program/trip they would change,
- Perceived benefits gained from their groups’ participation in CAP, and any additional comments they provided.

**RESEARCHER NOTE:**

As reflected in post-evaluation discussions, the program manager has provided the following valuable response as they strive to implement key changes to improve and enhance the CAP experience:

- CAP stresses, in its training of leaders, how to properly care for the gear and help maintain its longevity. Back-to-back gear exchanges it’s possible that one group receives gear directly from the previous group; this is infrequent and will be avoided when possible in the future.

- Larger numbers of campers and consistent use of gear has “worn out” gear quicker than expected! CAP is committing to both inspect gear more closely between groups and replace worn gear when possible.
Table 4. One part of the trip I liked most was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES (n=45)</th>
<th>CAMPING (n=30)</th>
<th>TEAMWORK (n=7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hiking, including:</td>
<td>• Campfire</td>
<td>• Working together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Walking</td>
<td>• Sleeping outside</td>
<td>• Bonding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Guided programs</td>
<td>• Camp / tent setup</td>
<td>• Watching it come together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Night hikes</td>
<td>• Camping gear</td>
<td>• Youth working together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Hikes to beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Youth showing respect to one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Nature hikes</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ability to work with different people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scavenger hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reflection time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hiking/the guided activities were the most enjoyable physical activities. The outdoor leaders were also appreciative of the time the Rangers spent with the youth on hikes to nature areas. A few outdoor leaders liked the ability to reflect on the experience at Camping at the Presidio.

The adults/leaders felt that camping was one of the most enjoyable activities. Specifically, campfires were by far the most popular activity followed by sleeping outside and setting up the tents and the campsite. One respondent even liked the fact that there were no showers. Many adults valued the camping gear, such as the tents, sleeping bags, and kitchen equipment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANAGEMENT (n=7)</th>
<th>LOCATION (n=6)</th>
<th>EDUCATIONAL (n=3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Wasn’t complicated</td>
<td>• Beautiful areas</td>
<td>• Learning about the History of the Presidio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quest curriculum well written/kid friendly</td>
<td>• Redwood tent spot</td>
<td>o DeAnza Trial info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Safety thoroughly discussed</td>
<td>• Peaceful environment</td>
<td>o WWII History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Freedom to plan own activities</td>
<td>• Camping in the city, in an urban area</td>
<td>• Watching children learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Staff giving orientation</td>
<td>• Hearing nature (birds)</td>
<td>• Environmental and conservation aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CAP curriculum</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Having young people explore nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Friendly and helpful staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The adults liked the fact staff were organized and friendly, had easy to follow activities, and gave groups freedom to plan activities. Outdoor leaders were pleased with the thorough discussion on safety.

Being able to camp in nature yet still be within an urban area was a plus. The redwoods and the peaceful environment made the experience enjoyable.

The adults/leaders enjoyed working together with the youth, and watching the youth work cooperatively between themselves. Adults also felt that CAP provided an opportunity for them to bond with the youth.

The adults liked learning about the history of the location, the outdoors and conservation principles. Also, seeing the youth exploring nature and learning was a highlight of the trip for many adults.
Table 5. One part of the trip I would change:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES (n=22)</th>
<th>INFRASTRUCTURE (n=19)</th>
<th>LOCATION (n=9)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• More campfire stories</td>
<td>• Washing basin too far away</td>
<td>• Campsite Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Team building games</td>
<td>• Fire pit too far away</td>
<td>o Too close to civilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hikes are too long</td>
<td>• Bathroom too far away</td>
<td>o More scenic location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make hiking interesting more hikes</td>
<td>• Water access</td>
<td>o Too close to freeway and buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More hands-on nature activities</td>
<td>• More hiking, wider trails</td>
<td>o Change campsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Smaller groups for Lobos Creek hike</td>
<td>• Crosswalks</td>
<td>o Light pollution and car noise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Faster hikes for H.S. students</td>
<td>• Cleaner bathrooms</td>
<td>• Campfire spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fishing option</td>
<td>• Composting on-site</td>
<td>In general, some adults didn’t like the campsite location. Specific complaints were: The campsite is too close to the freeway and there is too much car noise and light pollution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a majority of the outdoor leaders the hikes were too long. Still, some expressed an interest for longer, more interesting, and hands-on hikes. Some team building activities and more activities in general were mentioned in the evaluation. Two people mentioned they would like a place to fish.

The major complaint was the distance to the wash room, fire pit, and the bathroom. A couple of people stated the bathrooms need to be cleaned and have some type of lighting. Also, one leader suggested that there should be composting on-site.

SAFETY (n=8) | SUPPLIES (n=7) | TRANSPORTATION (n=5) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Safer way to beach</td>
<td>• Sleeping bag size</td>
<td>• Driver was late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Shouldn’t cross in middle of the street or in the street</td>
<td>• Bigger, more comfortable tents</td>
<td>• Driver didn’t know where campground was.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o No stoplights or crosswalks</td>
<td>• Tent and sleeping bags unclean and damaged</td>
<td>Major complaint was that the bus didn’t arrive on time. This was a recurring problem from the 2007 season, and in the beginning of 2008, a new bus driver was hired and the problem corrected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hiking near traffic</td>
<td>• Add sponges to kitchen kit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A couple of adults / leaders mentioned that the pathway to the beach is unsafe. Also, one leader felt the way from point A to point B needs to be re-evaluated to avoid having to walk in the street and cross in the middle of the street.

Adults/leaders would like to see cleaner equipment, propane lanterns, more food, bigger tents, and cleaning tools. Also, sleeping bags and tents were unclean and damaged for a few groups.

MANAGEMENT (n=4)

• Better staff training
• Schedule more free time for youth
• Post maps for informal hikes
• More information on history of area
• More staff
• Improve communication between program staff and outdoor leaders
• Improve behavior of youth

Some adults would like to see better trained staff that communicates with the outdoor leaders. Specific comments mentioned communication and training issues with the CAP interns. Also more historical information could be provided in the Training Manual. The CAP Manager and interns could double check with group leaders at the beginning of their trips to ensure they have maps of the Presidio.
Table 6. What benefits do you see from your group’s participation in this camping experience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONSHIPS (n=34)</th>
<th>OUTDOORS/NATURE (n=31)</th>
<th>TEAMWORK (n=17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Friendships/make new friends</td>
<td>• Appreciation for outdoors</td>
<td>• Growth as a team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Connecting with and getting to know each other</td>
<td>• Connecting with nature</td>
<td>• Improved teamwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Group bonding</td>
<td>• Better understanding of nature</td>
<td>• Breaking down barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Families spending time with children</td>
<td>• Being outdoors</td>
<td>• More cohesive unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learning to bond together</td>
<td>• Respecting nature</td>
<td>• Building community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonding together, learning from one another, and creating new friendships was a perceived highlight of the camping experience for youth.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Getting out of the city, normal surroundings           | • Exploring the outdoors and the Presidio                                            | Learning to work together and building a strong team during the camping experience was perceived as beneficial for the youth. Some adults responded to seeing their groups become more cohesive units during the CAP experience.
| • Spiritual/physical connection with nature               | • Connecting with nature                                                              |                                                                                 |
| • Enthusiasm for nature/outdoors                         | • Sense of freedom in nature                                                          |                                                                                 |
| • Respect for nature                                     | • Spending time outdoors                                                              |                                                                                 |
| • Unique outdoor experience                              | • Feeling closer to nature                                                            |                                                                                 |
| • Increased comfort in nature                             | • Learning to bond together                                                           |                                                                                 |

One of the most important aspects of the camping experience allowed youth connect with and spend time in nature when they might not have the chance otherwise. This granted the youth the opportunity to feel comfortable in nature, appreciate what it has to offer, and connect with it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KNOWLEDGE (n=14)</th>
<th>PERSONAL GROWTH (n=14)</th>
<th>SKILLS [BROAD] (n=13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• More knowledge</td>
<td>• Trust</td>
<td>• Camping skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learning about National Parks</td>
<td>• Confronting/identifying challenges and fears</td>
<td>o Learning to put up tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Camping knowledge</td>
<td>• Maturity</td>
<td>• Outdoor skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Experience in camping/nature hikes</td>
<td>• Open to knew things</td>
<td>• Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nature education</td>
<td>• Positive change</td>
<td>• Observation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learned about hiking</td>
<td>• Broadens horizon of youth</td>
<td>• Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Importance of LNT and leaving areas clean</td>
<td>• Confidence building</td>
<td>• Taking care of themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Positive perceptions of nature</td>
<td>• Self-sufficient</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learning about plants, animals, etc.</td>
<td>• Learn about themselves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SF history</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learned to recycle, conserve, and not waste water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adults/leaders felt the youth learned about camping, nature, SF history, National Parks. Also, the youth gained knowledge about why it is important to recycle and conserve the environment.

The leaders believe the camping helped youth challenge their fears, open up to accepting new experiences, gain confidence in their abilities to confront challenges, explore personal beliefs, and gain trust.

According to the leaders, the youth picked up new skills relating to camping, cooking, leadership, and cooperation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPOSURE (n=6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Camping experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To hiking, broadly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nature and history in the Presidio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lifetime experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For some outdoor leaders the opportunity for youth to just be exposed to nature was beneficial. Some youth had never hiked or camped before.
Table 7. Additional comments from adult participants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPERIENCE (n=7)</th>
<th>ISSUES/CONCERNS (n=4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fun</td>
<td>• Other hikers walking through campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wonderful planned trip</td>
<td>• Keep Dragonfly Creek option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Great experience</td>
<td>• Difficult to stake tent in hard ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth laughed and played together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general, the community leaders expressed satisfaction with the camping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>experience overall.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One leader suggests keeping other hikers out of the campground and keeping the DFC campground as an available option in future. Also, the ground is really hard which caused tent stakes to be damaged.

Quantitative Evaluations (Adults)

In total, 117 adult surveys were used for this analysis. Of the adult participants surveyed, 58% attended the Outdoor Leadership Training with CAP staff. The adults’ roles within the group were: 56% paid staff member or Teacher, 35% Parent or Guardian volunteers, and the remaining 9% were other volunteers. The majority of adult participants, 90%, had been camping before (n=105). Adults were asked about their perceptions of the camping experience for their youth and what they feel the kids learned from the CAP program. The adults’ perceptions were determined by their responses to statements of the survey (Appendix B). Responses of agree and strongly agree were inferred as the adult believing in affirmatively or being supportive of the statement.

- 90% felt the youth learned camping skills (n=105).
- Youth “learned about their National Park” - 82% of adults either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement (n=93).
- Similar to the qualitative analysis, adults felt the youth enjoyed the CAP program and appreciated the staff. Nearly all adults completing the question that park staff was professional, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable (96% agreed or strongly agreed, n=110).
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed the guided program was ‘educational and fun’ for their youth (n=95). While the majority felt strongly about the guided program, 12% of adults had a neutral reply to this statement (n=14) and 2 adults strongly disagreed “the guided program was educational and fun for my youth.” Despite a couple of negative reviews, the adults’ perceptions of the impacts of the CAP program on youth participants were generally positive.
- 85% of adults felt the youth are more comfortable spending time outdoors and closer to nature after this experience. 87% believed this experience increased their kids’ interest in nature.
- 89% believe this experience will help the youth on this trip ‘become better people.’ These responses were congruent with youth replies to similar questions.
- There is one concept that adults rated lower than youth; however, the statements were not exactly the same.
Outdoor Leadership Training Evaluations

Responses from the Outdoor Leadership Training (OLT) evaluations (Appendix C) provided a variety of feedback about leader’s experiences and preparation prior to bringing their group to The Presidio for this camping excursion. The evaluations contained both open-ended and close-ended questions. For the close-ended questions, adults were asked to rate the training in terms of how helpful it was for them for a variety of program related logistics. Rating was based on a Likert-type scale of 1 to 5, with 1 = not helpful and 5 = extremely helpful. One major limitation to this analysis is that the May OLT received the 2007 evaluation instead of the updated 2008 version. Therefore, some comparisons were unable to be completed and information about leaders’ demographics and camping background was not captured from this group.

Qualitative Analysis (OLT)

The responses from adults are broken down by questions, with a total of six open-ended questions being asked.

1. Why did you decide to participate in CAP?

The most frequent response to this question was to bring kids camping. Many leaders commented about how they wanted to allow their youth to experience nature. Another common response was because of the unique opportunities that CAP offered making it a very accessible program. Specific options relating to access include: Services, transportation, equipment, and the affordability of the program. Adults also wanted to take part in CAP to gain training for leading youth camping trips, learn about The Presidio, and to network with other leaders from local organizations.

Sample quotes:

“Because I think it would be a valuable experience for the youth in my program, many of whom have never slept outdoors before.”

~ White male, young adult between 18-25 years old, OLT #1

“I love camping and outdoor environmental education, so when my principal told me about this program I was very excited about the opportunity to get my students involved!”

~ White female, between 18-25 years old, OLT #3
2. Was CAP promotional material and outreach effective conveying what the program was all about?

Overall, 70% of adults responded with “yes” and nobody said “no”. The remainder of respondents indicated not being aware of the outreach material. Of those that were unaware of the material, a few mentioned they did not sign up for the trip themselves. Most likely, their supervisor, organizational director, other senior level staff or whoever enrolled the group, received the outreach material.

3. How easy or difficult was the enrollment process?

100% of respondents felt that the enrollment process was “easy”.

4. How useful was/is the Training Manual for you?

Of the 35 respondents, 25 felt that the Manual was *useful* or very useful. The rest of the respondents ‘did not know’ if it was useful because they did not yet have a chance to explore it (*n* =10). No respondents felt that the manual was “not useful.”

**Sample quotes:**

“Would have been useful to know what is in it before going home. We didn’t spend time looking through it...”

~ Female, between 26-30 yrs old, White, OLT #1

“Unsure, we have not had a good look at it. Maybe getting them before so we could be familiar with it”

~ White male, between 26 and 30, OLT #1

“It was helpful but somewhat limited during training. However, I believe it will be very valuable when I get home and look at it”

~ Latino male, between age 41-50 yrs old, OLT # 3

From OLT #2 (demographics not reported):

“Always bring it back to the kids was most useful. “And you could do this for your kids or put in these terms for your kids”

“Learning the layout of the campsite, trails, beaches, etc. learning about the availability of tour guides”

5. What aspect of the training was most useful?

The most common response was “hiking” (n=22). During the OLT, leaders were taken on a guided tour and given the opportunity to experience what it would be like for their youth. Fourteen leaders felt the most useful part of the training was experiencing the trip first-hand. Three leaders also mentioned learning about the natural history of the area. One person felt the Training Manual was the most useful part of training.

**Sample quotes:**

“I really enjoyed the history of the Presidio talk at the CFC, very interesting networking, I enjoyed meeting youth leaders”

~ White male, between 41-50 yrs old, OLT # 3

“Learning the intentionality behind every process of camping and how that translates to leading groups”

~ White male, between 26 and 30 yrs old, OLT #1

From OLT #3 (demographics not reported):

“Mostly useful. It would be nice to have more information about natural history / Native American History. Perhaps a sample workbook for youth who are coming with us.”
6. What could be improved about the training?

There were mixed results regarding what was covered in training. Some people wanted more on the agenda \((n=13)\). For example, responses included requests for: More information about park resources; more time explaining kitchen set-up and gear; more time for leaders to share ideas and perhaps lead some of the training; and more time for hiking/getting to know the Presidio. Findings included a request for role-playing of risk management scenarios to offer “a little more help for us beginners” (OLT #3).

However, other leaders wanted less: Less time being lectured to and more time for interactive discussion. More experienced leaders felt information provided was too basic and repetitive. For instance: “The base of knowledge of camping and youth work of the participants made me feel like the info was too basic and made me feel talked down to” (OLT #1).

A couple of leaders also wanted a forum for sharing ideas and tips for leading youth during camping trips. Suggestions for the future would be to incorporate some time for leaders to discuss ideas and share stories and tips during the training. Many leaders apparently have years of experience leading youth camping trips and are an excellent source of information. Perhaps a leader sharing/brainstorming time could be incorporated into the camp fire time.

Quantitative Analyses (OLT)

The 2008 survey contained additional questions about the leaders’ camping experience, demographic data, and current work experience. This type of data was not requested in 2007. Since this survey was not used for the OLT #2 (as previously explained), this data is only available for 26 out of the 35 leaders. All 26 leaders had been tent camping before, and 20 of them had been backpacking. Of these 26 leaders, 3 rated themselves as having ‘beginning’ camping experience, 16 self-reported ‘intermediate’ experience, and 7 self-identified as advanced. Twenty-four leaders responded to the question “how many years have you been at your current organizations.” Eight leaders reported one year, 10 had been with their organization for between 2-5 years, three had been working with their organization between 6-10 years, and two leaders had been with their organization for 14 years. One leader has been working with their organization for 32 years!

Leaders were asked to rate the effectiveness of the OLT for a variety of components. All 35 leaders responded to these statements. 34 out of 35 felt that the training was helpful, very helpful, or extremely helpful, in assisting them to visualize their future camping experience. Results show the majority of leaders noted the training was helpful in some capacity for them to learn park resources to plan their own activities and prepare for possible camping hazards \((n=32)\). Similarly, most leaders responded with helpful, very, or extremely, regarding the usefulness of the training in assisting them to: Know the layout of the campground and understand how CAP works and the process for reserving their CAP experience \((n=33)\). Only one person felt the training was not helpful in assisting them to know the layout of the campground. This person commented they would like to see Rob Hill before bringing their group there in the future.

Overall findings reveal the training provided leaders with beneficial knowledge of the CAP program and adequately helped prepare them to lead their trips. Leaders also commented that they appreciated the CAP staff support and knew that if they had any additional questions or concerns that staff would be there to assist them.
Through the analysis of the three surveys, valuable suggestions and recommendations for future programs emerged from all three groups: leaders, adult participants/chaperones, and youth. These recommendations are based on specific results from the evaluations and are divided into categories based on what aspect of CAP they relate to. Additionally, important to note, given the intimacy of the program manager and staff with the day-to-day operations of the program and communication with community leaders and partners, they have also completed an extensive list of “plans for future” as provided in their report to funders. Additionally, many recommendations have already been taken into consideration and implemented. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the CAP Manager for more information and details. Recommendations in this section are based on results of the 2008 evaluation and build upon findings from the 2007 pilot year.

Leaders:

- Have a forum (e.g., online discussion group) for leaders to share experiences. For example, provide helpful tips, discuss common obstacles, best practices, group management, vision for youth, challenges, etc. This could be added as a link from the CAP web site, or a Yahoo Group could be created and leaders could be invited to join. This would also allow CAP staff to receive additional insight and feedback as well.
- Double check with leaders at the beginning of their trip to ensure that they have a map of The Presidio. A few groups got lost during their trip.

OLT:

- If possible, offer different trainings for people with different camping backgrounds and skills. For example, have one for new/beginners and a second for experienced campers that would focus on an orientation of The Presidio and CAP policies. This will allow more in-depth training for new camp leaders and advanced opportunities for experienced leaders. This suggestion was brought up in 2007. CAP managers should seriously consider how to meet the needs of these two continuously divergent groups to ensure the greatest success of training in the future.
- Receive Training Manual before the OLT (e.g., during pre-trip meeting), this was brought up repeatedly in both the 2007 and 2008 surveys.
- Use/refer to the Training Manual more often during OLTs in general; this was also brought up in 2007.
- Add more information about utilizing park resources.
- Add more activities for older (high school) students.
- Have a duty roster for camp chores. It can be added to the Manual and brought with the groups during their CAP trip to help organize chores.
- Leaders wanted time for sharing ideas and tips for leading youth camping trips. Maybe incorporate some time for leaders to discuss ideas, share stories, and offer tips during campfire time. If possible, allow more time for leaders to help conduct parts of the OLT; they are an excellent source for information.
The following observations and comments are extracted from the SF State research team interim progress report. We felt it was worthy to include some of those details here as well.

The 2008 CAP season served almost double the number of people and groups than the pilot season in 2007. Out of all groups served in 2008, seven returned from the prior year, and 18 were newly recruited. To support the increased involvement and need to enhance program operations, CAP added additional staff to help serve the program. A full-time AmeriCorps Intern was on hired from September 2007 until the beginning of August 2008. In addition, two summer interns were hired from June through mid-August. The interns provided support both in the office as well as the field and were a valuable addition to the CAP team.

In 2008, a few changes were made to the program. The CAP staff now offers pre-site visits for groups’ free-of-charge. These visits are open to the CAP trained leaders, participants, as well as parents of participants, and volunteers who will be attending the program. A curriculum has been developed for the pre-site visits and includes: Tent demonstrations, slide-show of the site and program, Leave No Trace skits, and an open Q&A session. The CAP Program Manager has observed that groups participating in the pre-site visits are more prepared and keep to schedule more efficiently than those who did not conduct a pre-site visit.
Another difference in the 2008 season is that more adult volunteers were involved. The adult volunteers came to assist with certain components of the trip, such as set-up or campfire time, and many did not stay the entire trip. This means more adult volunteers have been involved with the program than may have been recorded. Also, not all of the adult volunteers (as participants) filled-out surveys because some were not on-site when the evaluation was administered. The CAP Program Manager commented that allowing adult volunteers to participate in CAP, as their schedules allow, has helped increase efficiency of the trips overall.

In 2007, there was difficulty with the bus provider staying on schedule throughout the season. The main problem was the bus drivers were sub-contracted and many times they “did not know how to get to the campsite” and/or were late due to getting lost or other logistical reason(s). Also, since there was not a specific bus driver or contact person, communicating the schedule and driving directions was problematic. A new bus provider was contracted in June 2008. “Teacher with a Bus” is now being used to shuttle community groups to and from the campsite. This company also has an educational component because the bus runs on bio-diesel and the bus driver teaches participants about bio-diesel and alternative energy practices on their trip. Since the implementation of Teacher with a Bus, the travel logistics have run much smoother.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The students learned to respect and appreciate nature and why it is important to protect nature / Earth. They also learned the importance of national parks and feeling comfortable in nature (being outdoors).

~ Teacher from Roosevelt Middle School

Youth, adults, and community leaders enjoyed the 2008 CAP season, overall. Results of the evaluation analyses showed there are many positive benefits for youth who participate in the program. Youth learned valuable camping skills and seem to feel that they are more environmentally conscious following this experience. The vast majority of youth would like to go camping again and would even encourage their friends and family to go camping with them.

These responses illustrate the potential for long-term benefits that youth may have received from this short term camping experience. Furthermore, the CAP program provides accessible and affordable camping opportunities to San Francisco Bay Area youth, and findings reveal the goals and objectives of the program, broadly, are being met. The evaluation of this program should help the CAP staff to better understand how youth feel about the program and what parts of the trip are instrumental to their experience.

Regular and on-going evaluations will ensure the CAP program continues to provide enriching and favorable experiences for youth by allowing adaptive management practices to adjust and update the program according to youth and adult participant feedback. Overall, community leaders, adults, and youth perceive the CAP program positively. The impressions, as reflected in constructive evaluations overall, will likely ensure continued interest and support for this program in the future.


**Camping at the Presidio: Youth Program Evaluation (2008)**

Thanks for filling out our survey!

Name of Group: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

We hope you had fun and that you will visit your national park again! Please put an “X” in the box that tells us how you feel about each statement. Use these faces to help you and talk to a staff person if you have questions:

- **Strongly Disagree:** 😞
- **Disagree:** 😞
- **Neutral:** 😐
- **Agree:** 😊
- **Strongly Agree:** 🎉

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<tr>
<td>1. Before my trip to the Presidio, I had an idea what the camping experience would be like.</td>
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<td>2. I learned how to camp (such as taking care of tents, sleeping bags, other equipment and gear).</td>
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<td>3. I feel like the park staff was enthusiastic.</td>
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<td>4. I learned about my national park.</td>
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<td>5. The guided program was fun and I enjoyed doing all the activities.</td>
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<td>6. I felt more comfortable spending time outdoors and being close to nature made me feel good.</td>
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<td>7. I learned about “Leave No Trace”.</td>
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<td>8. I would encourage friends and family to come back to the park with me.</td>
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<td>9. I would like to go camping again at another national park.</td>
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<td>10. I believe I am more interested in nature after this camping experience.</td>
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<td>11. I think spending time in the outdoors could help me to become a better person.</td>
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<td>12. <strong>(a)</strong> Have you been camping before? Yes ☐ No ☐; <strong>(b)</strong> Ever camped at the Presidio before? Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
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<td>13. One part of this trip I liked the most was: __________________________________________</td>
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<td>14. One part of this trip I would change is: ____________________________________________</td>
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<td>15. Anything else you would like to share with us about how we can improve the program in the future?</td>
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**Optional:** This information will help us better understand who you are, thanks for sharing!

- Are you a **Boy** ☐ or **Girl** ☐?  Your **Age** ______  What **grade** are you in? **now**? __________
- My **race/ethnic identity** is: ____________________________________________
- What school do you go to? ____________________________________________
- What **city** do you live in? ____________________________________________

Was a parent (or guardian) who you live with also here with you on your camping trip? Yes ☐  No ☐
Camping at the Presidio (CAP): Adult Leader Program Survey - 2008

Group/School: ___________________________ Date: ______________

We hope you and your group had fun and that you will visit your national park again. Please put an “X” in the box that tells us what you believe to be true about the youth who participated on this camping trip with your group or school.

1 = Strongly Disagree  2 = Disagree  3 = Neutral  4 = Agree  5 = Strongly Agree

| 1. I feel like youth on this trip learned camping skills (such as taking care of tents, sleeping bags, equipment). |
| 2. I feel like the park staff was professional, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable. |
| 3. I feel like youth on this trip learned about our National Park. |
| 4. I feel like the guided program was educational and fun for my youth. |
| 5. I feel like the youth are more comfortable spending time outdoors and closer to nature after this experience. |
| 6. I feel like the youth are more aware of the consequences of their actions (such as littering, and/or may become better stewards of the environment after this experience). |
| 7. I believe this experience increases my youths’ interest in nature. |
| 8. I believe this experience will help the youth on this trip, in general, become better people. |

1. Did you attend the Outdoor Leadership Training with CAP Staff? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Have you been camping before? Yes ☐ No ☐
3. My role with this group is: ☐ Paid Staff Member
   ☐ Volunteer
   ☐ Parent/Guardian Volunteer
   ☐ Other (please specify your role): ___________________________

We always want to improve the camping program. Please tell us your thoughts about these aspects:

4. One part of this trip I liked the most was: ___________________________
5. One part of this trip I would change is: ___________________________
6. What benefits do you see from your group’s participation in this camping experience? ___________________________

7. OPTIONAL: These few items will help us better understand who you are. Thanks for sharing!

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female
Age: ☐ Under 20 ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70 +
Race/Ethnic Identity: ___________________________

Please feel free to include any additional comments on the reverse side. Thank you again for filling out our survey and we hope to see you soon!
APPENDIX C

CAMPING AT THE PRESIDIO 2008
Outdoor Leader Training: PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

This evaluation will help us to better understand your experiences with the training and provide us with some additional information to prepare you as leaders for Camping at the Presidio (CAP). Please be honest and as specific as possible with your answers. Thank you for your time and feedback!

1. Have you/your organization participated in a CAP program before? Yes ______ No ______
   Why did you decide to participate in CAP?

2. Was CAP promotional material (brochure, web, etc) and outreach effective conveying what the program was about?

3. How easy or difficult was the program eligibility and training enrollment process?

4. How helpful was the training in assisting you to:

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<th>Not Helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat Helpful</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Very Helpful</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Visualize your future camping experience?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>b. Learn park resources to plan own activities?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Prepare for possible camping hazards?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>d. Know the layout of the campground?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Understand how CAP works and the process for reserving your CAP Experience?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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Feel free to provide additional comments on any of the items in the box above:

- over please -
CAMPING AT THE PRESIDIO 2008
Outdoor Leader Training: PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

5. How useful was/will the training manual will be for you?

6. Overall, what aspect of the training was most useful?

7. In your opinion, what could be improved about the training?

8. Do you plan to reserve a CAP Experience this year (2008)?
   Yes_______ No_______
   If not, when do you think you might be interested (month, year)?

The following questions are optional yet will help us learn more about the community-based leaders we are serving. Please take a moment to provide us with the following valuable information:

1. Number of years at your current organization:_________

2. Have you been tent camping before?
   Yes_______ No_______

3. Have you ever been backpacking before?
   Yes_______ No_______

4. Please describe what level camping experience you have:
   Beginner_____ Intermediate_____ Advanced_____

5. Do you believe the cost for your group to participate in the CAP Program is fair and reasonable?
   Yes_______ No_______
   If no, please let us know how much, per night, you believe would work for your group: $_____

   Thanks very much!

6. Please tell us about your experience leading camping trips for youth:
   None_______ Some_______ A lot_______
   Number of years (if known):_________

7. Gender: Female_____ Male_____ 

8. City of residence:__________________________

9. Age: 18-25_______ 26-30_______ 31-40_______
   41-50_______ 51 or older_______

10. Race: - Hispanic/Latino:_______
    - White/Non-Hispanic:_______
    - African American/Black:_______
    - Asian/Pacific Islander:_______
    - Bi-racial/Multi-racial:_______
    - Please tell us your racial mix:_______
    - “Other”? Please share with us your race or ethnic background:_______
Hi Miguel,

Great training this weekend. It was an awesome group to work with. Felix and I feel lucky to have been with such a nice group of people for our training. I am sure the good vibes will spill over into our experience with the kids.

By the way is it possible to get an invoice or something that shows our attendance to the training and the cost. My boss is willing to pay for it, so I can get a reimbursement.

If possible can you fax something to me at Jean Parker School? The fax number is (415) 291-7990.

Thanks again for a wonderful experience,
Celia

Hi Miguel,

It was so nice to see you Wednesday at the Presidio Teacher’s Night and to get an update on the status of the Rob Hill Campground renovations. I am looking forward to participating in the CAP program again this year and was happy to learn that groups will be using the Dragonfly Creek site again. While the renovations to Rob Hill are impressive and the artist rendition of the finished site beautiful, my class had such an amazing experience at Dragonfly Creek that I am excited to return there. The secluded nature of the site gave us the feeling of truly being out of the city and immersed in nature. The site allows for a truly individual experience for each participant. Any thoughts of continuing to use it even after Rob Hill is completed? If so, I am an enthusiastic supporter of that idea!

Looking forward to working with you again in the coming camping season.

Regards,
Lillian Ciulla
Hi Miguel,

Thank you, the rangers, and your interns for taking care of CBC’s groups this week! Our youth have been recounting plenty of stories from their time at the Presidio with their own youth and the staff. The time they spent together was really special. They learned lots and had incredible amounts of fun. Super shiny gold star to CAP for making this possible!

The youth who attended the campfire with Don Garate will be turning in their completed media release forms next week. I will send you those forms along with the Pre-Trip meeting evaluations by the end of next week.

Would you please resend your confirmation/the invoice for of our two trips so that I may request payment from fiscal? I have been receiving a lot of SPAM lately and I think your previous e-mail may have gotten lost in the mix.

Have a fabulous Friday and a wonderful weekend making memories the next group who will be enjoying the beautiful space at Dragonfly Creek.

Best regards,
Aimee

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Aimee Vicencio
Youth Program Coordinator
Chinatown Beacon Center
80 Fresno Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
http://chinatownbecon.org
Dear Presideo Staff,

Thank you for helping us through our camping trip. I had a lot of fun. I loved going in the lake and looking for little critters. I also liked the long hike even though I was really tired. Also, thank you for the candy. I would always come back again. It was the best trip I’ve had so far. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Bradly Dela Cruz
from Paul Revere Middle School

P.S.: All the stories you have told us were so interesting! I would like to hear more.
Dear Presidio Staff,

Thank you so much for letting us stay overnight at Dragonfly Creek. It was fun!

My challenge was sleeping in a tent, walking in the dark, looking & walking by creepy houses, and especially not taking showers. But it was still fantastic.

The best part was the campfire and looking at the bridge and over the cliffs. Learning about plants with Ranger Yveta and learning if the water was polluted with Ranger Edie.

I don't think there's anything to be changed except for one thing; showers! There has to be showers. Being at Presidio Park was AMAZING! Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Harlisha

P.S. It was really fun, hope to come back again!
Dear Presidio Members,

Thank you for allowing sixth grade student to camp at Dragonfly Creek. I can guarantee that most people had fun camping at Dragonfly Creek. This will be a fieldtrip I will be looking forward to in seventh grade or if we earn it again in sixth grade.

Something that was challenging was trying to spot some coyotes. The things that we did were fun was the hike, playing tag, setting up the tents, bringing down the tents, eating s'mores naming our tent. My favorite was wrestling in our tents, also sneaking out of our tents and scaring people. This is the funnest field trip so far.

Sincerely, Nicky

to Presidio Members.
Dear Presidio Staff,

Thank you for letting us camp at Presidio. I had lots of fun. My favorite thing was the hike. It was very interesting learning about plants and if the water is clean or not. Thank you for letting us borrow tents and sleeping bags. Also, thank you for showing us things.

My favorite activity was playing the game about that salmon eats mosquito, mosquito eats bear, and bear eats salmon. What was challenging for me was doing the hike.

I had a wonderful time in the camping trip. I would like to come again in the spring. I think you guys did a good job in showing us things. I appreciate you guys that you help us learn new things that we never knew.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Gomez
Are We Entering a New Stage of Cultural Change?

During the past three years, the Children & Nature Network and its members have reached an astounding number of individuals and organizations through speeches, conferences, publications, the Internet, radio, television and other media outlets. As the movement gains visibility nationwide, many grassroots leaders and network members are looking for ways to ensure that their campaigns and initiatives will bring about real and enduring change—a shift in values and behavior.

We believe this shift will occur in four overlapping stages, or concentric circles: the growth of public awareness; the creation of a movement; concrete actions on all levels including regional, state, and national; and, ultimately, lasting cultural change. Today, we see signs of progress in all of these arenas, including early indications of cultural change, as individuals and families begin to make very different choices.

In his new C&NN online column, Field Notes from the Future, Richard Louv writes of a one such example: Chip Donahue, a father of three and a second-grade teacher in Roanoke, Va., who helped launch a free outdoor adventure network for families -- an idea that could spread quickly and "help transform our culture, in much the same way that Neighborhood Watch programs changed our communities in prior decades." Yes, we need more support for organized programs that get kids outside. But Donahue represents an emerging corps of pioneers – people who aren't waiting for programs, funding or policy changes, to create ways to change their own lives and the lives of other families right now.

We'll be expanding on this theme in future commentaries and C&NN reports. Meanwhile, here are a few recently posted stories showing the cultural shifts – and challenges – of the children and nature movement:
Sierra Club Program Supports Military Kids

“We are proud to serve military families thanks to the support of donors to The Sierra Club Foundation who are profoundly motivated to ensure that those protecting our country get to enjoy its natural wonders,” stated Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. “This project will connect a new generation of American servicemen and women and their children to the mental and physical benefits of our natural heritage.”

The Military Family Outdoor (MFO) Initiative, a joint project of the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation, announced last week a three-year grant of up to $23 million, provided by generous donors to support three organizations that provide returning veterans and their families with healing, life-affirming outdoor experiences in the natural world.

BassPro Video Game Trade-in; 15% off to Get Kids Out

BassPro announces one of the most innovative strategies we’ve seen to date for getting kids outdoors. This week, all around the country, kids and adults will be turning in their video games for a 15% discount off fishing gear, watersports items, tents, sleeping bags and footwear.

“One of the most exciting and invigorating places to go this summer is just beyond your front door,” said Larry Whiteley, Bass Pro Shops manager of communications. "Bass Pro Shops is committed to helping adults and children across the nation put away their laptops, video games, PDAs and cell phones this summer and head outdoors.

[+] visit the BassPro Go Outdoors site

Free-range kids
Journalist Lenore Skenazy has sparked a dialogue that's touching a nerve in the national psyche. Are American parents raising children who are never allowed to take risks, or are they simply protecting them? For a complicated mix of reasons there is an urgent and growing desire among families to reassess their lifestyles and consider a more balanced form of parenting, one that allows for more independence and risk-taking.

[+] Read the full article on The Christian Science Monitor website
[+] visit Skenazy's new BLOG “FreeRangeKids”


Related Links:
[+] KQED series QUEST
[+] Camping at the Presidio (CAP) Program
[+] Claude Arnett and Vaya Mental Health Resources
[+] Hooked on Nature’s Nature Circles

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