



Summer Institute in Program Evaluation: June 3 – 7, 2013

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Case Study Submission

Organization: Student Life Office/ 225 University Center

Program Name: Children Rising Mentorship Program (CRMP)

Reason for evaluation:

To learn more effective ways on recruiting to more students. To find ways that we can balance cultural teaching, mentorship activities and group bonding.

Program Description:

The Children Rising Mentorship Program gives UofM students the opportunity to engage in a cross-cultural learning exchange and mentorship partnership with schoolchildren from Skownan First Nation. UofM participants take part in two weekend visits to Skownan First Nation, and participate in three Saturday program days in Winnipeg.

During these sessions, mentors and mentees will learn about Anishinabe culture, take part in low organized games, crafts, educational programming offered by our partner CareerTrek (careertrek.ca), as well as a variety of other fun activities! Each U of M student is also responsible for communicating with their mentee through-out the programming year

Program Goal: The goal of the program is to engage University of Manitoba students in cross cultural learning and to build meaningful relationships with the mentees in the community of Skownan.

Program Objectives:

1. Educational Content

By the end of this program, students will:

- Be able to briefly outline the history of Anishinabe people in Manitoba.
- Be able to identify and describe the cultural significance of key Anishinabe culture and traditions (such as the role of elders, the importance of the sweat lodge, spirit plates and smudging).
- Appreciate the diversity of cultural traditions amongst Aboriginal, Inuit, and Metis groups in Canada.
- Be able to recognize the challenges and impacts of various policies affecting First Nation Peoples in Canada.





2. Applied Skills

By the end of this program, students will:

- Know and be able to apply effective mentorship techniques using tools provided by Big Brothers and Big Sisters.
- Be able to support and encourage young learners, by establishing a positive and encouraging environment that fosters communication and mutual understanding.
- Be able to use a repertoire of techniques to plan activities that incorporate or are respectful of Aboriginal traditions and values (sharing circles, traditional games, ceremonies, etc.).
- Apply intercultural competency skills, specifically: an increased understanding of how culture affects perceptions, thoughts, and actions, and an ability to identify one's own prejudices and biases.
- Be able to plan and manage multiple time commitments effectively.
- Develop the ability to overcome challenges through self-assessment, critical thinking, and reflective action.

3. Values

By the end of this program, students will:

- Be able to identify, critique and address their preconceptions about different cultural groups (including but not limited to Anishinabe peoples).
- Be able to work cooperatively and productively with other students, mentees, Skownan community members, and the staff of CareerTrek and Student Life.
- Be committed to furthering their education through curricular and co-curricular activities.
- Be able to engage in their professional or academic spheres with a sense of social responsibility and desire to promote community unity.

Target Audience: The program is targeted for up to 20 university of Manitoba students (any age) to be a mentor either one on one or in a group with youth ages 10-14 in the community of Skownan. The program runs in partnership with Career trek, Student life and has mentorship workshops led by Big Brothers and Sisters of Winnipeg.

Key activities:

- *Motivational speakers of First Nations Decent- Michael "Red Head" Champagne*
- *Cultural Teachings from elders*
- *Gym Games and cooking together in Skownan*
- *Team sports such as: flag tag, dodgeball etc*
- *Traditional aboriginal games with Blair Robbilard*
- *Science experiments, crafts, baking, holiday centered activities (ie pumpkin carving)*





- *Ice fishing*
- *Sweat lodges*

Data Collection:

Currently we are only collecting data on how many mentors we get each year and how many mentees are registered in the program. Further, Career Trek evaluates how many of the mentees continue on in secondary education and how many of those students successfully complete their education.

Evaluation Questions

How we can reach more students to become involved in this program?

Is “mentorship” the right word for this program?

How can better balance cultural teachings and celebrations with fun activities?

Implementation Plan

We will continue to have reflections where the mentors write their recommendations and feelings about the program. Keep in contact with the community to ensure that their goals and our goals for the program are lined up.

- Have bi monthly or once per term program evaluation meetings

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