

Adventure Education

Teacher Information Packet

Camp Alexander
501 Commercial St.
Emporia, KS 66801
(620) 342-1386
campgirl@osprey.net



Adventure Education

Dear Teachers,

We would like to make you aware of an exciting opportunity for your classroom: Camp Alexander's Adventure Education Program. This idea evolved from the "Camp to the Classroom" Program, and Adventure Education was launched in 2003. Since that time, a number of area schools have had classrooms participate in the program, including Reading Elementary School, Gridley Elementary School, Olpe Junior & Senior High Schools, and Logan Avenue Elementary School.

This year, Camp Alexander will be offering Adventure Education to a limited number of classroom teachers free of charge. All costs are covered by a generous grant from the E.L. & Irene Hopkins Trust Foundation.

During the time your classroom is involved in the program, trained facilitators will spend two hours a week working with the students. Our program focuses on goals set by both teachers and students, and we have seen many positive outcomes from students involved in Adventure Education.

Here is a list of possible outcomes for your classroom:

1. Team-Building
2. Program-Solving and Decision-Making Skills
3. Sense of Success and Adventure
4. Development of Trust and Mutual Support
5. Respect
6. Caring
7. Responsibility
8. Honesty
9. Goal-Setting
10. Increased Confidence and Self-Esteem
11. Improved Agility and Physical Coordination
12. Development of Leadership Potential

We recommend setting 3 goals for your classroom when you schedule this program with us. This will help us to focus on your classroom's specific needs. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that this school year is a very enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

Sara A. Shaw
Executive Director

Nicole Campbell
Program Director



A United Way Agency



Adventure Education

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Included in this Packet:

- Program Overview
- Program Outline
- Features & Benefits Chart
- Application for H.C.A.R.E. Adventure Education Grant (Please fill out and return to Camp Alexander)
- Sample Parent Letter

We hope that you find this information helpful as you consider the positive impact Camp Alexander's Adventure Education program can have on your classroom. Please contact us for further information, any questions, or to apply for the Adventure Education program. Camp Alexander can be reached at:

501 Commercial St.
Emporia, KS 66801
(620) 342-1386
campgirl@osprey.net

We look forward to hearing from you soon!



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Adventure Education

Program Overview

Adventure Education engages students and their teachers in an intensive set of exercises designed to keep students in school, improve their academic performance and build important skills needed for success in school, work, and life. This program fosters teamwork, leadership development, and personal responsibility. Activities challenge each participant to raise his or her own expectations for success and help his or her team succeed, incorporating innovative concepts of problem-solving, decision-making, and risk-taking strategies. This program is grant-funded by the E.L. and Irene Hopkins Trust Foundation.

Adventure Education can be tailored to students in grades K-12 to aid both personal and group growth. Trained facilitators from Camp Alexander work with classroom teachers (preferably from an academic class) during two hour-long class periods each week for at least eight weeks, though the length of a program can be expanded as necessary. Teachers monitor all classroom activities and strive to build on the skills and concepts learned in the program within their regular curriculum. This cooperative model allows teachers to reinforce key concepts and information while also helping students apply new skills in an academic setting.

Activities for each of the lessons build upon experiences from previous sessions. Each session is designed to help students achieve specific measurable outcomes. Facilitators tailor lessons to build on the strengths and abilities of each class group. After completion of each activity, students debrief their experience with the facilitators and teacher. Through these discussions, students identify key concepts such as communication, responsibility, and teamwork. The discussion also serves to show students how their group applied these concepts, what affected their success, when and why problems arose, and how these same tools can be used in other areas like school, work, and life.

At the end of the program, students and teachers may take either a day-long trip or a two-day, one-night trip to Camp Alexander where they use the Camp Alexander Education Center. Individuals and the group take on new challenges on low ropes elements. They challenge “comfort zones” and discover how much they can accomplish when they believe in themselves. Students learn how to support one another emotionally and physically to succeed. The final session is devoted to a comprehensive discussion on how using the tools learned throughout the program will help them succeed in school. Students then complete a project in which they explain in their own words how they can apply these skills to become better students, employees, and community members.

Students who participate in this program often increase attendance rates, improve their grade point average, and begin to believe in their ability to succeed in school and in life. Teachers and administrators see the value of this program through improved behavior and increased efforts for homework, classroom participation, and in-class assignments.

Once students have completed the Adventure Education program, Camp Alexander plans to involve them in follow up programs designed to keep them connected with the program, continue to build critical skills, and keep them in school.

For more information please e-mail Sara Shaw at campgirl@osprey.net





Adventure Education

Program Outline

- Week One:** *Course Introduction & Team-Building*
Pre-Testing, Goal Setting, and Camp Alexander Character Traits
Outcome: Students will develop expectations with teachers and facilitators.
Outcome: Students will understand the value of working as a team.
- Week Two:** *Self-Concept & Communication*
Outcome: Students will demonstrate an increase in self-confidence.
Outcome: Students will understand the importance of communication, and will demonstrate active listening and verbalization skills.
- Week Three:** *Caring (1st Camp Alexander Character Trait)*
Outcome: Students will be able to explain caring.
Outcome: Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate caring behavior.
- Week Four:** *Responsibility (2nd Camp Alexander Character Trait)*
Outcome: Students will be able to explain what it is to be responsible.
Outcome: Students will take on responsibilities within the team.
- Week Five:** *Respect (3rd Camp Alexander Character Trait)*
Outcome: Students will understand the role of respect in their relationships.
Outcome: Students will evaluate the use of respect within the team.
- Week Six:** *Honesty (4th Camp Alexander Character Trait)*
Outcome: Students will understand why honesty is important for teamwork
Outcome: Students will evaluate honesty in themselves and others.
- Week Seven:** *Trust & Leadership Skills*
Outcome: Students will develop attitudes and qualities necessary to build trust within the team.
Outcome: Students will identify and demonstrate the characteristics of an effective leader.
- Week Eight:** *Problem-Solving & Closure*
Outcome: Students will demonstrate effective brainstorming and problem-solving strategies.
Outcome: Students will evaluate individual participation and learning.
- Overnight Campout:** *Challenge Course & Review*
Or Day Trip Post-Testing, Review of Goals & Character Traits
Outcome: Students evaluate potential applications of skills learned.
Outcome: Students demonstrate an increase in team-building/leadership skills and in individual self-confidence.





Adventure Education

Features & Benefits

Service

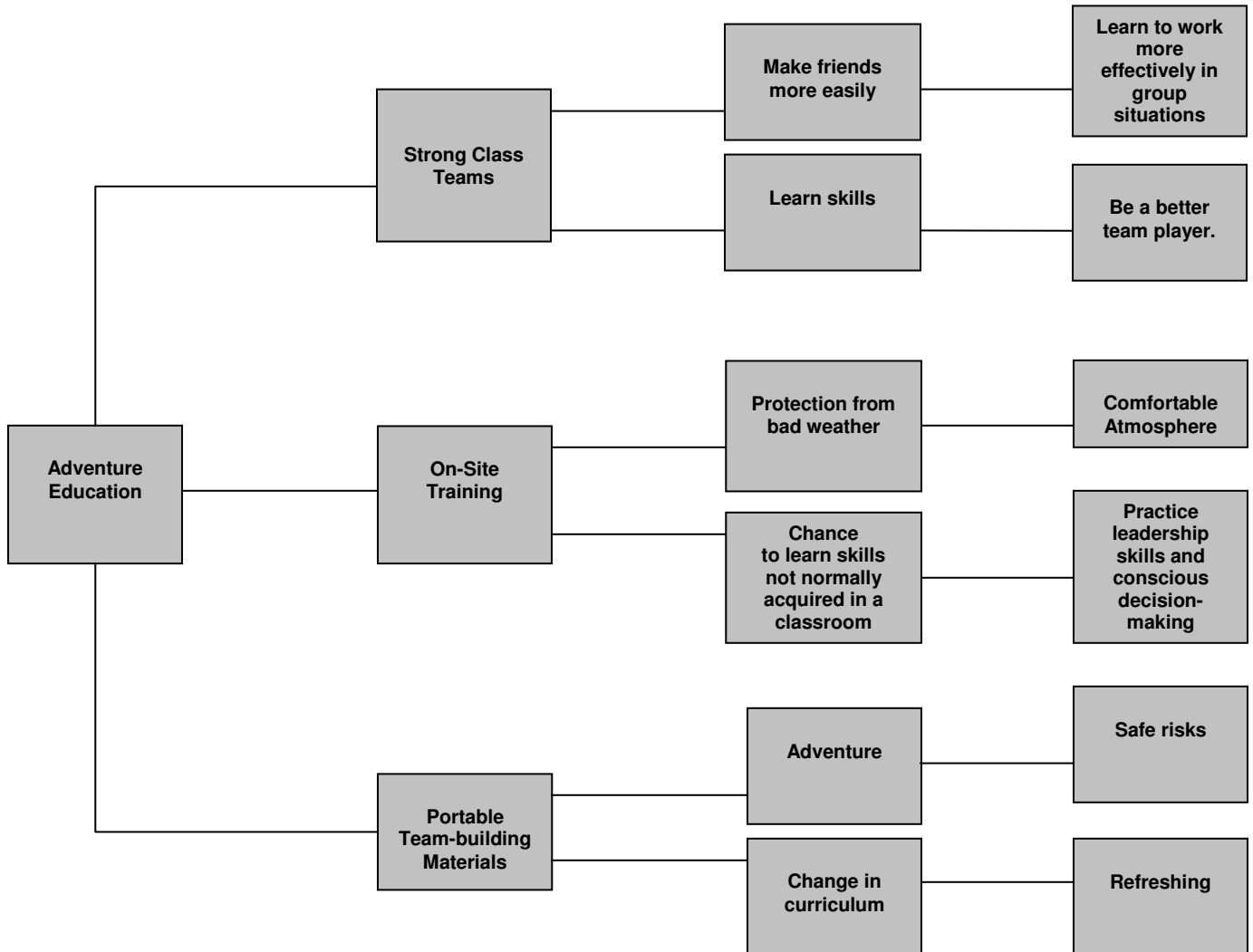
Features

Benefits

Derived Benefits

A feature is a fact about a service that is present in its design.

A benefit occurs when a feature of a service satisfies or is understood to satisfy a need of the user.





For Camp Use Only:

Approved By: _____

Date: _____

Application for use of H.C.A.R.E. Grant

Name of School: _____

Grade or Group to Attend: _____

Times and Dates that you would like to be at Camp: _____

Number of people over 18: _____

Number of people under 18: _____

Are there any special needs that would be provided for in your group? Yes/No
If yes, what are those needs?

List all activities in which you would like to participate:
(Use back of sheet if necessary)





Adventure Education

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

Greetings from Camp Alexander's Adventure Education Program!

We are excited to inform you about an innovative program that your child will be taking part in this semester. For the past three years, Camp Alexander has been working with the school districts around Lyon County to provide a unique learning experience aimed at helping students reach their full potential. The Camp Alexander Adventure Education Program will be coming out to your child's school twice a week for the next 8 weeks to lead your child and his/her fellow students through a variety of hands-on activities. These activities are designed specifically to develop skills in leadership, communication, cooperation, and problem-solving. In addition, this program will create new levels of trust, respect, and acceptance within the class. It will be highlighted by a two-day, one-night trip to Camp Alexander. At Camp Alexander, students will have the opportunity to challenge themselves on the center's low ropes challenge course. This entire program is provided to your child at no cost; however in order for your child to participate, we ask that you please fill out the enclosed forms and return them to the school as soon possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

Sara A. Shaw
Camp Alexander Executive Director
620.343.5595
campgirl@osprey.net

Program Facilitators:
Nicole Campbell
Kim King
Trevor Yakle
Khristin Morgan

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

Sara A. Shaw
Executive Director
Camp Alexander



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