A Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC)
Curriculum Development Tool

UNIT DESIGN COVER SHEET

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School name, state and town: Various middle schools from Cold Spring, Garrison, Bronx, NY

Title: Reclamation of the Bear Mountain Park Trails

Abstract/Vignette: Students will participate in the redirecting and reclaiming of trails in Bear Mountain Park. This activity will stimulate community involvement and develop a sense of stewardship among the participants.

Grade level(s): Please check all that apply.

☐ K-2 ☐ 3-5 ☑ 6-8 ☑ 9-12 ☐ College and Lifelong Learning

Discipline: Please check all that apply.

☑ Art and Music ☐ Health and PE ☑ Foreign Language

☑ Literature and Language Arts ☑ Mathematics ☑ Science

☑ Social Studies and Geography ☐ History ☑ Technology

Year Developed: 2006

Period (month, week, year): varies, depending on trail work

Teaching environment:

☑ In the Classroom (indoors) ☑ On the Trail

☐ In the Community ☐ Online/Virtual
My plan of Action for Science learning through place based education using school curriculum Reform. ‘children out of doors’ My plan is to work with others teacher’s in the bear mountain trail, learning the history thought science. Jay Holmes from the American museum of nature history would work with the children of the Youth Can program to collaborative with my students. I would like for students to feel ownership of their learning. Students become more motivated when they explore outside the classroom. I want to use the New York City Education curriculum to help our kids be able to get more into helping our environment. I want them to see what science really is by them experience it though their eyes and feel how it is to explore and learn all the different types of science that are out there in the world. I’m working on a proposal so I can get grants to support me with this project.

Grade level (5-12) Collaborative
- Humanities
- Science
- Technologies
- Math

Content-Learning
- Earth Science
- Geography
- Environmental Science
- Economics
- Social studies/History
- Geometry

Service Need
- Students will research the social history, economic and environmental components of Bear Mountain and their community.

Service Idea
- The use of resources and environmental protection
- Human-built environmental
Preparation

- Prepare Video Presentation of the AT present/future
- Online, observation, Data

Reflection

- Quest
- Make journal/book
- Experiences/perspective are shared online
- Plan a culminating event
- Telecommunication technologies

Demonstration

- Interviews with NY/NJ trails, Bear Mountain
- Background information (secondary research)

Youth Voice and choice

- Students image the future of their community on the basis of the trends they discovered in Bear Mountain research.
- Students will explore how they can turn their vision into a plan for action

Curricular connections

- Science
- Social studies
- English
- Art
- Technologies

Skills Development

- PPT-Oral Presentation
- Graphing/mapping timeline
- Teamwork

Books

- Bear Mountain
- New York State Environmental Parks
- Appalachian Trail
Community Contacts

- NY/NJ Trails                Ed Goodell      goodell@NYNJTC.org
- Bear Mountain              Jim Haggett      Haggett@us.com
- National Park Service      Rita Hennessy  rita-hennessy@nps.gov
- Appalachian Trail          Karen Lutz       Klutz@appalachiantrail.org
- Youthcan                   Jay Holmes       jholmes@igc.org
Planning for Service Learning

Grade Level: Intermediate

CONTENT-LEARNING ABOUT

- Upkeep of the Bear Mountain Trail
- Principles of “No Trail Left Behind”. Respect for nature through personal responsibility while hiking the Appalachian Trail.

SERVICE NEED:

- Redirecting the Appalachian Trail as it goes through Bear Mountain
- Restoring the former trail at Bear Mountain.

SERVICE IDEA:

- Helping the trail administrators to implement their planning.
  Possible examples, moving gravel or other materials, raking, leveling dirt.

PREPARATION:

- Guest Speaker relating to some aspect of the Appalachian Trail.
- Communication and coordination between schools (Cold Spring and Garrison)
- Ground work- introducing ATY, basic hiking rules, tools needed for the trail.

ACTION:

- Working on the Appalachian Trail
- Restoration of the AT on Bear Mountain

REFLECTION:

- journals, letter writing, graffiti, collage
DEMONSTRATION:
- creating a brochure
- trail work

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies/History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Languages
- Art and Music

SKILL DEVELOPMENT:
- writing to student peers
- listening to directions
- fine/gross motor skills walking the trail
- research skills
- technology; power point

COMMUNITY CONTACTS:
-Karen Lutz
  NY/NJ Trail Conference
  Regional Director
  Mid Atlantic Regional Office

-Jim Haggett
  Dutchess /Putnam AT Management Committee
  Chairman
  (845)462-2893
Appalachian Trail Bear Mountain Project

**Vision**- Students will participate in the redirecting and reclaiming of trails in Bear Mountain Park. This activity will stimulate community involvement and develop a sense of stewardship among the participants.

**Who will be involved?**  Haldane 5th Grade students (Cold Spring, NY)
Garrison Middle School students (Garrison, NY)
Intermediate School 174 students (Bronx, NY)
Community Contacts; NY/NJ Trail Conference, Local Clubs

**When:** September- initial contacts made
- Develop curriculum
- Begin student research

Timeline for trail work to be established by AT coordinators.

**Benchmarks:**
- Contacts made to Trail Officials
- Presentation of service learning idea to administration
- Establishing timeline
- *No Trail Left Behind* presentation to students
- AT overview presented to students
- Trail workday

**Outcomes:**
- Community Involvement
- Work on new AT trail through Bear Mountain
- Help restore old trail back to its natural state
- Students develop a sense of ownership as evidenced through reflection essays.
- Elicit new generation of hikers
- Sustainable garden to monitor ozone layers
- Bear Mountain AT Brochure
- Develop teaming of school districts, trail clubs, and government agencies.

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