

Small Grant Program Recipient Profiles

2000 Recipients

Camp Constitution

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation received \$5,000 in the fall of 1999 for Camp Constitution, a two-week camp held in June 2000. The camp was designed especially for youngsters for whom English is a second language. Thirty young people participated through field trips, reflection, games, crafts, team building and discussions. The curriculum, organized around the Bill of Rights, taught ethics, good citizenship, character education, government, conflict resolution and personal responsibilities as citizens. The camp brought together young people from multiple countries and cultures. The success of the camp invoked an invitation to present at NC Parks & Recreation Society Conference. For additional information visit: <http://www.raleigh-nc.org/parks&rec/>.

E.K. Powe Elementary School's Neighborhood Project

In the spring of 1999 the **Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University** received \$5,000 to help 70 second-graders document the histories of their neighborhoods that feed into the E.K. Powe School District. Over several weeks, the "neighborhood detectives" used observation, photography, audio recording, interviewing and narrative writing to document walking tours of five neighborhoods making up their school district. Subsequently, they created scrapbooks/journals, a collage, a book and a presentation for the public. An exhibit about the project is mounted permanently at the school. For additional information visit: http://cds.aas.duke.edu/docprojects/durham/ek_powe.html.

Hurricane Force Youth Summit

The Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, partnering with **NC Department of Public Instruction, 4-H Youth Office** and the **Civic Education Consortium**, was awarded \$5,000 in the spring of 1999 to bring the youth voice to the hurricane and flood disaster. They conducted surveys of youth over 25 counties most affected by the hurricanes of 1999. Civics and ELP teachers returned 2,700 surveys, which solicited recommendations for rebuilding their communities. Survey responses provided information for questions and discussions during student teleconferences in Edgecombe, Pitt, Columbus and Duplin counties. Students expressed ideas to various state and local government officials and were able to interact with other students having similar experiences. A report of the findings was written and presented to Governor Hunt. For additional information, call 919.733.9296.

Kids Voting/Student Advisory Board

Kids Voting of Wake County received \$5,000 in the spring of 1999 to fund the Student Advisory Board. The Board is made up of 17 high school students. It was created to reach out to Wake County students, especially those in high school, and help them connect more with Kids Voting. The Advisory Board encourages students to be more informed and involved in the Kids Voting process. The Advisory Board volunteered at polling sites and Kids Voting headquarters, presented at various events, recruited new members, and worked at festivals and a candidate forum attended by 200 youth. For additional information visit: www.kidsvotingwake.org/info/student_advisory.html or e-mail kwake@kidsvoting.org.

Leadership Burke

Burke County Schools received \$5,000 for Leadership Burke in the spring of 1999. Participants included 700 young people who learned about community organizations, service, leadership and community roles through outings to various local businesses and organizations, including an art museum and law enforcement agency. In addition, they kept daily journals, participated in role-plays, completed a ropes-course and conducted a mock trial. For additional information, call 828.438.8982.

Learning About Government

Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council was awarded \$7,000 in the fall of 1999 for the Learning About Government program extending over 20 counties. A special curricula was designed and taught to volunteer troop leaders. The core activity was an eight-week troop program with a variety of hands-on activities teaching about government. The program incorporated several events for the girls, including a one-day interactive forum where women in government facilitated workshops about their careers and a Learning About Government scavenger hunt. Overall, 5,014 girls participated in the program. It will continue in the future. For additional information, call 919.782.3021.

Multicultural Education Project

The **Center for Community Action of Robeson County** was awarded \$5,000 in the fall of 1999 for the Multicultural Education Project involving 20 young people. Two exploratory courses were taught in two middle schools where students interviewed civic leaders and cultural educators about the history of the county. The students then published a book to be used in Social Studies and Civics classes. The project helped students improve public speaking, writing and interviewing skills. For additional information, call 910.739.7851.

Peers Empowering Peers Civic Education

Gates County Cooperative Extension Service was awarded \$7,500 in the fall of 1999 for Peers Empowering Peers. Fifteen student leaders taught civic education lessons to 4-H youth groups reaching 211 youth. Civic education kits were created for the youth to teach peers through interactive and issue-based projects. For additional information, call 252.357.1400 or e-mail Reba_GreenHolley@ncsu.edu.

Student Legislative Assembly

The Student Government Association of Wake Forest/Rolesville High School, located in **Wake County**, was awarded \$7,000 in the fall of 1999 to provide middle and secondary schools across the state with a model for a Student Legislative Assembly. For five years Wake Forest-Rolesville High School conducted a two-day, student-run event where students focused upon bills that address North Carolina problems. The Student Government Association published and distributed a legislative assembly “how-to” guide. They also maintained a relevant web site for those interested in creating a similar model. For additional information, call 919.554.8611.

Sturgeon City

The Onslow County School Board received \$5,000 in the spring of 1999 to fund a weeklong intensive summer experience for 115 rising sophomores identified as potential leaders. Local teens worked with community groups to generate ideas about how to convert an abandoned wastewater treatment plant into Sturgeon City – an environmental and educational museum and preserve. In a variety of ways and venues, leadership skills were learned and practiced. The youth also studied environmental issues, civics and government of the local economy. For additional information visit: www.sturgeoncivcity.org.

Support our Students

Hoke County Partnership for Children received \$5,000 in the fall of 1999 to fund the Support our Students project. The program exposed at-risk middle school students to local and state politics through forums with elected officials and public servants. Students were able to interact with county commissioners, a state senator, county manager, probation officer and bail bondsman. The students completed the program with a trip to the State Capitol. For additional information, call 910.904.5452.

Teen Court

New Hanover County received \$5,000 in the spring of 1999 for the **Community Mediation Center of Cape Fear** to fund and launch Teen Court. Sixty high school students processed real court cases involving sentencing hearings for juvenile offenders. Students were trained as defendants, witnesses, attorneys, clerk, jurors and bailiffs. An assistant district attorney acted as judge. If offenders did not complete the sentence they were referred to juvenile court. For additional information, call 910.362.8000 or e-mail cmcteencourt@aol.com.

What does it mean to be a citizen in Gaston County?

The **W.C. Friday Middle School Student Council of Gaston County** was awarded \$3,500 in the fall of 1999 to fund the project - What does it mean to be a citizen in Gaston County? Student leaders were taught citizenship and leadership skills in a special class held during the school day. Thirty-five students visited the State Capitol, met Dr. W.C. Friday and participated in the spring 1999 Civic Education Consortium Partner’s Meeting. Over 100 students then participated in the class activities, including an outing to the Gaston County Courthouse. For additional information, call 704.922.5297.