

Energy Express: Putting Books in the Hands of Children

Community Objective(s)

To recruit, train, and schedule volunteers to participate in Read-Aloud, one on one reading, art and writing activities based on the books that the students will receive each week. Students will be taking these books home to keep. Other books will be given away to community children not in the energy Express program.

Background

Energy Express is a six-week summer enrichment program promoting the school success of rural children living in low-income communities. Parents, schools, and community partners have joined forces with state agencies and organizations to make Energy Express a success. Each day small groups of five to eight children work with college student mentors. Using a curriculum that encourages reading, mentors guide the children through enriching experiences that make reading meaningful in their lives. They create books, read aloud, write and perform plays. One of the great aspects of the program is that each child receives a free book each week. This puts books in homes that might not have a lot of reading materials available. Our students and mentors each complete a community service project. This year our group of M & M's (mini-mentors) will also complete a service project. They will be collecting used books that are still in good condition to be given out to visiting students who come to our Open House Celebration at the end of the project. This will put more books into the hands of children.

Challenged Student Conditions

This project is:

- ~Open to all students at White Sulphur Elementary School, but priority is given to students who need help academically, nutritionally, or socially
- ~Facilities are accessible for all students

Resources

- ~Students who wish to receive extra enrichment
- ~Elementary schools that are willing to have the Energy Express program
- ~School and community volunteers
- ~Funding for books and materials for the children

WEST VIRGINIA'S
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

Timeline

- February ~Secure funding
- March ~Hire AmeriCorps mentors
- April ~Sign up mini-mentors, order books and supplies
- May ~Contact mentors and train
- June ~Meet with the mini-mentors, parents, and community volunteers
- July ~Schedule project
- August ~Celebration of Open House and evaluate the project

Reflection

- ~Volunteers keep journals of experiences
- ~Evaluate the project

Celebration

- ~An open house celebration will be held during the last week of the program. Areas will be set up to match the six themes of the program: myself, friends, family, home, community, and world. Visiting children will get to move to each area and participate in reading, writing, and art activities. Parents will be invited to attend a nutritional workshop. Refreshments will be provided and each visiting child will be able to pick a used book to take home.
- ~Newspaper and TV media will be invited
- ~Certificates will be given to all volunteers

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

Reading

- ~Read literary works by national and international authors to include, but not limited to: humor, irony, make-believe, fiction, nonfiction, fairy tales, tall tales, and poetry
- ~Use context clues to determine a reasonable meaning of an unknown word
- ~Use graphic organizers such as Venn Diagrams to compare, contrast, and construct meaning
- ~Use story content and prior knowledge to make predictions
- ~Listen to a story, and draw conclusions about the story

WEST VIRGINIA'S
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

- ~Draw conclusions regarding character feelings, moods, traits, motives, and point of view
- ~Develop an understanding of the need for community service

Contact Information

Ann Henson
White Sulphur Elementary School
150 Reed Street
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
(304) 536-2244