

Project Title: Culture Camp
Name of Applicant(s): Adonai Sebastian and Hannah Lyon
Name of Group (if applicable): N/A
Address: 14 Vale Road Brookfield, CT 06804
Contact Person: Adonai Sebastian
Phone: 203-775-6949
E-mail: culturecamp1@gmail.com
Fax: 203-775-6949
Total Amount Requested: \$100.00
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1. Project Overview: Briefly describe your project. What are your goals?

In order to encourage the citizens of tomorrow to create a better world, we would like to organize an educational camp that will bridge cultures together by teaching youth to think and learn on a global scale. Through various workshops, hands-on activities, and media aids, our goal is to instill an understanding in other nations to promote peace, end prejudice, and encourage language learning. We believe that by educating children on social aspects of other countries and current world affairs, it will lead them to form a lifelong interest in the international, creating global leaders in the process.

As an independent, start-up initiative, we wish to accomplish these goals through various planned activities. Each day of the week long program will encompass a few select nations in a geographical area. For each country, traditional dress, food, and customs will be introduced through activities such as the creation of Japanese fish kites, dance performances, and forms of media such as folktales, pictures, and videos. We also plan to include guest speakers who have either traveled to different countries or are first-generation immigrants, which will help the camp produce a more authentic experience for the students. The guest speakers will talk about their lives in a foreign country as well as introduce a few words of a different language. With a variety of activities planned, we hope to make this time a fun yet educational opportunity for the students, thus fostering a desire to learn.

2. Community Impact: How will your project enhance learning within the Brookfield community?

We believe that our project will enhance learning in the Brookfield community by starting each participant's exploration in other cultures. The new knowledge gained through this camp will help participants to gain a wider view of the world, enabling them to think on a global scale. Knowledge in different cultures will help the participants to appreciate diversity in Brookfield and will lead to a desire to maintain world mindfulness. If excitement over other cultures is encouraged from an early age, it is possible that it will leave a lasting impact on the educational path that the participants will choose to follow. This path will be more likely to include studies of current world affairs, continuous language learning, and pursuits in travelling.

This includes taking a full six years of language classes in the Brookfield language program, having interest in taking higher level history classes in order to better understand the world, and individual interest to read articles on current world affairs. Having experience in these areas is essential for a quality liberal arts education and knowledge in these areas will help students excel in any career that they may choose.

3. Evaluation: How will you know you have reached your desired objectives? What measurements will you use?

A survey questioning the children on general cultural information will be provided at the beginning of the camp, serving as a pre-test. At the end of the camp, the same survey will be given. The change in the responses will allow us to determine the effectiveness of our camp and also aid us in improving future camp lessons. Moreover, each child will be given a small journal in which they will keep a daily diary entry. At the end of each day, the children will write for about 5 minutes on what they learned that day and will then share their ideas. At the end of the week, the journals will be given to the parents for them to discover what their children have been learning.

Nevertheless, the most significant evocation of the values encouraged by our camp will be the future of the participants. We desire to spark the initial curiosity that will encourage children to pursue careers or volunteer work that will help the world. We want these children, the future of Brookfield and of America, to see the potential they possess to support others. With this camp, we hope that the appreciation of diversity and the knowledge of foreign relations will reside in all the students that pass through our program and will manifest itself in the work they do as adults.

4. Project Duration: What is your project's timeline?

We plan to implement our project from August 20, 2012 to August 24, 2012 for four hours each day from 8AM – 12PM at the Congregational Church of Brookfield. Though the Congregational Church is generous enough to allow us to use their space, we should emphasize that this project is not in affiliation with the church or any other organization.

If this camp is successful, we are interested in making it an annual event, with both of us returning from college during the future summers and running it again for a week. We are convinced this will be an enormous benefit to the residents of Brookfield, which fuels our desire to make this a continuing effort.

5. Future Implications: How can your project lead to future community educational opportunities?

We want to be able to hold this camp every summer and hope that interest in it will be continued. As this is our first year implementing this program, we hope that the children that

participate will enjoy it enough to recommend it to their friends and if we receive overwhelming interest in the program in later years, we plan to start similar programs to include more age groups. Furthermore, if successful, the values and ideas this camp nurtures may pave the path towards similar educational programs within the schools. We believe learning about the world should not be confined to one week in the summer. It should be a continual learning process, one that should involve school. As the program develops through the on-going years, we aspire to get the Brookfield School District involved in a similar program, possibly through assemblies or similar activities, thus increasing the amount of children who will be exposed to this new knowledge. At the present moment, only 12 children will be able to attend the camp because we are in the start-up stage. However, as the years go on, we hope to not only improve our current methods but also expand it as well, leading to future community educational opportunities.

6. Project Budget: If awarded, how do you propose to utilize the funds?

If awarded this grant, the funds will go toward educational aids that will enrich the participants' understanding of other countries and cultures. A portion will be allotted to purchase organizational tools for the classroom such as world globes, cultural crafts, folders, journals, and writing utensils. Many of the items will be purchased from www.orientaltrading.com which is an online store dedicated to serving educators. Moreover, some purchases will be made from Amazon if a more cost effective option is present there. All of the items being ordered will include a dozen or more items. This means that each child will be able to receive their own item to make this camp a more personalized experience. For example, a set of 12 world globes will be bought which each child would use to learn about geography of the countries being covered. Many of the items being ordered will be reused for the following years because we realize this grant is only for start-up organizations.

This camp is free for all participants because we believe that education should be easily accessible to all. Because we strongly desire for this camp to be free, we will not be receiving any money from any outside sources other than this grant. With this grant, we will be able to show children and parents the beauty of learning about culture in an equally beautiful environment enriched with educational tools.

ORIENTAL TRADING (Shipping \$12)

- Inflatable Globe (12): \$14
- Multicultural Flag Pencils (24): \$4.25
- Torch Award Medals (12): \$4.25
- Scrap Paper (300 pieces): \$7.99
- Flags of All Nations (72 Pieces): \$8.50
- World-Shaped Journals (12): \$6
- Multicultural Roll Stickers (100): \$2.50

- Kids Around the World Foam Shapes (500 pieces): \$8.25

AMAZON

- 25 Different World Foreign Banknotes: \$4.86

GENERAL STORE (estimated amts.)

- Gift tissue paper (for Japanese fish kites): \$4
- Pipe cleaners (for kites): \$2
- String (for kites): \$2
- Various other items for crafts such as Philippine Star Lanterns, Australian Aboriginal Clap Sticks, Mexican Ristras and more: about \$15 - \$20

Total: about \$100

7. What prompted the idea for this proposal?

The proposal to conduct a culture camp stemmed from both of our passions for learning about other countries. To us, the well-being of the world depends on cultural understanding. As Americans who were both born in different countries, we have experienced the cultural ignorance that permeates not only through the Brookfield community, but throughout America. Though America has been described as a “melting pot of races,” many Americans do not truly appreciate this diversity present in America. We have both experienced the effects of cultural prejudice first-hand and want the next generation to have a greater gratitude and love for diversity. Whether it is through stereotypes and judgmental attitudes or peers telling us that in America, “You should follow our culture and leave your culture behind,” our passion to show the importance of global traditions has been growing for many years. Many believe that as immigrants coming to America, we must assimilate to the “American” culture. However, children need to realize that we should not aspire to assimilate but rather, value variation in cultures.

To appreciate these people, we must know about where they come from. One of the most prominent examples of this cultural ignorance can be seen when a Brookfield Spanish teacher asked her Honors Spanish class where Spain was in the world and a student answered “next to Mexico.” Students do not seem to care enough about the world they live in and thus, even classes centered on global learning seem to be failing. If students do not appreciate the world, we cannot assume that they appreciate America for the wondrous country it truly is. Learning about other cultures helps to create unity within not only the Brookfield community but also the American nation. Our personal experiences have emphasized a lack of unity but we know that through this camp, these cracks in our community will be filled.