



The DREAM Program, Inc.
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The Forest Park DREAM Update September 2005

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during September. You can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/localprograms.htm>. And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

As soon as the first car full of mentees arrived at Castleton College, it was clear that Forest Park DREAMers were ready for a fantastic year! Running full speed into the student center returning mentees collided with mentors in a sea of hugs and greetings.

Highlights from this month include:

- Recruiting new and amazing mentors!
- Returning DREAM mentees sharing stories of summer fun and amazing programming!
- Forest Park Mentor and Mentees featured in a United Way film!

Fridays: The core of DREAM happens every Friday when DREAM mentors meet with their partners in group and one-on-one settings. The meetings occur on college campuses, onsite at the children's homes, and at spaces around the community. This month, Friday program included:

- During the first Friday of programming this year, Forest Park DREAMers picked up exactly where they left off this past semester. After a quick and heartfelt reunion, the children of Forest Park and their Castleton College mentors converged on the college's baseball field for an afternoon of kickball, tag, Frisbee, and chalk drawing.
- At Forest Park second DREAM Friday; new mentors had a chance to meet returning mentees through a series of bonding games, crafts, foosball, pool, and table tennis.

Trips/High Adventures: Perhaps the most exciting components of DREAM are its end of semester trips and summer adventure programs. Children, mentors, parents, and staff look forward to these where the DREAM bus comes out of hibernation and the full group has new experiences together. High Adventure Trips are perhaps the most ambitious of all DREAM activities, and include children in the planning, fundraising, and governing of two-week adventures to places that have included Colorado, Utah, California, and Alaska. This month,

- Forest Park DREAMers spent time this month reflecting on their culminating trip to New York City this past semester.

Capacity Building: The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children into the program and improving the program. Such initiatives this month have included:

- Recruiting new mentors



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- Planning a day of recruiting and programming on site at Forest Park

Mentor Training: The DREAM Central Office is in close communication with the mentors as to their individual and group needs. The Office continues to develop training modules to fit the mentors' needs, and encourages them to go on retreats and have other bonding events – it is important for the children and mentors to have a tight and energized mentor group. This month, training activities included:

- An overview of The DREAM Program's Mentor Boundaries, Driving Rules, and Child Abuse Reporting Procedures
- First discussions about DREAM Stock, a weekend long overnight workshop for DREAM mentors. DREAM Stock gives local programs a chance to hold a mini-retreat with mentors, network with mentors from all over the state, and attend workshops focused on various topics based upon the needs of local programs throughout the year!

Keep DREAMing!

Josh Warren
Program Empowerment Director,
AmeriCorps Member