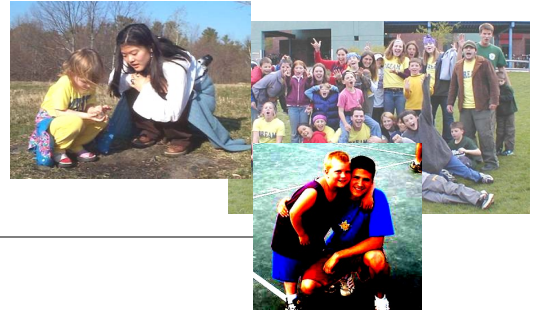




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The Forest Park DREAM Update October 2009

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during October. 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.

Forest Park DREAMers burst into autumn with as many colorful surprises as we saw all around. Our committed group of mentors has more than doubled this semester, and the program is searching for creative ways to have more one-on-one time with mentees as well as specific teen programming for our four oldest mentees.

Highlights from this month include:

- Festive autumn creativity,
- Soaking up outdoor fun, and
- Carving it up, pumpkin style!

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 programming included:

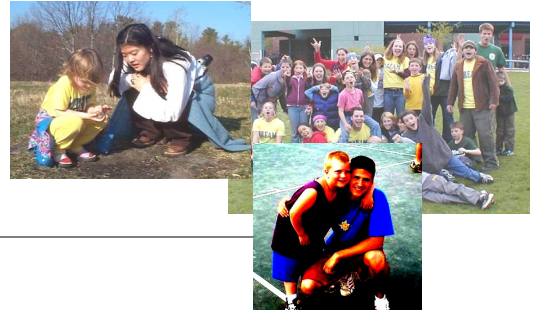
- Festive autumn creativity: DREAM gathered at the Forest Park community center to allow for as many kids as possible to play "Drip, Drip, Drop." The mentors took this Forest Park DREAMer favorite to a whole new level with the addition of silly string! Many matches were made, dreams were inspired, and everyone walked away with a caramel apple made by the teen DREAM squad!
- Soaking up outdoor fun: Amazed at no maze, the planned Corn Maze trip turned into a local exploration of southwest Rutland as DREAMers had a blast playing at a local park.
- Carving it up, pumpkin style: DREAM matches creatively joined forces to dig deep into pumpkin seed brains and make some silly and scary faces at a mentor's house on campus!

Fundraisers: Fundraisers are an important component of the program. They help build ownership amongst the children in the running of the program, and also provide a fun forum to build leadership and organizational skills.

- September 26th, DREAM mentors gathered during homecoming to hold a successful and hilarious fundraiser that involved lots of money for lots of pies-in-the-face.
- Next on the list is the traditional Potluck Cook-Off on December 2nd where people from all over the community are invited to bring a dish and/or fill a plate! Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door and prizes will be given to the best tasting dish!



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Capacity Building: The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children into the program and improving the program.

- With recruiting successfully finished, the eleven new mentors (in addition to the 8 returners) began Mentor Boundaries and Driving Guideline training with a straight-forward and very humorous “DREAM Entrance Exam!”

Camp Specific: DREAM’s beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run programs and overnights all seasons.

- October 4th was our second annual Fall Family Day at Camp DREAM in Fletcher, VT!! We had 33 people representing staff, mentors, kids, parents, friends, and pets of DREAM. It was great to see so many people experience camp for the first time, and to see kids who were thrilled to show their families around! Two ambitious Bennington DREAMers went – Lauren from Bennington College, and five year old Nina from Willowbrook. Rachel, Jenni, Lauren, Nina and Calvin, a Green Mountain DREAMer, made the trip up North the day before, spent the night in the camp’s tree house, had a fun-filled day meeting DREAMers from other programs and drove back south as the sun set behind the Adirondacks.

Other: ZOMBIE RAID for Teen programming!!!!

On October 7th, the new Teen Resource Director, Jenna Mawhinney, coordinated a teen raid on Castleton's mentor meeting!! Katie, Alex, Paul, Al and Jenna all came down from DREAM's main office in Burlington, and Rachel and Jenni came up from Bennington, picking up the Forest Park teen DREAMers on the way. Bearing eyeball decorated cupcakes, and faces completely painted with undead paleness and gore, the group stormed the meeting!!! After the initial shock of the zombie visitors subsided, Jenna used the opportunity to talk about teen DREAM, teen DREAMers and her role in the office, and many of the new Burlington office staff met the Castleton mentors for the first time, and vice-versa!!

Keep DREAMing!

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