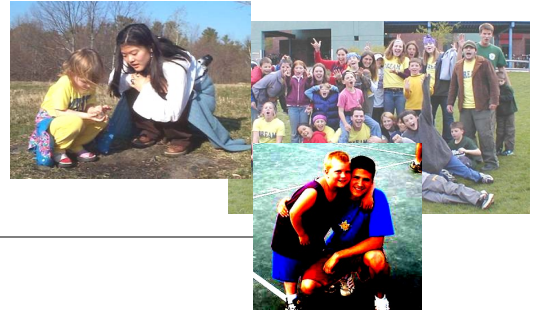




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The Forest Park/Castleton State College DREAM Update July & August 2009

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during the months of July & August. This is when Summer DREAM and Camp DREAM were in full swing. Find out all the exciting events that took place over these summer months as you read on.

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.

July and August were action-packed months for Summer DREAM interns and Rutland's Forest Park community! Sharon Mathieu, the summer intern for Forest Park created a consistent and fun-filled schedule for the DREAMers of Forest Park that included a nice balance of opportunities for programming on-site and trips all over central Vermont, and even into New York!

DREAM Summer Interns – “D-Units”:

Sharon Mathieu was part of a team of four DREAM interns called “D-Units” working in DREAM's three southern local programs. With eight weeks of programming happening over the course of the summer, Sharon was able to visit each DREAM local program and in turn, had the three other interns visit her program on a weekly basis. It was an amazing chance to experience and support programs and DREAM kids in communities throughout central and southern Vermont. The connectivity between the three southern local programs and the four interns, who are all DREAM mentors, was and will continue to be greatly appreciated by all!

In mid-July, all of DREAM's summer interns gathered for an overnight mid-summer retreat at Coolidge State Park in Plymouth, Vermont. It was a refreshing time to process and collaborate thoughts about their summer DREAM initiatives. During the last week of summer programming in mid-August, the D-Unit team joined forces once again to celebrate their most memorable moments of the summer, and congratulate each other on the amazing work and growth they had done throughout the summer.



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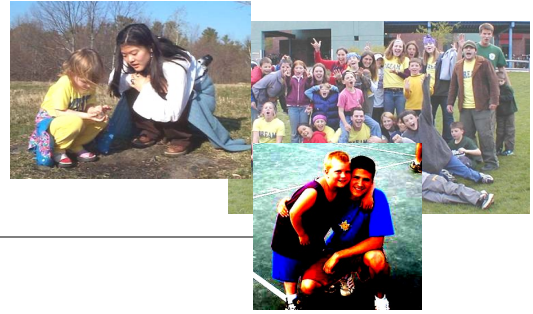
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Forest Park DREAMers:

Gathering at Forest Park's community center was the central part of making on-site programming a huge success. The children, teens, and families brought plenty excitement, laughs, and smiles to each activity. The on-site programs included:

- A spur of the moment talent show that included singing, acting and dressing up,
- Many outdoor water games and sports,
- Chalk decorating the sidewalk with hopscotch and funny faces,
- Building dream catchers, miniature forts, bracelets, and key chains,
- Making homemade pizza, sugar cookies, and both miniature and large homemade pies for a wonderful and successful neighborhood BAKE SALE!

All trips this summer were created to give all summer DREAM kids an opportunity to embark on new adventures in the central Vermont region and beyond. The local trips included:

- Visiting and touring The Smokey House Farm where a current teen mentee worked over the summer,
- Picking blueberries, herding sheep and collecting fresh farm eggs,
- Tasting yummy maple syrup from the New England Maple Museum,
- Visiting Billings Museum regularly, and
- Staying cool at Lake Bomoseen's Crystal Beach every week!

The end of summer big adventure, beyond weekly programming, included a trip to New York's Great Escape for a day!

Camp DREAM:

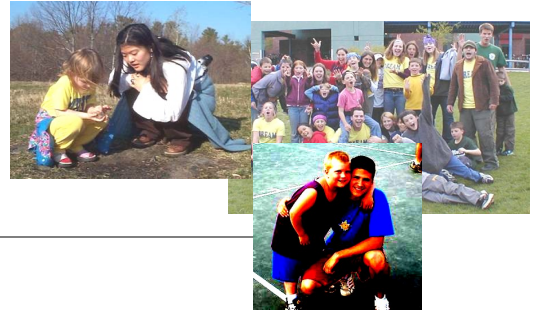
DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run programs and overnights all seasons. Summer 2009 reached a record high with seven Camp DREAM sessions and over a hundred DREAMers in attendance. More news from Camp this summer included:

- The four Camp sessions in July and two in August allotted time for all southern interns to go to Fletcher to join in on all the Camp festivities this summer.
- During the summer, four children from Forest Park's DREAM program went to Camp DREAM!
- There are many new improvements at Camp DREAM with all the wonderful work our summer Trail Crew and volunteers put in. The donations – including a beautiful refinished canoe that Josh Warren and his father spent many weekends preparing for Metcalf Pond!



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Other:

DREAM also said goodbye to some wonderful veteran staff members, as they are moving on to new opportunities. Daniel Shearer, a four-year DREAMer and Development Director is moving on to a new position in environmental advocacy in the Burlington area. Jon Harris has stepped into his role for a year long commitment with DREAM. The voyage continues with Chad Butt, a nine-year DREAMer and Program Director, and Josh Warren, a five-year DREAMer and Bennington's Program Empowerment Director, as they move to Boston to start a new DREAM office outside of Vermont! In Chad's shoes, Mike Ewan will be Vermont's new Program Director and coming to the team in Bennington, Rachel Kaupplia will join Jenni Spicer as the new Program Empowerment Director. These three new office staffers, as well as all the new AmeriCorps members that will be joining DREAM in September are excited to get started.

We look forward to seeing everyone at DREAM meetings and programming this fall!

Keep DREAMing!

Joshua Warren
Program Empowerment Director,
The DREAM Program, Inc.

Jenni Spicer
Program Empowerment Director,
The DREAM Program, Inc.

Sharon Mathieu
Forest Park "D-Unit" Summer Intern,
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Kate McNerney
Poultney "D-Unit" Summer Intern,
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Faith Griffith
Willowbrook "D-Unit" Summer Intern,
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Alicia Best
Willowbrook "D-Unit" Summer Intern,
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