



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Guelph



ENVIRON-MENTORING
PROGRAM

2016 Final Report

Prepared for:



Ontario Wildlife Foundation

Through the enduring support of the **Ontario Wildlife Foundation**, the youth in the 2016 Environ-Mentoring Program explored their surroundings and the positive impact they can have on the environment. They have learned about the food chain, searched for wildlife, and learned about their habitats; gone caving, canoeing, and snowshoeing to investigate the surroundings; learned how to navigate using GPS technology; participated in a wilderness photo hike; and learned how to make winter shelters.



Program Evaluation

Effectiveness of the program was measured on the following:

1. The number of youth attending as compared to the number that enroll (to gauge initial interest)
2. The number of children that wish to attend multiple sessions (to gauge long term interest)
3. Whether the attending children feel the classes are valuable (to gauge effectiveness)
4. The volunteers' assessment of the program's value for the attending children (to gauge program relevancy and improvements for the future)

In terms of program effectiveness, our collected data has shown very positive trends:

1. Out of youth enrolled in the Environ-Mentoring Program, 97.6% attended the sessions. This leads us to conclude that the initial interest from the local youth is high enough to engage them in the programming.
2. 87.1% of the responding youth expressed that they would like to return for additional sessions in the future. This indicates that long-term interest in the program is also high, and that participating youth would continue to attend multiple sessions.

3. 96.8% of the youth surveyed related information about the material they learned during the day, some of which are included in the testimonials section. This indicates that the children are effectively learning about their surroundings their place in it.

4. The responses from the volunteer mentors continue to be positive, with all of them praising the relevance of the GRCA programming. In addition, all responses indicated a desire to return for further sessions and different program areas.



Here's what our Little Brothers and Little Sisters had to say:

"We learned how to navigate with a GPS."

"I learned a lot about chickadees and how to find grubs!"

"How not to get lost and to use teamwork."

"It's very hard for carnivores to digest grass."

"I learned a fun new game about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores!"

"There are three big dams in the watershed."

"I learned about leeches."

"I really liked the activity today because I really like learning new things every day."

"Lots of fun, thanks!"

Fund Usage Outline

The funds provided by Ontario Wildlife Foundation went towards all areas of the program budget, as outlined in our request and shown below. It was decided that the bulk of OWF's funding should support primary project needs such as staffing and education program costs.

2016 Environ-Mentoring Program Budget			OWF's Support
Staffing	% of Salaries and Benefits of Program Coordinators	\$3,500.00	\$2,690.00
Program	8 x 2hr Programs @\$70 (subsidized through GRCA Foundation)	\$560.00	\$500.00
Canoe Rental	15 canoes x 2 hrs x \$15/hr	\$450.00	\$400.00
Material	100 x Colour brochures on 100lb paper (@ Staples)	\$119.99	\$100.00
Transportation	8 trips to Guelph Lake (14.8 km trip x 5 cars @ \$0.47/km each)	\$139.12	\$100.00
Volunteer Recruitment	Advertising for volunteer positions available	\$120.00	\$100.00
Total Cost		\$4,889.11	\$3,890.00

Once again, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph would like to thank OWF for your support of our Environ-Mentoring Program. 2016 was an excellent year for the program, and we have exciting plans in place for 2017, including a special celebration for Canada's 150th Anniversary and Earth Day. We also have developed a new, online survey system to streamline the program evaluation process. Your belief in BBBSG and the youth we serve has meant so much to us, them and their families.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Darryl Blake'.

Darryl Blake, Development Writer
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph