

Background

The original inspiration for C.A.M.P. came from two sources. On the one hand, there have been numerous articles published in both major news papers in Houston and Dallas, mostly negative in tone, regarding the acceptance of minority students on the campus of Texas A&M University. Hence we need to do something to debunk that notion because we as Aggies, know that is not true.

Furthermore, we need to do something in the longer term to increase minority enrollment at Texas A&M University.

On the other hand, back in 1981, a very successful businessman, Eugene Lang, in New York went to his alma mater's commencement for the 6th grade in Harlem and promised the entire class of 6th graders tuition assistance with college upon high school graduation if they would promise him to stay in school. Not only did Lang keep his promise, but he hired a Project Coordinator to run a daily after-school program, a Saturday program, and a full-day summer program of tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment. As a result, 90% of his students graduated from high school or earned their GED. Since that time, Lang established the "I have a dream" Foundation.

Program Description

Since November 2005, there has been a dedicated core group of Aggie volunteers meeting monthly to implement C.A.M.P. This core committee will coordinate with volunteers and plan activities with participating schools. Activities will include going to a professional sports game, the zoo, the beach, Texas A&M (with some athletic program, like baseball, softball, etc.), and a ranch.

The intent of C.A.M.P. is not to tutor students, but rather to provide one fun weekend activity each month during the school year. Hence, at a maximum, there will not be more than 12 activities per year. Furthermore, we plan to have about 20 volunteers for each class of students. Not all volunteers have to participate in each event. ***The individual time commitment should be no more than 4-6 times per year for approximately half a day each time.***

Finally, it is realized that students may go to different schools at different grade levels as they progress through the school system. With the cooperation of the local school districts and parents, the goal is to carry out each program with the same group of students from beginning to end (high school graduation).

Inaugural Event

Two groups of Aggie volunteers with C.A.M.P. met third grade students at Treasure Forest Elementary and W.E. Rogers Elementary to go to Robertson Stadium for a Houston Dynamo soccer game on Saturday, October 14, 2006. For many students, it was their first experience in a stadium.



Treasure Forest Elementary School



W.E. Rogers Elementary School

We thank these two schools for partnering with C.A.M.P. and providing bus transportation to the activities.

W.E. Rogers Elementary

Long-term Vision

Ultimately, the goal is that C.A.M.P. will become a statewide program in support of Texas A&M's Vision 2020 Strategic Imperative to achieve student diversity that reflects college-bound Texas high school graduates.

Contact Information

Visit us at the Houston A&M Club website:

<http://www.houstonags.org/volunteer/camp/>

Join C.A.M.P. by contacting us at:

tamucamp@gmail.com

If you are aware of anything which may be of benefit to our students, such as donations for activities or meals, please contact the above individuals as well.



Treasure Forest Elementary



Caring Aggies Mentoring Program:
A long-term volunteer
program through the
Houston A&M Club

The mission of C.A.M.P. is to mentor children as they develop through school and inspire them to pursue higher education by reinforcing excellent academic standards; building confidence and leadership skills; providing fun, life-enriching experiences; and role modeling qualities of success.