

Blue Ash YMCA Camp Creekwood Discover Cincinnati Project Evaluation

Discover Cincinnati is an adventure camp in which campers learned about the city of Cincinnati. The camp revolved around local history, landmarks, community heroes, transportation, and more. The campers researched and explored the city through field trips and library visits. At the end of the 10 week camp, the campers and counselor put together a video documenting their adventures.

The camp included a total of 14 campers, but averaged 6 campers per day. This was due to campers taking weeks off from Camp Creekwood. The camp was planned and supported by a licensed teacher with a Master's degree and run by a veteran counselor with a Bachelor's degree.

The grant money covered the cost of all field trips, supplies, and transportation. A minimal parent fee of \$50 was charged to cover staffing cost. Here are the themes and field trips that enhanced the campers' education:

- Week 1: Intro to Cincinnati History – Library to explore Cincinnati History and Cincinnati Museum Center (History Museum, Life on the Ohio River Learning Lab, Train Tower)
- Week 2: Cincinnati Arts – Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Contemporary Arts Center
- Week 3: Cincinnati Railways – Entertainment Junction and LM&M Railway
- Week 4: Famous Homes – William Howard Taft National Historic Site and The Betts House
- Week 5: Cincinnati Baseball – Ballpark Tour, Reds Hall of Fame, and Cincinnati Reds vs. Chicago Cubs game
- Week 6: African American History – National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Harriet Beecher Stowe House
- Week 7: Cincinnati Museums – Fire Museum and American Sign Museum
- Week 8: Cincinnati Food – Skyline, LaRosa's, and Graeter's (tours and tasting)
- Week 9 & 10: Cincinnati Music – Music Hall and Aronoff Center tours; Project Completion

All in all, Discover Cincinnati camp went extremely well. The campers learned a lot about the city while having fun. The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati awarded the program a Program of Excellence award with \$500 to use toward the program next summer. Planning is in progress to run the camp in summer 2015 with a parent fee associated.