

## ACA Ohio Grant Application

### Contact Information:

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### **Project Title: *Zero-Waste Whitewood***

4-H Camp Whitewood will implement *Zero-Waste Whitewood*, a program and waste management plan that engages campers and participants in conservation strategies, waste reduction, and environmental stewardship in an effort to reduce 4-H Camp Whitewood's environmental footprint, and share ecological responsibility with youth and other citizens. *Zero-Waste Whitewood* combines experiential learning, scientific investigation, civic engagement and creative thinking to educate youth, increase environmental consciousness, and encourage stewardship through an interactive, multi-component waste management program. The program will encourage participants of 4-H Camp Whitewood's summer camp and school group programs to minimize their waste. Zero-Waste will also help change some of our established programming to be more sustainable, reducing resource waste. **The goal of *Zero-Waste Whitewood* is to instill in its participants a commitment to environmental stewardship and to create more sustainable, environmentally friendly organizational practices.**

**The first objective is to engage participants in waste-reduction strategies and environmental stewardship practices.** 4-H Camp Whitewood will build recycling stations to facilitate proper sorting of recyclables. These stations, constructed of recycled and salvaged materials where possible, will consist of multiple compartments for sorted recycling, composting, trash, and reusable item collection. The stations will include signage explaining what is recyclable and the benefits of recycling, allowing stand-alone participation from the individual.

Recycled materials will be used in other areas of established programming, like crafts, nature/conservation education, and community necessities, creating frequent opportunities for participants to be engaged in environmental stewardship.

Another component of the program includes reducing wasted food in the dining hall and composting food scraps for nutrient-rich fertilizer. The compost created will be used in our pollinator and food gardens, that the campers will also take part in caring for. Participants will be involved in the collection of scraps, taking care of the compost bin, monitoring decomposition, and

using the compost in the garden. At every meal, compostable food scraps will be collected for composting, and wasted food will be measured. Before the first meal is served, a facilitator will explain to each group how composting reduces waste and benefits to the environment and camp. Also, on each compost collection can, guidelines for composting will be listed. The compost bins will also provide worms for fishing, creating another sustainable program component, and an opportunity for youth engagement and education.

**The second objective is to educate participants on the environmental impact of waste, and ecological processes.** As part of *Zero-Waste Whitewood*, the established nature/conservation sessions of our summer camp programs will feature new lesson plans focused on environmental problem solving and decomposition. 4-H Camp Whitewood will also offer specialized variations for school field trips and user group days. Facilitators will use experiential learning techniques to teach participants about waste reduction. The participants will also use scientific investigation to learn about the decomposition process, vermiculture, and waste impact on the environment. Using critical and creative thinking, participants can also problem-solve different solutions, and evaluate their own consumption habits. 4-H Camp Whitewood will also offer workshops and training opportunities for 4-H clubs, educators, volunteers, and youth to raise awareness and teach about environmental stewardship practices.

**The third objective is to reduce waste at Camp Whitewood, and to eventually achieve Zero-Waste in the organization.** Through recycling, composting, and sustainable planning for programs, Camp Whitewood will be able to reduce its waste output. Currently, Camp Whitewood produces about 8 cubic yards of trash per week during our camping season. We currently have one trash barrels and one recycling barrel in each high-use areas of camp (Rec Pad, boy's side, girl's side). A staff member then sorts the recycled materials, and transports them to a recycling facility. Since camp started this recycling technique, trash accumulation was reduced from 12 cubic yards to 8 cubic yards per week. However, because of lack of participant education and proper receptacles, much of the waste in our dumpsters is still recyclable, but unable to be separated due to lack of time for our staff to manually sort the materials. Proper receptacles, designed for participant sorting, and education. In addition to recycled materials, a significant portion of the camp's trash is compostable. When camp can reduce its waste, it will positively impact the environment and save money on waste collection, and those saved financial and natural resources can be used to improve our camper experience and facilities, as well as further our organization's environmental sustainability. Involving our organization's users in the process of reducing waste, will ensure more successful outcome.

Recycled materials will also be used in the implementation of already established Camp Whitewood programming. For example, recycled bottles and other containers will be used in our Pollinator garden education as plant containers for take-home and for use in the garden itself. The camp's craft program will also feature a weekly recycled craft, encouraging ingenuity and creativity among our youth, and reducing the amount of high-resource cost materials produced new.

Each year, 4-H Camp Whitewood will develop new plans for continually reducing waste, with the ultimate goal of achieving Zero-Waste in the organization by 2016.

**The fourth objective to to increase awareness of the importance of waste-reduction and environmental stewardship.** The program will be facilitated by our seasonal program staff, Assistant Camp Directors, and kitchen staff. The Program Director will assist in facilitating the program for school field trips. Program staff will educate and lead by example in the community learning environment camp provides. They will also be responsible for maintaining the compost bin through the summer season, after which the permanent camp staff will take over. The planning, lesson structure, and staff training for the program will be produced by the Assistant Camp Director/Administrative Assistant, Rachel Hildebrandt.

### **Purpose :**

Camp is a setting in which positive life skills and values can be taught and practiced. Providing an environment that relies on sustainability, and programs that revolve around environmental stewardship, will give the youth of today a place to experience the value of caring for and connecting with our natural world. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans produce millions of tons of trash each year. This trash ends up in landfills, and without recycling, many natural resources are wasted or negatively impacted. *Wasted: How America is Losing up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill*, a recent paper released from the Natural Resources Defense Council, states that food production uses 10 percent of the U.S. energy budget, 50 percent of U.S. land, 80 percent of U.S. consumed freshwater, and over 40 percent of the food produced using these valuable resources goes uneaten. In addition to the large amount of resource waste, the uneaten food is the largest component of solid waste in the U.S. and contributes to 25 percent of methane emissions. The economic and environmental benefits of reducing waste, particularly food waste, are innumerable and necessary for our communities. In order to ensure environmental sustainability, it is crucial to educate the youth about waste and the impacts it has on our environment, in addition to implementing waste reduction, composting, and recycling programs as an organization. *Zero-Waste Whitewood* is a program that engages and encourages youth in environmental stewardship through real-life experiences and community living and support.

4-H Camp Whitewood's *Zero-Waste Whitewood* program can influence over 3,000 youth each year through our summer camps and school field trips.

The *Zero-Waste Whitewood* program has the potential to impact an estimated 1,000 summer camp participants, comprised of youth aged 6 to 18 years old. In addition to our summer camp programs, the school programming component can reach the 1,600 sixth graders per year who visit camp as part of their school's outdoor educational program. By offering day programs and training opportunities for 4-H clubs, educators, volunteers, and youth, 4-H Camp Whitewood could potentially reach thousands of 4-H members in the nine counties that own Camp Whitewood. Furthermore, the program can impact other youth in the state by sharing the experiences with other summer camps.

**Budget –**

The total cost for the *Zero-Waste Whitewood* programs is \$9649.38. The Ohio 4-H foundation will be contributing \$2,230 through their 2013 Grants program. 4-H Camp Whitewood is planning to contribute \$5190.88 for the implementation of this program. 4-H Camp Whitewood is requesting \$2229.25 from the ACA Ohio Grants Program.

The support from this grant will help to provide the initial set-up for this program, after which there is minimal funding needed to sustain the program. Income from camper fees and the cost-reduction in waste management fees will cover additional resources needed to maintain the program. Furthermore, the resources conserved by implementing more sustainable programming will help alleviate future additional costs of this program.

4-H Camp Whitewood plans to expand the scope of the program to reach our ultimate goal of Zero-Waste, through water conservation, alternative energy education and implementation, and adapting our facilities to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly. To achieve this goal we will seek out partnerships with 4-H clubs and volunteers, the Zero-Waste Alliance, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, as we strive to mirror Ohio State's Zero Waste plan for its stadium and other facilities. The organization will also seek further support from our waste-management provider. Because the waste management companies that service our area do not offer recycling collection for our address, we will advocate to these service providers the value of recycling efficiently. The amount of recycled materials that is sorted and recorded through this program will help communicate the need for such a service, and eventually eliminate the waste that is produced from multiple trips to recycling centers made by our staff.

<b>Expenses for one year of Zero-Waste Whitewood</b>	Combined Amount Requested	Amount Requested from Ohio 4-H Foundation	Amount requested from Ohio ACA	Amount Provided In-Kind	Amount provided by registration fees	Total Cost
<b>Personnel</b>						
Program Staff(10), Kitchen Staff(12), Administrative Assistant(1) Assistant Camp Directors (2) = 25% F.T.E., average salary of total employees(34): \$3,015.35				\$753.84		\$753.84
<b>Maintenance</b>						
Waste Management, Dumpster Collection:yearly Cost				\$1,984.26		\$1,984.26
<b>Equipment</b>						
3-Bin Compost Station w/ Lid	\$450.00	\$225.00	\$225.00			\$450.00
Worm Compost Bin						
Red worms (2500 worm/2 1/2 lbs.)	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00			\$50.00
pitchfork(1)	\$35.00	\$17.50	\$17.50			\$35.00
Straw (12 bales)	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00			\$50.00
Kitchen Compost Bucket (2 @ \$21.75)	\$43.50	\$21.75	\$21.75			\$43.50
Dining Hall Compost Collection Bucket w/ Measurements				\$0.00		\$0.00
Dining Hall table Compost Collection Container (recycled Steel Cans) (12)				\$0.00		\$0.00
Dry Erase Board				\$3.50		\$3.50
Compost Thermometer	\$23.00	\$11.50	\$11.50			\$23.00
Garden Gloves(25 pair)				\$25.00		\$25.00
Garden tools (24)				\$53.08		\$53.08
Shovel (1)	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$7.00			\$14.00
Wheelbarrow (1)	\$43.00	\$21.50	\$21.50			\$43.00
100 ft. Graden Hose (1)				\$27.99		\$27.99
Constructed Recycling Stations (3 @ 1,250 ea.)	\$3,750.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00			\$3,750.00
<b>Supplies</b>						
Compost Collection Guidlie Labels for Table Cans (12) at .08 ea.				\$0.96		\$0.96
What to Compost Signs for Kitchen/Dining Hall (3) @ 3.25 ea				\$9.75		\$9.75
Garbage Bags				\$312.00		\$312.00
Craft Supplies				\$1,696.59		\$1,696.59
Advertising Flyers (1 each for county extension offices, 350 school teachers in surrounding area @ .05 ea.				\$17.95		\$17.95
Weather Resistant Signs for Recycling Stations (4 at each of 3 stations, @ 3.27 ea.)				\$39.24		\$39.24
Evaluations: 1500 @ 0.05 ea.				\$75.00		\$75.00
Office Supplies:Paper, Pens, markers, Clipboard, etc.				\$108.95		\$108.95
Photocopies: 1450 @ .05 ea.				\$72.50		\$72.50
<b>Travel</b>						
Gas: 2.95 gallons @3.48 per gal.				\$10.27		\$10.27
<b>Total Expenses (one year):</b>	<b>\$4,458.50</b>	<b>\$2,229.25</b>	<b>\$2,229.25</b>	<b>\$5,190.88</b>		<b>\$9,649.38</b>
<b>Incomes for One Year of Zero-Waste Whitewood</b>						
Field Trip Fee: 90students @ \$1.50 ea.					\$135.00	
Camper Fee: 1750 Campers @ 1.00					\$1,750.00	
<b>Total Income (one year)</b>					<b>\$1,885.00</b>	

## Time Framework –

Activity	Timeline for 2013											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
Program Development	X	X										X
Advertisement		X	X	X	X			X	X			
Staff Training						X						
Program Registration		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Implementation				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Evaluation Data Collection				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Evaluation & Analysis											X	X

*Zero-Waste Whitewood* will be initiated in 2013. It will be a continuous program, instilling conservation and environmental stewardship values and practices in youth for years to come.

## Bibliography

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