

Trips and Activities Group Strategic Plan

Goal 1: To foster positive and healthy living through physical activity, models of healthy lifestyles, a positive environment and salubrious social interaction.

Objective 1.1: Instill an importance of physical fitness in which kids are able and encouraged to be physically active.

Initiative 1.1.1: Create a curriculum that provides and maintains a fun and entertaining atmosphere in which participants are engaged and physically active.

Initiative 1.1.2: Construct guidelines of appropriate behavior for volunteers in regards to participation and attitude as to reinforce the importance of physical activity.

Initiative 1.1.3: Search for, and coordinate with, trip locations that allow kids to be physically active and show them the importance of physical fitness.

Objective 1.2: Educate youth about healthy food and lifestyle choices, so kids can learn how to make healthy choices in the future.

Initiative 1.2.1: Create surveys to assess the physical fitness and lifestyle practices of TAG participants.

Initiative 1.2.2: Develop take-home literature (book marks, fliers etc.) to educate participants and families on the benefits of physical activity and healthy food choices.

Initiative 1.2.3: Create worksheets to chart healthy habits (sleep, fitness, food) from week to week.

Initiative 1.2.4: Create volunteer tips and guidelines so volunteers can gain ideas on how to model, teach and encourage healthy behaviors.

Initiative 1.2.5: Search for, and coordinate with, trip locations that encourage healthy food and lifestyle choices.

Objective 1.3: Foster and promote salubrious social interaction between youth participants in order to develop healthy and permanent relationship communication skills.

Initiative 1.3.1: Generate activities that allow for the development of close relationships and positive social interaction.

Initiative 1.3.2: Generate conflict management tips and guidelines to be implemented by volunteers and leaders when a situation arises during activities and events.

Initiative 1.3.3: Develop reinforcements and consequences for positive and negative social interactions.

Objective 1.4: Provide a positive environment focusing on fun activities, acceptance, and safety where participants and volunteers can feel comfortable.

- Initiative 1.4.1: Create discipline policies that maintain order and smooth functioning during program hours.
- Initiative 1.4.2: Conduct research on how to maintain a positive and accepting environment for youth.
- Initiative 1.4.3: Develop emergency situation procedures and “what ifs” in case a situation arises that we have never dealt with before.
- Initiative 1.4.4: Implement various additions to weekly activities that would increase enjoyment, such as playing music, giving out prizes, creating cheers etc.
- Initiative 1.4.5: Implement a system where the participants get to choose what field trips are taken each month while letting them know budget and transportation limitations.

Goal 2: To further develop character in St. Peter youth by focusing on teamwork, initiating self-empowerment, increasing awareness of self and others, and fostering respect.

- Objective 2.1: Instill the importance of teamwork and community-oriented values to develop character in St. Peter youth.
 - Initiative 2.1.1: Research best practices and activities used in encouraging teamwork and community-oriented values.
 - Initiative 2.1.2: Create a yearly activity that centers on community service and teambuilding such as Habitat for Humanity or Adopt a Highway.
- Objective 2.2: Provide activities and maintain an atmosphere that empowers participants and volunteers and gives them opportunities to spawn leadership skills.
 - Initiative 2.2.1: Develop tips and procedures for coordinators on how to empower and give volunteers a sense of ownership of TAG.
 - Initiative 2.2.2: Develop a system of mentorship in which 7th-12th grade participants can take ownership of the program, help out with organization, and have a say in activities and events.
 - Initiative 2.2.3: Develop a mentorship program in which TAG volunteers train youth leaders to act as role models, lead activities, and solve conflict.
 - Initiative 2.2.4: Facilitate opportunities for participants to recruit other participants and spread the word about the TAG program.
- Objective 2.3: Introduce the importance of self-awareness and awareness of others, and develop an understanding of the effects this can have on one’s life and the overall world.
 - Initiative 2.3.1: Search for, and set up partnerships with, other youth organizations to bring in speakers or host events that promote self awareness and awareness of others. (Examples: To Write Love on her Arms, Africa Jam, and organizations where participants can volunteer [habitat, picking up trash, fun run benefits etc.]

Initiative 2.3.2: Conduct research on child psychology to better understand how to make youth more self-aware and aware of others.

Objective 2.4: Instill positive values, including honesty, caring, responsibility and respect, to support the augmentation of morals and ethics in St. Peter youth.

Initiative 2.4.1: Develop a system of awards and prizes (bracelets, key chains, etc.) to positively reinforce core values.

Initiative 2.4.2: Develop interesting and engaging ways to teach positive values during activities and trips, such as cleaning up trash before a nature hike.

Goal 3: Establish a premier, original and respected volunteer organization with the St. Peter community through recruitment, a wide network of support, strong infrastructure and positive publicity.

Objective 3.1: Attract participants and volunteers that will benefit from, and be a valuable asset to, the TAG program.

Initiative 3.1.1: Create publicity strategies like talking about fun trips and stories from the past that appeal to St. Peter youth and Gustavus volunteers.

Initiative 3.1.2: Develop recruitment strategies like attending a school's open house or speaking to study halls that enhance and strengthen recruitment of volunteers and participants.

Initiative 3.1.3: Collaborate with other successful youth programs outside of Gustavus, such as the YMCA, to gain ideas for improvement of the TAG program.

Initiative 3.1.4: Develop tips and responsibilities for volunteers to recruit participants around the community center during activities and trips.

Initiative 3.1.5: Develop an ongoing list of ideal volunteer attributes to use when searching for and recruiting volunteers.

Objective 3.2: Increase program support and community collaboration to strengthen the base of the program and enhance community ties.

Initiative 3.2.1: Create strategic plan for working with the Third Floor Youth Center that includes distinct responsibilities and guidelines for TAG and the Third Floor Youth Center.

Initiative 3.2.2: Develop a general meeting itinerary that can be used as a guideline for meeting with recreation directors, school principals and other community partners.

Initiative 3.2.3: Create beginning of the year checklist and strategies for reconnecting with community partners after the summer break.

Initiative 3.2.4: Research and set up partnerships with other campus organizations like BPLP, Gustie Buddies, Habitat for Humanity, sports teams etc.

Objective 3.3: Establish reflection and evaluation strategies to consistently improve the program.

Initiative 3.3.1: Create surveys for parents and volunteers to fill out and evaluate the program at the mid-year and end-year mark.

Initiative 3.3.2: Create coordinator checklist/self-evaluation for each coordinator to fill out at the end of each semester.

Objective 3.4: Develop practices that ensure the future sustainment and growth of the TAG program.

Initiative 3.4.1: Develop new-coordinator recruitment strategies and procedures.

Initiative 3.4.2: Develop interview guidelines and practices for interviewing prospective coordinators.

Initiative 3.4.3: Generate strategies and modes of communication for connecting with parents and participants throughout the whole year.

Initiative 3.4.4: Set up arrangements with field trip sites for future trips to be taken at the same time every year.

Initiative 3.4.5: Develop a permanent schedule of trips and activities that includes activities taking place more than once a week, and trips happening more than once a month, with different volunteers and coordinators leading activities and trips each day.