

RM-CESU Project Report, October 22, 2008, FY 08

Project Title: Grand Teton National Park's No Jr. Rangers Left Behind!

Park: Grand Teton NP

Funding Source: Rocky Mountains CESU Research Funding

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Project Progress:

Utah State University's Environmental Education (EE) Class visited Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) spring of 2008 to familiarize themselves with the park's natural and cultural history with leadership by park staff. Students researched, wrote, and designed on-site and on-line EE park-based activities for all audiences, assessed the value of junior ranger activities as an individual and/or group-based activity, and created an on-line reward system for participating, completing and becoming a Junior Ranger based upon the National Web Ranger system. Students determined topic areas with the guidance of GTNP staff and identified cognitive, affective and behavioral objectives for their activities. They researched park cultural and natural history through print, electronic and in person resources. In our EE classroom, students analyzed and evaluate a diverse group of existing EE activity guides and Junior Ranger guides for best teaching practices in EE to be utilized in their Junior Ranger activities. Finally, students presented their final Junior Ranger Activities to GTNP clients and USU personnel in late April, 2008. This project will allow Grand Teton NP to utilize powerpoint ranger pages as part of their Jr. Ranger Program to eventually include a web-based format while also using some of the research and activities to create an updated and improved on-site Jr. Ranger program.

Project Schedule:

Field trip to the park	Winter 2008
Students design EE products	January to April semester 2008
Draft of powerpoint programs	September 30, 2008
Final rewrites, edits, images	December, 2008

Project Results:

Six electronic EE powerpoint activities based on the park's cultural or natural history will be delivered December, 2008. The electronic files will be designed for the park to place on their Jr. Ranger/Children's section of the park website so they can be easily accessed by the general public.

Topics include Teton Valley Mountain Men, Trail Etiquette, Tracking and Wildlife interactions, Mapping GTNP and Landscape Features, William Henry Jackson (early photographer) and Glacial Topography.

We are in the process of working with the park to determine which of the activities will be created for the print media use the existing newsprint template of 11.5" X 17" existing at the park.