



Beyond Basecamp

The Newsletter of Montana Yellowstone Expeditions

www.myeconnect.org

From Basecamp



Andy Leider - MYE ED

2008 CA Recruitment

February was a busy month of recruitment and interviews. Andy and I visited many schools and interviewed many students who sent in applications for the MYE program. The recruitment for CA is done and acceptance letters are out. This looks like it will be another amazing summer at MYE.

MYE 2008 is shaping up nicely! We have had a tremendously positive, enthusiastic response to our new website and the DVD. Our student recruiting has been more targeted and successful than ever with these new tools.

To date, we have had nearly 70 applications from California students wanting to take part in MYE's Wilderness Challenge. Add to that 10 applications from Montana, four from Florida and three from New York and we're looking at a great summer!



Jerry Lawrie CA Life Skills Coordinator

Food For Thought

Why are trees your best friends in a Wilderness survival situation? Name two common trees in your area.

Write to us at the MYE Newsletter with your answers - newsletter@myeconnect.org

MYE Graduates!! We are still looking for 2008 Intern Program and Leadership Lab participants

- ▶▶ Are you keen, motivated and interested in building on the skills you learnt during your Montana Wilderness Challenge Program? Do you want to be part of a high performing team having a fun and challenging time? If so we want to hear from you
- ▶▶ We are looking for graduates who want to have a fun and challenging experience on either the MYE 2008 Intern Program or 2008 Leadership Lab. Both programs have a Montana and home component. For more information go to our new look website and read more..... www.myeconnect.org

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February CA Retreat - Fairview Gardens – by Jerry Lawrie

The February retreat almost went without a hitch - except, that is, for the persistent precipitation over the weekend that persuaded us to make a minor change to our plans.

We had intended to do an early morning excursion to the Gardens to harvest vegetables for lunch. The mud changed that up just a bit and instead we went to the Farmer's Market to do the harvesting.

The Saturday Market is very busy, with all sorts of people shopping for local and organic food. The MYE alumni were given a few tasks to complete. They needed to buy some vegetables for lunch; to find what they thought was the weirdest looking fruit and vegetable; and lastly, they needed to do a customer survey. Among other things they asked if people knew the definition of local and organic, and which they preferred; and what their favorite vegetable was, and what they did with it. It was a beautiful morning for a Farmer's Market visit.

Once we had our vegetables we headed over to Fairview Gardens and prepared lunch. We chopped vegetables for the Butternut Squash soup, tore up lettuce for a large salad and prepared fruit for an apple cobbler. Lunch took about an hour to prepare and as the soup cooked we got to take a tour of the Gardens. The Gardens look small from the road – if you blinked you could miss them. In reality they are actually quite big.



The tour was great and we got to sample everything we saw - except for the chickens. Some, if not all of the alumni, caught and held a chicken. They were fast, but we were a bit faster. At least some of us! I didn't catch a chicken.

Lunch ready by the time the tour was over. We all sat together, had a moment of silence, talked about what was in the food, and then - dug in. And boy, it tasted great! The soup and salad were amazing, and the apple cobbler was epic.

The focus of the day was food - where it comes from and where it goes. We talked about how different foods affect the body and the differences between local and organic. There were questions about school food and how to make that healthier. The day was not only fun, but filled with information and insight on how we consume food.

The day ended with a few hours at Zodo's Bowling and Beyond. We did about an hour of bowling and, believe it or not, we ate some more. I was full after we left Fairview Gardens, but I guess a little bowling makes you hungry. We filled up again on a vegetarian pizza and lemonade.

Thank you to all those who came and participated in this retreat and I look forward to seeing you at the next one.

Note: Please check your email often so you know what is coming up next.



► MYE Alumni—Community Service - Morgan Spurlock and Marion Nestle Event.



On March 5th MYE partnered with Quasars, the Santa Barbara Natural History Teen Program, to run the Morgan Spurlock event. Morgan Spurlock was in the documentary called 'Super-size Me'. This movie is about junk food and the impact it has on our health and well-being, and is well worth seeing if you haven't already.

Five alumni volunteered for the event, which ended up being bigger than any of us expected. They participated in a range of activities including the set up, clean up, registration, supervising kids and serving food.

At the end of the event some of the alumni had their pictures taken with Morgan Spurlock.

If you are interested in volunteering for events, please contact Jerry

Jerry Lawrie
CA MYE Life Skills Coordinator
jerry@myeconnect.org

► Alumni - Upcoming Events

Applications still being accepted for the MYE 2008 Intern Program and Leadership Lab

To find out more and to download application forms go to our website www.myeconnect.org or contact us at basecamp@myeconnect.org

The application form has more details and you can follow the directions on the form to apply. For help email as above and we will answer any of your questions.



MYEarth - Students For a Sustainable Future - Sommer Roefaro



No matter what your interests are or which career path you choose to pursue, you can also choose to make a difference in the world, for yourself, your community and people who are less fortunate than you. In this month's MYEarth section Sommer Roefaro writes about Engineers who want to make a difference.....

Engineers often interact and collaborate with various disciplines within engineering and the social sciences to solve the world's social problems. An example is Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA).

When you think of an Engineer, what comes to mind? Is it a person with a pocket protector, behind a desk, looking at a computer screen and perhaps one dimensional? This idea of an engineer is a traditional view, where as today's engineers are often very different.

EWB-USA is a non-profit humanitarian organization that works with communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students.

Montana State University in Bozeman has a EWB-USA chapter with 20 active members who are working to bring portable water to school children in rural, western Kenya. Members of the MSU chapter represent a variety of fields such as engineering, computer science, sociology, film and biological sciences.



Kenya is located at the eastern edge of Africa bordering the Indian Ocean, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Lake Victoria, and Tanzania.

The MSU chapters mission is to provide each of the 57 primary schools in the Khwisero Division of western Kenya with portable water and improved sanitation.

The Khwisero Division is rural, densely populated region about an hour's drive north of Lake Victoria and Kenya's third largest city.

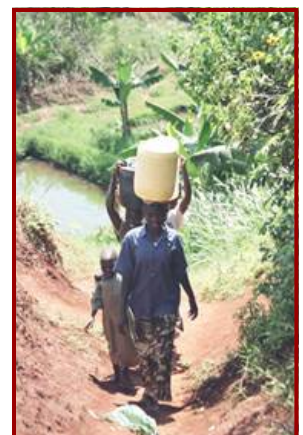
Currently woman and children in Khwisero walk 5km a day to collect water, from often unclean sources. The drinking of unclean water leads to prevalence of life-threatening diseases in the community. The combination of disease and time spent collecting water causes students to miss school, mostly the girls. This also prevents woman from spending time on income generating activities.

► Can you imagine spending 1-2 hours walking with many gallons of water balanced on your head?!

The impact of the projects will be that students no longer spend 1- 2 hours a day hauling water for their schools and households. Over the course of a school years, girls lose 50,000 hours of class time. The sanitary latrines and hand washing stations will further reduce diseases and missed class time. An added bonus, if the latrines work as intended, the community can use the composted waste to amend the typically infertile soil.

To date the EWB at MSU have installed 2 deep water wells at the Shirali and Munyanza primary schools, built a composting latrine at the Shirali primary school and implemented a school hand washing program. These projects served approximately 3000 people with clean water.

This summer they will be installing 3 more wells to the 57 primary schools targeted for project completion.





Staff Page - Where Are They Now?



► Irene Bailey - MYE Instructor and World Traveler

I took a journey to Ecuador this winter. It was the first time I had traveled alone for such an extended period of time. I truly enjoyed it and came to realize that you are never really alone because you meet so many other travelers from all over the world.

I traveled all over Ecuador and took advantage of the many opportunities that came my way to move outside my comfort zone. I was also able to practice my Spanish, which is now flowing smoothly again. Taking buses into the unknown; living on a farm whose access way required a 30 minute walk through calf deep mud; and swimming with penguins are only a few of the special moments I had - that I now cherish.

On the way I met some kind and interesting people with whom I enjoyed an assortment of wild and unique adventures. They were people from all parts of the world who I now consider friends.

The trip was also an amazing chance for reflection and personal growth



I had lots of time to think on the long bus rides, sitting out rainy days on a farm in the jungle and during other random solitary moments.



I realized that sometimes we get so caught up in our day to day life that we neglect to think about the important things, and being aware of ourselves and how our life is going. Important questions are often shoved aside like, what can we improve about ourselves; who are the people that are important in our lives and how do we show it; what goals or dreams do we have that maybe have been put aside or forgotten?

I don't have all the answers but what I did do was allow myself to think about and ponder some of these and other questions about MY life.

You don't have to travel to far away places to think about your life.



You just have to take the time and have the desire to get a little more out of life. If we are aware of ourselves, I think we will be happier and so will those around us.

I'd like to put out a challenge to anyone reading this story -

Take a moment out of your busy life and ask yourself some of those questions that often get ignored.

We are hoping Irene will write some more about her adventures in Ecuador and the Galapagos in a future newsletter.....watch this space.....

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