



Wonders in Nature - Wonders in Neighborhoods

Somers, Cindy. 2001. Wonders in Nature Wonders in Neighborhoods. Denver Zoo.

Contact: Lisa Stauffer Mayen
 W.I.N.-W.I.N. Program Coordinator
 Denver Zoo
 2300 Steele Street
 Denver, CO 80205-4899
 Phone: 303-376-6709
 Email: lstauffermayen@denverzoo.org

Program Profile	
Program Description:	The Wonders in Nature – Wonders in Neighborhoods (W.I.N.-W.I.N.) program conducts hands-on, wildlife conservation education in underserved urban elementary schools. The program consists of 4 to 7 classroom visits and lessons conducted by a W.I.N.-W.I.N. instructor. As part of the program teachers are also provided with pre and post-visit activities, hands on science activities, and guidebooks. Each class also receives a field site visit to one of more than 30 partner sites that include natural areas, parks, and museums. In addition, the W.I.N.-W.I.N. program encourages family involvement by organizing a free family day at the Denver Zoo.
Program Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop wildlife-related education activities and materials that support the use of parks, natural areas, wildlife areas, and other public facilities as outdoor classrooms. 2. Establish partnerships that develop and implement wildlife-related education and emphasize the relevance of environmental education to urban and multicultural audiences. 3. To enhance Colorado residents’ understanding of wildlife and how people’s actions affect wildlife and wildlife habitat in their own community.
Program Funding:	Primary funding comes from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver Zoo, and the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund,
Program Links:	http://www.denverzoo.org/education/win.asp
Evaluation Profile	
Evaluation Goals & Questions:	<p>The goal of this evaluation is to determine if the program is achieving its goals and meeting the needs of participating schools.</p> <p>All evaluation questions were designed to determine if program components are successfully meeting program goals.</p>
Evaluation Methods:	Qualitative and quantitative data were collected from students, teachers, principals, partners, and parents using questionnaires and feedback forms. In addition, evaluators conducted interviews and focus groups to obtain insights from stakeholders. Data were also gathered from parents and instructors through discussion groups. Instructors were asked to keep an observation journal of teacher and student behavior over a two week period during site visits.
Evaluation Instruments:	Evaluation instruments are available with the report

How were results used?	The results from the evaluation are used in applying for grant funding as well as in determining areas of improvement. Areas that were improved, as a result of the evaluation, include the development of a scheduling database, the development of guidebooks; the revision of in-class curriculum, the restructuring of staff meetings; the implementing of family day in place of family night at Denver Zoo, the creation of an in-class lesson video library, a quarterly newsletter, and the development of new teacher training.
Evaluation Cost:	\$150,000 (covered planning process and actual implementation of evaluation plan)
Evaluation Insights:	<p>What worked well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of all stakeholders • Growth in understanding of the program for stakeholders • Increased exchange of information between administrators and staff • Created time for stakeholders to reflect on the program and what it was meant to be • Evaluation process forced stakeholders to step away from their day to day duties and to look at the big picture • Data was integrated into program marketing and promotional materials <p>What were the important evaluation “lessons learned”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving all stakeholders was valuable • Participatory approach of evaluation is useful in nonformal education settings • Stakeholder involvement allows more to be accomplished with less money
Profile information provided by:	Chasta Beals W.I.N.-W.I.N. Logistics Specialist Denver Zoo 2300 Steele St. Denver, CO 80205 303-376-4892 cbeals@denverzoo.org
Profile prepared by:	Jennifer Sellers and Dr. Michaela Zint, University of Michigan Dr. Beth Covitt, Michigan State University
Posted on:	January 2008