



Wilderness Orientation and Holiday/Weekend Excursions for Non-Resident Students

Public

Name of Assessment Project: Wilderness Orientation and Holiday/Weekend Excursions for Non-Resident Students

Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project:

Role
No Roles Selected

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Providing Department: Campus Recreation

Other

Units/Departments Involved in

Assessment Project:

Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project

Wilderness Orientation

Non-resident students had the opportunity to choose from ten orientation trips ranging in length from 5-8 days. Each trip had up to 12 participants on it composed of incoming 1st year and Transfer students. The trips provide a unique small group onboarding experience for incoming students. All trips were open to both CA residents and non-residents.

Outdoor Excursions

Non-resident students had the opportunity to choose from ~60 trips during the 3 academic quarters. These trips ranged from 8 day spring break programs to short 4 hour local hikes. The trips offer an opportunity to have a small group shared experience while doing adventure activities in locations around San Diego, California and Mexico. Most trips were open to both CA residents and non-residents.

Assessment Project Description

Wilderness Orientation-Wilderness Orientation participants were administered paper evaluation form at the close of the program with a number of demographic, scaled assessment and open ended questions.

Outdoor Excursions-Participants on outdoor excursions were emailed a link to an online assessment form at the close of the trip. The assessment had a demographic, scaled assessment and open

ended questions. All survey responses were entered into Baseline to provide analytics.

Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes

1. Broadening non-residents students' community & social support structure, especially to help them connect to CA residents.
2. Offer alternative activities during campus holidays and closures.
3. Increase non-residents sense of resiliency to better address the academic rigors of UCSD and living away from family and friends.

Relationship to Student Affairs Lead in a Diverse Global Society, Engage in a Healthy Lifestyle

Learning Outcomes:

Assessment Project Start: 7/1/2012

Assessment Project End: 6/30/2013

Population/Sample

Total: 145 non-resident participants on Wilderness Orientation and Outdoor Excursions

- 29 Non-resident participants: Wilderness Orientation participated in the survey
- 33 Non-resident participants: Fall 2012-Holiday Weekend & Overnight trips
- 59 Non-resident participants: Winter 2013-Holiday Weekend, Overnight and Spring Break Trips
- 24 Non-resident participants: Spring 2013- Holiday Weekend, Overnight trips

Type of Assessment: Student learning outcomes and/or behavioral outcomes, Satisfaction study

Other Assessment

Type(s):

Assessment Methods: Surveys, Participant Narratives/Journaling

Other Assessment

Method(s):

Data Collection Tools

Wilderness Orientation participants were administered paper evaluation form at the close of the program with a number of demographic, scaled assessment and open ended questions. There were 29 responses from non-resident students, representing a 100% response rate from this group. All assessment questions had a Likert scale of 1 – 5 with 1 representing Strongly Disagree and 5

representing Strongly Agree.


Outdoor Excursions-Participants on outdoor excursions were emailed a link to an online assessment form at the close of the trip. The assessment had a demographic, scaled assessment and open ended questions. There were 40 responses from non-resident students that participated in the survey, representing a 34% response rate.

Data Analysis Methods

Wilderness Orientation-All survey responses were entered into Excel to provide the average response rate. Listed below are the average responses score for those questions most closely aligned with non-resident learning outcomes.

Excursion-All survey responses were entered into Baseline to provide analysis.

Presentation of Findings

 Assessment-excursions graphs

Progress:  100%

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline

Source Name	Project Name
No items to display.	

Summary of Findings

Wilderness Orientation:
There were 29 responses from non-resident students, representing a 100% response rate from this group for Wilderness Orientation.

Average response rate-

I made new friends on my WO trip – 4.71 (Strongly Agree)

I plan to stay in contact with people I met at WO – 4.57 (Strongly Agree)

I feel better prepared to start UCSD – 4.46 (Agree to Strongly Agree)

I gained a better appreciation for the talents of others – 4.40 (Agree to Strongly Agree)

I gained a better appreciation of my own talents -- (4.22 (Agree)

I am more able to deal with challenges – 4.19 (Agree)

Quotes from the open ended questions.

- *I expected just a physical challenge but what I got was a new perspective on myself and a group of lifelong friends.*
- *I learned that nothing is too difficult to attempt.*
- *I liked working together as a group and I can do more than I thought I could before the trip.*
- *The trip helped me overcome my fears.*
- *I learned not to judge others so harshly based on first impressions, what I thought of people on the first day was very different than my impression of them at the end of the trip.*

- *I've learned that the limits that I've placed on myself are too shallow and need to be expanded.*
- *During this trip, I learned how to encourage myself to continue and persevere to complete my goals in life.*

Outdoor Excursions

There were 40 responses from non-resident students, representing a 34% response rate from this group for Outdoor Excursions. Attached below are graphical representations to those questions most closely aligned with non-resident learning outcomes.

Impact of Assessment

Our assessment for both Wilderness Orientation and Outdoor Excursions confirmed the impact and value of these programs on non-resident students. We expected the results to show the outcome of increased community, and it did, but were also happy to see that 74% of the respondents also felt that experience would help them be more able to deal with challenges. The small group experience also contributed to 80% of the respondents feeling that the experience increased their sensitivity to individual and cultural differences.

Lessons Learned

The data analysis performed on the Wilderness Orientation responses was inadequate to deliver the information we needed it to. Now that we are using compliance assist/baseline we can better craft our survey instruments to provide proper data collection which will in turn lead to improved analysis.

In implementing Baseline, we also saw our response rate drop dramatically. With paper forms we had near 100% response rate, but with baseline it was in the mid 30% range. We will return to paper forms but input them in baseline on the back end in the future.

Supplemental Information

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