

Getting Kids on Board with AIS: A Program for Young Children



Presented by Judy Ruch, Volunteer
March 2009



Presentation Objectives:

- Young children can evoke change to: clean boats; throw away old bait
- Demonstrate format of program
- Share tools for implementation
- Building community support
- Answer questions and idea exchange

W e l c o m e

- Meet and Greet
- Name-tags
- Sign-up sheets
 1. Names of all adult and children attending (for contact hours used in grant applications)
 2. Adults sign for permission to use children's pictures in media

Reading Time

- Discuss what the children like to do in the lakes and rivers. You can note these on a chart.
- Ready the story, Up North at the Cabin.
- Discuss how children can keep lakes clean and safe. Use the Mystery Bag to help with ideas. Show Wisconsin Wild Cards. Chart these ideas also.
- Tell them they have a “big job”. Their parents never had to know these ideas when they were children.

Boat Check

- **Give clear directions** before going outside. Children need to stay with the group and be aware of cars etc.
- **Children are given post-it notes** to put on the boat wherever they see something that should not be there before the boat is moved or placed in a body of water. (They are not to remove weeds and grasses.)
- **Distribute more notes** as they see more trouble spots. Challenge them to find the really “tricky” spot.
- **Discuss all areas marked.** Children remove notes and give them to you.
- **Take a group picture** in front of the boat to use on the author’s page in the book.

Make visors

- Have foam visors with Clean Boats, Clean Waters stickers already affixed. Children pick the color they want.
- Have age appropriate foam decorations at each table (older children have more punch-out creatures and letters for their initials)
- Adults use permanent markers to add names of children.
- Allow only 5 minutes for this activity.

Sing our song

Present Gift Bag

Illustrate book

- I show the children a piece of cardstock. We will draw using the skyscraper (vertical) way not the hot dog (horizontal) way.
- Ask for several children to draw what we can do to help our lakes. Assign points from the chart. Give them cardstock and colored pencils. Adults or older children can write the appropriate sentence on the bottom of the page.
- Ask for several to draw what they like to do in lakes. Repeat as above.
- Remind them that this book will become a part of their library. Give lots of encouragement and thank them for their effort.
- If children want to take a picture home, provide more paper so they can make another.

Building Community Support

- Summertime
 - Library Story Hours
 - Daycare centers
 - Camps
- School Year (Spring)
 - Outdoor Education Programs in schools
 - Daycare centers

Publicity

- Winter: reminder notices to librarians as they plan for the spring and summer
- Area newspapers
- Posters
- Local TV and radio coverage

Feedback

- Parents approaching the library with children and verbally asking how anyone could have such a weedy boat – then the light bulb went on!
- After one presentation, a 12 year old girl said, “Boy do I have a lot to tell my dad!”
- A call from a librarian who had her board members approach her to ask if she would request our program. This person was a member of a local lake committee and this committee attended the session as well.
- A three year old asking to sing the song over and over. That was her learning modality.

- A request to present at this conference. I was told there is little curriculum for young children on this topic.
- When Channel 12 aired their piece about this program, they took a poll afterwards. When asked who thought young children could assist with AIS, 67% agreed, and 33% did not.
- Having a request to repeat the program a second year.

Budget

- Foam visors – approx. \$1.50 per child
- Up North at the Cabin - \$16.99 bookstore; \$12.74 new at amazon.com (used copies available)
- Gallon zip-lock baggies (40 count, \$4.12 at Wal-Mart)
- Ream of cardstock – approx. \$16 at Office Max
- 2-3 sets of colored pencils- (24 count) - \$4 each
- Photo processing – approximately \$.20 each; about \$1 - \$1.40 per book
- Lamination and binding of book – \$20
- Duplication: (of song and boat inspection sheet) \$20
- Nametags: 100 for \$3.99 at Office Max
- Approx. Total - \$150 for 6 sessions

Budget Sources:

- **AIS Matching Grant** – my materials are allocated from this: \$150 – 300 per year
- **My contribution:** my hours and my mileage
- **Benefits accrued:** my hours, mileage, and contact hours with each individual contribute to the matching portion of the grant.

Resources

Available free from the Wisconsin DNR:

Julia.solomon@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-3531

Christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-0061

Wildcards: These are pocket-sized cards with “wild” facts about aquatic invasive species.

WT-759 - Curly-leaf pondweed

WT-741- Eurasian Water Milfoil

WT-740- Purple Loosestrife

WT-734- Round Goby

WT-739-Rusty Crawfish

WT-737-Sea Lamprey

WT-760-Spiny & Fishhook Waterfleas

WT-738-Zebra Mussels

FH-243-2007 (VHS Kid's Card)

- **Brochure: Help Stop Aquatic Invasive Hitchhikers WT-801**
- **Brochure: Minnows as Bait
FH-240-rev2008**
- **Clean Boats, Clean Waters stickers*
WT-828**
- **Dispose of Bait stickers WT-830**
- **Up North at the Cabin by Marsha Chall:**

***This is the only item that you will need 2 per child – one for the visor and one for the take-home bag**

Supplemental Material

- Lesson plans
- Boat check sheet
- Song sheet
- Newspaper publicity
- Poster for public relations
- Sample giveaway bag

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