



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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July 14, 2006



Armory Square DREAM Update June 2006

June kicked off an amazing Summer of adventures for the children of Armory Square as summertime DREAM began and High Adventure traveled off to California!

The fifteen rather precocious and nervous High Adventure mentees gathered with DREAM staff and some of the mentors the eve of June 16th, anxious to leave their families and embark on their adventure. A trip to Disneyland, Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, Sequoia National Park, a San Francisco Giants game, and Alcatraz, a day at the beach, several wonderful meals, and eleven days later the well-travelled crew returned to the Boston Logan Airport, boarded the DREAM bus and slept the whole way back to Windsor. After the trips down and many ups, everyone was glad they attended and excited to share their stories with family members back at home!

In the meantime, DREAM Summer Interns (affectionately called “D-Unit”) began working in teams – a northern team consisting of five interns working with the Franklin Square, Elm Street, Franklin Street, Birchwood, and Highgate communities and a southern team of two interns working with the Forest Park, Armory Square, Northwoods, and Hollow Drive communities. A Forest Park mentor, Mo Stevens, and a recent Castleton State graduate, Erin Huckabee, are excited to be tag-teaming this summer’s southern section programming.

D-Unitification (a.k.a. “orientation”) took place at Camp DREAM during the first week of June and the summer began the following week with introductory events. DREAM staff and interns spent a day in Armory Square, going door-to-door introducing themselves to DREAM families, meeting new families, discussing the summer, and inviting families to come outside to enjoy an ice cream sundae. It was an amazing first two weeks.

During these first two weeks of orientation and introductions DREAM staff ran a diversity training session for this year’s summer interns. The session was designed to build a common vocabulary amongst DREAM’s summer staff – discuss past experiences with stereotyping, different manifestations of prejudice, and the intersection of class-ism, racism, and cultural relativity as it pertains to their work with DREAM communities.

The Summer Interns have been splitting the children of Armory Square into small groups based on age, interests, and/or activities, allowing them to work with the children in small clusters to build connections between children on a peer-to-peer level that will facilitate a growing sense of community. Acknowledging that not all of the peer groups interact positively, however, the interns have changed their approach and will be mostly taking smaller groups of children on adventure trips away from the community each Tuesday.

Mo and Erin have spent the summer so far with the Armory Square children taking advantage of the school’s field to play games and go for a quick dip. Trips to the local swimming hole have also



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been particularly popular with the older kids! These opening events have been bringing some of the community kids out and set the tone for an enjoyable, relaxed summer. Mo and Erin hope to be able to reach more of the Armory Square children as the summer continues and the High Adventurers return to the scene.

DREAM has also joined forces with another summer intern, Justine Modica, a DREAM mentor from Dartmouth College. Justine will be organizing regular hiking, boating, and outdoors challenge trips for older DREAM youth throughout the summer. Justine will begin running outdoors programming in the first week of July and will continue until the end of the summer. A partnership with Dartmouth's community service program, the Tucker Foundation, made it possible for DREAM to embark into more in-depth and regular outdoors experiences with DREAMers.

The last week of June kicked off this season of Camp DREAM with a 5-day session of boys ages 10-11. DREAMers from the Birchwood, Forest Park, Franklin Square, Franklin Street, and Elm Street communities met up for a week of exploration, starting with Camp's newly completed main road. Despite the rainy weather the group took to Camp, designing campsite seals and flags, playing capture the flag, mountain biking, and exploring the woods in which most of these campers have now spent three consecutive summers! Armory Square children will be headed up in other camp sessions soon.

We are also happy to share with you an overview of the past year! A physical copy of our Annual Report will be mailed to you shortly, but in the meantime, feel free to view it online:

Access DREAM's 2005 Annual Report from our website:

http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Annual_Reports/_Web/AnnualReport_2005.pdf

The mentors arrived back on campus for their summer term during the last week of June, so summer Friday programming will be starting up in the first week of July!

Also remember, you can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to:

http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local_Programs/Program_Reports/Monthly_Reports/_Web/.

And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

Keep DREAMing!

Kristin Burdge
Programs Liaison

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