



The DREAM Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 361
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The Norwich DREAM Update February 2007

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during February. You can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/localprograms.htm>. And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

The Norwich DREAM Program had a chalk full February of recruiting, activities, and adventure!

Highlights from this month include:

- A pirate themed weekend of Winter Adventure Camp up at Camp DREAM,
- Bringing on 8 new mentors and 2 children from Highgate, and
- Two amazing Friday DREAMs at Highgate.

Fridays: The core of DREAM happens every Friday when DREAM mentors meet with their partners in group and one-on-one settings. The meetings occur on college campuses, onsite at the children's homes, and at spaces around the community. This month, Friday program included:

- An afternoon of games and fun at the Highgate community center. All of the mentors and children were excited to see each other after a long winter break!
- An amazing Friday DREAM at Highgate where the new mentors got to meet all of the children and have their first ever Friday DREAM.





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Special Events for Children: This month Maggie Ringey was hired to be the Highgate summer intern this coming summer! She is excited to have the opportunity to run programming with and spend her summer with the children of Highgate and of all of the DREAM communities throughout Vermont.

LABs/Parental Involvement: Local Advisory Board (LAB) meetings are where parents, mentors, and other community members come together to learn more about each other, build trust, discuss ideas and issues, and build stronger lines of communication. This month, the mentors flew the community once every other week to keep everyone informed of upcoming DREAM events. Along with flying the mentors also knocked on all of the doors and talked to the parents to have some more face to face interaction.

Fundraisers: Fundraisers are an important component of the program. They help build ownership amongst the children in the running of the program, and also provide a fun forum to build leadership and organizational skills. The Norwich DREAM Program is currently waiting to hear about the Pritzker Award they have applied for from Norwich University.

Trips/High Adventures: Perhaps the most exciting components of DREAM are its end of semester trips and summer adventure programs. Children, mentors, parents, and staff look forward to these where the DREAM bus comes out of hibernation and the full group has new experiences together. High Adventure Trips are perhaps the most ambitious of all DREAM activities, and include children in the planning, fundraising, and governing of two-week adventures to places that have included Colorado, Utah, California, and Alaska. This month, the mentors continued to plan their end of the year trip to Washington D.C.! They have set the date for April 13-15.

Capacity Building: The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children into the program and improving the program. Such initiatives this month have included:

- Interviewing potential mentors and bringing on 8 new mentors,
- Bringing on the first 2 children (**add names**) from Highgate into the school year DREAM program. In March the group will start running Friday programming back at Norwich University for the children in DREAM at Green Acres and (**names**),
- The mentors are still planning on doing a Friday activity once a month at Highgate to keep all of the children involved and excited about DREAM, and
- As the new mentors are trained the group will be bringing on more children from Highgate into the school year DREAM program.

Mentor Training: The DREAM Central Office is in close communication with the mentors as to their individual and group needs. The Office continues to develop training modules to fit the mentors' needs, and encourages them to go on retreats and have other bonding events – it is



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important for the children and mentors to have a tight and energized mentor group. This month, training activities included:

- Old mentors asking the potential mentors situational questions during their interviews and helping talk them through their answers and talking about their roles as a mentor.
- The new mentors will be going over DREAM's **rules and guidelines** packet after their spring break.

Camp Specific: DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run program and overnights all seasons. This month at Camp Norwich DREAM had Winter Adventure Camp (WAC)! For the 3rd and 4th of February 5 children and four mentors joined the group from the Norwich University DREAM Program for an overnight at Camp DREAM. This was the first ever combined Winter Adventure Camp session and it was a huge success. The mentors chose a pirate themed WAC session for their mentees that focused on adventure, exploration, and conquering their fears. The children and mentors played broomball on the frozen high seas (also known as the pond), went sledding and cross country skiing, solved a hostage mystery, where they found the mentor kidnapped mentors, roasted apples in a fire and had a fun filled weekend of pirate adventure!

Keep DREAMing!

Chad Butt
Programs Directors