

**2001 Project Abstract**  
For the Period Ending June 30, 2003

**FINAL REPORT**

AUG 12 2003

**TITLE:** Residential Environmental Education for Youth  
**PROJECT MANAGER:** Kurt Marple  
**ORGANIZATION:** Camp Courage  
**ADDRESS:** 8046 83<sup>rd</sup> St. NW, Maple Lake, MN 55358  
**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** [www.courageelc.org](http://www.courageelc.org)  
**FUND:** Minnesota Future Resources Fund  
**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Ch. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 10(j)

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 90,000**

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Camp Courage originally intended to use \$78,750 for scholarships to provide 1,600 to 2,400 student contact days of residential environmental education to schools statewide that had not had such an experience within the past three years. A student contact day typically includes four class periods, three meals, evening programs, and one night's lodging. From November 6, 2001 to May 7, 2003 Camp Courage actually provided 2,649 student contact days to 35 Minnesota school groups for \$71,692. The project exceeded expectations and was under budget. As a result, the scholarship balance and some marketing dollars, \$7,531.55, will return to the Minnesota Future Resources Fund.

Six of the seven school groups that attended during the fall of 2002, reserved dates for the fall of 2003. These schools realize the value of residential environmental education and after initial help from the grant have found the resources to continue the experience. No LCMR funds supported fund raising efforts.

The Camp Courage Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC), Kurt Marple, was released from group management, staff scheduling, and some teaching duties during the grant period to market to schools. News releases faxed to school districts, attendance at the 2001 Education Minnesota Professional Conference, and personal contacts by individuals loyal to Camp Courage recruited most of the project's school groups. Prompt follow up by the Courage EEC included brochure and planning guide mailings, referrals to the program's web site ([www.courageelc.org](http://www.courageelc.org)), phone calls, trip planning meetings, and site tours. The extensive program knowledge of the Camp Courage EEC contributed significantly to the recruitment, reservations, and recidivism of school groups.

**Date of Report:** August 12, 2003  
**Date of Workprogram Approval:** June 13, 2001  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2003

## **LCMR Final Work Program Report**

### **I. PROJECT TITLE: Residential Environmental Education for Youth**

**Project Manager:** Kurt D. Marple  
**Affiliation:** Camp Courage  
**Mailing Address:** 8046 83<sup>rd</sup> St. NW  
Maple Lake, MN 55358

**Telephone Number:** 320 963 3121

**E-Mail:** <eecccourage@yahoo.com>

**Fax:** 320 963 3698

**Web Page address:** [www.courageelc.org](http://www.courageelc.org)

#### **Total Biennial Project Budget:**

<b>\$ LCMR Appropriation:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ Amount Spent:</b>	<b>= \$ Balance:</b>
\$90,000.00	-	\$ 82,468.45	= \$ 7,531.55

**Legal Citation:** ML 2001, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 10(j).

#### **Appropriation Language:**

10(j) Residential Environmental Education for Youth 90,000  
\$90,000 is from the Minnesota Future Resources Fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Camp Courage for student scholarships and marketing for the residential environmental education program.

### **II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Camp Courage originally intended to use \$78,750 for scholarships to provide 1,600 to 2,400 student contact days of residential environmental education to schools statewide that had not had such an experience within the past three years. A student contact day typically includes four class periods, three meals, evening programs, and one night's lodging. From November 6, 2001 to May 7, 2003 Camp Courage actually provided 2,649 student contact days to 35 Minnesota school groups for \$71,692. The project exceeded expectations and was under budget. As a result, the scholarship balance and some marketing dollars, \$7,531.55, will return to the Minnesota Future Resources Fund.

Six of the seven school groups that attended during the fall of 2002, reserved dates for the fall of 2003. These schools realize the value of residential environmental education and after initial help from the grant have found the resources to continue the experience. No LCMR funds supported fund raising efforts.

The Camp Courage Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC), Kurt Marple, was released from group management, staff scheduling, and some teaching duties during the grant period to market to schools. News releases faxed to school districts, attendance at the 2001 Education Minnesota Professional Conference, and personal contacts by individuals loyal to Camp Courage recruited most of the project's school groups. Prompt follow up by the Courage EEC included brochure and planning guide mailings, referrals to the program's web site ([www.courageelc.org](http://www.courageelc.org)), phone calls, trip planning meetings, and site tours. The extensive program knowledge of the Camp Courage EEC contributed significantly to the recruitment, reservations, and recidivism of school groups.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

##### **Result 1: Scholarships For Youth**

<b>LCMR Budget:</b>	<b>\$ <u>78,750.00</u></b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ <u>7,058.00</u></b>

From November 2001 to May 2003 Camp Courage provided 2,649 student contact days to 35 Minnesota school groups. A student contact day (student day) is determined by the number of nights stayed at Camp Courage. It typically includes four class periods, three meals, evening programs, and one night's lodging.

At an average calculated cost of \$33.37 per student day, Camp Courage reached students that have not had such an opportunity, within the past three years, due to geographic location or financial limitations. Camp's normal range of groups includes third through eighth grade and special needs students. The latter groups are often ungraded and can be housed in any school including high schools. This program was offered to students from the general school population, but Courage is highly experienced in integrating students with special needs and students from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Full scholarships were awarded to first-year schools during the 2001-2002 school year. Half scholarships were awarded to schools that returned during the 2002-2003 school year and to first-year schools during the fall of 2002. From January to May of 2003 full scholarships were awarded to first year schools.

Schools realize the value of residential environmental education and renew their commitment for future years. Of the seven school groups that attended during

the fall of 2002, six of them reserved dates for the fall of 2003. These schools have found the resources to continue the experience now that the grant is over. No LCMR funds supported fund raising efforts.

Scholarships were awarded over four periods. See table below for dates and dollar amounts.

### **Scholarships:**

**Full Scholarships:** Camp Courage provided full scholarships for 1,734 student days. Each scholarship was based on actual expenses, not to exceed \$55.00 per student day.

\$55,766.27

**Half Scholarships:** Camp Courage provided half scholarships 915 student days. Each scholarship was based on actual expenses, not to exceed \$27.50 per student day.

\$22,983.73

### **Result 1: Scholarships for Youth:**

• Full Scholarships November – December 2001	\$12,597.06
• Full Scholarships January – April 2002	\$18,659.58
• Half Scholarships October – November 2002	\$ 7,378.86
• Full Scholarships January – May 2003	\$24,509.63
• Half Scholarships January – May 2003	<u>\$ 8,546.87</u>
• Total to Date	\$71,692.00

Camp Courage was pleasantly surprised to find that the grant exceeded expectations and was under budget. The original intent was to provide scholarships for 1,600 to 2,400 student days for \$78,750. Courage actually provided 2,649 student days of environmental education to Minnesota school children for \$71,692. As a result, the scholarship balance of \$7,058 will return to the Minnesota Future Resources Fund.

### **Result 2: Marketing**

<b>LCMR Budget:</b>	<b><u>\$ 11,250.00</u></b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 473.55</u></b>

The Camp Courage Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC), Kurt Marple, was released from certain duties during the grant period to market to schools. Duties involving group management, staff scheduling, and teaching were assumed by a team leader and other staff during the granting period. Environmental Education Program Assistant, Karen Hussey was hired for the

2001-2002 school and Deborah Stoddard was hired for the 2002-2003 school year.

A project team consisting of in kind consulting and support from the Courage Community Relations Department, other Courage staff, and the Environmental Education Advisory Board also provided marketing support.

The following items were updated prior to or during the grant period: Camp Courage Environmental Education planning guide, web site ([www.courageelc.org](http://www.courageelc.org)), and power point presentation. See VI. A. Past Spending.

Articles and advertisements were placed on the S.E.E.K web site, in the Minnesota Educator, and in various Courage publications. Display materials were developed and booths were set up at the 2001 and 2002 Education Minnesota Professional Conferences and at the 2002 Science Teachers Association, Spring Conference. News releases were faxed to almost every school district and some individual schools twice. A variety of Courage staff, Advisory Board members, teachers, and other individuals loyal to Camp Courage visited or telephoned potential group leaders. Every method generated inquiries; however, faxing news releases, personal contacts, and the 2001 Education Conference resulted in most reservations.

A program brochure with a grant insert were printed. The EEC followed up each initial contact. He mailed brochures and planning guides, responded to phone calls, made referrals to the web site, gave site tours, made reservations, planned group visits, and met with group leaders during their visits. Both the enthusiasm and extensive program knowledge of the Camp Courage EEC, as the primary marketing person, contributed significantly to the recruitment, reservations, and recidivism of school groups.

**Budget:**

Personnel	\$ 9,700
Marketing materials	<u>\$ 1,550</u>

Total	\$11,250
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**Result 2: Marketing**

• Personnel	\$9,445.98
• Materials	<u>\$1,330.47</u>
• Total	\$10,776.45

See Attachment A.

Because it was difficult to predict what methods would best work to recruit groups, funds allocated for communication, office supplies, printing, photography,

and mileage were shifted to accommodate the most effective approach. For example, mailings and telemarketing were more effective than school visits, so mileage funds were shifted to telephone and paper costs. (See revised budget items on Attachment A).

## **V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:**

<b>All Results:</b>	<b><i>Budget</i></b>	<b><i>Actual</i></b>
<b>Scholarships:</b>	\$ 78,750	\$ 71,692.00
<b>Marketing:</b>	<u>\$ 11,250</u>	<u>\$ 10,776.45</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$ 90,000	\$ 82,468.45

See Attachment A.

## **VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:**

### **A. Past Spending:**

Since 1981, Camp Courage has committed itself to providing residential environmental education that is consistent with the State Plan for Environmental Education, A GreenPrint for Minnesota. In 2000 Camp spent in excess of \$120,000 on direct service to over 2,500 students. Since 1955, Courage has made environmental studies a regular, fully funded part of its summer program, reaching thousands of children and adults.

In anticipation for an increased need to market its Environmental Education program Courage directly invested the approximate amounts between January and June of 2001:

- Brochure and supporting materials \$ 500.00\*
- Planning Guide Update \$ 150.00\*
- Web site design (mostly labor) \$1,000.00
- Multimedia presentation \$ 800.00

\*The in-kind support of these activities would at least double the dollar amounts.

In 2001 Courage received a curriculum development grant for \$47, 000. The grant allowed Camp to upgrade the science content of the environmental education curriculum. Funds were used to purchase equipment & design technology and to develop 12 new science focused classes.

### **B. Current and Future Spending:**

During the 2002 -2003 school year, Courage spent approximately \$170,000 to serve over 3,100 students. During the 2003-2004 school, Courage expects to spend between \$180,00 to \$210,000 to serve between 3,100 - 3,500 students.

**C. Project Partners:**

The schools that were recruited for this project as well as Courage staff from the Community Relations, Camping, and other departments provided in-kind support for the project. Other partners included Camp's Environmental Education Advisory Committee members:

Chuck Winkelman, Retired Mayor of St. Cloud, Minnesota  
Dick Elliot, Science Teacher, Triton High School, Triton, Minnesota  
Jill McRaith, Assistant Principal, Brimhall Elementary, Roseville, Minnesota  
David Astin, Science Teacher, Wayzata, Minnesota

**D. Time:**

*July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2003*

**VII. DISSEMINATION:**

A project abstract will be posted on the LCMR web site.

**VIII. LOCATION:**

Wright County, Maple Lake, Corrina township, 55358 (See attached map.)

**IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Three periodic work program progress reports were submitted.

**A final work program report will be submitted by August 30, 2003.**

Project Title: Residential Environmental Education for Youth

Legal Citation: Laws 2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subdivision 10(j).

Funding Appropriated: \$90,000

Attachment A: Deliverable Service, Total of Current Expenses, and Related Balance

Budget for Results from Work Program

Budget Item (Title of Result)		Result 1 Budget:	Result 1 Revised Budget	Result 1 Current Invoice:	Result 1 Balance:	Result 2 Budget:	Result 2 Revised Budget	Result 2 Current Invoice:	Result 2 Balance:	Project Total Budget	Revised Project Budget	Project Current Invoice	Project Current Balance
	Courage Account Number	Scholarships				Marketing							
Full Scholarships Expense (Attachment 1)	01-13100-004320-304000	52,500.00	55,766.27	24,509.63	0.00					52,500.00	55,766.27	24,509.63	0.00
Half Scholarships Expense	01-13100-004320-304000	26,250.00	22,983.73	8,546.87	7,058.00					26,250.00	22,983.73	8,546.87	7,058.00
New Marketing Personnel (Attachment 2)	01-219100-004320-304000					9,700.00	9,700.00	2,360.04	254.02	9,700.00	9,700.00	2,360.04	254.02
Communications (Attachment 3)													
Postage	01-25900-004320-304000					170.00	170.00	131.55	18.52	170.00	170.00	131.55	18.52
Telephone	01-262100-004320-319000					150.00	218.05	218.05	0.00	150.00	218.05	218.05	0.00
Office Supplies													
Paper	01-251000-004320-319000					30.00	35.70	35.70	0.00	30.00	35.70	35.70	0.00
Envelopes	01-251000-004320-319000					50.00	50.00	34.65	15.35	50.00	50.00	34.65	15.35
Printing	01-310000-004320-319000					700.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00	0.00	0.00
Photography	01-25900-004320-304000					100.00	100.00	62.75	37.25	100.00	100.00	62.75	37.25
Local automobile mileage	01-321000-004320-319000					350.00	276.25	127.84	148.41	350.00	276.25	127.84	148.41
Totals		78,750.00	78,750.00	33,056.50	7,058.00	11,250.00	11,250.00	2,970.58	473.55	90,000.00	90,000.00	36,027.08	7,531.55



To Clear Lake - U.S. #10

To St. Cloud  
14 miles

MN #24

9 miles

Bass  
Lake

Clearwater  
Lake

County Road #39

Cedar  
Lake

< CAMP  
COURAGE

County  
Road #7

MN #55

Annandale

#37

County Road #7 South  
You need #7 North!

1/2 mile Maple Lake

Mississippi  
River

Hasty

#8

Interstate #94

Lake Maria  
State Park

## Camp Courage

8046 - 83 Street N.W.

320-963-3121

County Road #39, 15 miles

Follow signs to and past State Park,  
Stay on #39 until Camp Courage sign

MN #25

To  
St. Paul  
60 miles

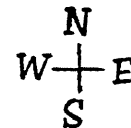
### From Minnesota Highway 55

we are located 1/2 mile west of the community of Maple Lake. Watch for the green Camp Courage sign pointing to turn north. Travel 3.2 miles on county road #7. The camp gates are on the left side at the bottom of a little hill.

### From Interstate 94, take exit #178

at Clearwater, turn towards Annandale. Travel nine miles south on Minnesota #24 until you see the green Camp Courage sign to turn left onto county road #39. Travel two miles. Follow the sign to turn right onto county road #7. The camp gates are one mile on the right side at the bottom of a little hill.

To Minneapolis - 50 miles,  
To Buffalo - 11 miles  
MN #55



**LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES**

100 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. - ROOM 65

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1201

**PHONE:** 651/296-2406 **FAX:** 651/296-1321

**TTY:** 651/296-9896 OR 1-800-657-3550

**EMAIL:** lcmr@commissions.leg.state.mn.us

**WEB:** www.lcmr.leg.mn

**John Velin, Director**

**August 18, 2003**

Kurt Marple

Camp Courage

8046 – 83<sup>rd</sup> Street NW

Maple Lake, MN 55358

Re: Residential Environmental Education for Youth  
2001 LCMR Project – Pass Through Appropriation

Dear Mr. Marple:

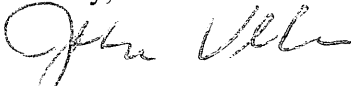
Thank you for your final project report for the Residential Environmental Education for Youth Project. As we have discussed, \$7,531.55 of the \$90,000.00 pass through appropriation will return to the Minnesota Future Resources Fund. I appreciate this.

For projects administered by nonprofit organizations, it is very common that a portion of the appropriation is returned to its funding source. We prefer organizations return funds rather than try to “use up” the appropriation near the end of the project time period. The amount turned back by this project is less than 9% of the total appropriation, which we believe is a good estimate based on the numerous variables that make up this type of project.

In most cases, proposed projects with their work programs and budgets are developed far in advance of when the appropriation is awarded. At best, the budgets are developed using estimates and most work programs/budgets are amended several times over the biennium. You have provided us with clear amendments and updates and have made necessary changes as this project progressed. In our view, you managed the program well.

We wish you continued success with your program. Although the official end date has been reached for this project, we hope the marketing efforts accomplished during this project will enhance the your outreach well into the future.

Sincerely,



John Velin

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

**Senators:** Ellen Anderson, Dennis Frederickson, Linda Higgins, John Marty, Pat Pariseau,  
Carrie Ruud, Dallas Sams, David Tomassoni, Jim Vickerman, Charles Wiger

**Representatives:** Dennis Ozment, Chair; Irv Anderson, Ron Erhardt,  
Tom Hackbarth, Jim Knoblach, Mark Olson, Howard Swenson, Kathy Tingelstad.

c: Gail Fox - DNR

Robert Pollard  
Courage Center Camping Department  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

**Senators:** Ellen Anderson, Dennis Frederickson, Linda Higgins, John Marty, Pat Pariseau,  
Carrie Ruud, Dallas Sams, David Tomassoni, Jim Vickerman, Charles Wiger

**Representatives:** Dennis Ozment, Chair; Irv Anderson, Ron Erhardt,  
Tom Hackbarth, Jim Knoblach, Mark Olson, Howard Swenson, Kathy Tingelstad.