

Ag Camp

June 17-21, 2013

Switzer/KSU Agriculture Youth Camp

Sponsored by a grant funded in part by USDA-NRCS; SARE-NCR; The Kansas Black Farmers Association; Robert Brogden Auto Plaza; Caroline Peine Foundation and Kansas State University College of Ag and Office of Diversity

Issue 1, September 2013



2013 Camp Schedule

- June 17 Arrive at Kansas State check into dorms. Meet Coach Snyder & Garden!
- June 18 Farm, Grain, & Mill tours. Rock Climbing, conservation project!
- June 19 Water Conservation Osbourn, KS USDA-NRCS. Nicodemus camping
- June 19-21 Fishing, horseback-riding, Garden, farm equipment, tree planting, Dining with the Farmers.

Nicodemus Camps

Nicodemus Educational Camps hosted its first camp, June 2009, with 22 young men. The camp has grown and since 2010 we have included young women. Camp is for youth 5th - 10th grades with a focus on inner city youth from low-income families. National statistics confirm that youth who have the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities will lead more productive lives and it helps to combat child obesity. Our goal is to get our youth outside to have fun and learn to enjoy our earth in sustainable ways.

Since 2009 support for the camp has been amazing! Kansas State University's Dr. Zelia Wiley, Coach Bill Snyder and Dr. Myra Gordon have led the way with support. We have partnered with professors whom have volunteered their time to provide lessons, tours of the farms, mill and grain sciences and other areas of the College of Ag and fun campus activities.



Switzer/KSU Camper's learned that:

Two (2%) of the US population lives on farms. Individuals or family corporations operate 90% of US farms. Fifteen (15%) of jobs for the US population are provided by agriculture.



Campers Meet Legendary Coach

“The most important things in your life are God, Family and then everything else” Coach Bill Snyder

On the rare occasion when Bill Snyder would stop working and be able to spend time with his children Sean, Shannon and Meredith, he would tell them stories about his mother. How she had raised him herself in their downtown, one-bedroom apartment in St. Joseph, Mo. How she had worked at a department store to be able to send him to college. How she had thrown herself — all 4 feet 9 inches — in front of the door when he tried to leave without permission.

Now 73, Snyder, in his 21st season in Manhattan, Kan., Snyder has rescued perhaps the nation’s worst major-college program, retired, returned and has now done it again. His secret is in the details. Snyder mostly saw Sean and his sisters each summer. The first thing he asked about was school. He never yelled, never swore, never raised his voice, but if their grades had slipped, he checked their progress nightly come fall.

Coach Snyder is a loyal and honest man. He has an amazing relationship with Veryl Switzer former KSU football great (see story below), because of his friendship; Coach Snyder is forever our FRIEND.

Veryl Switzer KSU Football & Administrator



Switzer, a backfield star of the 1951-53 KSU Grid Teams, was the chairperson for the Wildcats’ Intercollegiate Athletic Council from August 1979 until accepting the Associate Athletics Director Position. He served as the Associate Dean and Assistant Vice-President for university minority affairs from 1973 to 1988. Long recognized as one of the state’s top athletes, he was a charter member of the K-State Sports Hall of Fame and it enshrined in the Kansas Sports School Activities Association Hall of Fame. A native of tiny Nicodemus, Kansas, and a 1954 graduate of K-State, Switzer was the fourth player taken in the 1954 NFL draft and played professional football for five years as a Green Bay Packer. He served two years as a first lieutenant in the Air Force and worked for the Chicago Board of Education for 10 years before coming to KSU in 1969. Mr. Switzer is one of the top farmers, still today, in Historic Nicodemus, KS. He loves working with youth as much as he loves farming. Thank you Mr. Switzer (Mr. Switzer in pictured on the right).

Summer Camp Get Youth Outdoors



JohnElla Holmes, founder and executive director along with Dr. Tammy Counts, Mrs. LueCreasea Horne, Mr. Lance Fuller, and Nadine and Willie Washington saw the vision for the camp and made the first camp happen June 2009!

The summer one-week residential camp for youth in the 5th -10th grades started in 2009. The camp objectives are 1) get our youth outdoors and expose them to outdoor activities, exercise, better eating habits, gardening, farming and sustainable projects; 2) provide the youth with a pre-college experience, learning about majors and careers in Agriculture; and 3) expose them to Kansas' great history and farming in historic National Park Nicodemus, KS.

"Rural youth may take for granted the opportunity they have to be able to go out their front door and see, smell and experience livestock or a farm environment" (Kylene Orebaugh, 2013), but not so for some Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Texas and New Mexico urban youth, who attend camp.

The camp provide youth with the opportunity to experience agriculture on a campus and experiential farm life opportunities on an actual farm.

" For some of the urban youth, it is their first time on a campus, touching an animal at the dairy farm, touring a working farm and seeing all the majors and careers available to people with an agriculture degree", Dr. Zelia Wiley, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Kansas State University.

A major focus of our youth program is to provide a pre-college experience and enable effective job/higher education preparedness for young people. LueCreasea Horne, Assistant Director stated, "using farming as a hands-on teaching tool, young people are challenged both mentally and physically, gaining a broad range of experiences from observation and decision-making to physical fitness and tool usage".

Community Garden in Historic Nicodemus Kansas

Each year youth get the opportunity to go to the Alexander Farm and also the Gary Alexander community

garden. The event is called "Dining at the Farmers Table". We have used vegetables from his garden for our meal. Each camper and family received a reusable shopping bag, an herb planter and fishing kit. In the picture below Gary is instructing one of the campers at the



Gary Alexander instructs one of the summer campers at the community garden.

Nicodemus community garden. Mr. Alexander was a farmer his entire life and loved to farm. Many looked to him for farming advice and much more. Mr. Gary Alexander passed away in 2013. He will be missed.

Anthony Meals McNair Scholar Develops Curriculum and Water Day sponsored by NRCS

As part of his ongoing honors research, Mr. Meals developed a curriculum focused on some essential components and goals of outdoor education. Through his partnership with the Veryl Switzer/KSU Agriculture Camp staff, he piloted his curriculum during the June 2013 camp. During the pilot test students participated in an interactive outdoors education lesson lasting about two hours on the Kansas State University Campus.

Students were asked to complete a pre-assessment and post-assessment at the lesson delivery site. The focus of the study is concerning the conservation of natural resources and will allow students to develop a deeper understanding of conservation.

The goal of this study was to enhance outdoor educational programming for future students in Kansas. The lesson had a hands-on component, group work and presentation. The groups presented their findings and also developed a recycling commercial. The presentations were held at the outside speaker's forum at the Leadership Studies building. For information about the study and the findings please contact Anthony Meals (785) 447-2948 or ameals@k-state.edu

Water Day by Steve Sprick

Presentors were: Cleo Hahn, Kansas Trappers assoc; Tony Ifland, Private Lands Biologist, USFWS; Mark Shaw, Fish Biologist, KSWPT; and Steve Sprick & Rod Boland, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Cleo Hahn gave a presentation on the wildlife that one might find in Kansas. He talked primarily about furbearing animals, the identification of these animals and also the importance of the different species.

Tony Ifland gave a presentation on the different plants and small wildlife that are found in the area. Tony also discussed the different uses for native plants and also pointed out plants that have invaded Kansas

Mark Shaw gave a presentation on the native fish found at the river. Mark used a portable shocker to shock fish to the surface to show the kids what types of fish are in the river. The fish are temporarily stunned but were turned back to the river unharmed.

Steve Sprick and Rod Boland made a presentation on water quality. Kids got in the water and conducted tests both by sampling the water and conducting tests for nitrogen, phosphates, turbidity, PH and temperature; and also by sampling the invertebrates in the river. Discussed how water quality affects everyone.

The Osborne chapter of Pheasants Forever provided and cooked the meal for the campers.





2014 Camp Dates:
June 16-20, 2014
July 23-25, 2014

Applications are online and available at
www.johnella1.wix.com/nicodemuscamps or call
(785) 236-9014 and one can be e-mailed or mailed

Camp fee is \$325.00 plus \$25 app. fee

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events are funded by:

SARE - NCR



Nicodemus Educational Camps

721 Ridgewood Dr.
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Board of Directors:

Mrs. LueCreasea Horne
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