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|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Field trips                          | Nutrition classes      | Team building       |
| Football                             | Parties & celebrations | Tennis              |
| Gardening classes                    | Prevention programs    | The arts            |
| Health and life skills               | Quiet time             | Track & field       |
| Martial arts                         | Reading and literacy   | Tutoring            |
| Mentoring                            | Self-defense           | Values development  |
| Music instruction                    | Soccer                 | Video games         |
| Multicultural & diversity activities | Softball               | Violence prevention |
|                                      | Swimming               | Water safety        |

The primary focus of the program is to develop youth in four key areas:

- \*A sense of competency – learning what you do well
- \*A sense of usefulness - the opportunity to do something of value for others
- \*A sense of belonging - developing a place to belong and be accepted
- \*A sense of influence – a chance to be heard and influence decisions

**Community Service** is one of the program components of the Teen Zone. It is related to a sense of usefulness, which is one of the program's focus areas. Community Service provides youth with an opportunity to contribute to the community. It also exposes them to people who are less fortunate. The Middle School years are often a period when youth are quite self-centered. The concept of community service allows them to look beyond themselves and develop some awareness of the needs of others.

**Tutoring and mentoring** are other components of the Teen Zone. They are related to a sense of competency, which is one of the program's focus areas. The Office of Community Service (OCS), an entity of the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Florida, provides services through a program titled "STAR". Their mission is to provide mentoring services for elementary, middle and high school students from under-served areas of our community. Exemplary students from the University of Florida and committed adults from the community will participate as mentors for the program. Mentors are charged with providing academic assistance, life skills training and recreation activities in order to assist young students in this well-rounded program. The program approaches the development of the student on two different levels: the building of a student/mentor relations and the refinement of team building skills within a career-oriented project. The OCS also provides a program titled "Street Law Program" where youth feel empowered with the basic understanding and practical experience with the law that they will gain via this course. Youth discover the criminal justice through educational interaction with the law students and legal professionals from community and the University of Florida. Students will gain public speaking experience by presenting at their graduation.

**Nutrition Class** is one of the program components of the Teen Zone. It is related to a sense of usefulness, which is one of the program's focus areas. The Family and Consumer Science Agent of the Alachua County Extension Service will be using University of Florida students from the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) to teach topics which include: basis nutrition, food safety, and planning nutritious meals and snacks according to the USDA Food Guide Pyramid. Programs and learning activities would be presented approximately weekly to the group. Assistance can be given in menu planning for healthy snacks to complement the program. It is the belief that these goals will contribute to the fight against childhood obesity and all the connected health

problems (hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, etc.) that are recognized as a growing epidemic in this county.

**Reading and Literacy** are program components of the Teen Zone. They are related to a sense of competency, which is one of the program's focus areas. America Reads will be providing services in this area.

#### Program Objectives

The goal of *America Reads* is an increase in reading achievement among children in Gainesville that will be facilitated by the development of a sustainable vehicle for training and supporting reading tutors in a variety of community settings. The *America Reads* program will accomplish three specific objectives designed to achieve this goal:

- ◆ Provide one-on-one tutoring to increase reading achievement among students identified as at risk for reading failure.
- ◆ Develop college students as effective community resources.
- ◆ Develop sustainable partnerships between the University of Florida and community entities.

Existing Program Model (*America Reads*) *America Reads* presently serves at-risk elementary and middle school-aged children. Approximately 150 tutors receive federal work-study funds or course credit working as *America Reads* tutors each year. Tutors in the *America Reads* program receive approximately ten hours of initial training and additional follow-up training and supervision throughout the semester. Training in several effective tutoring methods is provided by UF faculty (*America Reads* staff). Instructional methods were selected based on the empirical data that demonstrate their effectiveness in improving literacy. The training in these multiple methods incorporates what research propounds as necessary for effective literacy-based instruction. Tutors are instructed in how to determine which methods would be most appropriate based on individual student needs. In addition, tutors are provided with an overview of effective tutor-student interactions and general suggestions about working with children. Tutors are currently assigned to elementary and middle schools and community after-school centers to tutor at-risk children in reading and math.

**Water Safety and swimming** are another one of the program components of the Teen Zone. They are related to a sense of competency, which is one of the program's focus areas. Children will learn the basics of how to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone. Certified instructors will teach children water safety and swimming skills. Children will learn how to watch out for the "dangerous too's"--too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.

**The Violence Prevention Program** is comprised of curricula aimed at teaching children pro-social skills based on the belief that violent behavior is learned through

modeling and reinforcement and that these same processes can be used to teach children nonviolence. Our staff teaches specific topics such as conflict resolution, training students in empathy, cooperation, and perspective taking, and teaches a process to help peers settle differences peacefully. We also teach students their responsibility as it relates to the laws of the community. Our staff is qualified in the sharing of information with staff of the Recreation Division and schools and the community in anti-gang interventions. This is vital to preventing gang-related youth violence.

**The Substance Abuse Program** educates young people about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and the risks associated with their use. These issues have been a primary feature of our prevention initiatives. Prevention efforts also focus on helping youths develop life skills to help them avoid problems with substance use. We teach youth the perils of substance abuse and their responsibility in making right choices, through refusal skills. We also teach youth about their obligation to adhere to their responsibilities to laws and ordinances.

The Gainesville Police Department will teach both the Violence Prevention Program and the Substance Abuse Program. These programs are part of the Community Resource Office of the agency. The officer assigned to the program is a public education police officer who works primarily with youth in grades k-8.

### **Contracted Outcomes**

Research has demonstrated that middle school youth who are involved in supervised activities are at a significantly reduced risk for pregnancy, substance abuse, and delinquent behavior. The Teen Zone will achieve the following outcomes:

**Goal:**

80% of youth participating in the program will not have initial or repeated involvement with the juvenile justice system.

**Outcome:**

We will demonstrate this outcome by receiving reports from our local police department and continued monitoring of the students.

**Goal:**

80% of students participating in the program will achieve or maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or more, or increase their academic achievement.

**Outcome:**

Our partnership with the School Board of Alachua County will enable us to compare data listing the student's grade point average at the start of the program, with the data at the end of the academic year. This information would not be transferred to us, just the end statistics.

**Goal:**

The overall average attendance of program participants will be better than the overall average attendance of non-participants.

**Outcome:**

Our data records will also keep records of attendance for the academic year.

<b>Kanapaha Middle School</b>	
<b>a. Personnel</b>	154 days
Staff	\$ 31,890
2 Water Safety Program Lifeguards (16hrs. @ \$6.50/hr.)	\$ 104
Water Safety Program Instructor (16 hrs. @ \$7.00/hr.)	\$ 112
<b>b. Fringe Benefits</b>	
FICA	\$ 359
<b>c. Equipment</b>	
2-way Radios	\$ 700
Video Games/Controllers	\$ 500
<b>d. Supplies</b>	
Office Supplies	\$ 200
Program Materials and Supplies **	\$ 10,800
Printing and Copies	\$ 335
Advertising	\$ 500
<b>f. Contractual</b>	
Transportation for field trips	\$ 500
<b>h. Other</b>	
Staff Training and Development	\$ 2,000
Special Events	\$ 1,000
Field Trips	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>

**Goal:**

The overall average attendance of program participants will be better than the overall average attendance of non-participants.

**Outcome:**

Our data records will also keep records of attendance for the academic year.

<b>Westwood Middle School</b>	
<b>a. Personnel</b>	154 days
Staff	\$ 31,890
2 Water Safety Program Lifeguards (16 hrs. @ \$6.50/hr.)	\$ 104
Water Safety Program Instructor (16 hrs. @ \$7.00/hr.)	\$ 112
<b>b. Fringe Benefits</b>	
FICA	\$ 359
<b>c. Equipment</b>	
2-way Radios	\$ 700
Video Games/Controllers	\$ 500
<b>d. Supplies</b>	
Office Supplies	\$ 200
Program Materials and Supplies **	\$ 10,800
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>