

Varied Interest Annual Report 2015



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Missoula Children's Theatre Auditions

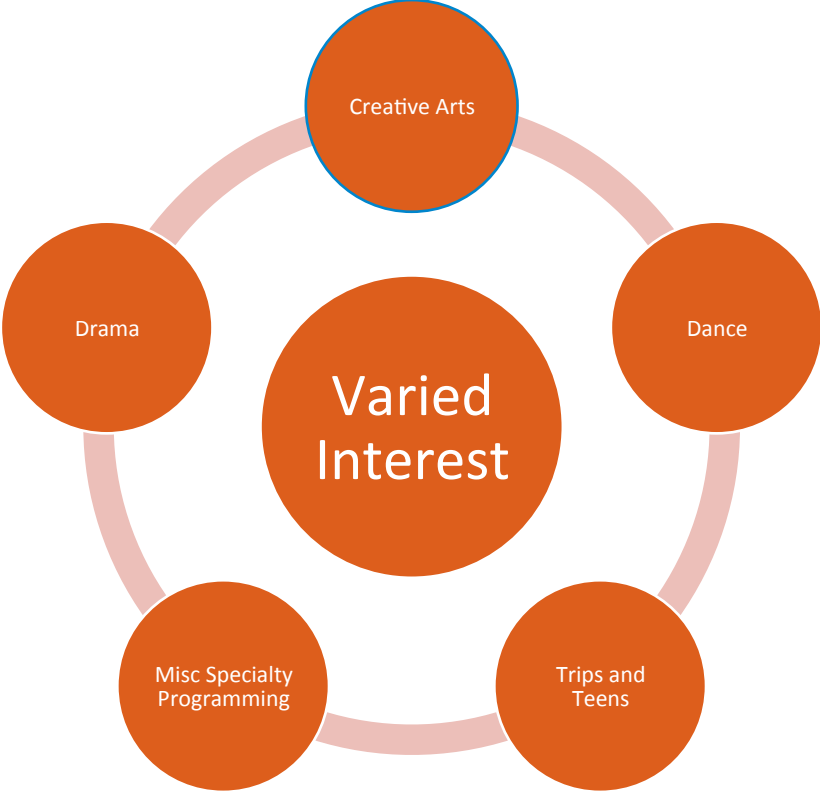
Introduction

Varied Interest programs offered through the Wheaton Park District include day, evening, weekend, camp, individual, parent-child, family, special events, parties and workshop opportunities in drawing, painting, music/instrument lessons, vocal groups, youth drama, youth dance, Irish dance, computer classes, horsemanship, volunteerism, babysitting, magic, Lego technology, science, photography, ceramics/pottery, trips, teens, foreign language, fencing, crafts, and more.

Classes are held at the Community Center, Leisure Center, Central Athletic Complex, Monroe Middle School, Memorial Park Bandshell, and Cooperative Park District Partnership facilities.

Many households consider Varied Interest programs as additional expenses. In difficult economic times, fewer families have money set aside for “additional expenses”. It is our goal to continue to provide fun and education programs at an affordable price.

Varied Interest works with three local high schools to provide a safe and fun environment for the Safe Celebrations/Post Prom Events. St. Francis High School, Wheaton North High School, and Wheaton/Warrenville South High School students all enjoy an evening of games, food, and entertainment at the Wheaton Park District Community Center in celebration of their Junior and Senior Proms. Each year, over 1,200 students and 300 parent volunteers come to the Community Center for their April/May events.



Highlights of 2015

- Babysitter’s Showcase ran for the 4th consecutive year in 2015.
- Dance instructors have established a reliable following for their classes and have been actively brainstorming new ways to reduce cancelled class sections.
- The Wheaton Park District secured complimentary housing for the Missoula Children’s Theatre staff for a fifth consecutive year, courtesy of Hampton Inn-Naperville. This donation is valued at approximately \$1,700.
- The 2015 Spring Dance Recital was successful with over 200 dancers participating, and over 600 spectators.
- Teen Service Series continues to co-op with the Glen Ellyn Park District offering trips such as: Ronald McDonald House, Feed My Starving Children, West Suburban Humane Society, and participation in both District’s Halloween events.
- Post Proms hosted over 1,200 students at the Wheaton Park District Community Center in 2015. Over 300 volunteers assist at the Safe Celebration events for St. Francis High School, Wheaton North High School, and Wheaton Warrenville South High School.
- Wheaton Youth Chess Club was created in Fall of 2015 with 17 participants.
- Youth Spanish classes were offered and the first session ran with 6 participants.
- Lincoln Park Zoo Lights family trip ran for the third consecutive year with 18 participants.



Children’s Playhouse: Wizard of Oz Production

Program Group	Parts	Wages	Supplies	Contractual	Revenues	Total Expenses	Net Revenue
Horsemanship 15	14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,820.00	\$4,955.00	\$3,820.00	\$1,135.00
Horsemanship 14	16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,472.00	\$5,182.00	\$3,472.00	\$1,710.00
Miscellaneous Teens 15 (Includes Zone Parties)	772	\$5,322.48	\$1,225.33	\$2,804.42	\$14,135.26	\$9,352.23	\$4,783.03
Miscellaneous Teens 14 (Includes Zone Parties)	2,511	\$4,789.88	\$1,644.84	\$2,264.86	\$15,018.77	\$8,699.58	\$6,319.19
Music 15	109	\$16,615.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,070.50	\$16,615.60	\$5,454.90
Music 14	59	\$11,143.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,950.00	\$11,143.28	\$2,806.72
Science 15	63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,827.00	\$1,080.00	\$747.00
Science 14	47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$720.00	\$1,480.00	\$720.00	\$760.00
Ice Skating 15	122	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,559.34	\$16,242.00	\$10,559.34	\$5,682.66
Ice Skating 14	111	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,999.40	\$9,090.00	\$5,999.40	\$3,090.60
Camp I Don't Know 15	197	\$24,174.03	\$1,852.18	\$11,132.62	\$59,533.05	\$37,158.83	\$22,374.22
Camp I Don't Know 14	93	\$25,798.13	\$2,609.19	\$10,527.75	\$51,568.00	\$38,947.58	\$12,620.42
Full-time Salary/Benefit 15	=	\$40,595.18					
Full-time Salary/Benefit 14	=	\$41,484.39					
Total 15	2,876	\$126,483.47	\$13,449.40	\$58,230.20	\$253,210.29	\$157,567.89	\$95,642.40
Total 14	4,358	\$128,235.03	\$17,021.39	\$52,345.05	\$232,924.49	\$156,129.59	\$76,794.90

*Missoula and Playhouse – first number is audition participation, second number is casting participation

Budget Explanations

Misc. Teens	Camp I Don't Know	Dog Obedience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Zone Parties •fewer participants and parties resulting in -\$2,000 •Varied Interest programs included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spanish •Chess •Teen trips/School Day Out trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Format changed to mirror Camp Np Name •Weekly registration instead of bulk 6 week registration •Increased participation and revenue resulting in + \$10,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No revenue due to program being moved to Leisure Center budget; \$3,470.16 in 2014 •Moved to Area 304 resulting in \$0 net revenue for 2015 GL

Budget Explanations (cont)

Pottery class revenue was elevated due to Brownie and Girl Scout troops looking to receive their Pottery badges as well as increased class offerings.

Youth Dance reduced expenses on wages and supplies resulting in a net revenue of \$23,449.24.

Children’s Playhouse had two of its biggest titles in 2015; Alice in Wonderland and Wizard of Oz. This resulted in a net revenue of \$8,439.17, an increase of \$2,528.66 from 2014.

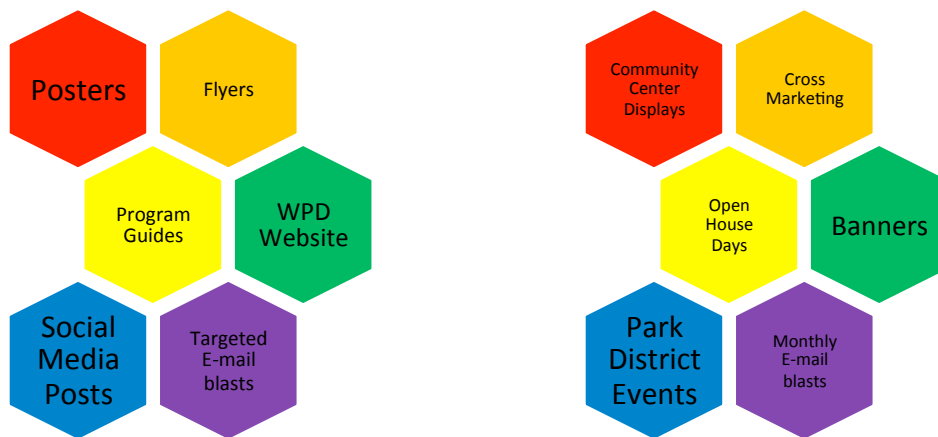
Guitar lessons added a second night of lessons and doubled the number of sections offered increasing the net revenue from 2014 by \$2,648.18.

Miscellaneous Teens net revenue dropped approximately \$2,000 due to less Zone Parties being booked in 2015. There were 47 parties in 2015 as opposed to 64 in 2014.

Ice Skating participation increased resulting in a \$2,592.06 net revenue increase from 2014-2015.

Marketing

Program cancelation can be a common occurrence in park district programming. The marketing strategy used to help keep programs running is referred to as “Generational Marketing”. Marketing initiatives are geared specifically for certain generation segment; one size, no longer fits everyone.



Marketing (cont)

Teen Service Series typically has a hit or miss season when it comes to our volunteer trips. In 2015, targeted e-blasts were done to market this opportunity. After this e-blast went out, the Service Series received a slight spike in enrollment for all three of their trip opportunities. Fall 2015 was the first season since the Series was created in 2012 that had all of their volunteer opportunities run; each trip totally over 10 registrations.

Volunteer Opportunities for our teenagers
Sign up now at: wheatonparkdistrict.com

The Glen Ellyn and Wheaton Park Districts are teaming up to offer you volunteer opportunities. Whether you are looking to fulfill volunteer services hours or looking to give back, we have experiences lined up for you!

Ronald McDonald
Saturday, September 19 | 10A-3P
Travel with us to the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola to prepare meals for families whose children are undergoing treatment at a Chicago area hospital.
[Register](#)

Halloween Happening
Friday, October 16 | 4:30-8P
Join us for one of Wheaton Park District's biggest events! Volunteers will get to dress up as some of Disney's favorite characters and give children a night to remember.
[Register](#)

Boo Bash
Saturday, October 17 | 10-11:30A
Volunteers will dress up at one of Glen Ellyn's big events! Visit with families and be part of lifetime memories.
[Register](#)

West Suburban Humane Society
Saturday, November 14 | 10A-3P
If you love animals, this is your chance to give back to a local animal shelter! Our trip will include a tour of the humane society, a cleaning project, and time to visit with the animals.
[Register](#)

Feed My Starving Children
Monday, December 7 | 5-8P
We will go to the Feed My Starving Children packing site in Aurora to create **MannaPacks** to send overseas to countries that are suffering from hunger.
[Register](#)

School Day Out Teen Trips were planned for the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving Break, as done every year. Up until 2014, the trips were cancelled due to low enrollment. In 2014, the trips ran with the minimum participation numbers. In an effort to increase enrollment, a target e-blast was done in November to promote these two trips. On Monday, November 23, 18 teens attended Main Event in Warrenville for bowling, lazer tag, video games, and an indoor ropes course. On Tuesday, November 24, 10 teens went to iFly in Naperville for indoor skydiving. These were our highest numbers for School Day Out Teen trips to date.



“You Spoke, We Listened”

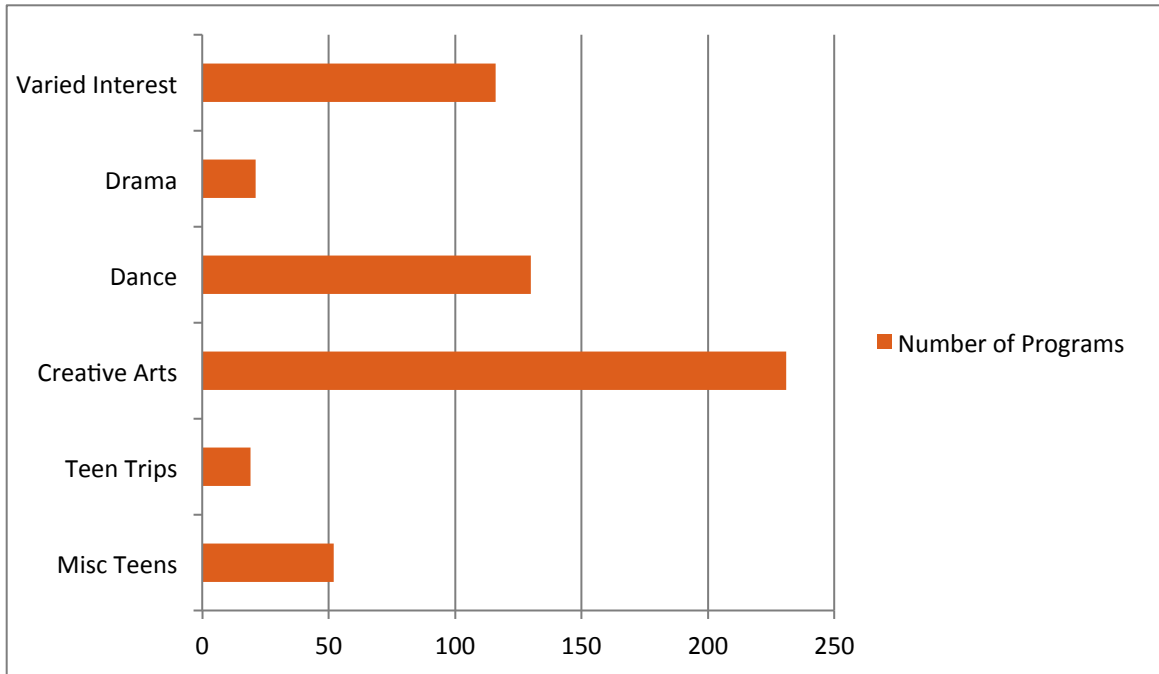
Putting our Action Plan to use!

Action Plans were created in late 2014 from Participant Surveys sent out after classes were completed. Staff took a look at the feedback and created an Action Plan in order to better serve our residents and patrons based on their requests and needs.



- ❖ Camp I Don't Know
 - New innovative activity options were offered utilizing park district employees/contractors
 - Pottery
 - Geocaching
 - Create Your Own Comic Book
 - Dance/Fitness
 - New field trips planned to better suite the 11-15 age group
 - Improvement in parent-camp director communication by utilizing the camp e-mail address created
- ❖ Dance
 - Effectively communicated the “Parent Observation Day” letting parents know they were permitted to stay and watch class on the last day
 - Saturday classes offered 9am-noon
- ❖ Missoula Children’s Theatre
 - Slightly increased registration fee to offset the desire for registrants families to not have to purchase performance tickets
 - 2 complimentary tickets to one show included in new registration fee

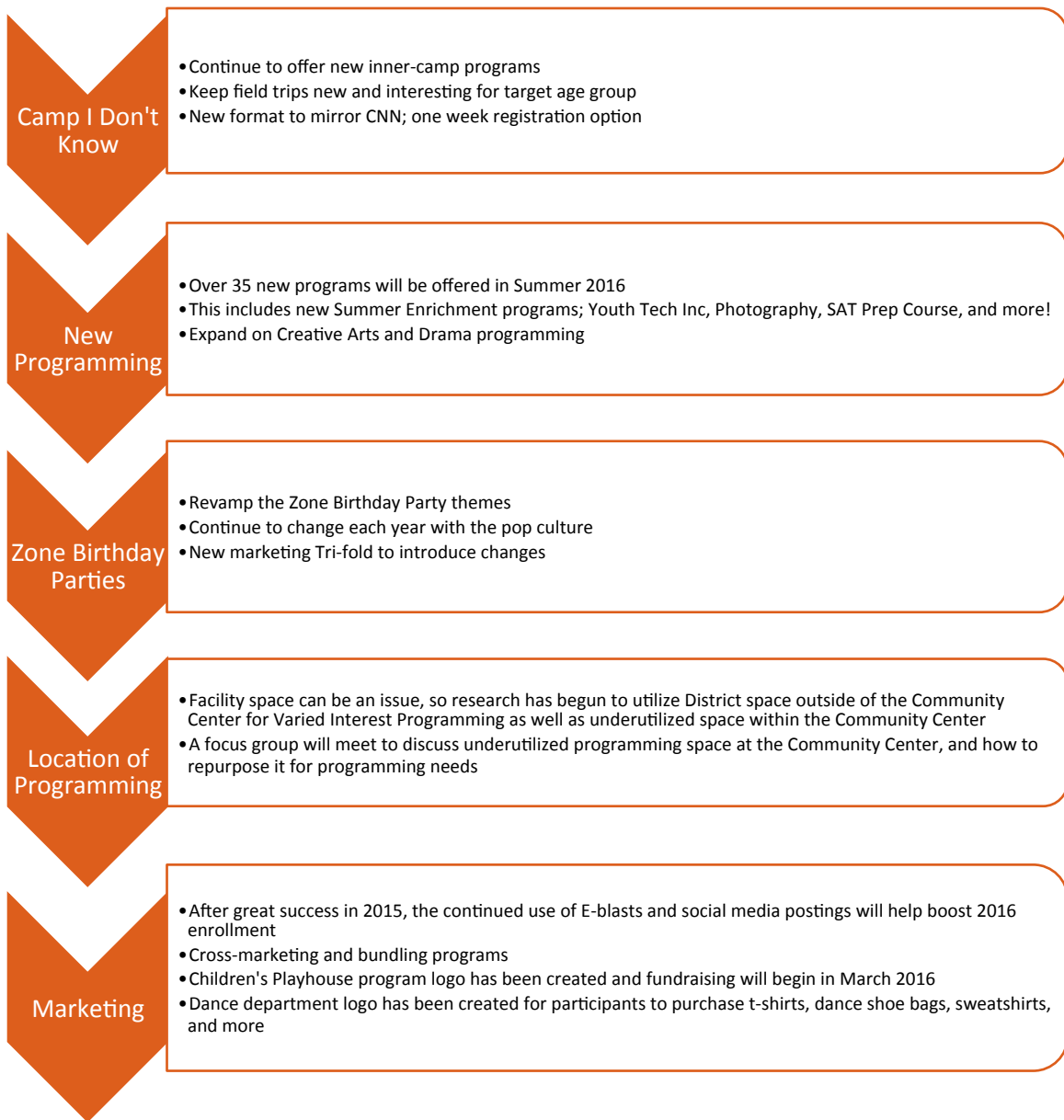
Varied Interest Program Breakdown



2015 Total Program Area Breakdown

Varied Interest	Drama	Dance	Creative Arts	Teen Trips	Misc Teens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Dance • Ice Skating classes • Magic • Horsemanship • Babysit Series • Babysit Showcase • Fencing • Computer Exploreres • Cool Science • Chess Club • Bowling • Summer Enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shining Star • Children's Playhouse • Missoula Children's Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Dance • Mini Ballet • PreBallet • KinderBallet • PreDance • KinderDance • Tapping Tots • Totally Tap • P/T Classes • Hip Hop Mini • Hip Hop Jazz Jr • Hip Hop Jazz • Lyrical classes • Ballet classes • Tap classes • PrePointe / Pointe • Dance Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Rembrandts • Pottery • Piano • Guitar • Voice • Spanish • Misc arts and crafts classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raging Waves • Main Event • iFly • Teen Service Series: Volunteer Trips • IPRA Ski Trip • IPRA Kayak Trip • Gameworks • Phillips Park • IPRA Teen Olympics • Centennial Beach • Hollywood Park • Brookfield Zoo • Wilderness Falls • Xtreme Trampoline • Paradise Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone Parties • Camp I Don't Know • U Rock: Teen Battle of the Bands • St. Francis Safe Celebration • WN Post Prom • WWS Post Prom

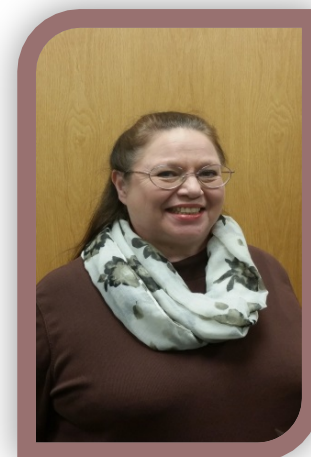
Looking Ahead to 2016



Instructor Bios

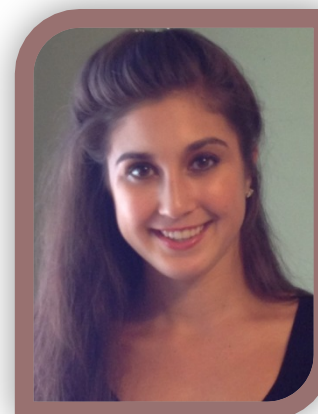
Ms. Diane Stout

Miss Diane started taking dance lessons at the age of 5. She majored in dance at Butler University in Indianapolis where she performed with the Butler Ballet. She worked and performed with Ballet Montage, DuPage Ballet Co. and Hartford Ballet. Some of Diane’s students have gone on to have careers on cruise ships, with the Joffrey Ballet, and done performances with the Bolshoi. Ms. Diane has also choreographed many musicals for local theatre groups and schools, including “Oklahoma”, “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Calamity Jane”, and “Annie”. In addition to dance, Ms. Diane is a certified Montessori Directress who’s taught for 15 years in Montessori schools. She believes that instilling a desire to learn will help the student become creatively artistic and highly disciplined.



Ms. Katrina Lochridge

Miss Katrina has been dancing and teaching for many years. She has trained at Faubourg School of Ballet, Lou Conte Dance Studio, Ballet Camp Illinois, and College of DuPage where she received her Associate in Arts Degree with High Honors. Miss Katrina has done several volunteer performances, as well as theatre performances. Stage experience includes: “A Celebration of Dance”, “The Nutcracker”, “Sleeping Beauty”, “The Art of Dance”, and College of DuPage Dance Showcases. Over the past 8 years of teaching ballet, pointe, stretch and strength, tap lyrical, contemporary, jazz, and hip hop, Katrina’s passion for dance has also continued to grow. She cares about each student’s individuality and unique talent. Beyond instilling proper technique and a love of dance, she is sure to teach them how fun dancing is! The balance of discipline and smiles is very important in her classes.



Participant Testimonials

Music Classes

“Ease of signing up, the teacher was very nice”

“At the Community Center, teacher seemed like a really nice guy, and my son enjoyed the class.”

Dance Program

“A chance for my daughter to try a new activity.”

“Teacher was very professional and patient with the children.”

“My daughter loved it so that made me happy.”

“My daughter loved everything about this class. It was a perfect amount of dancing for her.”

Fencing

“Builds confidence”

“The attention and quality of instruction – Tracey makes sure all students are active participants and balances the physical and mental aspects of fencing.”

Shining Star

“Teacher is very engaging and fun.”

“Creative play for kids, drop-off format, nice to get handouts about what the kids did each session.”

Camp I Don't Know

“The counselors were engaged with the kids.”

“I liked the opportunities that they had to put different activities for the day. And they also like that they went on a field trip every Friday.”

“I like the structure of the camp and the many activities.”



Wheaton Teens in Action!



Teen Service Series: West Suburban Humane Society



Wheaton Teens in Action!

U Rock Teen Battle of the Bands winners



Missoula Children's Theatre: Blackbeard the Pirate

