Celebrations

"The thing about performance, even if it's only an illusion, is that it is a celebration of the fact that we do contain within ourselves infinite possibilities."
- Sydney Smith

TOSA Ropes Course Experience

On November 18, 2005 the Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs) along with CSUP's Director, Ginger Zierdt, braved the cold and snow to experience the Outdoor Challenge Course Program at the Minnesota State University Mankato. The purpose of the day was two fold: to experience the program for themselves, but also to explore the various resources that Minnesota State Mankato, Mankato has to offer local school districts. The TOSAs were hoping to further develop as their own team, but also to be able to explain the experience to leadership teams, faculty groups, and student groups for future use. The TOSAs were ready for fun, challenge, teamwork, and trust. The day began with problem solving activities on the ground and then progressed to climbing on the high ropes course.

For many, the day was challenging both physically and mentally, however, it turned out to be an incredible experience for everyone. According to Mary Danielson-Gates, a TOSA in Faribault, "It was scary, exhilarating, funny, challenging, surprising, and very very rewarding." During the high ropes activities, the TOSAs really proved their ability to work together. Danielson-Gates said, "I had trust in this group before the experience, but I saw new dimensions in all of us. Each of us took on this challenge in a different way. We were comfortable with each others' choices and yet wanted each other to succeed. Each of us saw success through different eyes and different criteria. This experience bonded us... there is not much that we can't accomplish if we decide to do it together!"

The TOSAs surprised themselves and each other throughout the day with their ability to take on challenges and support one another. According to TOSA, Gary Chamberlain, "I hate heights, but because of my faith and friendship with my fellow TOSA's I was able to climb the 40 foot pole and walk across. It was amazing." Danielson-Gates stated, "When I realized that the support from my team was not only moral support, but physical support, I knew I could try. Half way up, I wanted to come down, but my team encouraged me to try just one more rung at a time. It worked! I did it!" Chamberlain summarized the day by saying, "The best part of the day was the celebration of our team for each member after climbing, swinging, or jumping off the poles! It was a true 'team' experience that I will never forget!"

The Outdoor Challenge Course Program is one service provided by the Adventure Education Program within the Department of Educational Leadership.

For more information on this and other programs, please contact:

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