Summer Time Activities

KKGU STATEWIDE SUMMER CAMP

Summer is camp time! This summer KKGU held their 2nd annual statewide camp at Newman University in Wichita on June 4th -6th. It was organized by Region 5 which provided a good central location in the state for all the Regions to attend.

The leaders were from CoolSpeak, a youth engagement company that sparked inspiration and delivered a message on the importance of education. The facilitators incorporated different interactive elements, spoken word, music, and live performances.

The program leader talked to students on their level, helping students find common ground and learn about their passions. The focus of the presentation was how education will help each student achieve their goals. CoolSpeak’s objective was for each student to understand the importance of giving themselves an opportunity to succeed.

Students had great experiences at the camp and enjoyed the CoolSpeak presenters. Students were very emotional and were able to share their ideas, concerns, and hopes for the future. The camp also provided the students an opportunity to meet other students who are in the same situation –giving them a feeling that they are not alone.

SUMMER READING AND VOLUNTEERING AT THE LIBRARY – GARDEN CITY

GEAR UP Students are taking the lead in providing reading and positive interaction with their younger peers. Several junior high students have been attending the library on a regular basis this summer to read books for the children involved in the summer reading program. The students assist the library staff with encouraging the children to develop reading skills, they assist the teachers with passing out books, and with working with the young children to learn to read.

The students enjoy having the opportunity to be the “teacher”. Through this activity GEAR UP students are improving their own reading and language skills.

COOLSPEAK

- CoolSpeak is the nation’s leading youth engagement company. Since 2009, they deliver unique speakers, programs, events, books and products designed to keep students inspired, parents involved, and teachers engaged.
- CoolSpeak is fueled by passion, the passion to spark inspiration and help students discover all they can achieve.
- Contact them at: [www.coolspeak.net/](http://www.coolspeak.net/)
The students involved in the Dodge City program had an opportunity to use their vision to build models with plastic and interlocking (lego-type) blocks. Models selected by the students included muscle cars, fighter airplanes, famous buildings & ships. The models built are accurate replications of the object and maintain an accurate relationship in perspective to the real thing.

The model building involved using material from kits or other components. Kits are classified according to skill level and degree of difficulty. Level 1 included snap-together pieces that do not require glue or paint; Level 2 required glue and paint; Level 3 included smaller and more detailed parts; Advanced Level 4 & 5 kits required expert-level skills.

Kits selected by the Dodge City GEAR UP students ranged from a Level 1 muscle car (Prowler) to a Level 3 replica of the famous Titanic. The Titanic became a group project completed by four separate students aged 13-14 years old. With a 14-year-old girl taking the lead on the project. (GO STEM Girls!!!)

During the building process, discussion with the students ranged from geography (where the famous buildings were located like the Eiffel Tower), to the science of aerodynamics, to engineering powerful combustion engines in muscle cars, and to history including the war planes used in Europe during WW II and the historic but fatal maiden voyage of the Titanic.

The complexity of assembling representations of actual objects encouraged students to think about perspective in science. It taught teamwork and patience, as well as the opportunity to think about large objects in components. The students enjoyed the activity and wanted to continue building other things.
“This is too cool! I want to be a forensic scientist for the police department or work with the FBI.”
Student attending event at DCCC STEM Camp

STEM CAMP, DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A combined group of GEAR UP students from Dodge City and Great Bend attended a STEM camp sponsored by the Physical Science Department at Dodge City Community College. The college hosted two sessions of activities that lasted about a 1 1/2 hour each. Plus there was an exploration activity where the students built balloon cars to race. The students were grouped into two age categories of 7th –9th or 10th and above.

In one session students worked with life science and DNA. They were given an opportunity “to solve a murder” and had DNA samples taken from a imaginary crime scene. Instruction was provided on separating the DNA from the samples and comparing them with the DNA samples taken from the “suspects”. The students had fun and solved the murder mystery. When leaving the session, several students said that they planned on becoming a “forensic scientist” for the police departments or FBI. One student exclaimed, “It was too cool – I want to do this!”

The other session offered students a hands-on experience of being a computer coder. They were given a computer thumb drive which contained the structure needed to set up a coding pattern. Students entered information from a topic they chose; then developed a coded flash card game with questions and answers. The instructor pointed out that what they created could be used to develop flash cards for what ever subject they plan to study. A few students commented that they would like to develop coding for computer games or simulations.

The student were introduced to a biology classroom at the community college. Students were offered opportunities to explore the anatomical models and skeletons in the classroom. Plus several students learned how a stethoscope worked and how they could listen to hearts and lungs.
The Garden City GEAR UP spent time this summer volunteering in their community with positive results. Students volunteered their time with the local Salvation Army. They helped the staff by cleaning and sorting clothing for the store to sell to those in need. Through this group experience students realized that others in their community lack the basics to get by. Students also spent time volunteering for the summer meals program. They worked with the school staff handing out food and drinks to the children that attended. The GEAR UP students also cleaned the space afterwards for the school staff. The Great Bend GEAR UP students volunteered their time at the zoo assisted the staff with clean up and weeding. Educational pointers on animals were given along the way. The students learned about spiders and snakes. They were surprised to learn that the animals were more scared of students, then students are of the animals.

HEALTHY FOOD EDUCATION – HEARTLAND RANCH

Great Bend GEAR UP students learned about healthy eating and sustainability at the Heartland Ranch, an 80-acre farmstead. The students saw how food is grown, harvested, and prepared. They joined the Heartland staff with hands-on food preparation. Students were instructed on health eating and the importance of sustainability for earth’s environment.

GEAR UP STUDENTS TAKE PROJECTS TO FAIR

Dodge City GEAR UP students participated in the Ford County Fair which offered exploration into agriculture careers and more. Students saw what their peers in the farming community displayed as the best of their farm animals and crops. 4-H students provided GEAR UP students with peer-to-peer instruction on the prize qualities present in their animals. GEAR UP students also worked on several models which the students entered into the Art & Crafts portion of the fair.
The goal of the Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP program is to assist students with graduating from High School and to further their education by obtaining a degree from a four-year college.

NEW COLLEGE ACCESS ADVISOR IN GREAT BEND

GEAR UP welcomes Kelsey Salisbury as the new College Access Advisor based out the Great Bend Office. Kelsey has worked as an athletic coach for ages 3-15, organized after-school and summer programs, and has worked in social services for the past several years.

Kelsey has a B.S. degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

NEW REGIONAL COORDINATOR IN DODGE CITY

GEAR UP welcomes Deb Rodda, the new Regional Coordinator for the Western Region. She will be based out the Dodge City Office. Deb has worked with students at all levels – teaching PE at the elementary and high school levels. She has worked as a college instructor at Dodge City Community College, Fort Hays State University, and Buena Vista College (Iowa).

Deb has a B.S. degree in Physical Education and Exercise Science from the University of Minnesota and a M.S. degree from Arizona State in Exercise and Wellness. She also has a background as a community health organizer working on health initiatives and is a certified Athletic Trainer A.T.C.

In her spare time, Deb is a mom of two sons – twins – who are currently in college. She is also a big fan of sports and loves the Kansas City Royals and her hometown teams, the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins.

NEW REGIONAL COORDINATOR IN DODGE CITY

Region 4 Staff

**Dodge City Office:**
314 W. Spruce, Dodge City
Regional Coordinator
Deb Rodda 620-255-6212

**Garden City Office:**
PO Box 1885
Garden City, Kansas 67846
College Access Advisors
Joe Gonzales 620-805-8628
Sabrina Armijo 620-805-8628

**Great Bend Office:**

From Left to Right: Joe, Sabrina, Deb and Kelsey
GEAR UP SENIORS - GET READY FOR COLLEGE

GEAR UP staff has been reaching out to all the seniors to conduct Exit Interviews. The interviews will find out what direction students are headed with their higher education plans and will provide assistance with scholarships. All students thinking about college are encouraged to apply for the GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP.

Items needed for KKGU scholarship eligibility:
- Complete the on-line FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov
- Complete the on-line KKGU Scholarship at kkgu.org
- Submit following items to Scholarship Coordinator Richard Schwasinger
  - High School transcript of grades
  - Official college invoice (bill from college)
  - Official Financial Aid Award Letter (college will give you)
  - Document that shows Expected Family Contributions – from FAFSA
  - If living in an off-campus apartment – send signed apartment lease
- Apply for the Foster Care Waiver
- Complete FINANCIAL LITERACY Training. Found on KKGU website – home page
- Complete a new signed “Release of information form” - obtained from your GEAR UP College Access Advisor.
- Send Documents to: Richard Schwasinger, Scholarship Coordinator, Kansas Kids @GEAR UP, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount Street, Campus Box 110, Wichita, KS 67260-0110.
  
  Email: richard.schwasinger@wichita.edu
  
  Office Phone: 316-978-7413

UPCOMING ACT DATES

Test Date: 9/14/19    Reg. Date: 8/16/19
Test Date: 10/26/19   Reg. Date: 9/27/19
Test Date: 12/14/19   Reg. Date: 11/8/19
Test Date: 2/8/20     Reg. Date: 1/10/20
Test Date: 4/4/20     Reg. Date: 3/29/20
Test Date: 6/13/20    Reg. Date: 5/8/20