

Case Study I

Foot Hill High School/ EMQ - Summer Program

Challenge: The social service agency and school wanted a summer program for a group of high school students that would motivate them and captivate their interests.

Solution: AWCS designed a six-week Adventure Summer program consisting of career orientation, service project, team development training, leadership initiatives, in-door rock climbing and outdoor high-ropes course.

Case Study II

San Jose Police: COPS School-Based Partnership Project

Challenge: To research and identify causes of community fear, resulting from perceived intercultural and racial tensions within a community of immigrants.

Solution: AWCS managed and led a community collaborative, a project sponsored by the Dept. of Justice, to get relevant solutions from the research. Through mobilizing the stakeholders, focus groups, data gathering, COPS procedure, the SARA/collaborative problem-solving process and assessment, a city-wide partnership solution was implemented.

Case Study III

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Challenge: Establish a support system to administrative and teaching staff. The Alternative School Program was in need of a way to support their first year principal and build a strong, and competent instructional team.

Solution: AWCS provided admin-coaching/mentorship training to the principal while engaging staff through team-oriented school assessment and improvement workshop. Additional focus was applied on school assistance in the area of "teacher-peering", through which managing the educational enterprise became a shared initiative. Such change in attitude created new behaviors that supported all involved in ways that allowed each to fully engage their work.

Case Study IV

Hirsherg IT Solution - Team Motivation

Challenge: Software development team was experiencing a habitual inability in working together and meeting project deadlines. As a group, they had only few common interests: sports and the outdoors.

Solution: AWCS designed a three-day canoeing expedition on the American River. Each day AWCS instructed defensive swimming, wading techniques, and additional procedures of white-water rescue. As luck, and/or fate, would have it, on their last day, a situation developed which allowed the team to successfully rescue a stranded fisherman. During the course, the group spent little to no time on shop-talk. Since their adventure, the team has regularly met project deadlines. To paraphrase a recent marketing slogan, instead of hanging a motivational picture on the wall, we created one.

Case Study V

Empire Garden Elementary School - Summer Education program

Challenge: The school principal and teachers wanted a hands-on education program component for their 80 summer-school students.

Solution: AWCS designed, planned, and implemented a day-long of experiential/environmental lessons consisting of maps, compasses, microscopes, seine nets, secchi disk, and hip boots, and water. During the day, through student's learning adventure, they were engaged in taking a census of aquatic vegetation and animal lives. In short, checking the health, and condition of the historic Coyote River, in San Jose CA. Utilizing field guides and stream

drift nets, and all other equipments, they went to work. Needless the say, students and water together hold the effervescent potential for a combustible event. Fortunately, with the help of teachers, and park ranger assistants, the enthusiasm, and fun were effectively channeled into learning the ecology of the river. The next day, following the field work, all data, artifacts, specimens and the likes were labeled, placed in jars, and binders for further examination and exploration.

Case Study VI

Pacific Investment - Organizational Development

Challenge: This investment management company needed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their online brokerage teams.

Solution: To remedy the disconnection and poor work environment caused by time-zone difference between New York and California, accentuated by early morning work schedule for California associates, AWCS successfully implemented a change initiative by weaving together practical management concepts within a creative and collaborative problem-solving process aiming at establishing a new work atmosphere with emphasis on associate's buy-in and more effective, and accountable office procedures.

Case Study VII

Montessori School - Summer Camp program

Challenge: School officials were interested in "stimulating minds" and wanted to expand their summer program offering by starting a summer camp program.

Solution: AWCS designed, built, and implemented a summer adventure camp program. To that end, we constructed a 6x6 challenge course, consisting of 6 low and 6 high ropes course elements, which also provided an Outdoor/Experiential Education component for a week-long pre-camp team development and counselor training.

Case Study VIII

Bassett High School Academy - Alternative program

Challenge: School Head Master was looking for a follow-up to senior students' backpacking trip

Solution: AWCS developed and led a three-day urban (residential) wilderness experience. While circumnavigating the Island of Manhattan, New York city boroughs, participants were engaged in project-oriented activities such as expedition leadership, real-world problem initiatives, and community services projects. The venture added a cultural competence dimension to the annual senior trip.