

Camp 2 Grow: Environmental Leadership Program

Harnessing the power of summer camp to equip more young people with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills they need to be stewards of the environment today and leaders of our world tomorrow.

1. What is Camp 2 Grow?

Camp 2 Grow, funded through the Lilly Endowment Inc., is a capacity-building and program improvement initiative for camps composed of four related components (see Figure 1). The first component is the Environmental Leadership Program.

2. What is the purpose of the Environmental Leadership Program?

The Environmental Leadership Program teaches middle- and high-school-aged youth fundamental leadership knowledge and skills in a nature-based setting. The nucleus of the Environmental Leadership Program is a cutting edge leadership curriculum targeting environmental stewardship designed to be integrated into a typical camp schedule and completed within a two-week (or more) period. Camps can further customize the program by selecting lessons most appropriate to achieve camp-specific goals.

3. Which camps are eligible to participate in the Environmental Leadership Program and be fully funded?

Forty camps will be selected to participate in the pilot during the summer of 2009, and the complete program will be implemented in the summer of 2010. Camps will be selected from a range of organizational affiliations, including agency/municipal camps; independent nonprofit camps; and religiously affiliated camps. Camps affiliated with 4-H and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are encouraged to apply. Criteria include:

- Camps must be currently accredited by the American Camp Association.
- Camps must serve campers from one of the following U.S. metro areas: Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New York, Boston, and Chicago.
- Camp directors (or their designees) must attend a regional face-to-face training to learn the delivery of the curriculum.
- Camps must agree to conduct the Environmental Leadership Program during the summer of 2009.
- Camps must be able to access online information and resources while youth are at camp.
- Camps must agree to have both youth AND staff evaluated at the end of the summer.

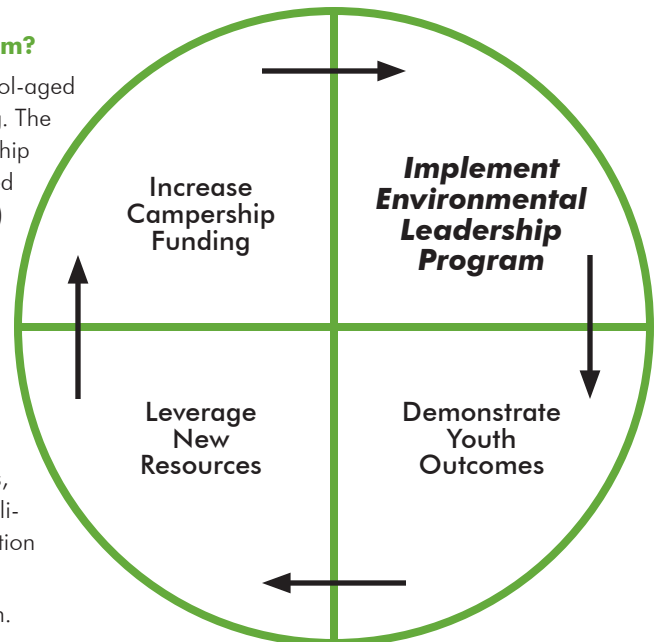


Figure 1

4. Can camps buy-in to the Environmental Leadership Program even if they don't meet the selection criteria outlined in #3 above?

Yes. Camps that don't meet the selection criteria, or camps that meet the criteria but are not selected as one of the forty fully-funded camps, can buy-in to the Environmental Leadership Program and gain full access to the leadership lessons.

5. Why should camps be interested in the Environmental Leadership Program?

- Participating camps will gain access to a high-quality, structured youth leadership program — perfect for older campers, CITs, and similar camp audiences.
- Participating camps will be able to incorporate cutting edge leadership content into their camp programming, which may lead to improved camper outcomes, new fund-raising opportunities, new partnerships, and overall camp improvement.
- Participating camps will gain a marketing edge and the ability to promote their involvement in ACA's national Environmental Leadership Program.
- In 2010, camps who seek national campership funding will be strongly encouraged to implement the Environmental Leadership Program as a criterion for eligibility.

6. How do camps join the Environmental Leadership Program?

- Contact Andrea Stearley at astearley@ACAcamps.org or call (765) 349-3305.