

REACH II BLACK 2011



Daily Report

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DAILY REPORT

June 23, 2011

Reach Red, Yellow and Black participants began checking in at the Chimney Corners Barn around 1:00pm. Participants and leaders introduced themselves and everyone received a brief introduction by Jim and Alysa. Participants said final goodbyes to their families and rolled right into icebreakers as one large group. At 3:00pm the male participants shuttled over to Becket to join the LITs and the female participants gathered their belongings and moved into the Four Seasons Lodge.

(Chimney)

Reachers met the Aides at the Arts center and played icebreakers until dinner at 6:00pm. Following the meal the LIT group broke down the Dining Hall for the floor cleaners before heading back to the Arts center for a chat with Shannon. The LITs had 30 minutes of free time before breaking into small groups for chat (why are you here?). LITs returned to their housing following chat and had lights out at 11:00pm

June 24, 2011 (Chimney)

The LIT group awoke at 7:30 and went to the dining hall at 8:00am to set up for 8:15am breakfast. Following the meal the Reach groups moved into the north room of the dining hall and enjoyed the feature film *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. After the meal the group discussed the content of the film and emotional reactions. At 11:30a the Reach group cleaned the north room and set all the tables for lunch. The LIT reunited for noon Lunch followed by siesta. The LITs met at the Arts Center at 1:30pm and split into four smaller groups and went on to sweep and wipe down all the cabins and mattresses in camp, raked the area outside the library, swept and mopped the upper arts center, moved staging and trimmed the bushes outside the dining hall. After the projects the whole group reunited back in the Arts center and had the first half of a discussion about leadership skills. The LITs were then introduced to the chimney staff and given free time while the leaders stayed behind to talk to the staff about the changes that have been implemented with the LIT program. Everyone came to dinner at 6:00pm. Following the meal the LITs joined the chimney staff for the health orientation training.

June 25, 2011 (Chimney)

The LIT group woke up again at 7:30 this morning and went to the dining hall to help set the tables for breakfast. Following breakfast the LIT group sat in on the "Child Abuse Prevention" talk given by Emily King to staff and LIT members. REACH girls then had the opportunity to test out the camping equipment in preparation for their trip. They learned the proper ways to set up and take down the tents. After lunch, swim tests were given and then REACH girls had the opportunity to do some service projects for the Program Staff which included helping out at the stables, Brewster house, Nature Center and the tripping staff. At 3:15 all LITs went to the Art Center where they finished up their leadership training rotations and were then allowed free time until dinner. After dinner the LIT group got together around 7:30 for a campfire where different groups of girls prepared an activity to present to the rest of the group. The last bit of the night was spent in cabin chat groups and chatting until lights out at 11pm.

June 26, 2011 (Chimney)

The REACH group woke up for an early breakfast at 8:15, which was followed by cleaning up the four seasons and preparing for the rest of the day. At 10:00 all 3 REACH groups headed towards the barn to briefly meet up with the boys and head their separate ways. REACH red and yellow got together for their orientation while REACH black headed out of camp to prepare for their trip in a month.

July 24th 2011

The REACH Black group finally arrived at 2:00 pm for their orientation before their departure for South Dakota. After settling into their respective housing the group got together for some icebreakers and scenarios of possible expectations. Following the scenarios and some more games the REACH group decided to participate in the CCC opening campfire and successfully led a rendition of "Little Red Wagon" for the Chimney community. Chat was conducted then followed by a bonding session in the four seasons.

CHAT: What unique ability do you feel you contribute to the group?

July 25th 2011

The LOD woke the REACH group up for breakfast at around 7:30 am. The day was filled with more possible scenarios that could be expected on the trip. Topics covered cliques, cooking, planning activities, and responsibilities in the group. The group then spent most of the day reviewing, sharing, and carrying out icebreaker activities to come closer together. Before dinner, the group met with past REACH participants and listened to stories and suggestions that could aid the group's trip. Also in the afternoon, REACH met with Jim and Alysa to cover non-negotiable and to gather necessary items including a camera and phone, and medical forms. After dinner, REACH prepared breakfast for their morning departure and met on Moose Field to play TLS and YAS in a rousing game of kickball. Chat and bed followed.

CHAT: In 10 words, say something kind about the person to your left.

July 26th 2011

Early wake up from the LOD at 5 am. Nat Adams drove the group to Bradley Airport and then bid them farewell. The group got through checking bags and security smoothly and then had some time to hangout and eat breakfast before boarding. Spirits were high on both flights and the group arrived in Rapid City on time and full of energy. After settling into the vehicles the group went on their way to the Rapid City YMCA to pick up belongs left by the previous REACH groups (i.e. tents, cooking supplies ect.). The group then drove to Lake Park Campground where they set up tents and got orientated. A trip to the Wal-Mart Super center followed where the group bought meals for the next few days and had some free to do personal shopping. Dinner was prepared on the stoves later that evening with enthusiastic dishwashing and spontaneous dance parties. Chat followed by an early nights sleep.

CHAT: What would you miss most if you had to leave your life tomorrow?

July 27th 2011

Half the group woke up earlier around 7:30 to go for a short jog around the campground while the other half slept till 8 and got to enjoy some showers. The group came together around 9am for breakfast and discussed the days plans. After a couple people went to pick up some last

minute items, the group departed around 10:15 to head to Mt. Rushmore. Although it was decided that Mt. Rushmore was a bit of a tourist trap, the group had fun and enjoyed exploring the area and eating their packed lunches under the base of the memorial. Following the morning adventure the two cars split up and headed to Devils Tower, Wyoming. Grocery shopping was done by one car in Sundance and then the other half reserved campsites and set up camp. The evening followed with a delicious dinner and group game of ultimate. After cleaning the dishes REACH black decided to go and see the daily viewing of “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” up at the KOA office. Chat was conducted around the campfire.

CHAT: What are you most nervous for on the trip?

July 28th 2011

The group woke up on their own around 8:30. Breakfast consisted of oatmeal. After cleaning up camp the group went to the nearby Devil’s Tower for a trail hike. After trekking around the monument for about four miles the group went to a nearby picnic area for lunch. After driving back to the KOA the group played card games, ultimate Frisbee, and general ice breaker/bonding games. A thunderstorm came through and the group had a good time drying out their damp gear. As the sun dipped behind Devil’s Tower the group gathered around a fire for a game of taboo and then cabin chat.

CHAT: What brings you back to Becket or Chimney Corners?

July 29th 2011

The group woke up early to pack up their tents and load the cars. They policed the area to make sure it was devoid of any trash. They were on the road by 10 and arrived back in Rapid City by noon. The group stopped at the YMCA to pick up supplies for dream catchers, and then headed out to the Badlands. They set up shop at a campground in the national park and prepared dinner. Frisbee and card games filled time until food was ready. As they ate they watched a magnificent sunset and conducted chat soon after.

CHAT: What view would you most want to wake up to every day?

July 30th 2011

The group unintentionally woke up really early after sleeping under the stars. Breakfast consisted of cereal and the group was ready to roll by 9am. The LOD choose to hike “Notch” trail in the Badlands and then decided to head to Walldrug in the afternoon for lunch and free time. The 1.5 mile hike was a bit strenuous but loved by all. The group had fun exploring the dunes and taking some great pictures of the landscape. Following Walldrug, the group played ultimate while each camper took time to meet up individually with the leaders to see how they were feeling about the trip thus far. Chat was conducted and the group choose to sleep under the stars for a second night in a row.

CHAT: What would you do in a Zombie apocalypse?

July 31st 2011

The group woke early to prepare for the hike to Dupree. After a breakfast of cereal the group packed up the car and hit the road around 9:00. The group at this point is much more efficient at delegating tasks and accomplishing camp cleanup in the morning. They stopped in Faith to eat lunch and get some grocery shopping done. Since they were a little early to arrive, the group stopped at an ice cream place and had some shakes, and just tried to stay cool. It was very hot in

South Dakota, and the group did their best to keep out of the heat. While waiting for the YMCA to open, the leaders held the remaining 2 on 1 interviews with the female LITs and discussed their leadership skills and strategies for improving on their weaknesses. Carol Mann opened up the Sioux YMCA around 3 pm. The rest of the day constituted of the group settling in to their new accommodations, taking showers, and watching old Disney movies. Everybody was quite tired and no chat was conducted in order to go to bed early.

CHAT: n/a

August 1st 2011

The group woke up around 7:30, ate breakfast, and cleaned the YMCA to the point where you couldn't tell anybody had spent the night. The group, unsure of what to expect on the day, planned activities they could play with the incoming kids. Some went grocery shopping for upcoming meals while others continued to prepare themselves for the day camp. Once the kids came, the LITs spent a full day of being counselors. They played jump rope, tag, UNO, arts and crafts, and watched some movies. The activities were kept to mainly indoor or low-key types due to the excessive heat. Many were not ready for the nature of the children from the reservation. It was a big learning experience for everybody involved, and by the end of the day the group was tired out. Around 5:30 heavy rain came and there was even a tornado warning in effect. The LITs corralled all the children inside and kept them safe and occupied while it hailed outside. No tornado touched down which was nice. After the kids left at 7:30, the group was very tired. Leaders picked up some snacks for a movie night and everyone watched another Disney movie and fell asleep. Afterwards, LOD led chat and the group drifted off to sleep.

CHAT: What profession would you choose if you had to start tomorrow?

August 2nd 2011

The group woke up energized for another day of camp with the children in Dupree. Breakfast was cereal and fruit. During the morning before camp started the group met and discussed what went well and what did not the day before. They planned numerous activities and a more structured schedule for the day while also discussing different strategies on how to be a good counselor. Some of the activities consisted of capture the flag, arts and crafts, icebreakers and jump rope. Overall the group was in high spirits all day long and was really pleased with the day. Later on the group celebrated one of the group members birthdays with an ice cream sundae party and movie. Following the movie the group hung out and chat was conducted before bed.

Chat: What is your worst injury?

August 3rd 2011

The group woke early to prepare for the day. Half the group took their laundry to a nearby Laundromat while the other half set to work organizing and cleaning a storage shed across the street. The group planned for the day ahead while doing both. Before lunch they met with Carol Mann to ask questions about the Sioux culture. Afterwards the group covered what they did well yesterday and what they should improve upon for the upcoming day. They were excited from the good results of yesterday's camp and wanted a repeat success. As the day wore on the group played tag, board games, made origami, and played games of pool with the kids. It rained in the afternoon and all the children were escorted inside. Sadly, after dinner it was discovered that one of the girl's iPod was stolen. It was used to play music for the campers and somebody that was on campgrounds had taken it. The leaders called those suspected of the theft, talked to those

running the YMCA, but never found who took it. The group's spirits were down after the incident so pizzas and movies were scheduled to liven spirits. The group had a good time bonding over friendship bracelets and conversation. Later on chat was held and the group went to bed.

CHAT: What is your favorite chat question?

August 4th 2011

The group woke up around 7:30 and a leader and the LOD made scrambled eggs. Some of the group went to do their laundry down the street while others went and finished organizing the pole barn. They did good work and made the once messy storage shed look clean and organized. After lunch and a discussion on what they could improve upon as counselors, the kids arrived. The group had a good time playing kickball, relay races, zombie tag, and lots of jump rope with those that visited the Sioux Y. After 7:30, the group watched a movie together, went and got snacks, had a good time hanging out in each other's presence, and conducted chat.

Chat: Describe the person to your left as a song or genre of music.

August 5th 2011

The group woke up around 7:30 to an energetic LOD, They packed up their gear and drove to Isabele South Dakota where Carol Mann told them of a Lakota culture art exhibit. Once they were sufficiently mentally stimulated they returned to spend a final few hours with the kids of the Sioux YMCA. As they did, some of the participants packed up food in coolers and loaded the cars for departure. Once everything was set, REACH took off for Camp Marrowbone. It was being closed down for the year after going through its first full summer in a long time. Camp Marrowbone was a beautiful little camp on Lake Oahu, which was fed by the Missouri River. The group prepared dinner and was planning on sleeping outside when a torrential squall tore through. They instead slept in the kitchen at the camp, which is where they held chat.

CHAT: How have you grown so far on this trip?

August 6th 2011

The group woke up around 8:00 and was treated to pancakes by the leaders. After breakfast the group set to work breaking down Camp Marrowbone. There was a lot to do including: storing canoes, storing life jackets and their cabinet, breaking down tee pees, sorting good teepee poles from scrap wood, cleaning and organizing all the buildings on camp, policing the camp grounds for trash, and making sure the kitchen was mopped and swept. It was a long list of chores but the group set to it, making sure everything was done. They worked hard and managed to have everything completed by 2:00. After their hard work the group was able to relax and continue their bonding. Some took walks around the campgrounds, others read or took naps. Dinner was tacos and the hungry group devoured them. A few of the participants made a roaring fire outside and the group sat around it and had chat.

Chat: Why do you think Becket and Chimney are not co-ed?

August 7th 2011

The group woke at 8:00 and cleaned up any trace of their time there. Once they finished cleaning up any leftover mess, they were on the road for Red Scaffold. On the way, they stopped off in Faith to have some ice cream, mail some letters, and call their parents. Once ready, they departed for Red Scaffold and arrived around 1:45. On the reservation there was little to no cell service

and it looked like nobody was going to drop off keys. The leaders went looking, eventually finding that Carol Mann had them. One went back to Dupree while the other helped the group clean up the mess in the community center. Garbage bins had been overturned, bathrooms had been desecrated, and the center was overall messy. REACH Black did not complain, they just set to work cleaning whatever had to be cleaned. The leader returned with a set of keys and propane seeing as the stoves in the kitchen did not work. They happily made dinner and held chat after.

CHAT: What was the most difficult thing you have had to overcome in your life?

Service Hours: 3 (community center cleaning)

August 8th 2011

The group was up at the usual time not quite sure what to do with their time at Red Scaffold. The leaders spoke to Maggie Iron Hawk to get a sense of what needed to be done in the area and what the group could help with during their stay. They made good use of the basketball court and played 5 on 5 basketball with some of the older local teenagers. The group got to talk to them after the game and make connections and swap stories of what life is like. It was a culturally enriching time and REACH Black got a good sense of what life was like on the reservation. They continued to play kickball that day with kids of all ages. One camper hit their head during the game and ended up having a minor concussion. First aid was administered and the group did well to make sure he was ok. After dinner chat was held, and the group fell off to sleep

CHAT: What would you want your theme music to be?

August 9th 2011

The group set to work early getting a lot of work done on the reservation. They fixed a fence that bordered a nearby baseball diamond, stripped and repainted a dugout on the field, scoured the area for trash, threw out myriad beer bottles and cans, and played tag and kickball with the local children. All in all they did a lot to make sure the community center looked beautiful. One group went with the concussed REACHER to make sure they would be ok. After getting checked out and being given a good prognosis the group went grocery shopping and picked up lumber for a Red Scaffold welcome sign. Later that night they group met up with Wyatt Crane and headed to Hump Ranch. Here they met David Hump, owner of said ranch, and he took them on a stunning tour where they found themselves inches away from a large herd of buffalo. After that they returned and conducted chat.

CHAT: Define happiness

August 10th 2011

The group set to work designing and constructing their sign early. Some sketched ideas, some painted them on, others assembled the pieces. When it all came together it was a beautiful work of art. Something to be really proud of. Wyatt conducted some interviews with the male participants (and any female participants that wanted to talk) talking about next year and their plans. The group put in another great day of work balancing service projects around the area and playing and interacting with the local kids. At night, deserving of a fun night, the group went to a rodeo in Faith followed by a great carnival. The leaders paid for their entrance tickets (10 dollars each) and they enjoyed a wonderful night of fun together. When they got back, they had chat and talked for a few hours.

CHAT: Sunrise or sunset?

August 11th 2011

The group slept in until 9 after last night's festivities. Once they were awake they got to work on some great projects. A portion of the group went out to the entrance of the town to erect their new Red Scaffold welcome sign. Others created flyers for a youth night they were planning for Friday. Others took a weed whacker outside to take care of some invasive vegetation and make the grounds look even nicer. Still others set to work on painting a great mural in the kitchen of the community center. They set up a 2 on 2-basketball tournament later that day with some of the older kids. This went on for most of the afternoon and everyone involved had a great time. That night they made Indian tacos and dream catchers with some of the people from Red Scaffold. It was a great cultural learning experience. They held chat then played a game of hide and seek in the dark with the local kids that night.

CHAT: Where do you see the person to your left in ten years?

August 12th 2011

The group spent much of the day preparing for the coming night. They had a youth night planned and set to work putting up more flyers and spreading the word that the night would be a fun one. When kids arrived they played games of basketball and tag. But the real fun started at 7:30 after dinner. The group made a fire and roasted s'mores over it with the kids. After that, they played games of Frisbee, princess, basketball, and tag. Everyone worked hard until 10:00 when the youth night let out. They held chat and stayed up talking for most of the night.

CHAT: Who is the strongest person you know?

August 13th 2011

The group woke up around 9:00 and got to work. They made breakfast then cleaned up the community center to be better than they found it. Once both cars were packed up, they headed out towards Bear Butte in Sturgis South Dakota. Once arriving at the camping site they set up tents and headed out to greater Sturgis. There they walked around the famous Sturgis motorcycle rally for a little while. They had a good time exploring and witnessing the madness that comes from it. They group went out for dinner at a local pizza place and did some grocery shopping. After filling up on food, they returned to the campsite and held chat.

CHAT: Say something nice about the person to your left.

August 14th 2011

The group woke up early to make breakfast and get ready for the day. They crossed to road to Bear Butte state park where they met up with Lon and others. Lon, the park ranger, told them about the history of the mountain and how it got its name. Moni, another worker at Bear Butte, then told them some of the cultural significance of it. It was a great learning experience for all and the group took a lot out of it. After that, they all hiked up to the top of the mountain. And on the way down helped carry logs out. It was a productive service project that left everybody with a feeling of accomplishment. They then ate lunch at the park. Later on, after dinner, the group was taken out for ice cream and the movies. After they got back, everyone retired to bed.

August 15th 2011

The group woke up and ate pancakes for breakfast. After eating and cleaning, they packed up and headed out to Rapid City one more time. Here they picked up the remaining equipment

stored at the Rapid Y and set up camp at the Canyon Lake Campgrounds. After setting up tents and getting settled, they went out to On the Border for a dinner of Mexican food. After dinner the group went to Pirate's Cove for a round of miniature golf. Throughout the day they group also packed up everything that was needed to be returned to camp. They made sure everything was air tight and ready to go. After golf they retired to bed, needing rest before a big day of travel.

Chat: No chat due to sudden storm

August 16th 2011

The group woke up around 7:30 ready for a big day of travel. They worked hard to be ahead of schedule and ready for the airport. This meant cleaning up camp and packing every piece of camping equipment (and some left from previous trips) into the two cars. This was accomplished around 9:00 and they headed back towards Mt. Rushmore to eat breakfast at Fort Hayes. Here they dined on 99 cent all you can eat pancakes to their hearts content. After indulging in some souvenir shopping they stopped at Casey's Auto to settle the rental cars and headed for Rapid City Regional Airport. After checking their baggage and supplies and making it through security they boarded the first flight to O'Hare in Chicago. The flight was smooth and before they knew it they were boarding the next plane for Hartford. Travel was of no worry the entire day REACH made it safely back to camp around 12:15. Tired from travel but hyped up from each other's company, the men and women of REACH retired to their respective camps and went to bed.

August 17, 2011

Waking up in separate camps, the newly divided group got to experience their first morning at Becket Chimney Corners after participating in the program. The men of the group shadowed cabins in both Frontier and Iroquois village. Here they followed cabins on their activities and got to know the campers in them. The women over at Chimney prepared all the luggage from the trip and ran a thorough inventory. They checked tents and made sure all their supplies were accounted for. After lunch the two groups met at Becket for a tour. As they walked around as a whole, they were able to talk to campers and counselors alike about their recent experience. A quick trip over the intercamp trail made it possible for the girls to return the favor of a guided tour. The men and women retired back to their camps to prepare themselves for candlelight. A male and female participant each spoke to their camp along with other chosen members of the units and villages. It was a beautiful ceremony enjoyed by all. Afterwards, the group returned to their rooms to plan for the next day and fall asleep.

August 18th 2011

REACH had a full day on camp. They were able to get a taste for what it would be like to be an AC or counselor at Becket Chimney Corners. The girls shadowed their own personal counselor for the entire day. Through this they were able to see cabin activities, free time, afternoon activities, and cabin chat through the eyes of an LIT. The boys took over a cabin of their own and were able to lead the campers in a specially created cabin activity. It was a lot of work but all groups did a great job. After a debrief and lunch, the boys walked to chimney to finish cleaning their used supplies and organizing their equipment at the girl's camp. As the girls continued to shadow, the boys returned to Becket to interview with the camp director about their plans for next summer, and their experience for the past trip.

August 19th 2011

The groups woke up and got together around 9:30am to start preparing the slideshow for their parents. While the slideshow was being created the girls each met separately with the camp director for a one on one interview. REACH had lunch together in the Chimney Dining Hall and then met afterwards for a group debrief with Jim and Alysa. After the debrief the group went their separate ways again. The girls planned and ran activities for each unit while the boys helped run afternoon activities at Becket. Both the boys and the girls participated in separate finals banquets but then met up after to spend the last night with each other.

August 20th 2011

The group woke up in Gibson Hall and headed to the Dining Hall for a final breakfast together. After breakfast the group packed and cleaned the areas they had been staying in and then met up at Admin to finalize their slideshow. While working on the slideshow the girls met with the leaders to go over final evaluations. Parents arrived at 1:00pm and the group presented their slideshow. REACH said their final goodbyes after and headed home with their families.

SERVICE PROJECTS

LIT Orientation (June 23rd-27th)

LIT orientation lasted one weekend, but both groups did a lot of work in their respective camps. The male REACH participants built a rack for the canoes at camp, and policed the entire grounds for trash. (8 hours)

Sioux YMCA Day Camp (August 1st-5th)

Every day for a week the group led the children of Dupree in a day camp. They would spend their nights and mornings planning activities and crafts. The children would arrive at one and stay until seven thirty that night. The main focus of the day was keeping the energy up and the activities fresh. (33 hours)

Sioux YMCA Pole Barn clean up (August 3rd-4th)

A few mornings in Dupree the group worked at a big barn next to the YMCA. Here they organized shelves filled with supplies for the camp. They put sports supplies in order, cleaned up trash, and made it much easier to find anything needed for the Sioux YMCA. (5 hours)

Camp Marrowbone cleanup (August 5th-6th)

The group arrived at camp to clean up and winterize the entire grounds. Here they broke down teepees, separated good wood from firewood, picked up trash, cleaned picnic tables, swept all the cabins, put away all canoes and lifejackets. By the time they were done the camp was ready to be closed down for the winter months. It was hard work but they managed to get it all done in a weekend. (5 hours)

Red Scaffold Projects (August 8th-12th)

At Red Scaffold it was more so up to the group to decide what needed to be done. There was a lot in the town that needed help. They used weed whackers to take care of the nearby baseball field that had become overgrown. The group planned out and built a "Welcome to Red Scaffold" sign at the entrance of the town. (REACH bought all the supplies and paint needed for it) They stripped dugouts at the diamond and repainted them more appealing colors along with the benches around the field. In addition to all this outdoor maintenance they regularly mopped and cleaned the inside of the community center including the large basketball court. When the group arrived it was in ruins, there was literal human feces on the floor when they got there. But they just took a deep breath and cleaned what had to be cleaned. During all this they would plan activities and sport tournaments to play with the local kids. There were games of manhunt tag at night, and two on two basketball games during the day. On their last night the group planned a Youth Night that involved games of kickball and s'mores. Getting the teenagers involved was really important here as they were more prone to alcohol or drug abuse. Also, it is really important to take initiative here, as it can be easy to not find help if not sought out. Always have multiple projects ready by constantly keeping in contact with the point people. Clark Iron Hawk was extremely helpful and will hook the group up with mowing equipment. (43 hours)

Bear Butte Service (August 14th)

This state park always works with REACH and is happy to supply project. Lon, the park ranger, is quite helpful. We hiked the trail and on our way down carried excess lumber off the trail. It seemed easy but was a big help to the crew in the sense that it saved Lon multiple trips up and down the trail. Highly recommend working with them, as they will give great informational talks on the geographic structure of the mountain and cultural significance. (2 hours)

Total Number of Service Hours: 96 hrs.