

Setting up an after-school
junior ranger or junior naturalist
program for your area



Potential Problems? Brainstorm



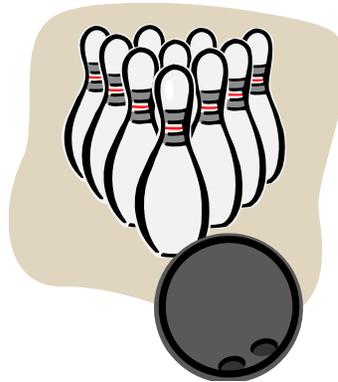
Potential Partnerships

- Local schools
- Local parks and recreation dept.
- Parents, parent groups
- University
- Etc.



Cooperation/Coordination Needed

- Transportation
- Students
- Busses
- Janitor
- Other after-school programs



Who is the program for? When?

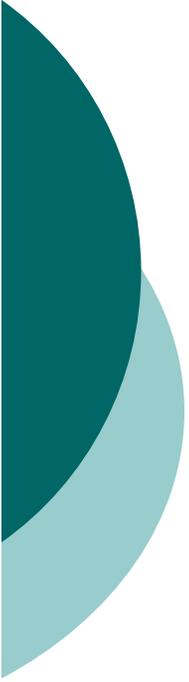
- Students in grades three to five
- Six grade and up as “assistants”
- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. after-school
- One day per week over 4-8 weeks in the fall, winter and spring



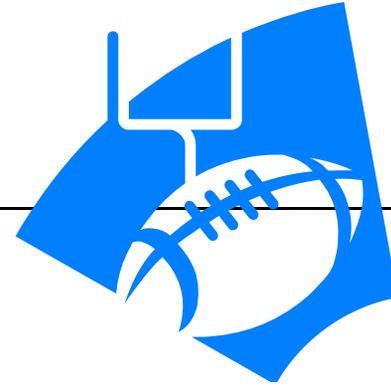
What about the weather?



- Review clothing needed
- Extra raingear or trash bags
- Try to stay outside most of time even in wet/cold conditions
- Have dry meeting and ending room
- Back-up activities in event of really stormy conditions



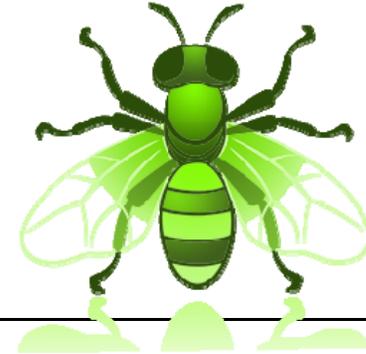
Program Goals



- Get kids outside!
- Show kids how to have fun outside
- Learn about your resources
- Learn about your agency
- Learn stewardship
- Learn how to safely explore and learn on their own



Program Objectives



- Outdoor clothing awareness
- Excited to keep learning in the outdoors
- Remember your agency or mission
- Daily objective (i.e., There are 28 orders of insects; name at least three and describe.)

Types of Activities

- Do things you can't do in the classroom
- Hands-on
- Learning games
- Explorations
- Use field equipment and field guides
- Have fun!





Location

- At school site
- At your park or nature center. Bus?
- At green space within walking distance of school



Advertising



- In-school presentation is critical along with take home flyer.
- Partner with parks and recreation department or municipality to put ad in their newsletter.
- Local newspaper ads

Costs

- \$3 per session
- Have kids sign up to bring snacks and drinks
- Are there other expenses?

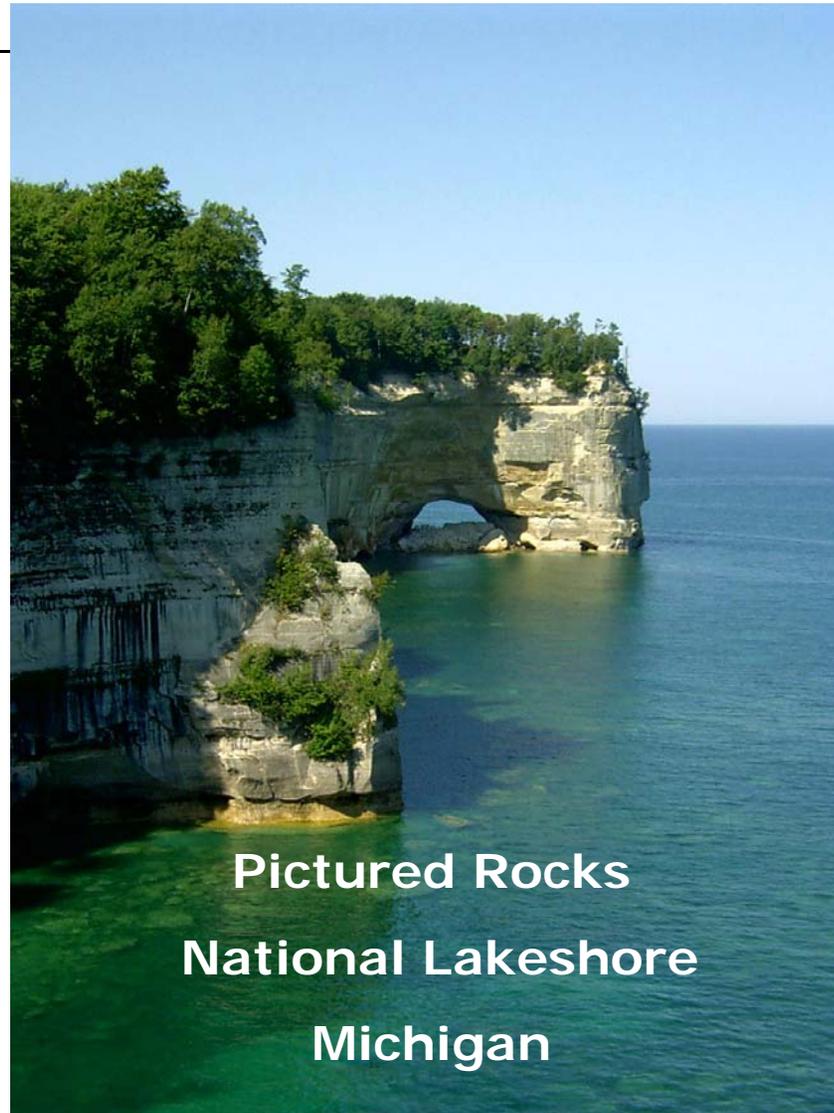


Results!



- Extra income for your program
- Helped kids make emotional and intellectual connection with outdoors
- Helped kids become better stewards
- Helped inspire some to continue in natural or cultural resources

**For more info about this program
contact: david_kronk@nps.gov**



**Pictured Rocks
National Lakeshore
Michigan**