**6 – K-12 Student Outreach**

**6.8**

**6.8 Basswood Bridge Competition – Nashville Branch**

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| **1. Section, Branch** | Tennessee Section, Nashville Branch |  |
| **2. Section/Branch Size** | Medium |  |
| **3. Project Contact** |  |
| Name | Tony Snyder |
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| Email | tonysnyder@comcast.net |
| **4. Project Category** | K-12 Student Outreach |
| **5. Project Description** | High school students in the region competed to design and build basswood model bridges for highest efficiency. |
| **6. The Process**(What you did, When and How) | Gathered a group of interested volunteers for an initial meeting late fall; determined a set date and location for the competition day (to coincide with E-week, location coordinated with Adventure Science Center); met regularly (about once a month) with volunteers and Adventure Science Center to go over rules, volunteer duties, competition timeline and flow of events. |
| **7. Those in Charge** (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.) | Bridge Competition Chair – responsible for coordination of tasks and communication with all involved; volunteers responsible for set-up, determining as a group prizes and protocol, all involved with process on competition day. |
| **8. Time Frame**(When Started, When Completed) | Planning stages began in November/December with initial meeting with volunteers; regular meetings with volunteers once per month until competition day; competition date coincided with E-week in February. |
| **9. Success Factors**(The Parts that Worked Really Well) | Regular meetings with volunteers, the full cooperation of Adventure Science Center (ASC provided many things that were necessary for the success of the event: location, space, equipment, publicity). |
| **10. Setback Factors**(The Parts that did Not Work Well) | Too many volunteers with too few tasks on competition day led to unnecessary roles and some confusion about procedures; timing of events on competition day and flow could have been more streamlined for better efficiency. |
| **11. Creativity**(This is something off the wall that we did) |  |
| **12. Administration**(What was most Important?) | Adventure Science Center Director of Marketing, Virginia Crowe; CTE Coordinator for Nashville Metro Public Schools, Kelly Henderson. |
| **13. Follow-Up**(What was most important?) | Feedback from volunteers and teachers provided insight into what areas could be improved upon for the following year. |
| **14. Recommendations**(What you should ALWAYS do with this project?) | Always make sure that everyone involved, including students, teachers, and volunteers, are very familiar with all rules and procedures. Be clear and up front with rules and grounds for disqualification so that everyone understands what is involved with the competition. |
| **15. Cautions**(What you should NEVER do with this project?) | Do NOT try to accommodate everyone by being flexible on the procedures – inconsistency will confuse those involved and lead to different interpretations of rules and methods. |
| **16. The Outcome** | Overall, the more thorough coordination and communication was with volunteers, teachers, and sponsors, the better the result and understanding. Students that participated were able to learn about the process of designing and modeling a structure with a given set of parameters and materials. Feedback from most teachers and students was positive, indicating the desire to see another competition the following year. |
| **17. Ongoing Activity**(Would you do it again?) |  |
| **18. Speaker Contact Information** (person from your Region who would be willing to speak about the Best Practice) |  |
| Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Phone Number |  |
| Email |  |
| **19. Additional Comments** | Students seemed to be more excited by the prospect of receiving a trophy to take home rather than a cash prize. |