

Local Government Energy Efficiency

PROGRAMS WITH PROMISE:

ENERGY SAVING ADVENTURES (ESA)

Spring Valley and Lakeside, CA / San Diego County

SUMMARY

As part of the local government partnership between the County of San Diego and San Diego Gas & Electric, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) recently released a self-titled educational board game to supplement the Energy Saving Adventures program.

The Energy Saving Adventures (ESA) program currently runs out of the Spring Valley and Lakeside Teen Centers owned and operated by the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department. Through local government partnership funding, the ESA program focuses on teaching youth ages 10-17 about the importance of energy efficiency, conservation, demand response and renewable energy through hands-on activities, such as the board game.

ESA RECXPLORERS BOARD GAME



The ESA team is a group of very passionate people. Each team member has their own field of expertise and brings a unique approach to the ESA program which helps the program thrive by reaching out to different groups of kids in the County's teen center programs. We look forward to providing new programming and reaching new milestones throughout the year.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Major features: a trivia game designed for 6 players ages 10 and up; 3 different trivia categories include-energy efficiency, outdoor education, and environmental energy education. In addition, the board game highlights the different types of energy sources/energy facilities including, biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, and wind, as well as various county parks and local tourist attractions.

LESSONS LEARNED

Difficulties encountered and barriers overcome- Because ESA is an ongoing program, design and content came naturally, but one of the major challenges included finding pictures of energy facilities that could be used royalty free as well as the challenges of finding an appropriate print shop to create the game.

ESA RECXplorer Board Game



Lakeside Recreation Center, San Diego County

THE REST OF THE STORY

The unique staff structure DPR utilizes through the local government partnership allows both Caroline (the program and education manager) and Kevin (the special events and outreach coordinator) to focus on developing deliverables and implementing programs that extend beyond the teen center walls. The structure of the platform contributes to keeping the ESA program innovative and the leader in energy efficiency and recreation curriculum, through unique “learning without learning” experiences for local youth.

The ESA RecXplorers Board game is currently being paired with the ESA program curriculum manual and is being distributed to county parks to enhance both DPR’s Environmental Education and ESA programming.

CAROLINE BARTOLOME has always led an active lifestyle. Having grown up playing competitive sports, her passion for athletics then led her to study Exercise Science in college. Through a combination of her formal training and over 7 years of work experience in recreation, Caroline created the first after school curriculum that paralleled exercise science with the science of conservation. By bridging the gap between the two, the ESA RecXplorers program has been able to provide quality outdoor programming for San

Diego youth.

KEVIN PAYTON loves recreation and all things outdoors. As a child, he attended Spring Valley Teen Center, and developed an appreciation for nature, and knew he wanted to mentor future generations. He became a staff member for the same teen center and began running outdoor adventure program trips for its members which emphasizes the impact they have on the environment in everything they do, including their energy use at home. Kevin holds a degree in Recreation Administration from San Diego State University, and hopes to continue providing youth and families with the tools they need to appreciate San Diego’s recreation first-hand.

LEARN MORE

<http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/centers/ESA.html>

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Funded by California utility customers and administered by California’s investor owned utilities under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.