Summer Weather Camps – Educational Outreach at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Dr. Ken Dewey, Applied Climate Science, School of Natural Resources
University of Nebraska–Lincoln  kdwey1@unl.edu

UNL Weather Camp Times:
One week in mid-June
Monday - Friday (9am-5pm)
Family picnic, awards, Friday 5-8pm

What happens at Weather Camp?
Students are engaged in hands-on activities, field experiments, seminars, tours of research facilities, and workshops that expand their knowledge of atmospheric sciences, weather and forecast models, climate science and environmental instrumentation.

Weather Camp Goals:
Learn group problem solving skills; develop leadership skills; learn how to take weather observations and forecast the weather; learn how to do research and create a research poster; and, learn about science careers through first-hand exposure to educational and career opportunities in atmospheric sciences.

On Campus Daily Schedule:
Morning weather map discussion conducted by our staff
Class room visits by local scientists
(university and state and federal agencies)
Class room hands-on experiments and demonstrations
Guided Internet access to work on individual research projects
Outside the building to use weather instruments

Off Campus Field Trips:
1. National Weather Service Omaha: (toured office; met with a forecaster; met with warning coordination meteorologist who gave a presentation and students played “Weather Jeopardy” prepared by him
2. Emergency Management Office
3. UNL Football stadium to conduct a micro-climate study of the stadium with weather instruments”
4. Channel 10/11 KOLN TV studio, Lincoln, watched live news and weather in the studio, met with their weathercasters, played with the green screen

Student comments:
“I never knew there were others like me out there.”
“Can we all come back next year, this was the most fun I want to do this again!”
“When I was there I felt like I belonged.”
It is clear this helps the student reaffirm his/her choice of a career path.

Interested in starting a Weather Camp?
National Weather Camp Coordinator:
Mike Mogil  hmmogil@weatherworks.com

UNL Weather Camp Website:
http://go.unl.edu/weathercamp
The link has a slide show of the 2013 UNL Weather Camp
Conducting an outside experiment

UNL Weather Camp participants, June 2013

Playing “Are You Smarter than a Weather Camper?” with parents Friday evening

Micro-Climate of the football stadium

Conducting an outside experiment

Emergency Management Office

Tornado! In front of our tornado mural

Research project on display

Daily weather briefings with camp staff

Physics of water balloon launching

Weather campers on TV!

Camper dinner and award ceremony

Campers on stage performing their “camp skits” for the parents after the cookout

Playing weather “Hit or Myth”