

NOMINATION FORM
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE LEARNING COMPETITION

Institution: *Horry Georgetown Technical College*

Title of Project: *Outdoor Recreation Management Class and Tara Hall Home for Boys, Georgetown, South Carolina*

Project Director: *Jim Westerhold, Professor of Wildlife Management*

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Establishment Date of Project: *Fall 2015*

Unit That Administers Project: *NRM, (Natural Resource Management) 130 Outdoor Recreation Management Class*

Total Number of Students Involved: *26*

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NOMINATED PROJECT
(Insert your response after each question; the response to each question should be no more than one page)

1. For purposes of this competition, the Commission on Higher Education defines service learning as college student learning at any level and in any situation that is *linked* in a direct, hands-on fashion to the resolution of a problem or concern in a target community outside the institution *and is related* to a college course with some type of reflection activity. How does your project meet the parameters of this definition?

The Outdoor Recreation Management (ORM) class offered in the Forestry and Wildlife Management, Associate in Applied Science Degree program, class of Fall 2015, learned how to teach safe and correct archery methods by directly teaching it to the resident boys of Tara Hall Home for Boys. In doing so, the Horry Georgetown Technical College students developed an understanding of Tara Hall and mentorships with these boys followed. The class visited Tara Hall twice during the semester and each visit required research of Tara Hall and reflection of each recent visit.

2. Specifically, which segments of the college/university community does your project involve?

This project involved every student enrolled in the NRM (Natural Resource Management) 130 Outdoor Recreation Management Course, Fall 2015.

3. How many students (specify degree levels to the extent possible) does the project affect?

There were 26 students enrolled and participated in the activities and research of Tara Hall. Three of these students regularly returned to Tara Hall to provide more detailed lessons.

4. Describe the target community or communities your project serves.

Tara Hall is a home and school for neglected, troubled and abused boys. Tara Hall's mission is to provide "an effective, Christ-centered, long-term residential school that develops moral, social, educational and life skills, thus building responsible contributing adults, while providing services to their families". The boys at Tara Hall are in need of positive role models. Tara Hall is located in Georgetown County, SC.

5. Describe your project's effectiveness in helping to solve the problems or concerns in the target community.

The boys at Tara Hall were always excited to learn about what the college students were learning about in reference to natural resource management. The Tara Hall boys learned moral, social, and educational skills from the Horry Georgetown Technical College students.

6. Describe the degree to which your project enhances student learning while providing specific examples of the service learning activities the college students engage in. Also explain how the service learning activities reinforce or apply what the college students learn in the classroom.

A learning outcome of the Outdoor Recreation Management course is for students to be comfortable around the tools (i.e. bow and arrow) of natural resource management. These college students had to be able to teach archery to the Tara Hall boys who were inexperienced with a bow and arrow. The course learning outcome was obtained by the students doing the teaching.

In addition to the course learning outcome, the college students were consistently reminded that worries such as assignment deadlines and making it to 8 am classes were good to have and this reinforced the value of class assignments and work ethic. Here are a few of the student's comments taken from the report summaries following the initial class visit:

"It was great to see the young boys have a smile on their face and to hear them laughing. I did not know what to expect, but I would gladly go back."

"It made me think about how unfair their lives have been. It made me forget about all my personal issues for a while."

"I could see it in their eyes that they needed something to blow off some steam and do what boys do. After the lab was over, they did not want us to leave. I did not want to leave either."

"This has honestly been one of my favorite labs so far. It was an awesome way to give back to the community. One of the little boys came up to Jacob and held his hand as we walked inside."

"During the activity I heard lots of laughter and saw a bunch of smiles from these boys, which made me feel great and I truly saw how great I, and everyone else in class, has it in life."

"Tara Hall was the best lab I have ever done and a life changing experience as well."

"We were blessed to get the opportunity to have an impact on their lives."

After the ORM initial visit, each student was asked to find a similar type Tara Hall home/school that is located in their home county given that the students in ORM come from all across South Carolina and a few from another state. As a whole, the students were shocked to find out there are many "Tara Hall's" across the country. The students were encouraged to continue the effort after graduation, wherever they end up. I hope so and this thought brings another tear.

After the second ORM visit, each student was required to orally announce one thing they have taken for granted in their lives compared to the boys at Tara Hall. The expected responses were material things such as: soda, TV, phone, etc., but instead the most common admittance was more meaningful such as: mentors, family, freedom to play and make choices, etc.

7. Is there academic credit associated with the project (not necessary for submission)? If so, please explain the particulars.

There was academic credit given for lab reports that were required after each visit to Tara Hall. There were also exam questions related to the proper and safe use of archery equipment.

8. If funding is required, how is the project funded and what is the approximate annual budget for the project?

The funding for the class visits to Tara Hall and all other Wildlife Management Program educational requirements were provided by a grant. The archery equipment and vans for college student transportation is less than \$200 annually.

9. Add any other comments you may have about your project.

Jim Dumm, Tara Hall Executive Director, says, "Our boys enjoy learning from the HGTC students and establishing mentors in the process."



HGTC Outdoor Recreation Management students watch, cheer, and assist boys at Tara Hall shoot a bow and arrow.



HGTC student, Johnny Bess (left), and a boy from Tara Hall prepare to shoot a bow and arrow.

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE PROJECT 2016

Forestry Department
Wildlife Emphasis
Outdoor Recreation Management Course

Jim Westerhold, Course Instructor
Deanna Ruth, Lab Instructor

February 2016



With a tear in my eye, I am honored to summarize the Horry Georgetown Technical College's Outdoor Recreation Management Course's involvement with Tara Hall to be nominated for the SCCHE Community Involvement Award 2016.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tara Hall is a home and school for neglected, troubled and abused boys. Tara Hall's mission is to provide "an effective, Christ-centered, long-term residential school that develops moral, social, educational and life skills, thus building responsible contributing adults, while providing services to their families". The boys at Tara Hall are in need of positive role models. Tara Hall is located in Georgetown County, SC.

As an educator, one of my goals for each student in the Outdoor Recreation Management (ORM) class is to be comfortable around the tools used by professionals/employers in this industry such as kayaks, fishing tackle, hunting equipment, nature observation, etc. The best way for students to learn is for them to have a safe, instructor-led experience, and then teach or provide the same experience to another person.

The community service outcome of this project is for the boys at Tara Hall to learn about natural resources and for my college students to be appreciative of having typical college student challenges. Additional outcomes includes the boys at Tara Hall discovering mentors/role models in the ORM students as well as these students to obtain experience and confidence to be utilized with their own future community projects after graduation.

"This has honestly been one of my favorite labs so far. It was an awesome way to give back to the community. One of the little boys came up to Jacob and held his hand as we walked inside."

PROJECT PLANNING

The ORM class interaction with Tara Hall started in the early fall semester of 2015 with a class visit to Tara Hall. A week before this visit, none of the ORM students had any knowledge of Tara Hall so an assignment was given for each student to research Tara Hall before the visit. The first visit, during a scheduled three hour lab session, was designed to introduce the students of ORM to Tara Hall and its boys, and then perform some outdoor recreation management activities. The ORM students were immediately given another assignment to summarize this first visit while providing ideas about future activities the ORM class and individual students could do in the near future with Tara Hall. This assignment content was then discussed in class, and every student wanted to go back to visit the boys at Tara Hall.



HGTC student, Johnny Bess (left), and a boy from Tara Hall prepare to shoot a bow and arrow.

Another ORM class visit was scheduled and taken to Tara Hall and several individual student (outside of the scheduled class meeting times) visits to Tara Hall were conducted. Each visit for both the class and individual students required coordination with Tara Hall's schedule and the weather. Each visit also required transporting the equipment needed for the planned activity to and from Tara Hall. The indi-

vidual student's travel was reimbursed by the Horry Georgetown Technical College Foundation.

The Yawkey Foundation provided funding for the needed materials through the HGTC Wildlife Management Technology Program. The Yawkey Foundation was started by Mr. Tom Yawkey, who was also instrumental in establishing Tara Hall.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The main activity conducted during the two ORM class visits with the boys at Tara Hall was archery and, to a lesser extent, kickball. The ORM students also performed some maintenance on the Tara Hall property and helped with clean up after the flood in October. Introductions were provided in the first visit, and then an archery orientation and safety briefing was given by ORM students.

Archery has been a favorite activity in the past as the ORM students can teach archery. When each Tara Hall boy hits a target and everyone cheers, confidence is felt from the archer and the instructor (ORM student). Along with this obtained confidence, the flying away arrow seems to take a little stress from life with it.



HGTC Outdoor Recreation Management students and boys of Tara Hall participated in archery with a goal of learning and having fun. Both groups developed a pride of hitting the target and the smiles that are associated with doing so.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

The long-term impact on the Tara Hall boys is hard to measure. The boys at Tara Hall were always excited to learn what the college students were learning about in reference to natural resource management. The hope is that we assisted with the mission of Tara Hall.

The impact on the ORM students is all very positive. The college students were consistently reminded that worries such as assignment deadlines and making it to 8 a.m. classes were good to have. Here are a few of the students' comments taken from the report summaries following the initial class visit:

"It was great to see the young boys have a smile on their face and to hear them laughing. I did not know what to expect, but I would gladly go back."

"It made me think about how unfair their lives have been. It made me forget about all my personal issues for a while."

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“Our boys enjoy learning from the HGTC students and establishing mentors in the process.”
Jim Dumm, Tara Hall Executive Director

Another outcome is that three ORM students went back on a weekly basis (total of 5 Tuesday afternoons) during the semester to Tara Hall to teach some of their own lessons on natural resource management. These lessons included wildlife identification and behaviors. These three students had positive stories to tell about their last visit and discussed the next visit with me and other students. Obviously these students obtained some rich experiences as they put a lot into the visit and therefore, are likely to continue these efforts with Tara Hall or another like charity in their career. The boys at Tara Hall also received positive mentorship from these visits as well as memorable hands on natural resource management lessons. Jim Dumm, Tara Hall Executive Director, says, “Our boys enjoy learning from the HGTC students and establishing mentors in the process.”

After the initial ORM class visit, I asked each student to find a similar type Tara Hall home/school that is located in their home county (the students in ORM come from all across South Carolina and a few from another state). As a whole,

the students were shocked to find out there are many “Tara Hall’s” across the country. The students were encouraged to continue the effort after graduation, wherever they end up. I hope so and this thought brings another tear.

After the second ORM class visit, each student was required to tell me one thing they have taken for granted in their lives compared to the boys at Tara Hall. I would have accepted

and was expecting material things such as: soda, TV, phone, etc., but instead the most common admittance was more meaningful such as: mentors, family, freedom to play and make choices, etc.

This relationship has not been publicly promoted until this year. However, I want the students to know that helping others is something to be proud of, even when the majority of their HGTC lessons are about making a living by helping natural resources. The ORM students have recognized they can be teachers of their own knowledge and this benefits others. With or without public recognition, the ORM students are likely to carry on these lessons into their future.



HGTC Outdoor Recreation Management students interacting with the boys at Tara Hall prior to a kickball game.

