

**Department of Juvenile Justice
And Delinquency Prevention**

Camp Woodson

Legislative Report

Fiscal Year 2007- 2008

March 1, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Camp Woodson is a therapeutic, wilderness, adventure program for males operated by the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In 1976, Woodson was founded on the idea that the wilderness provides a unique environment for learning, change, and personal growth. Students are given real responsibility in an attempt to teach important life skills, ranging from cooking to conflict resolution, that will be directly transferable from the woods environment to their lives at home.

A course is 32 days in length and is composed of a progression of increasingly difficult physical, mental, and emotional challenges. Activities include 5 backpacking expeditions, 4 days of rock climbing, several days of white water canoeing or equine therapy, community service, solo and graduation. The Woodson staff includes a licensed North Carolina teacher. Academic subjects are integrated into the adventure programming curriculum through an expeditionary learning curriculum for both middle and high school students. Eligible high school students may earn one high school Wilderness Science elective credit and one Healthful Living credit if they successfully complete the adventure program and the accompanying academic course work.

By statute, there are three disposition levels for adjudicated youths in North Carolina: Level I, Community Dispositions; Level II, Intermediate Dispositions; and Level III, Commitment. In fiscal year 2007- 2008, 80% of Woodson youth were Level III (committed) youth referred from State Youth Development Centers (YDCs). The Level III program offers both an alternative therapeutic intervention for YDC youth and a program designed to transition YDC youth successfully back into the community. Level II services (Intermediate Dispositions) offer an intensive 32 day therapeutic intervention that provides an alternative to more restrictive settings. In 2007-2008, 20% of Woodson students were level II, referred from Court Counselors in the Western Area.

One hundred and three juveniles participated in Camp Woodson in fiscal year 2007-2008. Woodson staff also provided a 1-day orientation program to 168 prospective students at the YDC facilities. The cost of service for Woodson is \$313 per student per day. Woodson provides a staff secure therapeutic wilderness adventure program with a minimum staff to student ratio of 1 staff to 5 students. Ninety juveniles (87%) graduated successfully. Seventy eight percent of the juveniles who participated during 07-08 have not received a subsequent juvenile complaint or adult charges during the 6 month (180 day) follow-up period from graduation date.

Woodson students range in age from 13 up to 18. During 2007-2008, 63% of the Level III youth and 53% of the Level II youth were age 16 and older. Seventy-six percent of the level III juveniles and twenty four percent of the level II youth were minorities. Eighty-six percent of the youth functioned at or below the 9th grade level.

The Woodson program offers an intensive program utilizing every minute of the day to provide therapeutic activities and interactions. Youth undergo a personal growth experience focused on learning to become a positive community member.

Program Description

Camp Woodson is a therapeutic, wilderness, adventure program for males operated by the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Camp Woodson's offices are located behind the campus of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center (SVYDC) in Swannanoa, North Carolina. The program operates in and around Western North Carolina utilizing everything from the city streets of Asheville to remote wilderness areas as learning environments.

In 1976, Woodson was founded on the idea that the wilderness provides a unique environment for learning, change, and personal growth. Activities such as hiking, rock climbing, urban exploration, horseback riding, and whitewater canoeing are fun, instructive, and therapeutic. These activities are used as a way to address the issues that trouble our students. The approach is both challenging and success oriented. There is a strong emphasis on personal responsibility and group cooperation. Natural consequences are ever-present. (Examples: If you don't hang up the food bag at night, it may not be there in the morning. If you don't set up your tarp properly, it may blow down in a storm.) Students are given real responsibility in an attempt to teach important life skills, ranging from cooking to conflict resolution. These will be directly translatable from the woods environment to their lives at home.

By statute, there are three disposition levels for adjudicated youths in North Carolina: Level I, Community Dispositions; Level II, Intermediate Dispositions; and Level III, Commitment. In fiscal year 2007- 2008, eighty percent of Woodson youth were committed Level III youth, referred from State Youth Development Centers (YDCs). The YDC program offers both an alternative therapeutic intervention for YDC youth and a program designed to transition YDC youth successfully back into the community. Woodson's primary focus has always been to serve Level III YDC youth. However, in 2000 Woodson was asked to also provide services for Level II youth who would have been committed prior to the 1999 Juvenile Code. Services for Level II are indicated in these statistics and are currently only available to the Western Area of the Department. Level II services offer an intensive 32 day therapeutic intervention that provides an alternative to more restrictive settings. In 2007- 2008 twenty percent of Woodson students were Level II, referred from Court Counselors in the Western Area.

Woodson students range in age from 13 to 18. During 2007-2008 63% of the Level III youth and 53% of the Level II youth are age 16 and older. Sixty-one percent (61%) of the total youth served were age 16 and older.

Pre-Camp

Woodson staff travel to Dillon, Dobbs, Jackson and Swannanoa YDCs to provide a 1-day orientation program to prospective Woodson students. One hundred sixty eight (168) students attended the orientation program during fiscal year 2007-2008. Sixty three of these students (37%) attended camp Woodson. See chart below:

YDC	Attended Pre Camp	Attended Camp Woodson
Jackson	50	10
Dillon	48	16
Dobbs	32	12
Swannanoa	38	25
Total	168	63

Program Schedule

The typical Woodson session is five weeks in length and is composed of a group of ten to fifteen students. Maximum capacity is fifteen students. Due to the mountainous location and the low temperatures during the winter, the sessions held during the winter months typically have a maximum of ten participants. Since 2001 all youth have been male. The minimum ratio of staff to students is one to five.

See Appendix for Sample Schedule.

Course Description

A course is 32 days in length and is composed of a progression of increasingly difficult physical, mental, and emotional challenges. The large group of 10-15 students travels and participates in the adventure activities together. When fully staffed there are two male and two female staff on duty at any given time. At night the large group is divided into smaller "tent groups" of four or five students who cook and sleep together. One staff member is assigned to each individual tent group. Additional staff come out to support adventure activities or educational lessons. Most nights are spent out in the woods as activities take the group from one wilderness to another. A base camp facility is used on two weekends in order for location students to clean-up, re-supply, participate in educational activities, and accommodate parent/child workshops.

Expeditions

There are a total of five backpacking expeditions spread throughout the course. The goals of the expeditions are to increase students' ability to work with peers to make decisions, expand communication skills necessary for positive inter-personal relationships, and develop students' ability to take responsibility for their actions. The expeditions increase in difficulty as the course progresses with students taking on more responsibility each time. For example, students receive a large amount of instruction from staff on map

and compass navigation in the beginning of the course. However, as the course advances staff reduce the amount of instruction and place more responsibility on the students to make correct navigational decisions. The final expedition is usually a difficult challenge over Mt Mitchell. Students cover 22-26 miles over thousands of feet of elevation over a 2 day period. On final expedition staff relinquishes an appropriate level of control to the students in order for them to make important decisions and experience the consequences of those decisions.

Rock Climbing

Students participate in four days of climbing during the beginning of the course. The goals of the climbing program are to develop students' trust in other members of the group and to increase students' level of self-esteem. The rock climbing program also progresses through a series of increasingly difficult challenges. The sequence begins on a ropes course and finishes with students climbing almost 200 feet at Looking Glass Rock.

Whitewater Canoeing and Equine Therapy

In the spring, summer, and fall students participate in three days of whitewater canoeing. The goals of the whitewater canoeing time are for students to develop their ability to work as part of a team and to practice communication skills. Students work in pairs to avoid rocks and other river hazards. Each person must perform a certain role in the canoe and the pair must communicate effectively to maneuver the boat through rapids and around obstacles.

In the winter, students work at a local horse ranch to groom and ride horses. The goals of the program are similar to whitewater canoeing. Students must work in a team to catch and groom their horse. They also must communicate successfully with their horse in order for them to control the animal effectively.

Community Service and Vocational Education

During the course at Woodson, students also participate in one day of community service and one day of Vocational Education. The goals for these days are for students to have a positive experience in the community, develop their sense of empathy, and learn about potential careers that are open to them. For service day, students work with food banks, flood or disaster relief, or local community projects. During the Vocational Day students are placed in small groups based on career interests and paired with a community member to explore career interests. Whenever possible we allow the students to participate in the actual work.

Solo Experience and Graduation

The last week of the program includes a two day and two night solo experience, where students are in an isolated camp with defined boundaries, and are supervised from a distance, allowing them a solo camping experience. Staff are also readily available should the need arise. The goal of the solo is to encourage students to think about their past and their future. Goals are put into writing as students work through assignments in a Solo Book given to them. Graduation is a gala event with students, staff, parents, Court Counselors, Social Workers and YDC staff attending. The community comes together to celebrate the students success, hear their stories and put the Success Plan into writing with both the parent and Court Counselor.

What we hear, we forget . . .

What we see, we remember . . .

What we do, we know.

Academic Program

The Woodson staff includes a licensed North Carolina teacher. Academic subjects are integrated into the adventure programming curriculum for both middle and high school students. For example, students get their drinking and cooking water from creeks and streams during their time in the wilderness. As a result, students conduct scientific stream studies to assess the quality of the water sources in the program area.

Eligible high school students may earn one high school wilderness science elective credit and one Healthful Living credit if they successfully complete the adventure program and the accompanying academic course work. The Camp Woodson base camp is in Fairview, located 30 minutes from the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center. The base camp includes cabins, a lodge, an environmental science lab, recreational activities, lake, camping, and several hundred acres of forest.

Family Program

The Social Worker is in contact with the parents or guardians throughout the program and begins working with them for their son's return from the beginning of the course. At the end of the third week of the program, parents and guardians are invited to participate in a family workshop with their son. The Social Worker begins laying the foundation of house rules, negotiable and non-negotiable rules, and prepares both parties for the Success Plan.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES (2007-2008)

- 103 Juveniles participated in Camp Woodson (Three juveniles participated twice.)
- 78% Of juveniles who participated have not received a subsequent juvenile complaint or adult charges within 6 months of graduation.
- 172 Days of Community Service were provided by Camp Woodson juveniles
- 54 Woodson juveniles earned a High School Science Elective Credit
- 70 Woodson Juveniles earned a Healthful Living/PE Credit
- 90 Juveniles graduated successfully (87%). Graduation indicates the acquisition, or improvement of the following skills:
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Decision Making
 - Communication
 - Interpersonal Relationships
 - Group Cooperation
 - Problem Solving
 - Goal Setting
 - Ability to handle stressful, challenging situations
 - Teamwork
 - Respect for Authority
 - Taking Personal Responsibility
 - Cooking
 - Self-Sufficiency & Survival Skills
 - Map & Compass Navigation
 - Rock Climbing

Program Cost

DJJDP fiscal analysts determined that Woodson cost \$313 per student per day in FY 2007- 2008. Woodson provides a staff secure therapeutic wilderness adventure program with a minimum staff to student ratio of 1 staff to 5 students. Some adventure activities such as rock climbing , white water canoeing, horseback riding, ropes courses, etc., require additional staff support which lowers the staff to student ratio even further. Woodson serves an important function to transition YDC students out of the secure facilities and back into the communities. Simultaneously, Woodson works with level II offenders as a diversion program to keep them out of more secure facilities.

Program Utilization

If each session was filled to capacity, Camp Woodson would be able to serve 110 youth per year. The average number served per year for the past eight years since 2000-2001 is 89. During FY 2007-2008, 103 juveniles were served in the 32 day wilderness adventure program, 168 were served in pre-camp.

NC JOIN Recidivism Research

There are usually eight Woodson Camp Sessions in each fiscal year. Each Session has a scheduled graduation date. Recidivism statistics were obtained, beginning with the juvenile's graduation date in 07-08, and for the following 180 days (6 months), when recidivism statistics were gathered. All students were assessed during this 6 month period. During the follow up period, 80 out of 103 juveniles who participated incurred no new complaints or adult charges (78%). Fourteen incurred a juvenile complaint and 9 were listed in the adult convicted offender database.

Demographics

Woodson Students by Age at Admission FY 2007-2008

	Level III		Level II			
	Student	Level III	Student	Level II		Total
Age	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Total	Percentage
13	0	0%	1	5%	1	1%
14	6	7%	2	10%	8	8%
15	24	29%	7	33%	31	30%
16	38	46%	11	52%	49	48%
17	13	16%	0	0%	13	13%
18	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
Grand Total	82	100%	21	100%	103	100%

Note there were 100 distinct Juveniles participating in Camp Woodson for 103 Camp Admissions

Camp Woodson Students by Race FY 2007-2008

Race	Level III Juveniles	%	Level II Juveniles	%	Combined	%
Asian	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
Black	51	62%	5	24%	56	54%
Latino	6	7%	0	0%	6	6%
Multi-racial	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%
Native American	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%
White	20	24%	16	76%	35	34%
Grand Total	82	100%	21	100%	103	100%

**Woodson Students by Committing Offense for Level III
and Offense History for Level II FY 2007-2008**

Offense	COMMITTING OFFENSE	Level		Total
		III	II	
Felony Bomb threat	Malicious use explosives to damage property	1	0	1
Felony Bomb threat Total		1	0	1
Felony Drug	Deliver cocaine	1	0	1
	Felony possession of cocaine	1	0	1
	Possess controlled substance on prison / jail premises	1	0	1
	Possess with intent to manufacture sell and deliver (PWIMSD) Marijuana	1	0	1
	Sell / deliver marijuana	1	0	1
Felony Drug Total		5	0	5
Felony Person	Assault executive legislative or court officer	1	0	1
	Assault inflicting serious injury (AISI)	2	2	4
	Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury (AWDWISI)	4	0	4
	Assault with a Deadly Weapon with intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury (AWDWIKISI)	1	0	1
	Attempted First degree murder	1	0	1
	Common law robbery	7	0	7
	First degree burglary	1	0	1
	Involuntary manslaughter	1	0	1
	Malicious conduct by prisoner	1	0	1
	Robbery with dangerous weapon	9	0	9
	Second degree burglary	1	0	1
Felony Person Total		29	2	31
Felony Property	Break or enter a motor vehicle	3	0	3
	Breaking and or entering (f)	17	1	18
	Felony larceny	2	0	2
	Felony Possession of Stolen Property	1	0	1
	First degree burglary	1	0	1
	Larceny - Felony	4	0	4
	Larceny after breaking or entering	2	0	2
	Larceny from the person	1	0	1
	Larceny of a firearm	1	1	2
	Larceny of motor vehicle (f)	3	0	3
	Possess stolen goods / property (f)	1	0	1
	Possess stolen motor vehicle	2	0	2
	Second degree burglary	1	0	1
Felony Property Total		39	2	41
		Level		

Offense	COMMITTING OFFENSE	Level		Total
		III	II	
Felony Weapon	Discharge weapon occupied property	1	0	1
	Gun rifle pistol or other firearm on educational property	1	0	1
Felony Weapon Total		2	0	2
Misdemeanor Alcohol	DWI - level 5	0	1	1
Misdemeanor Alcohol Total		0	1	1
Misdemeanor Drug	Possess marijuana > 1/2 to 1 1/2 oz	0	1	1
	Simple possession schedule VI controlled substance	0	3	3
Misdemeanor Drug Total		0	4	4
Misdemeanor Person	Assault and battery	0	1	1
	Assault by pointing a gun	1	0	1
	Assault school employee / volunteer	3	1	4
	Assault with a deadly weapon	1	0	1
	Communicating threats	0	2	2
Misdemeanor Person Total		5	4	9
Misdemeanor Property	Breaking or entering (m)	0	1	1
	Injury to personal property	0	1	1
	Injury to Personal Property in excess \$200	1	1	2
	Larceny - Misdemeanor	0	1	1
Misdemeanor Property Total		1	4	5
Misdemeanor Public Order	Disorderly Conduct at School	0	1	1
	Giving false fire alarms	0	1	1
Misdemeanor Public Order Total		0	2	2
Misdemeanor Weapon	Carrying concealed weapon	0	1	1
Misdemeanor Weapon Total		0	1	1
Undisciplined Runaway	Runaway	0	1	1
Undisciplined Runaway Total		0	1	1
Grand Total		82	21	103

WOODSON STUDENT PARTICIPATION BY COUNTY

FY 2007-2008

County	NUMBER	County	NUMBER
Alamance	9	Iredell	1
Beaufort	1	Johnston	3
Bladen	1	Lincoln	6
Brunswick	3	McDowell	2
Buncombe	6	Mecklenburg	6
Burke	1	Moore	1
Caldwell	2	Nash	1
Catawba	5	New Hanover	3
Cleveland	6	Richmond	1
Cumberland	6	Robeson	2
Davidson	4	Rowan	2
Durham	4	Rutherford	1
Forsyth	2	Sampson	1
Gaston	3	Wake	5
Guilford	2	Watauga	2
Harnett	2	Wilkes	1
Haywood	1	Wilson	3
Henderson	2	Yadkin	1
Hoke	1	Grand Total	103

Intake Process for Level III

Level III students are referred by their YDC Social Worker after receiving approval of their treatment team. The following Enrollment Summary details the number of students referred, the number approved by Woodson, the number actually transferred to Woodson and the number that graduated. One hundred and thirty two (132) were referred and one hundred and thirty two (132) were approved to participate (100%). Very few are denied. Those that are typically denied in the past have medical concerns such as unmanageable asthma or severe allergic insect reactions. Others have been denied for low intellectual functioning (e.g. IQ's below 60). Students who applied and were approved to participate may not participate due to committing an infraction at the YDC and the treatment team decided not to send them. Court Counselors may also remove a student from our list if they are not in support of sending him home at this time.

Intake Process for Level II

Level II students are referred by their Court Counselor after consultation with the youth and his parents/ guardians and treatment teams if they exist. The same screening guidelines and medical criteria apply for level II and level III youth. Once the level II youth agrees to participate in the Woodson program the Court Counselor brings the youth back to court and the judge issues a court order to participate in the program. Students are not court ordered to participate against their will. Students who applied and were approved to participate may not participate due to additional charges which prevent admission. Additionally, students may change their mind about participation.

**CAMP WOODSON TOTAL POPULATION
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS FY 2007- 2008**

YEAR	SESSSION #	TOTAL APPLIED/ APPROVED	TOTAL PARTICIPATED	TOTAL GRADUATED	TOTAL % GRADUATED
2007	238	22/22	14	12	86%
	239	11/11	10	9	90%
	240	16/16	15	11	73%
	241	17/17	15	13	87%
2008	*242	12/12	10	8	80%
	*243	16/16	10	10	100%
	244	21/21	15	14	93%
	245	16/16	14	13	93%
	Total	132/132	103	90	87%

*Mid-winter sessions

**CAMP WOODSON LEVEL II / III JUVENILE
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS FY 2007- 2008**

YEAR	SESSSION #	LEVEL II/III PARTICIPANTS	LEVEL II/III GRADUATED	LEVEL II/III % GRADUATED
2007	238	5/9	5/7	100 / 78%
	239	2/8	2/7	100 / 87%
	240	5/10	3/8	60 / 80%
	241	1/14	0/13	0 / 93%
2008	*242	2/8	1/7	50 / 87%
	*243	0/10	0/10	NA / 100%
	244	5/10	4/10	80 / 100%
	245	1/13	1/12	100 / 92%
	Total	21/82	16/74	76 / 90%

- Mid-winter sessions

WOODSON STUDENT PARTICIPANTS BY REFERRAL SOURCE 07-08

Session	Level II	Level III				Total
		Dillon	Dobbs	Jackson	Swannanoa	
#238	5	* 3	2	1	3	14
#239	2	2	4	0	2	10
#240	5	4	4	1	1	15
#241	1	6	2	2	4	15
#242	2	3	0	0	5	10
#243	0	4	0	2	4	10
#244	5	4	0	1	5	15
#245	1	8	0	0	5	14
Total	21	34	12	7	29	103

* Includes one youth from Dillon that was in Commitment Programming in the community. Commitment Programming youth with community placements are Level III youth who are identified after their initial assessment for a commitment programming placement in the community. These students can come to Woodson from a Detention Center or a YDC. Woodson can be used as an assessment tool or a treatment intervention prior to the community placement. Youth may also come from a community placement as an intervention to avoid sending a youth to a YDC.

RECIDIVISM STATISTICS (2007-2008 PARTICIPANTS)

There were eight Woodson Camp Sessions in fiscal year 2007-2008. Each Session has a scheduled graduation date. Recidivism was measured using a fixed six month follow-up period following the juveniles release from Camp Woodson. This insures that each juvenile had an equal follow-up period of at least 182 days. Sources of data to measure recidivism came from NC-JOIN and the NC Department of Corrections Adult Offender Database.

During the follow up period, 80 out of 103 juveniles who participated incurred **no new complaints (78%)**. There were 23 offenses collectively among those who recidivated. Fourteen of these were juvenile complaints, and 9 were listed as adult offenses in the NC Department of Corrections Adult Offender Database. Nineteen of the 82 Level III participants recidivated (23%) and 4 of the 21 Level II participants recidivated (19%). The Mean Time to recidivate within the first six months after release was 72 days.

RECIDIVISM FOR WOODSON PARTICIPANTS 07-08

	Level II	Level III	Total
Youth With no New Complaints	17 / 16%	63 / 61%	80 / 77%
Youth With new Juvenile Complaints	4 / 4%	10 / 10%	14 / 14%
Youth With Adult offenses	0	9 / 9%	9 / 9%
Total Number Of Youth	21 / 20%	82 / 80%	103 / 100%

Sample Course Schedule

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	A. Joanne , Mike, Anna, DMC	B. Jody , Kitty, Knox, Marcelle,	C Jimmy , Dwayne, Noel, Ms X	DL Floater	19	20
21	22 Pickup Day Cabins	23 Basecamp Intros Grosse Hollow	24 Ropes Course Upper Caney Bottoms	25 Climb/Orienteering @ Cove Creek Cove Creek	26 Cedar Rock Loop Hike Picklesiemer	27 Expedition Communication Wolf Ford
28 Expedition Communication Lizard Loop	29 Expedition Communication Southside LG	30 Climbing Trust Nose	31 Climbing Trust Bear waller	Expedition Problem Solving Graveyard Fields	2 Expedition Problem Solving Flat laurel	3 Basecamp Problem Solving
4 Basecamp	5 Mid session Meeting Teamwork	6 Canoe Teamwork	7 Canoe Teamwork	8 Expedition Roseborough Responsibility N. Harpers Creek	9 Expedition Responsibility Hunt Fish Falls	10 Basecamp Responsibility
11 Basecamp Family Work- shop	12 Tower/Zip Respect TBA	13 Comm. Service Respect Cabin	14 Vocational E.d. Respect Turkey Pen	15 Expedition Gaps & Gullies Leadership Slate Rock	16 Expedition Gaps & Gullies Leadership Fletcher	17 Solo Reflection Pritchard
18 Solo Reflection Pritchard	19 Final Expedition Quality	20 Final Expedition Quality	21 Final Expedition	22 Graduation! !! 229	23	24

**WOODSON PARTICIPANTS AND GRADUATES BY REFERRAL SOURCE
SIX YEAR COMPARISON**

Fiscal Year	Level II		Dillon		Dobbs		Jackson		Samarkand		Swannanoa		Total	
	Participate	Graduate	Participate	Graduate	Participate	Graduate	Participate	Graduate	Participate	Graduate	Participate	Graduate	Participate	Graduate
2001-2002	38	24	0	0	8	6	2	2	22	18	21	16	91	66
2002-2003	0	0	1	1	12	7	24	22	8	6	45	41	90	77
2003-2004	3	3	0	0	27	21	17	16	0	0	34	30	81	70
2004-2005	16	9	1	1	39	32	8	5	0	0	25	20	89	67
2005-2006	28	18	6	5	27	21	9	9	0	0	12	11	82	64
2006-2007	17	13	16	14	26	20	11	9	0	0	14	13	84	69
2007-2008	21	16	34	31	12	9	7	6	0	0	29	28	103	90
6 Year Total	123	83	58	52	151	116	78	69	30	24	180	159	620	503
Percent Graduated		67%		90%		77%		88%		80%		88%		81%