

## Extension Provides Valuable Training for Youth Workers

Every summer, the after school programs grow in number and programs are offered throughout the day, rather than the after school hours. There is a real need for affordable training of summer staff.

Group Management is always a critical piece of staff development. The more tools a youth worker has, the better they are able to not only manage the group of kids they're working with, but also teach them effectively. The Siouxland Non-Profit Management Institute (SNMI) brought in Steph Anderson and Amy Fuglestad, both Youth Field Specialists for Iowa State University, to teach the Experiential Learning Model to the summer youth workers. The 3 ½ hour workshop was attended by 60 youth workers from all areas of Siouxland, in a large variety of Summer School programs. Because of its success and positive feedback, the SNMI will be hosting another similar seminar in June of 2008.



Why teach youth using the Experiential Learning Model? “Not only do the students better retain the material they're being taught, they enjoy their learning experience much more -making the group environment more manageable because the kids are having fun while they're learning,” said Steph Anderson, one of the presenters.

In the workshop evaluations, many commented on how dynamic and fun the training was. Participants couldn't wait to bring the tools they learned, back to the programs in which they teach.

---



*“By using the Experiential Learning Model in teaching and reaching kids, you're making it an impactful and memorable experience for both teacher and student.”*

**Steph Anderson**  
**Youth Field Specialist**  
**Iowa State University**

---

For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Woodbury County Office at 712-276-2157. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu).

March 2008

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.