



Youth In Motion: Sunset Kayaking

Alaya Eveland, BA in Recreation Administration, concentration in Outdoor Leadership

Project Overview

My project is an event that celebrates how outdoor recreation can connect youth to the land, to our communities, and ourselves. This will be a free private kayaking event at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center on May 6th, and aims to support transition age foster youth through a free community building experience. Transition age foster youth are between the ages of 16 and 24, and can benefit from this program as they prepare to enter society as independent adults. All transportation, gear, and food will be provided at no cost to the participants, and will be funded by various grants and donations from our stakeholders. The event will be hosted by Center Activities at Cal Poly Humboldt and California Youth Connections, and will be open to members of Elite Scholars and the Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Committee (HCTAYC). Elite Scholars is a peer and professional mentoring program on campus that's designed to support transition age foster youth while in college. HCTAYC is an advocacy and leadership organization that aims to empower youth with lived experience to improve the foster care, juvenile justice, mental health and homelessness systems.

Goals

1. Coordinate an outdoor event for transition age foster youth that will educate participants on the topics of outdoor recreation, youth development, and connection, as well as empower them to pursue similar opportunities.
2. Create awareness around how access to outdoor recreation can improve the mental health and behavioral patterns of at-risk youth and young adults. Organize funding that will make the event free for all participants.
3. Boost awareness about what resources are available to current and former foster youth in Humboldt County.
4. Create value for participants by providing access to outdoor recreation, as well as connecting them to community and local resources that are available for current and former foster youth.

YOUTH IN MOTION
SUNSET KAYAK
MAY 6TH 4:30-8PM
HUMBOLDT BAY AQUATIC CENTER
FREE TO MEMBERS OF ELITE SCHOLARS AND TAY/HCTAYC
TRANSPORTATION & DINNER PROVIDED
MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION AT [TINYURL.COM/YOUTHMOTION](https://tinyurl.com/youthmotion)



Program Coordination

First, I connected to local organizations that support foster youth for sponsorships and pitched my project idea. Once I gained the necessary support, I moved on to creating a budget for the Youth in Motion event. Next, the necessary procedures were taken to begin program coordination in collaboration with my stakeholders. Finally, once the program was developed and the budget was approved by Center Activities and California Youth Connections (CYC), I moved on to marketing the event through the Elite Scholars and the Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Committee (HCTAYC).

Challenges and Lessons Learned

There were many challenges I faced during this project, one of my main challenges being outreach and coordination among four local organizations. Another obstacle was sourcing funding transportation, event staff, equipment, and food while ensuring that the event remains free of cost to all participants. Finally, I faced obstacles with unpredictable changes in weather and had to postpone the event from 4/21 to 5/6/23.

One of the biggest lessons I learned is that having a backup plan in advance will prevent the need to pivot and reorganize last minute. By doing this project, I witnessed Humboldt County's strong community dynamics. Most people I reached out to were willing to support and be involved in my project. Lastly, I understood that in order to lead effectively, it's important to be willing to delegate tasks to others.

Stakeholders

1. Center Activities (CA)
2. Elite Scholars
3. California Youth Connections (CYC)
4. Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Committee (HCTAYC)