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Youth Initiative Hector's Helpers: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Covering April 16, 2011 – August 5, 2011

Hector's Helpers

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Covering April 16, 2011 – August 5, 2011

Cooperative Agreement Number FAA010017

Youth Initiative Hector's Helpers

Executive Summary

The Hector's Helpers program was in full action this quarter. Students at Roy Martin Middle School completed their environmental stewardship project. Our team produced and distributed promotional flyers in order to increase Clark County School participation in Hector's Helpers. In addition this quarter, the Hector's Helpers team was showcased in a news segment aired by Las Vegas City Scene.

Summary of Attachments

- Hector's Helpers Flyer - Teachers
- Hector's Helpers Flyer - Students

Collaboration with Interagency Teams

The Hector's Helpers team continues to meet on a regular basis and is providing direction on all three tasks as detailed below.

Task 1: Student Created Projects

Project Planning:

The Hector's Helpers program strives to encourage students to think for themselves. Thus, for the class project at Roy Martin Middle School we allowed students to choose their own assignment. Through the use of Earth Force's Issue Selection Grid method the students voted on the following projects: not enough garbage cans, not enough recycling, uninformed people, motivation efforts, and kids' education. By the end of the voting, the students selected "kids' education" as their project. Their selection was based on the cost, transportation, environmental effects, and interest criterion. Once the project was selected the class broke up into committees. The committees included: PowerPoint group, T-Shirt group, Certificate group, Litter Collection group, and Litter Olympic group. The students had 2 ½ sessions to complete their projects in class, and some groups took extra time on their own.

Project Activity Day:

On May 19, 2011, the Roy Martin Hector's Helper students presented their semester project. The morning was set aside for the Hector's Helper students to educate the younger elementary school class about the dangers of littering. The students managed that the older group worked with the younger students at Sunrise Elementary. The Roy Martin students behaved very responsibly as they lead the young class of first grade boys.

Representatives of the Hector's Helpers group introduced themselves to the elementary students and informed them about the group's involvement with Hector's Helpers. Then they educated the class about the dangers of littering and desert dumping. They explained that littering leads to the desert tortoise's extinction.

Communicating in a way to hold the attention of the younger students, they expressed how we rely on the environment and must protect it. The Hector's Helpers also shared their clean-up fieldtrip experience with the 1st grade class. They provided a vivid illustration of the considerable amount of trash left on the public land that day.

Next, to continue their project, the Hector's Helpers moved the first graders outside to participate in activities they designed themselves. The theme of the Roy Martin Hector's Helpers activities were the *Litter Olympics*. The events were intended to educate the 1st grade class in a fun, hands-on approach.

At the end of the project activities, all students returned to the 1st grade classroom. The Hector's Helpers gave snacks to the younger students. While the little boys enjoyed their snacks, the Hector's Helpers presented each of them with certificates celebrating their new anti-litter accomplishments.

Litter Olympics Events:

1. **Litter Obstacle Course**- students separated into two relay teams. The game begins when the first person on each team puts on an industrial lime green vest. Then, the players race by jumping inside a trail of hula-hoops until they reach the littered area. Once in the littered area, they must race to put the litter into the trashcan. After shooting the litter in the trashcan the player returns to his teammates and the line rotates until the last team member finishes.
2. **4 Team Tug-A-War**- students divided into four teams. Then, each team attempts to pull the center ring over their finish line. This can rarely be achieved by strength alone and instead requires skill. The students enjoyed pulling against each other and strengthened their teamwork.
3. **Recycling Tag Game**- students separate into three groups. The three groups are: plastics, cardboard, and paper. Each player holds onto one of the three represented items and stands to the side behind the designated line. The players behind the line wait to race across the other side of the field without being tagged by the player in the center. The center player will call out one group to run, i.e. "go plastics," and will try to tag the plastic players while they run for safety on the other side. Once a player is tagged, he joins the person in the center and becomes an additional tagger. The game ends when all three groups take turns running across and only one person is left untagged.
4. **Litter Clean-Up**- simply, the students were divided into three teams and raced to pick up as much litter on their school field as they could. The younger students were provided with gloves as they picked up trash and the older students were ready to collect the litter by holding open the trash bags.

Task 2: Promotion

Televised News Segment

On June 4, 2011 Las Vegas City Scene aired a news segment that featured our Hector's Helpers Program. In conjunction with Keep Las Vegas Beautiful, the new station filmed the Roy Martin "Litter Olympics" and interviewed KLVN representative, Lisa Campbell, PLI Graduate Assistant, April Taylor, and a student from Roy Martin. They all shared the purpose of Hector's Helpers and added its positive influence on students to conserve the environment. The news segment can be found on the following YouTube link:

<http://youtu.be/i5tbYbRMFp0>.

Flyers

In this quarter, promotional flyers about Hector's Helpers were sent to Clark County School teachers involved in the National Junior Honor Society. We sent off copies of two flyers, one to target teachers and the other to target students (see attachment). We sought out NJHS teachers in hopes that they need service learning opportunities for their students. It worked well implementing Hector's Helpers through Roy Martin's NJHS, and we expect to continue this program in other schools across the county.

Task 3: Litter and Desert Dumping Clean-up Field Trips

Field Trips During Quarter				
Date	School	Number of Students	Yards of Trash Collected	Field Trip Location
5/5/11	Roy Martin Middle School	24	6 cubic yards	East Las Vegas

In the course of the Hector's Helper program, we coordinate field trips to Bureau of Land Management land. Our department schedules the bus transportation, port-a-potties, and dumpster rental for the field trips. While at the location, students can visualize first-hand the effects of littering and dessert dumping has on wildlife. Moreover, students will learn how to conserve the environment, and should gain a greater appreciation for it.

ATTACHMENTS

Hector's Helpers Environmental Club



AFTER SCHOOL
CURRICULUM AVAILABLE

Recycling
Anti-Littering
Team Building
Leadership
Environmental Careers
Civic Action
Environmental Ethics
Clean-Up Fieldtrip
Class Project
Technology

*By participating in the Hector's
Helpers Program the students are not
only making a difference for
themselves, but for their school and
community as well.*

About the Program

The Don't Trash Nevada Hector's Helpers project brings a real world, project based learning curriculum to students. The curriculum provides environmental education that builds civic action skills and fosters a sense of stewardship among students.

We supply a once a week hands-on curriculum with an instructor which includes a litter clean-up field trip. The flexible program can run from 2 weeks up to 14 weeks and can be delivered as part of an existing class or in an after school setting.

Students engage in activities related to a variety of environmental concepts such as conservation, civic action, recycling and litter prevention. In addition they participate in team-building, leadership and community outreach activities. Reflective journaling during each session also provides an opportunity for students to improve writing skills.

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Super Hector NEEDS A SUPER YOU!



Join The Environmental Science Club

Date: _____

Time: _____

Room: _____



Snacks and Drinks Available

