

Raystown Conservation Education Partnership (RayCEP)

Raystown Lake Project

Together, the US Army Corps of Engineers, The Friends of Raystown Lake and Juniata College have teamed with a host of local businesses, state agencies, and additional non profit organizations to create the Raystown Conservation Education Partnership, known as RayCEP. This unique partnership is striving to instill a conservation ethic for natural resources and environmental stewardship through interactive educational opportunities for a variety of age groups at Raystown Lake.



Several years ago, we realized that math and science initiative opportunities have declined for students throughout the United States. Through the RayCEP program we have been able get our visitors and the youth of our community involved and excited about our beautiful natural resources. Through the creation of a student internship with a local college, environmental programs are provided on Corps of Engineers lands at Raystown Lake, leased facilities, and surrounding local businesses at no charge to the visitors or the facilities. The programs that this partnership provides are more than entertainment and information, RayCEP reveals meanings and relationships to natural resource conservation. Programs such as Sherlock H₂O Holmes provide information on water quality; not



Photo Above: Two boys are using a meter to test the water quality of Raystown Lake during a RayCEP Program.

only its importance, but how each one of us can and are making an impact. BUT, what can't go unnoticed is that the program is fun and has hopefully created a lasting impression as you are actually testing water quality – hands on.



Photo Above: Two young ladies learn about trees and growth rings during a dendrology RayCEP program.

In the first three years of the partnership, student interns have provided 314 programs to over 9,253 visitors at 7 different facilities around Raystown Lake.

This partnership received funding from the Corps Handshake Program in 2008. For more information on the project contact Park Ranger Tara Whitsel at 814-658-6811.



Photo Above: An electrical consumption meter is utilized to show two young campers how much electricity some simple devices in their RV's utilized.