Minnesota Department of Education

Adult Team Application for Participation in Literacy in Disabilities Camp
June 22 – 28, 2013
Camp Courage
Maple Lake, Minnesota

Camp Description:

Literacy in Disabilities 2013 is an entry level course taught under the direction of Drs. David Koppenhaver and Karen Erickson. This is an intensive weeklong course, focusing on teacher skills to support struggling readers. There is an expectation that adult professionals will work 50 hours during the week at Camp Courage, in a residential camp setting. Participants will learn how to assess and support literacy for individuals with a range of disabilities. Participants will have the unique opportunity of applying what they have learned to direct work with struggling readers who will be at camp at the same time. Each participant will be assigned two campers and will be responsible for writing a report for each camper. This report will be shared with the camper's parents and school. Although the campers will be adolescents, the information presented by Drs. Koppenhaver and Erickson will be applicable to struggling readers of any age.

Lesson plans and report writing support, including a report template, will be given. Video for teaching purposes will be taken throughout the session. Participants must bring a laptop computer and a flash drive. This session will be limited to 20 adult participants. Partial scholarships are available from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to professionals working in Minnesota public schools.

Application Process:

Although individual applications will be considered, priority will be given to adult participants applying as district or building teams. The intent is that teams will collaborate in their district to provide technical support and professional development to their peers to systemically implement these strategies. Teams will consist of two to five members each, with team makeup determined at the discretion of the applying district. A team may consist of general or special educators, speech and language pathologists, administrators, assistive technology specialists, or others with responsibilities related to helping struggling readers. It is expected that all team members will continue to teach in the school or district hosting the team.

Attendees will be required to participate in follow up activities sponsored by the MDE. These activities will be provided with supports from the federally funded State Personnel Development Grant received by the MDE. It is expected that administrators will approve release time for additional professional development and support implementation of strategies in the LEA. All application materials from a team should be submitted together. All team members must provide contact information and individual answers to essay questions.

Provide a written response to the questions below. Participants applying as a team need to fill out an individual response for all questions, although collaboration between team members is encouraged. Teams can include an individual who has attended Literacy Camp in the past, but that individual may or may not be applying to attend this year. It is typical that there are more applicants than slots. A waiting list is developed in case an opening becomes available. It is possible that not all team members are accepted to Camp, which makes the individual essay responses critical.

Attach your response on additional sheets. Please limit your response to no more than three pages. **Failure to respond to the essay questions will result in your application being automatically rejected.**

1. Are you applying as an individual or as a team? (If applying as a team, please include team member names. Please also submit all applications together.)
2. If applying as a team, please provide information on how the team anticipates collaborative practice.
3. Why do you want to participate in this camp?
4. What strategies are currently in place in your district aligning with literacy initiatives?
5. With which state supported initiatives is your district aligned? (e.g. PBIS, UDL, AT Teams, etc.)
6. How were the team members chosen from your district?
7. What is your plan to implement what you have learned in your district, coop or region?
8. How will the school administrator (principal, superintendent or special education director) support the implementation plan?
9. What experience do you have with literacy instruction for struggling readers?

Please check all areas in which you have licensure or participate in a regional or statewide network:

AAC ___ D/HH ___ P/HD/TBI ___ AT ___ Reading ___
EBD ___ ASD ___ LD ___ SLP ___ Deaf-Blind ____
B/VI DCD ___ Elementary education ___
Secondary education ___ Other ___

Accommodations

Maple Lake is about 50 miles west of Minneapolis. Participants will be staying in a dorm-like building with two people sharing rooms and a common bathroom.

Meals

Food is typical camp food and is served family style. There will be an alternate choice for vegetarians. There will be plenty of snacks for the adults as well as filtered water, diet soda and coffee.

Cost

The cost of this experience is $940 for the course and $210 per person for room and board, for a total of $1,150 per person or $4,600 per team of four. Professionals working in Minnesota public schools are eligible to apply for a $1,000 individual scholarship. Scholarship recipients are expected to pay the remaining $150.00 cost of participation. Are you applying for this scholarship? ___
The additional cost will be paid by: _____
Scholarship selection will be made based on geographic and categorical representation and quality of response to questions.

Individuals not accepted may be placed on a waiting list in the event of openings.

Hamline University credit will be available for an additional fee.

Information on the camp can be found at http://www.couragecamps.org/woodland_summer.html. Your students are encouraged to apply to attend and share in this literacy experience.

Each team member must complete this grid in addition to answering essay questions and obtaining administrative signature:

Name _____

EmergencyContact _____

Phone _____

Home Address

_____

_____

_____

Email

_____ (work)

_____ (personal)

Phone

_____ (work)

_____ (summer)

Position (Teacher, SLP, OT, etc.)

_____

Roommate Preference

_____

Dietary Requests (i.e., vegetarian) _____

Administrator signature:

By signing here, I indicate that I support the application of _____ from _____ and will further support appropriate leave time for additional professional development offered by the Minnesota Department of Education, and further, that this activity will be part of the strategies and supports provided by this district to support struggling readers.

_____ _____

Signature **Title**

_____ _____

Printed name **Date**

All participating individuals will need to have a criminal background check completed, and will be asked to sign a photo release that will allow MDE, its grant partners, and Camp Courage to use your image.

Return this form by February 18, 2013
Joan Breslin Larson
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 W
Roseville, MN 55113

Applicants will be notified by mid-March of their status. All adult participants accepted for Camp Courage Literacy Camp should be prepared to commit to the entire week of professional development and to stay at camp during that time.