

Edie Klein Award for Program Excellence 2013

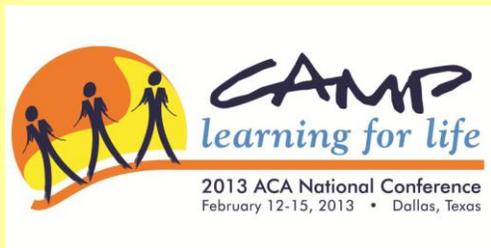


Camp Mabó/Sound of Music *Agriculture Biotechnology Laboratory Program*

The Agriculture Biotechnology Laboratory is a green roof project located on the roof of the camp's cafeteria. It has been designed as a nationwide replicable resource for STEM Education for K-12 institutions. Everything in this lab is based on soilless technologies: soilless substrates, hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaculture, and aquaponics.

The idea came after a recent University of Puerto Rico study revealed that PR is importing over 85% of its fresh foods which travel anywhere from 1,287 miles (5 days travel time) up to 10,627 miles (29 days travel time), not considering the time from harvest, maintaining Puerto Rico's food security at risk. Also, an additional concern is not whether Puerto Rico has the ability to have access to adequate amounts of food, but if Puerto Rico is having access to nutritional foods since there is a correlation between distance and time of harvest with the loss of nutritional value of fresh foods grown far away and time spent in its transportation.

The lab allows an integration to the school's summer camps, Camp Mabó/Sound of Music, in order to enhance knowledge of issues related to Puerto Rico's Global Food Security, Climate Change and Childhood Obesity through a nutrition and fitness program at camp. Campers also learn the basic concepts of soilless technologies under a perfect scenario for hands on, real life experiences in a living laboratory.



Edie Klein Award for Program Excellence 2013



Seacamp/Newfound Harbor Marine Institute Big Pine Key, FL *International Weekend*

Since 1992, the Newfound Harbor Marine Institute, a residential program for schools at Seacamp, has hosted and taught international students about marine environment in conjunction with Florida Rotary Clubs. International high school exchange students participate in a 3 day educational event along with Florida Keys students.

The goal of the annual International Weekend is to educate students about marine related topics through first-hand observation in the ocean and laboratories. Small groups, each studying a separate topic, learn about the biology and ecology of Florida Keys eco-systems through boat trips, snorkeling and wading. Led by instructors, they gain practical experience in different habitats. Discussion of the biological and social context of the topics helps make a bridge from the Florida Keys to a global perspective.

A round-table discussion is the highlight of the International Weekend. Here, the groups share what they have learned about the various topics, discussing conflicts, potential solutions, and viewpoints. The students adopt a resolution committing to take personal steps to improve the environment. Over 21 years, the International Weekend has hosted 1375 students from 51 countries. This program is a community service event for Newfound Harbor Marine Institute at Seacamp and no fees are charged.