

Camp Seminole 1 Project Executive Summary

Josh Aldridge, Matthew Aldridge, Miranda Brown, Brock Guillot, Brandon Harkins, Ladarius Harris, Malcolm Killian

Day One Leadership Program, SLCE 1002

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: Realized Project Summary & Benefit

We are the Seminole Stars, a service team from the Day One Leadership Program at Mississippi State University. Our community partner is Camp Seminole, a Boy Scouts of America and local community Camp. We are dedicated to improving the camp's facilities for the sake of the community and everyone who uses the camp.

At Camp Seminole, we sought to clean up the camp and assist them by clearing a trail for the All Terrain Glow Run, which supports Scouting in east Mississippi counties, scheduled in November. We accomplished our initial goals by spending numerous hours chopping down trees, pulling up weeds, and raking leaves out of the way for the Glow Run. Another goal we later set was to replace a few rotten logs in the Low Cope Course, a team building area consisting of obstacles and challenges for teams to work through together. We accomplished this goal and did much more through cleaning up the course and replacing a broken board on the wall climb.

Final goals we have set include restriping the basketball court and restringing the net for the volleyball area. Overall, the accomplishments we have had will affect Camp Seminole by allowing them to attract more visitors to the camp. Cleaning up the camp will also attract many more potential Boy Scouts by making the camp prettier and easier to access.

Our accomplishments working at Camp Seminole both greatly influenced the Boy Scouts of America as well as the entire community of Starkville. Through completing the trail, the

Starkville community now has access to a longer trail for the Glow Run this fall as well as hiking and family time whenever they please. Also, by completing the low cope course and the basketball courts, we have made it possible for the Boy Scouts and other organizations that come to camp to have an enjoyable time while low cope in a high quality environment. Overall, our team has worked 150 community service hours and traveled a distance of 210 miles.

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

Our team encountered many challenges throughout the short time we have been volunteering at Camp Seminole. One of these has been communication between us and the head of the camp, Mr. Tom Morgan. The difficulties between Mr. Tom and the group has led to delays in smaller tasks and directions on what we should do on projects such as which color we should use to paint the volleyball and basketball courts. Another challenge our group encountered was having access to tools and taking care of them in order to maintain their usefulness. Certain tools such as weed-eaters, shovels, and rakes allow for the group to easily accomplish tasks more quickly and efficiently than without these tools. Another challenge that our group faced during our project was planning appropriately before going to the camp. Another accompanied this challenge: transportation to Camp Seminole. Since not all of our team members have cars, we sometimes have trouble getting rides to the camp since it is off campus. We have also had to work on finding a good time go out as a group. We have conflicting schedules, and we need to work through finding times we can all go out. As it is an outdoor project, to be the most effective we need to have as many people as possible working at once. In the end however, we were able to overcome these issues and work to accomplish our goals by making a greater effort to communicate with our community partner and within our group and by approaching our task

with determination. Our group had to improvise when some tools were not available to use at times. We have also had to learn to find tasks on our own to accomplish. Other strategies we have used to overcome our circumstances are carpooling to the camp and creating schedules. These methods insured that we were successful in our endeavors at Camp Seminole.

We have learned many leadership lessons along the way but the most important lesson we have learned is that in order to be an effective leader, you must be an effective listener. Day One has also taught us to have a voice in our groups. Each of us have great ideas, and we learned that we need to voice them when we have ideas on how to make the project a success. We have also learned that communication is key to being successful in a group environment. We do our best work when everyone is on the same page and knows what jobs need to be done. We also learned that we need to make definite plans that we plan to follow through with. We need to make sure that we let everyone (including our CP) know what the plan is ahead of time. In the future, we will be able to use these skills in our professions and in our lives to make all group projects from this point onward more effective and positive in our efforts and our attitudes.