What's New

Adventure-Based Learning Research, Literature, Resources and Information

by Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to write an adventure-based teambuilding book, and during the research for that book, I researched quite a few articles, books and publications on the significance of adventure-based learning techniques. I thought I would share these articles and resources with you, for two reasons. First, we live in a world where what we do, and how we perform is constantly evaluated and scrutinized. Few educational programs, leadership and sport programs have the luxury of funding curriculums which do not produce the measurable and desirable results mandated in our present educational systems. It is my hope that a few of these resources may prove valuable to you as you attempt to justify or obtain academic credibility for utilizing adventure-based programs. Secondly, in the interest of sharing best practices, increasing the knowledge base and generally familiarizing both faculty and administration about adventure and experienced-based learning, I hope these references will find their way onto your desks and bulletin boards and into your lesson plans and curriculum projects.

I’ve managed to place some of the top references in this article, with seven significant resources first. More than 2000 can be found in the book, Teamwork & Teamplay, by Jim Cain and Barry Jolliff. Many significant articles on adventure-based education and learning can also be found in journals, periodicals, microfilms, magazines, books, websites and newspaper articles. This information can be located using search keywords such as: teamwork, teambuilding, outdoor education, ropes course, challenge education, adventure-based education, experiential education, recreation, groupwork and outdoor training.

Basic Training

If you don’t have the time or resources to manage this entire list, try these first seven resources.

  o **Adventure Education and Outward Bound: Out-of-Class Experiences That Make a Lasting Difference**
    
    John Hattie, H. W. Marsh, James T. Neill, and Garry E. Richards, Review of Educational Research, Spring 1997, Volume 67, Number 1, pages 43-87. Recommended by Dan Garvey, previously of UNH and now of Prescott College, and includes even more resources and references

  o **Strengthen Experiential Education within Your Institution - A Sourcebook by the National Society for Experiential Education**
    
    
    The American Camping Association (ACA) now includes on their website, research and information related to education and camping programs, at the Camp Knowledge Center:

    www.acacamps.org/knowledge    www.acacamps.org/research

The following four texts can provide a historical perspective, excellent programming techniques, and a wide variety of activities and additional resources for adventure and experienced-based learning programs.

  o **Adventure Education**
    
Periodical and Journal Articles

- Association for Experiential Education, "Programs Granting Academic Credit and/or Degrees," Journal of Experiential Education, Number 1, Spring 1979, pages 17-27.
- Backus, Laurie, "Outdoor and Adventure Programs: Complementing Individual Education Programs and Treatment Plan Objectives," Practical Pointers, AAHPERD, Volume 4, Number 1, July 1980.
- Evans, M., "Experiential Learning in Higher Education: Peripheral or Central?" The CAEL Forum and News, Volume 17, Number 2, 1994, pages 31-34.


Books, Manuals, Texts and Guides

Classics, Favorites and More.

• Strengthening Experiential Education Within Your Institution by Jane Kendall, John Duley, Thomal Little, Jane Permaul and Sharon Rubin, National Society for Experiential Education, Raleigh, NC. ISBN 0-937883-00-X.
  One of the most academic specific manuals ever published, with some useful ideas for instituting an experiential program.

  Some of the finest ground level portable challenge and adventure activities ever collected, with building instructions and one of the best resource lists ever compiled for this field.

  Bringing the Outward Bound experience into the classroom.


• Experience and Education by John Dewey, 1938, MacMillian Publishing, NY.
  A classic.

• The Conscious Use of Metaphor in Outward Bound by Stephen Bacon, 1983, Colorado Outward Bound School, Denver, CO


  An in-depth text for understanding the components of adventure activities.

  Although set for the business world, applicable to the academic field as well.

Read it and understand.

  A fascinating tutorial on our infatuation with competition and the opportunities that exist for cooperative adventures.
  Chapter 13, Evaluating an Outdoor-Based Training Program, includes commentary by Richard Wagner author of many significant challenged-based articles.

Websites

- The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) www.acctinfo.org
- The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) www.aee.org
- Teamwork & Teamplay www.teamworkandteamplay.com
- The Adventure Group www.theadventuregroup.com

Some information about the Author

Dr. Jim Cain is the author of the award winning adventure-based text Teamwork & Teamplay, which received the Karl Rohnke Creativity Award presented by the Association for Experiential Education. He is the former Executive Director of the Association for Challenge Course Technology, manager of the Cornell University Corporate Teambuilding Program and the Director of the adventure-based training company, Teamwork & Teamplay. Dr. Cain makes his home in Brockport, New York and frequently serves as a visiting professor and staff development specialist on subjects ranging from experiential education to challenge and adventure-based activities, and from recreational dancing and games leadership, to structural engineering, chaos and powder mechanics.

Office 585-637-0328
Email jimcain@teamworkandteamplay.com
Mailing Address:

Jim Cain, Ph.D.
Teamwork & Teamplay
468 Salmon Creek Road
Brockport, NY 14420-9761 USA