

Project Summary

1. In bullet form, share 3-5 highlights of your project.

- Having the opportunity to teach over 200 children about science
- Interacting with the close-knit rural community of Lillooet
- Seeing the children get excited about STEAM and wanting to be scientists in the future!
- Giving rural community students the opportunity to explore different aspects of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), as teachers indicated there is limited access to these resources in the community

Reflections

2. What strengths, assets, and/or capacities did you identify in yourself while implementing your project? Describe what you have learned (new/different knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and skills).

I have developed my leadership skills by learning how to lead and coordinate volunteers. By having to follow a budget and overlook finances, I gained knowledge on how to make use of the resources available to me and appreciate what has been provided. I also gained an understanding on how to better work with others such as with other volunteers, students in classes and school staff. Additionally, I learned that children in rural communities don't often get opportunities to explore STEAM-related fields due to the lack of resources within the community, which caused me to develop empathy for these Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

3. What strengths, assets, and/or capacities did you identify in the community while implementing your Project?

The community of Lillooet had many assets. Primarily, all the community members were extremely friendly and welcoming to us as outsiders. Between teaching lessons, we were able to engage with the community by sharing stories and laughs with each other. Additionally, many people made us feel included in their community by showing us their traditional Indigenous medicines and they were very accommodating to us. We were able to see that the community of Lillooet really thrives by being a smaller one as they are a very close-knit community. Additionally, it was really heartwarming to hear that the elementary school children were learning the Salishan language, because they would say thank you to us in their language at the end of the lessons we were teaching.

Community Impact

4. Will your project be sustained after the grant completion? What aspects will continue and who will support its continuation? (E.g. plans and goals for the period following the grant completion).

The students in Lillooet indicated that they really enjoyed our lessons and some asked whether we were coming back again to teach more. Although we will not be visiting Lillooet in the near future, the teachers have expressed interest in our STEAM related lessons and we have made a commitment to send them lesson plans that the teachers can implement in classrooms (that require common household items/foods). We also provided the teachers and students with some experiments to take home which will continue after the project is over (example: The

impact of acid rain on plant growth). Hopefully we will be able to make our visit to Lillooet a yearly tradition to continue our relationship with the community there. Currently, myself as well as other volunteers are committed to providing more STEAM related workshops across Vancouver as well as the Lower Mainland through our Vancouver Schools Program for Flavourful Science.

Student Learning

5. What were your original learning objectives for your project? Insert from application.

- a) Organize a trip that has volunteers
- b) Creating workshops that get executed in a classroom for kids
- c) Learning how to lead interactive workshops that involves communities

6. Review your personal learning objectives for this project. Did you achieve these learning objectives?

Yes, these learning objectives were achieved. After creating workshops based around pH (acids and bases), polarity (hydrophobic and hydrophilic molecules), and statistics, I planned a trip with 5 volunteers total to Lillooet, BC that was able to reach the two elementary schools in the Lillooet area. After reaching out to the schools, they ended up wanting us to teach all of the children in the schools, so we split up into 2 groups of volunteers and taught lessons for all children from Kindergarten to Grade 7 in the two elementary schools. All in all, we ended up reaching over 200 children during our trip and through this process, I learned how to create, organize and lead interactive workshops in the community.

How can you measure or demonstrate this learning?

7. What were the challenges of your project and what actions did you take in response? (e.g. significant stakeholder, management, staff or volunteer changes, project delays, changes and adjustments)

The first challenge of my project was deciding which rural city to go to. When I first emailed some schools in Lillooet and Cache Creek there were initially no responses after 1 month, so I ended up following up again and heard back from the two schools in Lillooet. Another challenge we had was not having enough funding to cover extra classes. Since the schools were quite small, the principals wanted us to do every single class in the school instead of 3-4 like we had planned. Therefore we had to get additional funding from Science World to cover the additional costs. Another challenge was that our lessons were catered towards Grades 4-7, but the staff wanted us to teach the younger children as well. To address this issue, our volunteers were able to cater the lesson plan based on the age group by discussing some lessons in less detail to accommodate the younger students. The principal also had us perform shorter lesson plans for the younger students due to shorter attention spans and that also worked really well. The last challenge I had was gaining media release forms from all the children, as it was difficult to get the whole school to sign it and get it back to me in time for our trip to Lillooet. To address this, I had only the children who had their forms signed sit at one group table together so it made it easier to take photos/videos of those children only.

8. How will you leverage the learning of this grant and project experience in your future endeavors? What was the value of this experience for your professional growth? Your community involvement?

The financial, leadership, collaborative and planning skills that I developed during this project will be practical for my future work experience and volunteering. Since I will still be volunteering with Flavourful Science in the future, I will be able to use these skills to help train future volunteers, lead more classrooms, as well as plan more visits to future schools. I will be able to better budget finances for Flavourful Science as well as for other aspects of my life and will be able to work more seamlessly with others through my experience with this grant. I am very appreciative for the opportunity to have received this grant and hope that our lessons made a valuable contribution to the community. Thank you!