



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SCHOOL: Shawnee High School

ACTIVITY: Powder Puff Football Game

DATE(S): May 21, 2009

CATEGORY: Social & School Spirit

ADVISOR NAME: Mr. Richard Bozarth

ADVISOR E-MAIL: rbozarth@lrhsd.org

PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:

This Student Council activity is a total reversal of gender roles in high school. It is a football game between the junior and senior girls at Shawnee High School. Meanwhile, junior and senior guys are the cheerleaders. To prevent major injuries, the football game is just flag football, not touch or tackle. Students in the game really get into the whole idea of the game the entire week before and encourage their friends to come watch.

DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:

The Powder Puff Football Game begins weeks before kickoff. The first step is signups. Girls can usually sign up about three weeks before the game to play. We usually limit the number of girls on each team to thirty, and the spots are first come, first serve, not based on tryouts. At the same time, junior and senior guys can sign up to cheerlead, and the juniors and seniors on the football and cheerleading teams are strongly encouraged to coach for the game. Once all of the players, coaches, and cheerleaders have been selected, an informational meeting is held to get everyone organized and on the same page.

Since the game is held on a Friday, practice begins Monday of that week and is usually from 2:15 - 4:00 for both players and cheerleaders. This is not much time, but it is enough to teach the girls the basics of football and the guys basic cheers, stunts, and half-time routines. In addition, it gives upperclassmen time to really get riled up about the game and tell all of their friends to come. Since this mostly causes juniors and seniors to come to the game, we also hang posters and huge banners all around the school advertising the event to the school to attract sophomores and freshmen.

We pre-order many Powderpuff t-shirts for the players (which does mean that each player, cheerleader, and coach has to pay a participation fee to be involved), but the t-shirts are usually so popular that everyone is happy to pay the 15 dollars. We always order extra t-shirts too, so that we can sell them at the game and they usually are bought. The extras are stowed away and sold the following year because we don't put a date or year on the shirt.

There is an admission table at the game, where students have to pay 5 dollars to get in. Also, we usually set up "chasers" around the football field so that students don't try to dodge paying by coming in through a back way onto the field. These students politely go up to the people trying to sneak onto the field and direct them to the nearest formal entrance.

DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:

The Powderpuff Football Game gives kids a really fun activity to go to on a Friday night. Students really enjoy watching their friends playing and cheering in the game. It is overall a very fun activity for the students playing and watching the game. Also, student council usually makes a nice sum of money off of the event.

EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:

There are a few logistical issues with the Powderpuff Football Game. The first problem stems from the date of the Powderpuff Football Game. Usually, many spring athletes want to play in the game, but we usually schedule the game a week or two before spring sports end. This always annoys the athletes because they usually are the ones who most want to play, but they aren't allowed to by their coaches. The reason that we do this is because Shawnee is a big school, and we want to keep the number of signups down, but if a smaller school were to run this, they might want to consider moving the date closer to graduation.

Also, in past years of the Powderpuff Football Game, there was never a big turnout because students just didn't really want to go. It wasn't until this past year where we actually recruited male cheerleaders that students actually came to the game. In fact, attendance at the game doubled. It is very important that a school get guys to cheerlead for this game to actually have a good student body turnout.