



KY EXCEL Project Report Form

2010-04

Return this completed form and any attachments to:

KY EXCEL
Division of Compliance Assistance
300 Fair Oaks Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-926-8111

(A separate form must be submitted for each project.)

Member and Project Information

Member Name: American Cave Conservation Association

Contact Name: Peggy A. Nims, Education Director

Project: Collaborative Alternative School Break Conservation Projects

Project Summary

During the weeks of March 1-7, March 8-14 and March 22-28, the American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA) served as the host agency for Alternative School Break (ASB) volunteer student groups from the University of Michigan, Boston University, the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. During this time, students focused on conservation projects directly related to the protection of karst ecosystems in the Upper Green River Watershed. Specific activities included the removal of household debris, used tires and recycled materials from unsightly and unsafe roadside dumps; sinkhole cleanups in Hart County; the removal of invasive plant species; cave trail repair; erosion mitigation projects at Hidden River Cave; on-going restoration of a Civil War battlefield interpretative center; landscaping projects at the newly developed City of Horse City park focused on the cave ecosystem; conservation and cleanup projects for the City of Park City; on-going restoration efforts at the sinkhole entrance to Hidden River Cave; organization of environmental education resource room and painting an original karst mural at the American Cave Museum; and the removal of garbage, discarded electrical cables and asphalt from Mammoth Cave tourist trails.

Project Investment

- **How much was spent (in dollars) to implement this project? In-kind donations: Staff and community partners support (\$4,537.); housing including showers (\$7,000.); meals (\$800.); equipment and supplies (\$650.). Total: \$12,987.00.**
- **How many hours did it take to plan and execute the project? Planning & Preparation: 40 hours. Execution 1,279.5 hours (student volunteers and adult leaders). Total: 1,319.5 hours.**
- **How many people were involved in the project's planning and implementation? 50 including the university volunteers and personnel from the ACCA, Mammoth Cave National Park (Don't Mess With Mammoth initiative), Hart County Solid Waste, the City of Horse Cave, the City of Park City, the Battle for the Bridge Preserve, and the Hart County Historical Society. Housing hosts were the United Methodist Church (Cave City), First Christian Church (Glasgow), First Church of the Nazarene (Glasgow), and St. Andrews Episcopal Church (Glasgow). Showers were provided by the Barren County Family YMCA. In addition to the housing hosts, meals and recreational/educational options were donated by the ACCA, the City of Park City, Mammoth Cave National Park, Mancino's, Turtlini's Pizza & Pasta, Diamond Caverns, the Hart County Historical Society, and Jesse James Riding Stables. Media support was available through WCLU Radio, the Glasgow Daily Times and the Hart County News Herald.**

Project Results

- Removal of approximately 6,500 pounds of household debris and large items from combined sites.
- Recycled approximately 3,500 pounds of metals and 51 used tires from combined sites.
- On-going restoration of native plant habitat by the removal of invasive plant species.
- Improved water quality in the Upper Green River Watershed.
- Furthered restoration of significant Hart County Civil War battlefield interpretative center.
- Enhanced knowledge of groundwater contamination in karst regions.
- Career exploration and collaborative service learning projects with positive social environmental outcomes.

Attachments

KY EXCEL would appreciate any photographs or supplemental materials about your project that you would be willing to share. These materials will help us to highlight your project and showcase the benefits that KY EXCEL members are having on the environment.