

Living/Learning Center Programs
The University of Vermont

<http://www.uvm.edu/lcenter/>

Diverse Sports House

Overview

In the Diverse Sports House we will be looking for people who have a passion and drive for sports. With this program we will unify all different kinds of people in an atmosphere that not only teaches lifelong lessons but breeds leadership. While growing from individuals to a single unit we will learn about other backgrounds other than our own and how all cultures can identify with sports. As a community we will learn to cope with the stressors of life while developing a sense of one's self. You may be wondering how can this program last an entire year and the answer is simple there are too many sports/sports players and cultures to run out of material. You can never learn too much about one thing you can only learn too little. The people in this program are already interested in sports and other cultures so that's the motivation to learn more. We will make sure that all community members will learn as much information possible about all cultures through sports and that's enough information to last a life time. By playing and watching sports, learning about different cultures members of this community will broaden their horizons while gaining a further appreciation for the world of sports/cultures. Although our biggest events are the super bowl event and the world series event we will also be discussing the importance of other major sport affiliated programs such as the Olympics, gay Olympics, special Olympics, the world cup, and all sports around the world male and female. This program should only become bigger and better as the years pass because of its unique way of forming a lifelong bond for all different kinds of people and hopefully everyone will be able to see how much better the communication through different cultures has increased and become better than they are now. Because doesn't matter where you live, what gender you specify as, what you look like, your sexual orientation, or where you come from because sports holds no prejudice it accepts all.

Learning Objective 1

Each member of the Diverse Sports House will be able to identify the cultural differences between sports around the world.

- a. We will have all the members of our program research information of various sports around the world, how they are played, what makes them different from American sports games, what kinds of foods are served while the game is played if there is food at all, traditions that are involved with certain sports, which players are the main attraction to the particular sport, and what made them choose this particular culture/sporting event and how can this sport be a part of the stepping stones in uniting our community.

- b. Before the members present their findings we will have everyone watch a game that pertains to the presenter's topic in order to insure that our community members are able to recognize the similarities as well as the differences so they all can have a better outlook/background on the presenter's topic.
- c. Then the members will present their findings to the group during our weekly meetings to answer any questions that may have been unanswered while enjoying the sporting event of the week. This way we will ensure that all the people in our program will leave this house more knowledgeable about other cultures than they were before so instead of using bias opinions and going off prejudice they can go off real experiences and facts.

Learning Objective 2

Each member will be required to participate in a stress relieving mechanism.

- a. All members will go to the gym and participate in the sport of the week so that we make sure that all of the members of our community can have firsthand knowledge in the type of sporting event that they will be learning about. We figured the best way to truly understand a sport is to actually play it because something may look weird, hard, or boring until you actually play it or see it played.
- b. During a meeting we will conduct an info session with a key note speaker from the gym, club sports team leader, or coach to show the community productive ways in which we all can cope with the pressures of life as a college student. We all have times when we are so stressed out we forget why we are even in school and want to quit and this type of speaker can help us find productive ways to ensure our wellbeing/happiness while we are on UVM's campus.
- c. All members will have to attend four UVM affiliated games each semester to see how much a sports team and sports game helps bring people of all different ethnicities, ages, and sex together. This is any sporting event on campus that we all choose in the beginning of the year. This ranges from varsity sports, inter moral sports, and club sporting events.

Learning Objective 3

Each member will show improvement towards leadership roles and team building

- a. Each member is required to attend at least two team building activities to make sure that they not only learn about other cultures through sports but they also learn how to become better leaders. So one day maybe they can take over our jobs or start a program of their own. This may even be the turning factor in someone's life because they may realize that leadership is something they want to pursue and actually think about starting a business one day.

- b. All members will have to team up with two or more people from the program and present a project about their favorite athlete or sports team no group can have the same sports player or team because we are a program fit for learning so of course they can't all be American sports teams and players. This will give everyone in our program the basic skills needed to work in a business or team project that is often required in classes here at UVM.
- c. Each person will have to record their overall experience in this program in order to keep this program a success. By sharing their feelings with us and the group we will be able to make the program even better the following year and that's our biggest goal. We want this program to be around longer than we are here so we will always know there is a place on campus where people can come together and not only become a family and learn about one another but they can have a home away from home where differences are not criticized but accepted so everyone can feel safe.

Community Service

For community service we were thinking about having a drive for sporting goods for the children in the Burlington Community. This way all our community members will be able to participate in a life altering activity that also helps the young Burlington Community. (If this doesn't work for the committee we will do something else affiliated with the University for community service)

Plans for Interactions with other L/L Programs

We will work with the ALANA program to learn about different cultures around the world while bonding with our neighbors. And, because the ALANA program promotes diversity and sports are a way in which different cultures come together we believe it would be a great idea to have all the different ethnicities come together and learn about sports and ways we are similar. Other programs we are interested in teaming up with are African House, Caribbean House, Chinese House, Japanese House, Russian House, No Boundaries, Spanish House, and the Canada House. And, although we may not be able to team up with all of these wonderful programs we will like to try because they are the prime example of how we want all different kinds of people coming together while enjoying a friendly competition. We think it is great that there are so many different types of houses for so many different types of people but, what our program is trying to accomplish is a way to unify all these different types of people and stop segregation by utilizing one common interest "sports". The theme our program will fall under is the General and Professional Interests.