

# FINAL REPORT

## CAMP SKY MALAWI 2009

Submitted By: U.S. Peace Corps Malawi Volunteers in the Education Sector  
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### Contact Persons:

Kelly Petrowski, Fundraising Chairperson  
Peace Corps  
P.O. Box 208, Lilongwe  
E-mail: [kpetrows@gmail.com](mailto:kpetrows@gmail.com)  
Cell Phone: 011-265-09-99-51-44-61

Bryan Vonasek, Camp Director  
Peace Corps  
P.O. Box 208, Lilongwe  
E-mail: [bvonasek@gmail.com](mailto:bvonasek@gmail.com)  
Cell Phone: 011-265-09-99-51-44-76

### BACKGROUND

Camp Sky is an independent initiative of the United States Peace Corps. Since 2001, Peace Corps Malawi Volunteers from the education sector have been planning and implementing a summer school for top students at Community Day Secondary Schools across the country.

### OVERVIEW

Camp Sky 2009 was held from November 27<sup>th</sup> until December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lilongwe Girl's Secondary School, a government secondary school located in Malawi's capital city. 82 students (38 female: 44 male), 3 Malawian educators and 28 Peace Corps Volunteers from across the country participated in the project. Camp Sky 2009 was funded through a combination of grants, monetary and in-kind donations from Malawi and the United States.

Students who attended the camp were self-selected into career-focused tracks to determine their daily core curriculum. All students also benefited from daily extra-curricular courses, activities, and field trips.

Camp Sky 2009 also included an educator specific training in which three Malawian teachers took part. The training focused on the importance of assessment and teaching practices used in secondary schools.

All project objectives and intended goals were achieved. Any minor discrepancies in project outcomes and actual results occurred as a result of circumstances not in the control of camp coordinators. In early November 2009, the Malawian government changed the dates of the national school calendar, forcing Camp Sky 2009 to shorten its own dates and thus to remove several planned events including field trips and extra-curricular activities. This also affected the schedules of invited educators who were unable to attend the educator-specific training portion of the camp due to the shortened school calendar.

### CURRICULUM

Students were selected to participate in one of the four curricular tracks: Business, Health, Environment or Public Service. Each track was lead by a volunteer who assisted the students in completion of a culminating project presented at the end of the camp. All core curriculum classes were focused on Malawi Senior Certificate Examination subjects: Biology, English, Mathematics, and Physical Science. These core classes were taught toward the interest of each specific track and also successfully prepared students for the national examinations they will take in fall 2010.

Track specific extra-curricular topics offered included;

*Sexual Health, Goat Dissection and Anatomy, Knitting, Jam Making, Peanut Butter Making, Labor Rights, Women's Rights, Photography, Orienteering, Agribusiness, Geography, Composting*

## **ACTIVITES and EVENTS**

Students participated in a variety of activities and events after their daily core lessons. The goal of these programs was to broaden their cultural understanding, expose them to a variety of community development ideas and practices and to improve critical thinking skills.

Activities and events offered included;

*Tae Kwon Do, Drumming, Astronomy, Sports, Dance, Art, Computers, Salsa Dancing, Library/Study Skills, Career Talk, Small Business Development, Team Building*

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Students were taken to the Kamuzu International Airport in Malawi in order to expand their understanding of the global world. At the airport students observed various planes and were lectured by airline officials. This trip was both educational and fun for students who had never been exposed to such an area.

Students were also taken to Hastings Kamuzu Banda mausoleum. In touring this national monument, students also received a lecture on Malawian national history. This trip encouraged students to become more interested in the historical and political significance of Malawian politics and leaders

## **TEACH SKY**

The project also included an educator specific program referred to as Teach Sky 2009. This program was designed as a training method for hard working teachers from Community Day Secondary Schools. Three Malawian educators participated in the project and received training to be shared in their own schools.

Teach Sky sessions included;

*Teaching Methodology, Assessment, Teaching with Few Resources, Hope Kit Training, Best Learning Practices*

## **ACTUAL EXPENDITURES**

Camp Sky 2009 was funded by a combination of grants, monetary and in-kind donations from organizations, individuals and the Malawi government. A detailed account of all expenses was prepared by the camp coordinators and summarized as follows:

Classroom Supplies <i>(Textbooks, chart paper, chalk, markers, etc.)</i>	\$995
Educational Activities <i>(Business development and laboratory demonstrations)</i>	\$128
Extra-Curricular Activities <i>(Sporting and social events, ice-breaking activities)</i>	\$262
Field Trips <i>(Day trips to Malawian political, economic, health, and environment institutions)</i>	\$405
Food <i>(3 meals per day for participants and volunteers)</i>	\$525
Host School Rental Fee <i>(Secure accommodations for participants and volunteers)</i>	\$2,810
Participant Materials <i>(Notebooks, pens, pencils, t-shirts, etc.)</i>	\$930
Transport <i>(Safe transport for participants and volunteers to and from Camp Sky)</i>	\$1,445
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7500</b>

## **CONCLUSION**

Camp Sky 2009 was a successful endeavor for all parties involved. Project goals and objectives were achieved as planned. The long-term impact of Camp Sky will continue to be monitored by Peace Corps Volunteers in their schools and communities.

Volunteers have observed the sharing of ideas and lessons learned from Camp Sky by students and educators within their communities. Participants of Camp Sky 2009 will take their Malawi Senior Certificate Examination in July of 2010. It is the hope of project planners that the impact of this project will be shown in the examination results and the futures lives of participants.

Challenges which affected the budget and planning of the project occurred as a result of the shortened time period from fourteen to six days. This was out of the control of project planners and will not be a problem in future years. Field trips and the Teach Sky portion of the project were most severely affected by this change. Many planned track specific field trips were cancelled due to time restrictions. A significant number of Malawian educators originally scheduled to partake in the project were also unable to attend because of the change.

The final goal of the Peace Corps Volunteers involved in the project is to pass on all information to the planners of next year's camp. All funds that were not spent for the project this year will be used as seed money for Camp Sky 2010.

Education 2008 Peace Corps Volunteers are sincerely grateful for all guidance and financial assistance given from various parties. We hope that Camp Sky continues to positively impact the country of Malawi in future years.

**Addendum:** Compiled results of student written evaluations.