

Leadership and Collaboration

1. Immersing in Chinese culture:
Dragon boat race
2. STEM Field Trip for girls

Moreland University TEACHNOW 2023-2024
Kamila B.

Background

For my leadership project I had two project proposals (it was a good decision to come up with the second proposal as a back-up plan, since the first project is still in the middle phase of implementation)

1

Immersion in Chinese culture: Dragon boat race

Dragon boat racing is a thrilling water sport with its roots in ancient Chinese culture. Teams of paddlers race in long, narrow boats adorned with dragon heads and tails, propelled by synchronized paddling to the rhythmic beat of a drum. The sport is not only physically demanding but also fosters teamwork, coordination, and a strong sense of camaraderie among participants. For my leadership project, I plan to involve school staff to participate in trainings for a dragon boat racing that will happen in the middle of June.

[Project 1 proposal is here](#)

2

STEM field trip for girls

Recently I was appointed as a STEM master of Girl Scouts Overseas in Beijing; and I came up with an idea to have a STEM field trip with girls of ages 7-17. We have girl scouts in the school where I have my clinical practice. My plan is to involve several teachers, girls and their parents to visit Airbus engineering center together. There we can have several STEM related stations. I will request the company employees to prepare a presentation and a tour for girls. This will fulfill girls' STEM badge requirements. Why only girls? Girls are generally underrepresented in technology and engineering fields. With such a project, I would like to involve and inspire more girls to choose careers in STEM.

[Project 2 proposal is here](#)

1

Project 1

Immersing in Chinese culture: Dragon boat race



Project purpose



- 1 Involve the school staff in a team-building activity that focuses both on sport and culture.
- 2 Introduce one of the aspects of Chinese culture to new staff who came from abroad as Dragon boat festival is recognized as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- 3 Learn about dragon boat racing techniques and crucial team collaboration.
- 4 Get involved with a wider community of other schools participating in a dragon boat race.
- 5 Long-term purpose: Pass the knowledge to new teachers, students and parents; keep this activity as an annual school tradition.

Project objectives

School staff will:



- 1 Learn, practice, and apply dragon boat paddling techniques..
- 2 Develop collaborative skills fostering the school spirit.
- 3 Explore history and culture as an important part of the activity.
- 4 In the future keep actively participating and passing the knowledge about dragon boat racing to the school or wider community.

Project impact

School community knows that Dragon boat racing is a big part of celebrating a dragon boat festival.

School community collaborates in this active sport event for fun, for involving new staff (active and cultural orientation activity, etc.)

Long-term purpose: Pass the knowledge to new teachers, students and parents; keep this activity as an annual school tradition

This project is aligned closely with the school's motto: "Together is better" because gathering, participating, and succeeding in this activity requires the sense of "togetherness" - only synchronous teams can succeed in the race. The mission is "developing learners into passionate leaders".



Project description

Dragon boat racing is a thrilling water sport with its roots in ancient Chinese culture. Teams of paddlers race in long, narrow boats adorned with dragon heads and tails, propelled by synchronized paddling to the rhythmic beat of a drum. The sport is not only physically demanding but also fosters teamwork, coordination, and a strong sense of camaraderie among participants. For my leadership project, I plan to involve school staff to participate in trainings for a dragon boat racing that will happen in the middle of June.

The vision of the school focuses on these four words: Inquisitive, Successful, Balanced, Compassionate. The participants of the project are curious and open-minded - they are open to try new things, well-balanced - as they can balance work, personal life and other activities (like dragon boat racing), their goal is personal development that leads to success; they collaborate, learn from each other and help whenever needed.

Project 1 implementation and outcome

Immersion in Chinese culture: Dragon boat race

How was it advertised? Initial steps.

The event was advertised during all departments meeting, in a newsletter, through a poster, and a WeChat group was created. I asked the same dragon boat trainer as last year (when I participated in a dragon boat's parents group at the Western Academy of Beijing) to help us with this event. 12 people joined the WeChat group ready to participate in 8 training sessions. The challenge was to determine the place for training. The one that I had in my mind - pond at the Western Academy of Beijing was only open for trainings for local staff (security reasons). The other pond with dragon boat equipment was only open on Sundays. Our teachers could only meet on Saturdays.

Three screenshots of a WeChat group chat titled "Dragon boat CISB team".

- Message 1:** "Greetings all! The dragon boat season is just around the corner. 🐉 Thank you for joining the group! No previous experience is necessary, but current and former paddlers, kayakers etc. enthusiasts are certainly welcome! 😊 Our goal for now is to select an appropriate date for a training in April (30-40 min training on water in Houhai lake). What we will learn during this first training:
 - Brief history and culture of dragon boat and dragon boat festival
 - Basic warm-up, safety and well-being essentials
 - Teambuilding and communication (being synchronous is a key)We can make it as a one time training event to immerse in this dragon boat experience, to foster the bobcats spirit, enjoy the teambuilding opportunity and nice weather. If you really like this idea, let me know and we can start planning the date." (Sent by user).
- Message 2:** "#Group Note Let's include our names to the list - if April 13 works for you (add important comments in parentheses such as specific time that's strongly preferred) otherwise we let Mike decide about the time that works best for him." (Sent by user).
- Message 3:** "Hi Stephie and @All! The boathouse this week is available only on Sunday from 4 PM to 6 PM. If this time slot is ok for you - please include your name in the list below. 📅 thank you 🙏" (Sent by user).
- Message 4:** "Stephie Yang: Hi Mike and Kamila, have we decided the time of training ..."
- Message 5:** "#Group Note Sunday 4pm is ok for me 🤗" (Sent by user).
- Message 6:** "1. Kamila" (Sent by user).
- Message 7:** "Daniel Boudreau: My apologies, I can't Sunday." (Sent by user).
- Message 8:** "Xihong: My apologies, my son has swimming competitions on Sunday, I can't join this time." (Sent by user).
- Message 9:** "4/11 20:26 Stephie Yang: i have appointment with doctor on Sunday 😢"

What is the current status?

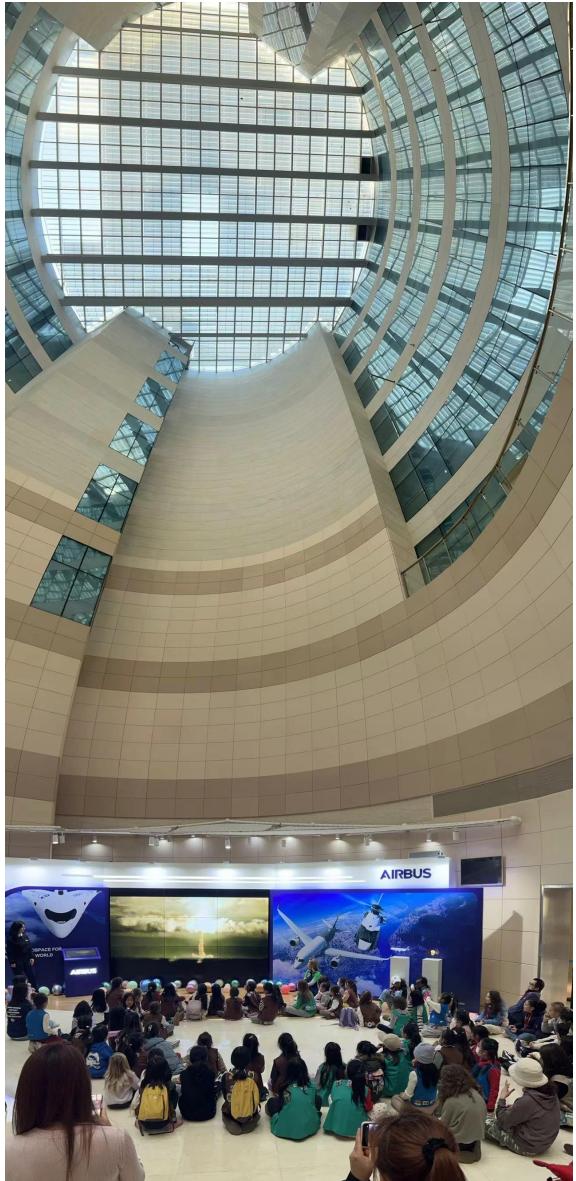
The challenge was to determine the place for training. The one that I had in my mind - pond at the Western Academy of Beijing was only open for trainings for local staff (security reasons). The other pond with dragon boat equipment was only open on Sundays. Our teachers could only meet on Saturdays. Our current status is 1. we are looking for a pond that is open for dragon boat race trainings on Saturdays and has dragon boat equipment to rent, or 2. wait for summer holidays when teachers have more free time to become available on other week days including Sunday.



2 Project 2

STEM field trip for girls





Project purpose

- 1 Introduce girls to STEM, i.e. aviation; inspire them with success stories of women in aviation.
- 2 Prepare activities, tour and presentation that would inspire girls to pursue careers in STEM.
- 3 Long-term purpose: continue visiting Fortune 100 companies, involve girls and wider community.

Project objectives

Students will:

1 Learn about the achievements in STEM and get inspired by success stories of women in aviation

2 Develop collaborative skills through activities.

3 Explore history and opportunities of Girl Scouts and Airbus.

Teachers and Parents Volunteers and I will:

1 Exercise leadership and management skills

2 Provide safe activities and ensure safety and well-being of all participants



Project impact

School community will be aware of myriad opportunities around STEM

School community collaborates with GS and other companies (in our case - Airbus)

Long-term purpose: look for opportunities to connect students to other companies (for training, skills and career development and other purposes)

This project is aligned closely with the school's motto: "Together is better" because gathering, participating, and succeeding in this activity requires the sense of "togetherness". The school's mission is "developing learners into passionate leaders".

OUR HISTORY OVERVIEW



And our story continues....



OUR HISTORY OVERVIEW



From 18 girls in Savannah to a global movement to make a difference.

Juliette Gordon Low—also known widely by her nickname, "Daisy"—started Girl Scouts in 1912 in her hometown of Savannah, Georgia.

The first troop was made up of 18 girls who all shared a sense of curiosity and a belief that they could do anything



Background of Girl Scouts organization:

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/discover/about-us/what-girl-scouts-do/leadership-experience.html>

TODAY: We are the Faces of Girl Scouts and...



Project 2 implementation and outcome

STEM field trip for girls

How was it advertized? Planning:

- First step was to meet with Airbus marketing team, and we also had a chance to discuss the event with the CEO or Airbus in China.
- Next, I announced about the opportunity at the school (school newsletter, collaboration meeting) and asked who from teachers would like to volunteer.
- I created several wechat groups (Airbus team, Girls scouts, and general), and the project poster to spread information.
- I planned activities and assigned volunteers to each station. Volunteers were troop leaders, teachers, parents and girls - seniors and cadettes.
- I ordered STEM badges for girls and other required for the activities material.
- I created a video and slides for presentation during the event.

Video link: https://youtu.be/_fp53pPxwgE

- We decided who from Airbus will present (four female employees volunteered to present their success stories in engineering, science, and aviation).
- We agreed about the transportation to the Engineering center: 2 buses from 2 different locations (from downtown and school).

Badge designed by a senior GS member



This is how the real badge looks like on a vest



Our speakers



Project 2 implementation and outcome

STEM field trip for girls

Day of the event schedule:

10:15 – Event Kick off/Opening Ceremony – Welcome speech with the core team;
GS law & promise Kamila to introduce the stem program – fun pics and facts
about airbus & women in aviation; Transition to the next chapter:

10:25 – Meet Airbus Engineers – girls who design and work in the industry – different roles
– life stories to inspire – video provide by Airbus

10:50 – Kamila to show a fun video: sustainability & women in aviation

10:53 – Scouts Snacks & water break

11:05 – Simulation Warehouse visit begins & Activity Stations – assist by Troop Leaders

- 1: Balloon popping STEM questions challenge. To do: questions and tasks for all levels
2. Paint & decoration wooden airplanes.
- 3: Challenge your equilibrium and construction skills (raw spaghetti and marshmallow highest tower challenge)
- 4: A. Identify parts of airplane (mix and match terms with images)
B. Create your own airplane design – color wooden airplanes; create paper airplanes

12:15 - Closing Ceremony, clean up – badge time!

12:30 – Ciao to the fabulous Airbus building – departure!

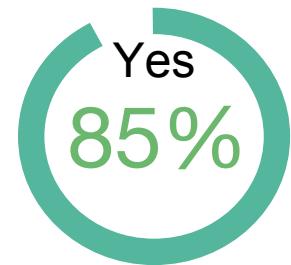


Parents and teachers involvement. Their opinions

Parents and teachers were involved at each activities station. In addition, they were helping with logistics and supervising buses.

Most of the activities were planned in advance with all material purchased. There was a parent who took pictures and documented the event for a Beijing family journal “Jing Kids”.

In general, we had to work closely together and collaborate effectively to make this event successful ensuring safety at all steps. Majority found the event meaningful, and noted high level of engagement among students. Most of them agreed to have such events more often (with different companies). All volunteers were given short surveys to fill out:



Was the event meaningful for students?



Do you want to take part in similar events in the future?



Did you experience issues?



Impact of the event on students

The event met the objectives: students were engaged in STEM activities (learning new concepts, answering questions, working on some team tasks), inspired by stories of women in aviation, learned about different professions in STEM.

Since the school's mission is "developing learners into passionate leaders" - I think with this event we were able to demonstrate to girls how learners can become leaders in certain fields (STEM); the project aligns closely with this school mission. Elder students were able to participate as volunteers to exercise leadership (designing badge, assisting younger girls)



“Together is better”

This project is aligned with the school's motto: “Together is better” because gathering, participating, and succeeding in this activity requires the sense of “togetherness”. The event wouldn't be possible without the support of school, parents, Girl Scout organization, and the Airbus engineering center in Shunyi.



Meeting standard 10



I started planning the event with a top-down approach: I was considering vision, mission values of both - school and Girl Scout Organization as I'm involved with both and I planned a joint project where I can align the values with the objectives of the project.

As a leader of the project, I planned what activities can benefit students (of ages 6-17) the most and can be appropriate and relevant.

Constant communication, receiving feedback, and observation + reflection will guide me in planning future events.

Cohort contribution

POV: Our cohort 11 and the instructor are the most friendly, the most supportive, and the most inspiring!

So far, they have been providing incredibly helpful feedback and support.

We had great discussions in the forum as well as during our VCs. I'm always learning something new from them.

Very grateful!



Nefretiti Morant

Apr 16, 08:10 pm

Hey Kamila,

This project sounds amazing. It will be especially meaningful to new teachers who are looking to build a community amongst peers. It is also cool that it involves physical fitness, partnership, leadership, and cultural representation. You've put a lot of thought into this project which will positively shape educators and the broader community. I really like that your project centers on collaboration and cultural heritage. I would love to watch a Dragon Boat Race, awesome job!

◀ REPLY



Crystal Osuji

Apr 17, 02:20 am

Yessss Kamila! I love this!

I love how there are some cultural implications as well. This would be such a great team-building activity and a lovely way to engage in a cultural element with the school.

I am just curious, would this event be held during school or after school? Also, what age level would you suggest this for? Would you need to have a waiver signed for the high school students?

I really hope this does become a school tradition. Looking forward to hearing how it goes!

◀ REPLY



Hyejin Kim

Apr 17, 07:4 am

It sounds like a fantastic opportunity for expat families -both school staff and families of the students- to immerse themselves in Chinese culture while also enjoying outdoor sports.

I remember hearing a story from a Canadian family who were outdoor enthusiasts. They came across an advertisement in an English web magazine, promoting participation in a dragon boat race. Excited by the idea, they eagerly signed up for the event. However, upon arrival, they realized that it was more of a leisurely outing, with participants simply enjoying the experience of being on the water while sipping beer.

This project surely is an authentic cultural experience compare to their experience! haha.

I like the idea that this project could include other school communities for a race too, how cool!

THANK YOU