



SWE Activity Report 2002 - 2003

Event: Expanding Your Horizons 2007

Time - From: 8:30 am

To: 3:00 pm

Date: April 28, 2007

Number of Participants: 24 girls

Please attach all participant lists, relevant pamphlets/flyers, and pertinent info.

Chairs of Event		
Name	Email	Year / Major
Jennette Saltsman	jws64@cornell.edu	2007/ORIE
Leslie Pendery	lsp25@cornell.edu	2009/BEE
Celia Song	cs394@cornell.edu	2010/MAE

Please submit a brief schedule of the planning of your event and any relevant contact people:

Activity to be done	By (Date)	Contact Person	Phone Number (or Email)
Attend dinner for workshop leaders	Nov.	Amy Richter	ar334@cornell.edu
Submit activity idea to Amy Richter	Late Nov.	Amy Richter	ar334@cornell.edu
Submit request for funding	Dec/Jan	Amy Richter	"
Activity Planning	Mar/Apr.	--	
Gather supplies	Apr.	--	

1. **About the event** – Please describe the event briefly. Was the turn out what you expected and/or wanted?

2.

This year we decided to conduct a workshop on the science behind soap. Each session had approximately 8 girls and we made soap by melting glycerin and allowing the girls to mix and match colors and fragrances on their own. We then conducted a few demonstrations having to do with soap while the soap cooled and hardened. The short demos included a discussion of surface tension with pepper, water and soap as well as a microwaving Ivory soap and watching the effects.

The turn was what we expected. We specifically requested 8 girls per workshop to keep supply costs low and to facilitate a smaller group learning environment.

3. **Specific Problems** – Please list any problems that were encountered in the organization and execution of the event.

Our first session ran really short and we realized that we did not plan enough demonstrations. So for the second session we stretched out the lesson by including a short icebreaker introduction. The very first activity we did was to make the soap. At the very end we included a discussion on how we would use what we learned to solve real world problems, such as an oil spill.

4. **Suggestions** – Please elaborate on ways in which SWE can improve this event for next year. Include general suggestions and advice for the future.

We felt that next time we could have included some sort of an interactive problem solving activity related to cleaning an oil spill. We could have provided a chance for the girls to do some more engineering and create something. It would have been a good opportunity to relate the science of soap into engineering.

It is also important to note that middle school girls are less willing to answer questions asked to the whole class, so doing more group activities (or partner activities) might better engage them in discussion than just posing questions. It makes for a less awkward environment. Other than that, we felt that the workshop went smoothly and the girls seemed to enjoy making soap and were engaged throughout, despite the workshop being short.

4. **Budget-** Please make a budget of things purchased for this activity and their prices.

Item	Purchased From	Cost
Ivory Soap and Dial Soap	Walmart	\$3.00
Liquid soap	Walmart	\$2.00
Plastic spoons	Walmart	\$1.00
Soap making kit	A C Moore	\$16.00
Block of glycerin soap	A C Moore	\$9.00
Soap fragrance (pack of three)	A C Moore	\$3.00
Soap coloring	A C Moore	\$3.00
Soap Molds (2 molds)	A C Moore	\$6.00 (\$3.00 each)
Plastic bowls (2 packs of four bowls)	Walmart	\$2.00 (\$1.00 each)
Total =		Approx. \$44.00