

Separate Wireless for Camp Guest Use

Purpose:

Provide guests with a reliable wireless Internet from education building, dining hall, infirmary, courtyard, and teacher cabins separate from the YMCA wireless system.

Cost Estimate: \$ 7,200 (Estimate by Don Rogers, YMCA)

Justification For:

For school groups the outdoor experience is simply an outdoor classroom, a classroom with no walls. 21st Century "camping" is all together different than in the past. Groups bringing students are using the Adventure Camp facility to meet ever changing state requirements in the most real world manner possible. One of TAKS areas that can least effectively be taught in a classroom is the scientific method and analysis of data using large amounts of data. The "camp" environment is giving schools the best opportunity to give students a real world research opportunity adding data from year to year amassing large amounts of data for analysis. TAKS requires students learn how to communicate scientific results and explanations. Power Point presentations are utilized to communicate this information and the present wireless system prevents communication between camp and schools or other recipients. In addition, schools are attempting to give students who cannot attend with their class group the ability to join in the learning process in real time.

The future is already here. Recently Texas, for the first time, has passed a mandate for all teachers to include some outdoor teaching as a part of their course work. This gives our facility the opportunity to do outreach for leading teacher groups in curriculum development for their various disciplines. This could attract teachers on a district wide and statewide basis.

Success requires adequate ability for participants to have a dependable wireless network available.

No guest data may be stored or transferred to the YMCA server. All adult groups and adults accompanying children need a dependable wireless system to connect with their remote servers for presentations and communication.

Future opportunities such as, developing simulations for use on rainy days so learning is not disrupted during student's short stays, using Skype for distance learning with students not attending with schools groups, and photojournalism opportunities are dependent adequate wireless capability.

Maintaining a state of the art camp is essential to our ability to market Adventure Camp in this 21st Century world.

- ✓ The Future is already here in Collin County
- ✓ Present system is too limited therefore unreliable and unpredictable when groups try to access presentations from a remote site, using either camp owned computers or guest owned laptops
- ✓ Present system cannot handle transfer of larger sized files
- ✓ A separate wireless system would better maintain the security of the Greater Dallas YMCA owned system presently on site
- ✓ Increase the ability to market to adult groups for meetings and retention of those groups.

Addendum: A conference call was held April 6th between Matt Shaheen, Kevin Spaeth, Don Rodgers, YMCA IT Director and Ann McWilliams. During the conversation YMCA's Technical person recommended that the only solution for CCAC is a separate wireless to successfully manage the volume of wireless traffic. The present bandwidth available to the CCAC is a shared space with all of their branches and camps. If one branch uses more space it robs the others of availability. It would require an initial set of hardware equipment and the monthly fees associated with additional wireless for CCAC. Estimates from the YMCA Tech department are being prepared.