**Assignment #2**

**Due Date: November 5th 2012**

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**MDDE 611**

I have been a member of the Girl Guides of Canada for over 20 years. Ten of those years have been as an adult member. I have taken over two dozen training modules within this organization. I feel as though the entire training program (which includes workshops and course) could benefit from the integration of technology.

The Girl Guides Organization was formed at the beginning of the 20th century as a parallel movement to Scouting for girls. It still to date is an organization formed my mainly women. The girls’ movement was formed in 1909 in the UK (Our History, 2001). There are two central themes that have been present since the earliest days of the movement: domestic skills which includes; physical fitness, survival skills, camping, citizenship training. The other theme is career preparation. The Girl Guide organization is governed internationally by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. There are 145 countries across the globe that have members of the guiding organization (WAGGGS). To date there are over 10 million members. As an organization for women only this is quite a large membership.

The Girl Guides of Canada have three types of members; girl members (under 18 years old), adult members (over 18 years), and Lone Members (which are women who are not connected to any actual unit but keep their membership). As an adult member you are solely responsible for the trainings you will require. There are specific trainings for each particular age range you are working with. For example the Girl Guides are ages 9 to 11. As an adult member working with this group I would have to take the appropriate trainings just to start working with a unit. To take the girls on activities you have to be qualified by the Girl Guides of Canada. This means taking workshops and courses, to ensure you are properly trained and able to take the girls are specific outings. These workshops and courses are only offered at specific times, and sporadically throughout the year. Some are only offered once a year, and travel is typically a requirement to attend these courses, as several are not offered in Calgary. Another issue is with registration. Registration typically fills quickly!

The existing situation is that these courses are offered sporadically and not all adult members can attend the course. Members have to go to where the course is being offered which can include up to a three hour drive. Since this is a volunteer position members typically have to pay for their own trainings, including modes of transportation and lodging if required. Some courses are only offered evenings and weekends which is near impossible if you work most evenings or weekends. It also becomes difficult because it seems the trainings are boring and out of date. Several adult members don’t take useful courses because of the time commitment, the interest they have in the actual course and of course where and when the course is being offered. This unfortunately only affects the girl members. This would result in their units not being able to attend some outings. As an example; to be able to take the girls tent camping an adult member would have to attend a weekend long workshop on tenting. This would only be available in the summer months as a workshop; typically meaning for that year the unit would not be allowed to go tent camping. While in all activities there is an advantage to hands on training there could be other technologies that could assist with these trainings and make them more appealing to members.

Most current workshops and courses happen at a Girl Guide Facility (in Calgary, Cochrane, Banff, Canmore or Waiprous). Several workshops and courses (especially for girl members) are in a board room. Where there are little or no teaching tools. They include a trainer standing in front of students talking for close to 7 hours. Some learning activities are done by students which are usually paper worksheets. There is definitely a lot of room for improvement and new technologies would bring that.

I believe the guiding movement could use some new technologies to help create more interesting programs, courses and workshops. Even having new technologies available for units to use would be extremely helpful. As a current Guide leader; there are NO technologies available to us as a unit. It would be useful to have certain program work available in new aspects. As a leader I am responsible for teaching the girls program work. I often bring my computer, a projector or anything else that will help stimulate the girls. It would be useful if all units had access to such things. Some leaders don’t know how to use new technologies and the thought of incorporating a “lesson plan” into new technologies scares them.

**References**

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