



GREENROCK WRITERS RETREAT
JUNE 26-29, 2014

Audience

Greenrock 2014 participants included the following:

- 2 program leaders
- 30 high school student participants
 - 7 males, 23 females
 - 1 MSU undergraduate college mentor

Participants registered online; the only criteria for admission is that participants must be in high school.

Funding

Greenrock funding comes primarily from registration fees: \$295 “early-bird” registration fee and \$310 regular registration fee per participant.

Greenrock also receives financial support from Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP), Michigan State University’s site of the National Writing Project. MSU also absorbs some facility costs (such as the use of classrooms).

Objectives

Greenrock Writers Retreat provides space and support for high school students to continue to work on their writing during the summer. The faculty, peer response groups and shared readings provide impetus for experimentation and revision. In addition, Greenrock helps high school students sample college life—living and eating in dormitories and studying in MSU classrooms (as well as a variety of other locations).

Description

Greenrock is a 4-day residential camp focused on writing. Students spent each day with two National Writing Project certified Teacher Consultants who are highly regarded full-time high school English teachers, as well as one MSU English education pre-service teacher.

This year students were invited to focus some of their writing on the theme of “Identity,” although they were welcomed to pursue their own interests as well. The faculty offered several mini-lessons related to style, craft, and content.

The theme “Identity” provided writers the opportunity to explore the many identities they possess: their identities as writers, students, family members, members of their communities, and members of the community of writers created over the course of the retreat.

In addition, students participated in the Annual Greenrock Writing Marathon. Students use various MSU campus landmarks, facilities, people and landscapes to initiate or add to the writing in their portfolios.

On other occasions, students used Spartan Stadium, the Dairy Store and the Summer Circle Theatre for inspiration.

As a community-building activity, on their final day students painted the rock to “leave their mark on MSU.”

Students enjoyed the opportunity to engage with local author Kristine Brickey who spoke to them about her writing process as they were invited to contemplate their own.

The weekend ended with an author celebration in the Snyder-Phillips Theatre that parents, family, and friends were invited to attend.

Outcomes

- In a survey response, every student who will be eligible to attend Greenrock in 2015 plans to do so
- Among the narrative student responses were these:

“Greenrock is full of wonderful people. I loved writing and talking with other writers. I made great friends.”

“This place, this time of my summer, this is what I look forward to all year. I wish it could be longer. But then by MI logic, it’d be so hot we all would melt.”

“Besides growing into a more confident and skilled writer, I had the best time finding people like me. I’ve never found people with so many similarities. It’s always been hard. I also like that I got to hear other writing and talent, and the author that came in was GREAT!! ☺”

“I liked how detailed the schedule was. I knew exactly what to bring and where to be all the time. I will hopefully be attending for years to come.”

“I met so many people like me that I thought didn’t exist. I love them so much. I’ve never said I love you so much and meant it.”

Additional Significant Information

This is Greenrock’s 21st year. Enrollment has been increasing for the past 3 years. Once again this year, we needed to create a waitlist because we had so many student applications.

Of our four MSU undergraduate Greenrock Writing Marathon volunteers, two have asked to return next year. The other two will be job-seeking, but noted they would be sending their students in the future!

