Background

- The Community Internship (3002LFC) program at Griffith University is a 10CP free choice elective. It requires students to undertake a minimum of 50hrs of service learning through volunteering activities in a community organisation. Internships are already recognised as a high impact practice (Kuh, O’Donnell, & Schneider, 2017, Kuh, 2008). The case studies reported here are from students enrolled 2015-2017.
- Scouts Australia is a volunteer organisation working with children aged 6-18 years. These projects were conducted with the Queensland-based Victor Scout Group.
- The concept of students-as-partners (SaP) has been rapidly gathering traction in recent times (Cook-Sather, Bovill, & Felten, 2014). The evolution of SaP can take on many different forms but includes collaboration with students for the development of activities and their implementation, learning experiences, assessment and evaluation of work. However, it is the positive impact on student learning and development of SaP can take on many different forms but includes collaboration with students for the development of activities and their implementation, learning experiences, assessment and evaluation of work. However, it is the positive impact on student learning and development of SaP that is the crux of its potential as a HIP. In this project SaP focuses were on the development of project activities and their implementation in a personalised and unique manner.

Process

Case Studies

- Bachelor of Psychology
  - WIIFM: Stakeholder needs evaluation
  - SWOT analysis
  - Identify options

- Bachelor of Education
  - Stakeholder needs evaluation
  - SWOT analysis
  - Identify options

- Bachelor of Criminology & Criminal Justice
  - Stakeholder needs evaluation
  - SWOT analysis
  - Identify options

Student Interests

- WIIFM: Stakeholder needs evaluation
- SWOT analysis
- Identify options

Scouts

- Develop project concept
- Design project outcomes
- Design implementation process
- Research area of action
- Time spent with scout youth
- Development of project resource
- Creation of project resource
- Conduct experiential learning opportunities for scouts using these resources

Project

- Transition strategies for an Alternate Ability Joey Scout.
- Development of a transition support briefing for leaders working with a Joey Scout with Down’s Syndrome in preparation for moving up to Cub Scout section.
- Development of a program to teach Scouts awareness of how to recognise anxiety.
- Created resources and taught scouts strategies to support coping using Galaxy bottles.
- Preservation and curation of the Victor Scout Group histories.
- Creation of several interactive programs to actively learn about scouting history.
- Presentation of findings at Group AGM.

Impact on Community Partners

- Was so good to be able to customise what each intern did with our scouts – made a big difference for everyone’s experience
- What a wonderful intern! My scouts have blossomed with the activities [intern] created to help them. Thank you so much <3
- I felt like I really belonged to this community and could make a difference
- Activities we designed put me out of my comfort zone but I learnt so much more
- It was fantastic to have an opportunity to create things that would help kids
- I didn’t expect to choose what I would do for internship but I got so much more out of it because it aligned so well with being a nanny in the future
- I knew it would be an invaluable opportunity …but it has been more than I could ever have anticipated