

Rosie's Girls Survey Results

Program Description

Rosie's Girls Summer Program was conducted by the National Center for Welding Education at the campus of Lorain County Community College from June 15 to June 26 2009. During this two-week camp the girls engaged in various trades activities, using their creativity, gaining new skills, and challenging themselves to try different activities that most young women never get a chance to experience.

The twenty-three girls, ages 11-13, designed and welded their own copper sculptures, learned yoga, art, and had an experience first-hand with fire fighters. In addition, the girls had hands on activity in many other trades such as Electronics, CAD, Computer Hardware, Computer Graphics, Automobile repair, etc.

Campers had an opportunity to play with the Virtual Simulator brought by Edison Welding Institution at Columbus. They also took a field trip to Lincoln Electric in Euclid, and learned about the advancement of technology in the field of welding. All through the camp, various professionals were invited as guest speakers from Society of Women Engineers to give first hand information about industry to the campers.

This day camp environment was provided where girls felt safe and challenged to develop and strengthen their capacities and confidence while exposing them to a range of educational and career opportunities they may have never considered.

Weld-Ed is encouraging girls in early adolescence by giving exposure to this exciting field and the possibilities of interesting careers. More girls will continue to learn math and science and will choose welding related studies when they go to college.

At the end of the camp, the campers came up with an arch (community project) that was installed at the Butterfly Garden in Engineering Technologies Division

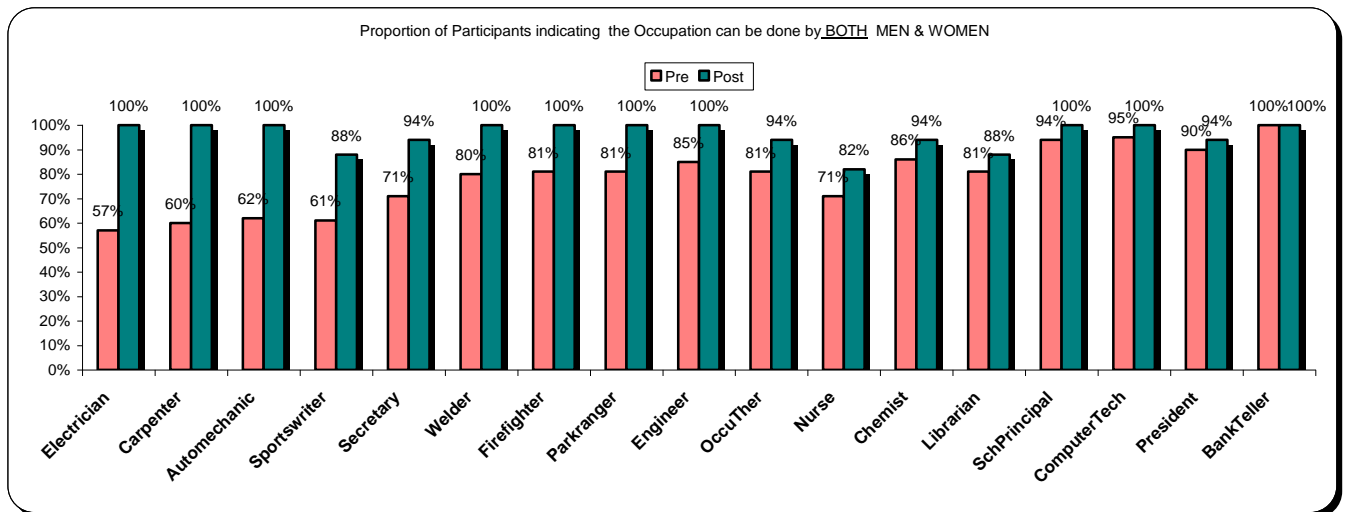


Participant Results

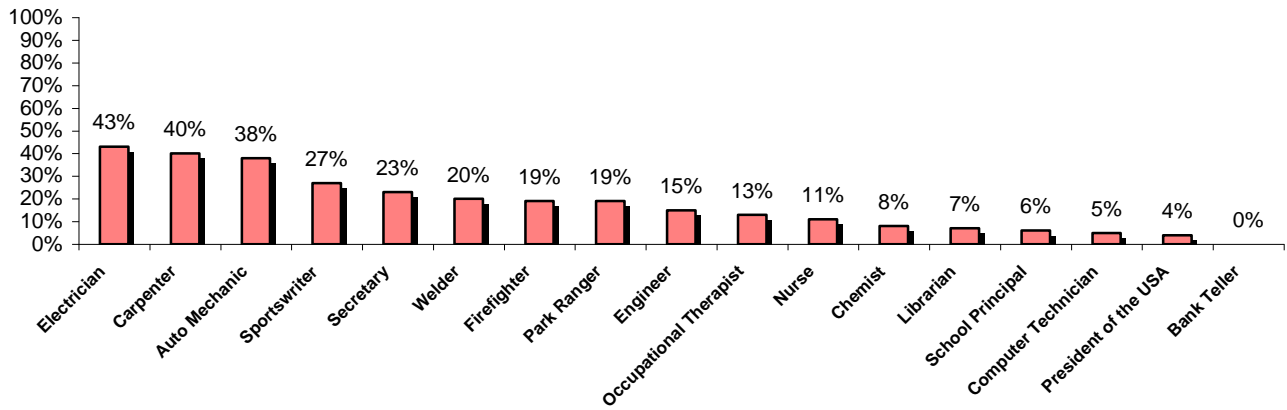
To assess attitudes about careers, all participants were asked before and after the program to indicate which occupations they felt only men, only women or both men and women can do. Overall, it appears that the program helped girls see that most occupations can be done by both men and women.

The greatest shift in attitude occurred with respect to the occupation of Electrician (43%), Carpenter (40%), and Auto Mechanic (38%). While prior to the program, slightly over one-half of the girls (57%) felt both men and women could do electrical work, after the program, all the girls (100%) were convinced that the job of an electrician could be done by either gender. Similarly, all the girls (100%) changed their opinions about carpentry and auto mechanics. In addition, with the exception of Bank Teller, an attitude shift is noted in all of the occupations.

Occupations	Percent Pre Program	Percent Post Program	Percent Improvement
Electrician	57%	100%	43%
Carpenter	60%	100%	40%
Auto Mechanic	62%	100%	38%
Sportswriter	61%	88%	27%
Secretary	71%	94%	23%
Welder	80%	100%	20%
Firefighter	81%	100%	19%
Park Ranger	81%	100%	19%
Engineer	85%	100%	15%
Occupational Therapist	81%	94%	13%
Nurse	71%	82%	11%
Chemist	86%	94%	8%
Librarian	81%	88%	7%
School Principal	94%	100%	6%
Computer Technician	95%	100%	5%
President of the USA	90%	94%	4%
Bank Teller	100%	100%	0%



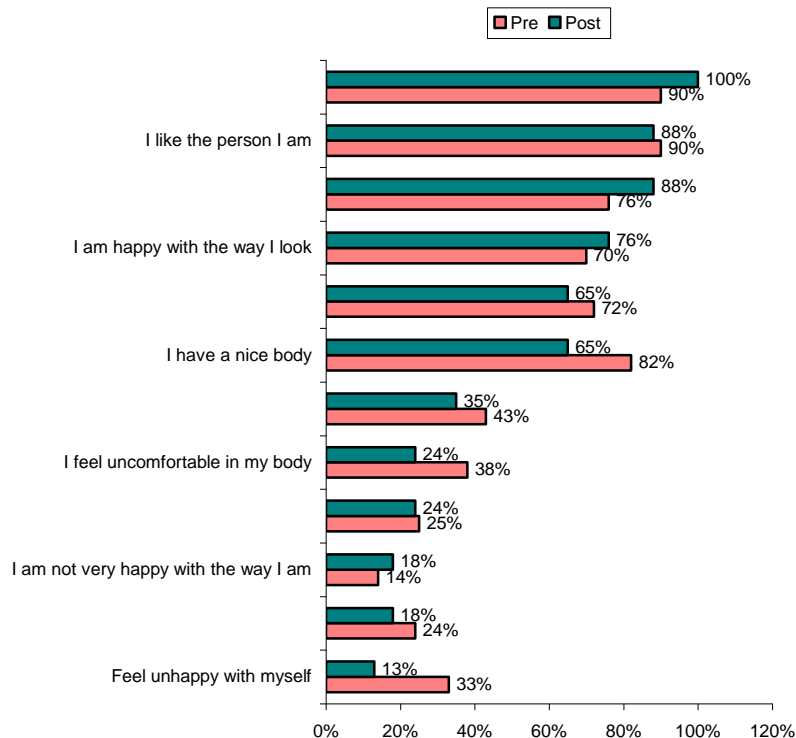
Change in Attitude from Pre to Post Program



Self-Image – the camp also helped girls change their self-image. Results indicate self-image as follows:

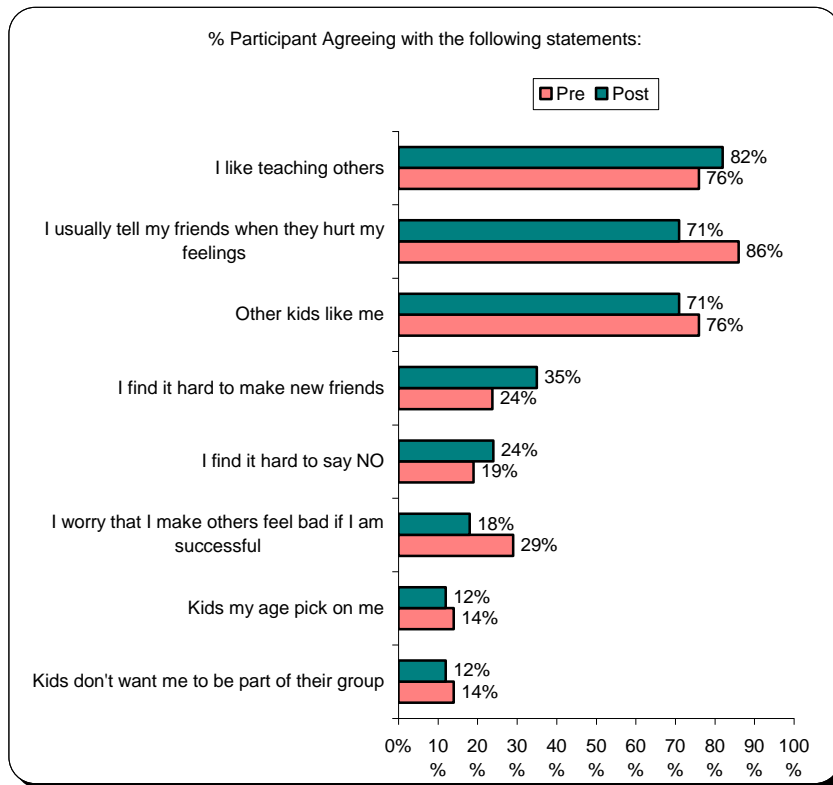
- ✓ 10% more girls were “happy with themselves”
- ✓ 12% more girls were “proud of themselves”
- ✓ 6% more girls were content with the way they looked
- ✓ 12% fewer girls wished “their body were different”
- ✓ 14% fewer girls were “uncomfortable in their body”
- ✓ 20% fewer girls felt “unhappy with themselves”

% Participants Agreeing with the following statement:



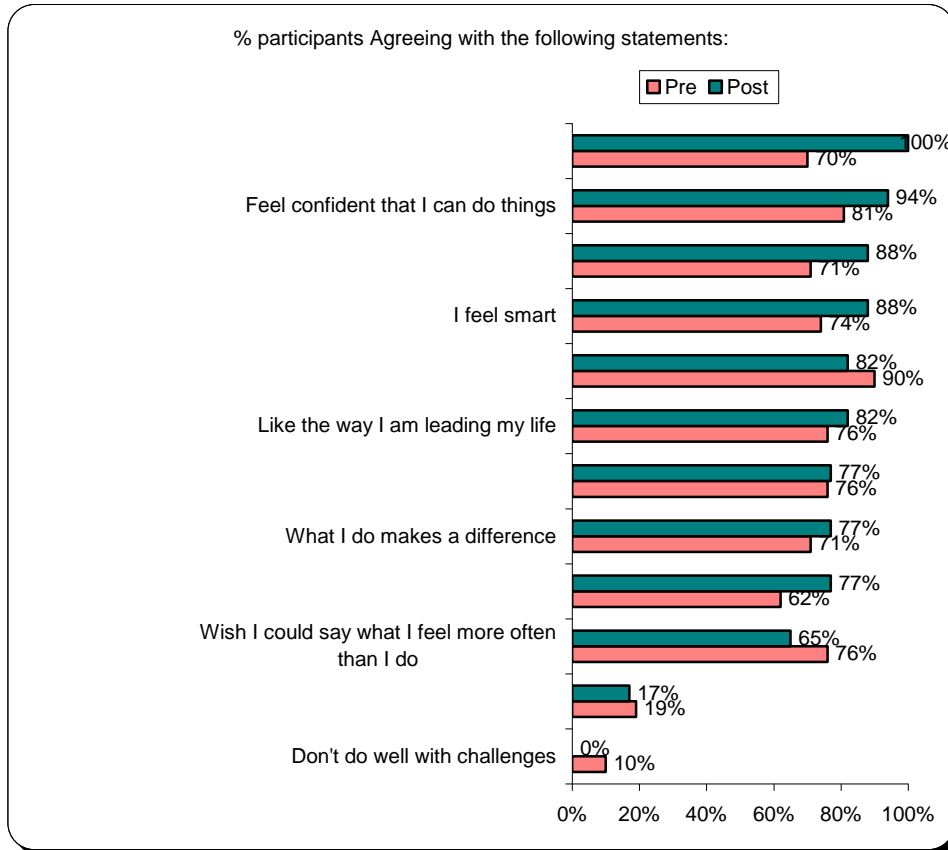
Community - Rosie's Girls activities were designed to create a sense of community in which girls take responsibility for themselves, each other and space around them.

With respect to community, while difficult to interpret, a negative shift seemed to have occurred with respect to ability to communicate with peers about hurt feelings (71% post compared with 86% pre program) and inability to make friends (35% post program compared with 24% pre program). On the other hand, improvements were reported in other areas, for example, 6% more students indicated they "liked teaching others" and 11% fewer participants "worried that they make others feel bad when they are successful."



Confidence - In addition to community building, Rosie's Girls' activities were designed to build participants' self-confidence, group cohesion and to encourage girls to push past perceived personal limitations. When pre and post program results are compared, the following changes are noted:

- ✓ 30% more girls were "not afraid to try new things"
- ✓ 13% more girls felt "confident that they can do things even when others think they can't"
- ✓ 16% more girls reported confidence when doing physical tasks
- ✓ 14% increase in the proportion of girls "feeling smart"
- ✓ 14% more girls reporting "I am usually the one kids turn to if other kids need help or advice"



Parents Feed Back

To understand the effectiveness of the program from the perspective of parents, parents of Rosie's Girls were surveyed. Overall, parents were very positive about their child's experience with the program.

Parent comments about Rosie's Girls:

- ✓ Great experience!
- ✓ Very well organized
- ✓ I loved the diversity of campers and exposure to new skills & vocations.
- ✓ I think my child will definitely benefit from this experience in her future
- ✓ My child had a great two weeks and also made some new friends
- ✓ Often a program seems great ahead of time, but doesn't pan out. Rosie's Girls was as good as I would have hoped. Better!
- ✓ She had fun
- ✓ She was excited daily. She seemed to have more creativity.
- ✓ I thought the program was great

One-half of the parents indicated they observed changes in their daughter over the course of the program. Parents described increased confidence, creativity, self pride, happiness, boldness, and excitement. One parent reported, “I noticed that she enjoyed something new and bold. She was proud.” While another said, “she seemed a lot happier and enthusiastic about learning new things.”

What parents said they liked most about Rosie’s Girls:

- ✓ Broad based ideas of what girls can do
- ✓ Experimenting with welding
- ✓ Meeting new people
- ✓ I enjoyed learning about all the different activities you did during the day. Thank you.
- ✓ I liked the fact that my daughter was exposed to new ideas and non-traditional career possibilities for women.”
- ✓ It gave my daughter new possibilities for the future
- ✓ It took my daughter out of her comfort zone and exposed her to technical experiences. Very beneficial exposure
- ✓ My daughter learned more STEM activities
- ✓ It was such a great experience for my daughter
- ✓ The camp promoted independence for girls
- ✓ It was full, well organized, enjoyable with kind Counselors

Recommendations/Suggestions for Improvement

Parents

About two-thirds of parents (64%) reported that their daughter’s perceptions of careers for girls/women and what girls/women can achieve changed since attending Rosie’s Girls.

“The program definitely empowered her to think about career choices and otherwise male-dominated jobs & skills.”

While most parents did not offer suggestions for program improvement, a few suggested the following:

- ✓ Stressing the importance of properly cleaning up spills to avoid accidents among campers
- ✓ Having more activities that feature more STEM careers besides welding & engineering
- ✓ Proving the option of purchasing a lunch instead of packing one everyday

