



Submitted Photo

Freshman Brandy Clough prepares to rappel after rock climbing at the S-F Scout Ranch during summer 2012. Clough, a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts, has started a new organization called Venturing Club to encourage Truman State students to enjoy and explore the outdoors.

Club encourages adventure

New organization offers outdoor activities for students who enjoy nature

BY EMILY BATTMER
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Freshman Brandy Clough has been a member of the Girl Scouts since she joined as a Daisy during kindergarten. Now, she said she wants to continue scouting out new adventures and share them with other students at Truman State.

Clough is starting a new organization this semester called Venturing Club. She said the club is meant for students like her, who previously were members of Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, but also is open to anyone who has any outdoor interests. Club members can expect to go rock climbing, hiking and camping at nearby

lakes and parks.

In addition to being a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts, Clough said she was an active member of her high school's Adventure Crew. When she came to Truman last semester, she said she was disappointed to find out there was not an outdoor club on campus, and she wanted to change that.

"Being in Girl Scouts my whole life, I've done a lot," Clough said. "I think I've had more opportunities than most people and I just want to share those."

Clough's experiences range from hiking through the snow-covered mountains of Germany to backpacking through Arizona. She said some of her other favorite outdoor adventures include skiing, camping, zip-lining and white water rafting.

Clough said she thinks it's important to offer Venturing Club at Truman because it allows students to take advantage of what nature has to offer. She said she hopes the

club will allow students to "take a deep breath and look at the big picture."

"I love nature and I can't imagine not having these adventures," Clough said. "It's my passion and everybody needs to experience it."

Freshman Isaac Pearlstone has been working with Clough to get the club started. He said Clough, a friend of his, told him about the organization and it sounded like something he wanted to help with. He has been working with her to plan events, advertise throughout campus and get the group chartered by the University.

Pearlstone said he doesn't have much experience with the outdoors and wasn't a member of the Boy Scouts, but said he was interested in the opportunity for inexperienced adventurers to try new things.

"It seemed like I would be able to have some cool experiences," he said. "It's a chance to meet new people who are interested in traveling and being active around

the Missouri area."

As someone who enjoys hiking, biking and spending time in the woods, academic advisor Ted Frushour said he gladly agreed to sponsor Venturing Club when Clough approached him.

An "enthusiastic advocate" for the group, Frushour said he is happy to see students show an active interest in the nature available in the region. He said there are many naturally beautiful locations within five to 30 minutes of Kirksville and many students might not even know about them. Frushour said the club will help facilitate chances for students to get off campus, see some wildlife and meet people with similar interests.

"Kirksville is located in an area that's close to a lot of good outdoor stuff," Frushour said. "I think anything that encourages students to have fun off campus, to take advantage of the natural resources of northeast Missouri, is a great idea."

Students offer ACT preparation classes

BY JUSTIN GUNTERMAN
Staff Reporter

The BULLDOG College Access Program has helped broaden the resources for students preparing to take the ACT by sponsoring preparation sessions for northeastern Missouri students said senior Colton Richardson, one of the student mentors.

The program is run by Truman State students willing to aid anyone needing help for the ACT, Richardson said.

It will teach students "strategies for the ACT, practice questions for each subject, explanation of answers and questions to take home," according to the College Access homepage.

Richardson said the program was started after many local high school students requested ACT tutoring.

He said though ACT prep wasn't the first thing on the

College Access Program's to-do list, high demand and strong concern from families led them to create the program.

Truman was awarded the College Access Challenge Grant during the 2011 to 2012 school year, Richardson said, which gave them the funding necessary for the tutoring.

"Though ACT prep wasn't in our original grant proposal, we soon learned that it was in great demand and a constant concern for families," Richardson said. "Counselors told us that students sometimes traveled long distances and paid hefty fees for ACT help, and we felt we could provide help for free."

Richardson said many different students are interested in the tutoring program.

"We tutor any age group that would need help on the ACT, ranging from seniors to seventh graders," Richardson said.

"We've probably had students attend from 15 school districts around the region."

Junior Rebecca Cress, a student mentor, said she has grown increasingly attached to the program.

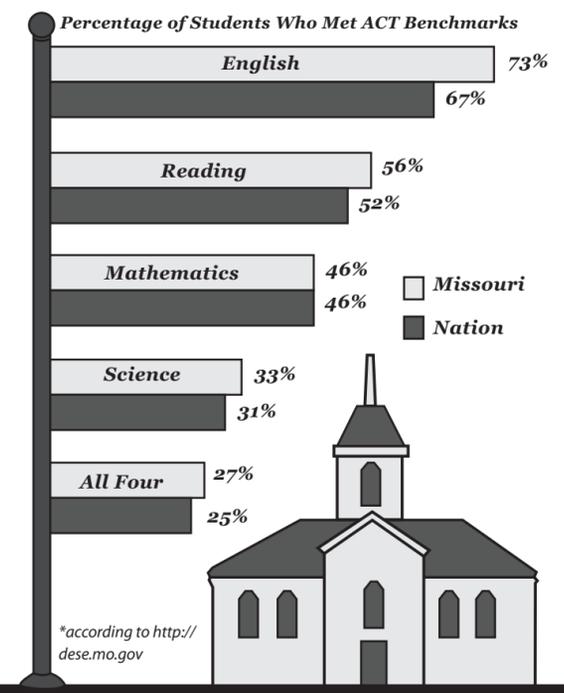
"I chose to be part of BULLDOG College Access Program as my scholarship job, but it has since become something I am passionate about," Cress said.

Cress, who teaches the mathematics portion of the exam, tutored during high school, and said she is happy to relive the feelings of impacting someone's life by potentially increasing their test scores.

The ACT prep program occurs two to three times each semester at various high schools, including Highland High School and Kirksville High School, Cress said.

"These sessions will prepare high schoolers for the test that plays a crucial role in gaining access to college," Cress said.

College Readiness Among High School Graduates



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