

What is Camp GLOW?

GLOW stands for Girls Leading Our World.
In French it is *les filles menant notre monde*.
In Hausa it is *horo am mata shahararru na zamani*.

Camp GLOW Matameye 2005 targets generally uneducated village girls who are the future and foundation of their communities, villages, and the rural world in Niger. More than educating young village girls on family health issues and income generation schemes, the hope of Camp GLOW is to empower participants with the courage to incorporate all the life skills they will learn at camp and share that knowledge with their communities at home.

Short Term Goals

- To conduct a successful, five-day educational camp with 30 young village girls and American Peace Corps and Nigerien counterparts
- To transfer knowledge to the participants so that they are able to retain it and teach others
- To be able to demonstrate transfer of knowledge through skits, songs, and other formats to be conducted in the participants' villages
- To bring health education closer to rural populations
- To provide a positive, structured environment for village young girls to be empowered to change behavior and build self-esteem

Project Design and Action Plan

The 30 camp participants will comprise three girls chosen from each of the ten Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) villages. The camp candidates will all be unmarried girls between the ages 12 and 15 who will be selected by each PCV, in collaboration with their villagers. See the attached letter for conducting the selection meeting in Hausa.

The camp will last for five days, including arrival and departure, from August 15-19. The camp will be held in Matameye at a safe and private location at the Case de Passage behind the Prefecture offices. The participants will have everything provided for them: transportation per diem, bedding, bathing needs, and all meals and snacks. Furthermore, they will be constantly in the presence of and under the diligent surveillance of female Peace Corps Volunteers. Where possible, PCVs will escort camp participants to campgrounds via walking, ox-cart, or bush taxi. The cost of transportation for PCVs will be covered by individual PCVs and is not budgeted into the proposal for camp funding.

The two Peace Corps Volunteers who are the primary figures and acting directors of Camp GLOW Matameye 2005 are Vivian and Casie. Vivian will be the logistics director and will ensure that all the functions of the camp run smoothly, such as the timely arrival of supplies, services, and guest speakers and counterparts as well, as the implementation of back-up plans for any deviations from planned camp logistics. Casie will be the camp

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director and will act as the camp facilitator for adhering to the camp schedule, sessions, and activities, as well as trouble-shooting problems that may arise. Both directors will be available to answer questions related to the camp from campers, counselors, and counterparts, as well as ensure the camp participants' needs are met and that everyone is on the same track. Furthermore, both directors and Peace Corps Volunteer counselors will spearhead sessions and activities not involving counterparts. Please see the camp schedule attached to this proposal.

Each day will begin with an ice-breaker and team building exercise. Following that, there will be an educational session to which a Nigerian counterpart guest speaker has been invited to speak on specified health topics, such as pregnancy and childbirth, proactive action for raising healthy children, family planning, immunizations, exclusive breast feeding, weaning foods, sex education, and HIV/AIDS. All first sessions in the mornings will involve at least one Nigerian counterpart.

The second session of the mornings will focus on teaching fun income generation skills such as how to make three different kinds of bracelets, learning the craft of stitching and embroidery, and doll making. These sessions will be conducted in groups and led by PCV counselors, with the exception of the stitching and embroidery session, which will also involve a guest speaker arranged from the Developpement Social/Population/Promotion de la Femme/Protection de l'enfant Service in Matameye.

Lunchtime is paired with free time so that the campers may continue their income generating activities if they are not finished.

The first afternoon sessions will be led by PCV counselors addressing preventative health issues in the form of skits, songs, and games. *Vivian and Casie will have an agenda ready for each of these sessions by the August 6 Training of Trainers Luncheon.* Topics to be discussed include malnutrition, the three food groups, diarrhea, ORS, hygiene, conjunctivitis, baby weighing, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. The second afternoon sessions will be conducted in a game show fashion of questions and answers with small prizes for one group winner on topics discussed in earlier sessions. Days 3 and 4 will also include group theatrics sessions to teach the participants how to perform their own skits for the ending ceremony and in their respective villages.

Each evening after mealtime there will be a relaxing, fun activity to reward the girls for a productive day of learning and active participation. Two movie nights, a special henna night, and a sing and dance party for the final night will ensure the girls have a fabulous time and do not forget their camp experience.

The 30 girls will be in grouped into 5 teams of 6 village girls per team with a female PCV counselor as a leader in each group. The campers will be grouped with girls from different villages to nurture new bonds and friendships as well as teaching them to work closely with new people to reach goals and as a way to build self-esteem and pride. Most camp activities will be done in these groups. All teams will have their own t-shirts to differentiate them as they compete against each other in contests throughout the week.

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Each group will be assigned separate sleeping rooms to be shared shared with their designated female PCV counselor. At all times, Peace Corps will account for the participants while they are at camp.

Every effort will be made to keep the camp exclusively female so that all participants may feel comfortable with asking questions openly and expressing opinions. All guest speakers will be carefully selected to ensure positive role models for the campers. For some skits, male PCVs will be present to make the skits seem as real as possible. At the conclusion of these skits, the male PCVs will leave the campgrounds.

A week prior to launching the camp, there will be a logistics preview lunch meeting on to inform and consolidate guest speaker counterparts, their organization directors, and Peace Corps Volunteer counselors. This meeting will be held in the conference room at the Elevage, space rental paid for by the Prefecture. A portion of the requested camp funds will provide lunch.

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