Alternatives to Incarceration

In keeping with DJJ’s mission to serve youth in the “least restrictive environment” the most desirable option is to have the youth live at home with their parents or guardian, if at all possible and when appropriate. However, when out of the home placement of a youth is necessary, DJJ provides a variety of community-based options to serve as alternatives to incarceration including its Marine and Wilderness programs. These programs provide an intermediate level of community placement between a hardware secure facility and in the youth’s community with their parents or guardian.

DJJ contracts with 11 Marine and Wilderness programs to provide services at various locations throughout the state. These programs are a core offering within DJJ’s continuum of services and provide an outdoor experiential environment for the youth in their care offering a number of individual development opportunities to help youth strengthen their social, behavioral, educational, and work skills.

Programming includes individualized plans which are outlined in a Care Plan for each youth, and educational and vocational services are offered in accordance with the requirements of the State Department of Education. All of these Marine and Wilderness programs and their facilities meet the requirements for licensure by the SC Department of Social Services and standards outlined in State Standards for Residential Services.

An important component of the services provided at these camps is family involvement and family based intervention, and the youth are continually prepared for reunification with their family at the earliest possible date.

Marine and Wilderness Program Objectives.

DJJ’s Marine and Wilderness Camp have a wide range of objectives which include the following:

- Increasing vocational skills;
- Preparing program participants for employment;
- Increasing academic skills;
- Addressing behaviors which resulted in placement in the Program;
- Providing individual, group and family counseling;
- Teaching youth to give back by providing service to the community;
- Reducing recidivism.

DJJ is committed to developing a broad range of services for youth that become involved in the juvenile justice system, and it’s Marine and Wilderness programs will continue to be a vital component of this effort.

For more information please contact:

Community Alternatives
SC Department of Juvenile Justice
1711 Shivers Road
Columbia, SC 29210
Office: (803) 896-9117 • FAX: (803) 896-5699

See Page 2 for list of Marine/Wilderness Programs

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website:
http://www.state.sc.us/djj/
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the state cabinet agency responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state’s children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense. Our mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.