





 NEWS

Roxbury Youth Create Web Sites
Local Youth Participate in ScienceQuest Contest
by Laurie Sparrowhawk



The Cruz Management Company, Inc. recently sponsored two Roxbury Youth Teams to participate in a web site contest called ScienceQuest. In this contest, youth teams research a science-related topic and create a web site to showcase their findings.

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Efforts got underway for this project last

September with recruitment at Cruz Management's after-school youth programs. In an initial recruiting session, which involved bringing a portable Internet appliance to the centers and demonstrating what can be found on the Internet, topics of interest ranged from astronomy to robots to cooking cheeseburgers! One of the teams that resulted from these initial efforts is an all girls team that is being co-sponsored by the Girl Scouts. This team researched the habitats and characteristics of the common loon, butterflies, and poodles.

The other team, a mixed girls' and boys' team, are also animal lovers. They were most interested in the unique design of different animal species. In one exercise, each team member drew a picture of his/her ideal animal, which could combine strengths from different animal species. Each team member described how his/her animal functions, what it does to have fun, and how it helps people. One team member's animal was designed to help her clean her bedroom!

The two Cruz Teams consisted of boys and girls, ages 8 to 12. They conducted their research using the Internet, the Public Library, the Museum of Science, and putting together a robot! Their final web sites were submitted to the ScienceQuest contest in December. Results of the contest will be announced in the Spring of 2002.

ScienceQuest is a youth program funded by the National Science Foundation and the Education Development Center in Newton, MA. It is a program that provides informal learning about science and technology for urban youth. You can read more on the ScienceQuest web site at www2.edc.org/sciencequest. Cruz Management sponsored two teams in the ScienceQuest program in both the Spring and Fall of 2001, and plan to sponsor another team from February through April of 2002!

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