



## Community-Based Program

### Background Information

**Institution:** Himmelbjerget Danish Language Camp

**Program address:** 1847 SE Clinton Street, Portland, OR 97202

**Telephone:** (503) 452-9667

**Web address:** <http://www.nwdanishcamp.com>

### Contact person

**Name:** Melony Beaird

**Title:** Director

**Email:** [melony@nwdanish.org](mailto:melony@nwdanish.org)

**Languages/dialects taught:** Danish

**Grades taught:** Grades 6-12

### Program Description

**Purposes and goals of the program:** The Himmelbjerget Danish Language Camp aims to provide students with a sense of Denmark, Danish culture, history, language, and traditions during a one-week summer camp. Activities are theme-based and include historical skits, conversational language, and traditional crafts.

**Type of program:** 1-week summer language camp

**Program origin:** The program began in association with the Danish Conference as a way to keep the children occupied and developed into a week-long camp. The language camp has been running since the 1980s.

### Parents

**Parents' expectations for the program:** Parents expect the children to acquire a deeper understanding of their Danish heritage.

## **Staff**

**Instructors' and administration's expectations for the program:** Instructors also expect the children to take something about Danish heritage with them after the camp is over.

## **Students**

**Students:** 55-60 students

**Danish heritage:** 90%

**How the program identifies heritage speakers:** The program identifies heritage speakers through self-identification.

**Possible reasons for student withdrawal:** Some children have to leave the camp if they fall ill.

**Students' expectations of the program:** Students' expectations mirror those of the instructors and parents. They come to the camp to learn about Danish culture and language.

## **Instructors**

**Number of instructors in the program:** 12-15 instructors

**Languages in which instructors are proficient:** Danish and English

**Proficiency level:** About half of the instructors have an advanced proficiency in Danish. Every year a counselor who is a native speaker comes to the camp from Denmark.

**Credentials:** Some of the instructors carry degrees and certificates, and all are past campers who have become counselors. The program's directors have considerable experience with the language camp.

**Professional development opportunities instructors have:** The program is a part of the ACA (American Camp Association), and for several years teachers have attended some of the seminars offered by the ACA. For particular issues, trainers are sometimes brought in.

## **Instruction**

**Total contact hours per week:** About 10 hours; 2 45-minute sessions per day for one week

**Student grouping:** Students are grouped according to skill level (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced).

### **Language skills**

**Skills developed by the program:** Speaking and listening comprehension

**Additional comments:** Reading is not a major focus in the program.

### **Culture**

**Aspects of culture taught:** Folk dance, songs, games, and crafts

**Kind of student identity program fosters:** The program tries to give the students a sense of what it means to be Danish and also what it means to be Danish in the United States.

### **Methodologies**

**Methodologies and instructional strategies used in the program:** The camp incorporates interactive methods like Danish flashcards and games associated with words and numbers.

### **Materials**

**Technology used for instruction:** Technology is not usually included in the activities.

### **Assessment**

**Assessments used to evaluate students' progress:** Students in the advanced class are assessed with tests. Use of the language is incorporated into all aspects of camp and rewarded throughout.

### **Articulation**

**How the program develops home/school connections or promotes parent involvement:** Parents are involved at the end of camp.

### **What the program has in place**

**Financial support the program receives:** Financial support comes from private donations and fund raising events such as a raffle, a dinner night, and a casino night. There are three fundraisers a year. Other funding comes from other organizations like the Scandinavian Festival. Scholarships are awarded from the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

**Other support the program receives:** Tuition

**Assistance or funding the program would like to receive:** The program would like to receive assistance from the Embassy and consulate and the Danish government.

**Program research or evaluation:** A report and an assessment are conducted every year.

### **Special challenges**

**Challenges the program has experienced:** The program's main obstacle is funding.