THE A TEAM

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Thesis:

Ulster County is a spectacular and exciting tourist community because of the amount and variety of recreational activities that are available. The scenic views, natural landscapes, and abundance of opportunities for both relaxation and physical recreation can keep tourists occupied for as long as they wish.
Outline

• Logo (Megan Walters)
• Thesis (Group)
• Itinerary and Guidebook pages (Becky D'Antuono)
• Wayside Exhibit panels (Dan Fitzpatrick)
• Highway Route Markers (Megan Walters)
• Lesson Plans (Kristin Wilson)
• Conclusion (Group)
With everything it has to offer, who wouldn’t want to visit Ulster?
History of Recreation in Ulster County

- 1800’s Hudson River School of art popularized nature appreciation in Catskill region
- 1870’s Wealthy families came by train to Ulster County mountain houses to vacation
- Late 1800’s-early 1900’s Labor movements demand shorter work week and more leisure time for average worker who wanted to escape the city
1950’s Post World War II economic boom. People had more money and time to go enjoy themselves at Ulster County recreational sites.

1950’s New York State Thruway was built, making it easier for people to access Ulster county tourist resources.

Catskill resorts and leisure activities expand including ski resorts, dude ranches and nature preserves for outdoor activities.
Promoting Tourism in Ulster County

• Most of the Ulster county recreational sites have a general website for tourist to look at and decide if that is the ideal travel spot for them.

  – [http://www.walkway.org](http://www.walkway.org)
  – [http://www.rockinghorseranch.com](http://www.rockinghorseranch.com)
  – [http://www.belleayre.com](http://www.belleayre.com)
  – [http://www.mohonk.com](http://www.mohonk.com)
Some of the Tourist attractions have videos on YouTube advertising how great of a place they are!

**Belleayre Mountain**

**Mohonk Mountain House**

Others Advertise using Facebook and Twitter pages!

**Minnewaska State Park Preserve**

The Minnewaska State Park Preserve even has a virtual tour!
Advertising Improvements

Many of the sites don’t have commercial or brochures to promote their tourist attraction.

The resorts and outdoor activities should also put up billboards promoting their fun as people drive to Ulster County!

If the tourist attraction has beautiful scenery, why not put it on Instagram?

OR, make a board :]

Pinterest
Walkway Over the Hudson

- Poughkeepsie, NY
- 212 feet high, 1.28 miles long
- Longest elevated walking bridge in the world!
- Activities: biking, jogging, dog walking, roller skating, picnicking, scenic views, and walking
- Picnic tables, concession stands, rest rooms, bike racks at each end of the bridge
Walkway over the Hudson

Built in the 1880’s as a railway connecting Ulster County to Dutchess County, it was the longest bridge in America during that period and was used for trains only. In 1974 the railroad tracks were burned and the bridge was closed. The bridge became a public recreational park in 2009. It is the longest Public Pedestrian Walking Bridge in the United States with a beautiful view of the Hudson.

www.walkway.org
Objectives:
The Students will:
1: View all sights on top of the bridge.
2: Students will take a camera shot and then draw a view that interested them the most.
Lesson Plan
Walkway Over the Hudson

Procedure
1. Each student will walk on the bridge to see the views.
2. Each member will choose a spot of their interest, such as Marist College, the view of the Catskills in the distance or the river itself.
3. Each student will take a camera shot for proof.
4. Each student will then draw the view.
5. Each student will hand in the work and email me their photos.
Walkway Over the Hudson

Follow Signs
Belleayre Mountain

- Catskill Mountains in Highmount, NY
- Created in 1949
- 55 Trails
- Parks and Glades
- 8 Chairlifts
- 2 Progression Parks
- Mogul Trails
- Intermediate to Expert bumps
Bellemayre Mountain

Bellemayre opened in 1949 as a ski resort, with one rope tow and the first chairlift in New York State. People used to sleep in tents to begin skiing right away. Snow-making was instituted in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

Today, the mountain has fifty-five trails and eight lifts to support huge crowds of skiers.

www.belleayre.com
Lesson Plan
Belleyre Mountain

Objectives:
Students will:
1. understand Hudson River Valley geography.
2. design a satellite map and hiking map.
Lesson Plan
Belleyayre Mountain

Procedure
1. I will discuss what geography and topography are in general.
2. Students will then research the geography and topography of the Hudson River Valley using the Internet, library books etc.
3. Next students will research the geography and topography in Ulster County.
4. After the students find their information, we will discuss as a class what they found and I will have additional comments for areas that they did not cover.
5. We will then pick an alternate area of the Mid-Hudson Valley region and practice drawing different satellite maps and hiking maps.
6. When we get to Belleayre Mountain, the class will go on the Skyride and for a short hike. While they do this, they will be taking notes.
7. When we get back to the classroom, the students will create their multiple maps and discuss what they drew in small groups.
8. I will also draw a map and discuss mine with the class.
Belleayre Mountain

Follow Signs
The Mohonk Mountain House

- New Paltz, NY
- Five different options of guest rooms or guest cottages
- Award-winning spa with 16 treatment rooms
- Fitness center and classes
- Swimming and Water sports
- Hiking and nature tours
- Gardens and Greenhouse
- Activities for kids and teens
- Activities for groups and team building
Mohonk was built in 1869 by Alfred Smiley, who was a supporter of the environment and peace. The Mohonk Resort was used for international peace conventions from 1895 to 1916.

The resort had an observatory, over 85 miles of carriage roads, and a dedication to nature. Five American Presidents have stayed there.
Objectives:
Students will:
1. understand multiple eras throughout history.
2. evaluate one object from the museum.
3. discuss one object of their choice from the museum.
Lesson Plan
The Mohonk Mountain House

**Procedure**

1. I will discuss characteristics of different eras since 1800 in general, activating prior knowledge.
2. Students will then further research these eras and their effects on the Hudson River Valley using the Internet, library books etc.
3. Next students will research these aspects specifically in Ulster County.
4. After the students find their information, we will have a class discussion about the different eras and their impact on the US and the Hudson River Valley.
5. We will also talk the history of the Mohonk Mountain House.
6. When we get to the Mohonk Mountain Barn Museum, the class will walk around the museum filling out their worksheets, attempting to match the antique to the era it was from.
The Mohonk Mountain House Preserve

Follow Signs
Minnewaska State Park

• Shawangunk Mountains
• Waterfalls, sky lakes, forests, cliffs, breathtaking views, streams, rock climbing, carriageways, footpaths
• Hiking, biking, swimming, picnicking, scuba diving, rock climbing, boating, horseback riding, cross country skiing
Minnewaska State Park Preserve

The area of the preserve was bought by Alfred Smiley in 1875, who opened the Minnewaska Mountain House in the 1870’s. The Wildmere resort was also opened there in the 1880’s, however both resorts closed in the 1960’s. The state bought the land in 1971 and opened it as a park preserve. It now has over 22,000 acres for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

www.lakeminnewaska.org
Lesson Plan
Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Objectives:
Students will:
1. understand how to read pH levels.
2. distinguish high pH levels from low pH level.
3. compare similar pH levels.
Procedure
1. I will discuss characteristics of acids and bases; focusing more on acids.
2. I will demonstrate how to use pH paper and how to read the acidity level of it.
3. Next students will do their own experiments, testing acidity’s of different liquids.
4. At Minnewaska State Park, students will be put into groups of 3 or 4 and take a water sample for each person in the group.
5. When we get back to the classroom, the students will test their water samples using the pH paper to discover the acid level of their water sample.
6. The class will compare water samples with each other to see if they obtained similar findings.
Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Follow Signs
Rocking Horse Ranch

- Highland, New York
- Family Resort since 1958
- Activities include:
  - Winter fun park
  - Outdoor water sports
  - Outdoor and indoor activities
  - Organized activities
  - Children’s Programs
  - Entertainment
  - Spa
  - Exotic wildlife exhibit and gardens
  - Variety of horse activities
The Rocking Horse Ranch

The hotel was originally a 19th century resort called Friedman’s Shady Lawn Rest Hotel. It was opened in 1958 as a dude ranch by the Turk family.

It added other facilities such as an indoor and outdoor pool, water and snow skiing, an indoor water park and a rock climbing wall to attract families.
Lesson Plan
Rocking Horse Ranch

Objectives:
Students will:
1. choose an animal from choices available.
2. describe their animal and its characteristics.
3. demonstrate understanding of the animal’s habitat.
Lesson Plan
Rocking Horse Ranch

Procedure
1. I will pair students together and assign one animal that will be at the Rocking Horse ranch.
2. Students will then activate prior knowledge, discussing what they already know about the animals assigned to them.
3. Students will then make sure their prior knowledge is correct by researching their animals using the textbook, Internet, film, and other noted resources.
4. After double-checking their information, the students will find new information regarding the animal’s habitat(s), geographical location, their growth characteristics, what they eat, reproduction, and other facts that the students find interesting. At the ranch, students will be presenting their animal and research information on their animal to the class.
5. The class will be given a note sheet to write about all of the animals that their classmates have presented.
The Rocking Horse Ranch Resort

Follow Signs
Guidebook and Itinerary

Day 1/Night 1
9:00 a.m. Check in at Mohonk Mountain House
10:30 a.m. Arrive at Walkway over the Hudson
12:45 p.m. Lunch reservations at the Culinary Institute of America
2:30 p.m. Tour the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt
6:00 p.m. Dinner reservations at Shadows on the Hudson
7:30 p.m. Return to Mohonk Mountain House

Day 2/Night 2
8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet at Mohonk Mountain House
9:30 a.m. Arrive at Rocking Horse Ranch
9:45 a.m. Tour award winning gardens
10:30 a.m. Water skiing
12:00 p.m. Beach volleyball
1:00 p.m. Lunch at Rocking Horse Ranch
2:00 p.m. Horse Back riding
5:00 p.m. Spa Appointment
6:30 p.m. Dinner at Rocking Horse Ranch
8:00 p.m. Bonfire with marshmallow roast
9:00 p.m. Travel back to Mohonk Mountain House
Guidebook and Itinerary

Day 3/Night 3
9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast at Mohonk Mountain House
10:20 a.m. Arrive at Minnewaska State Park
10:30 a.m. Hike to Lake Minnewaska
12:00 p.m. Arrive at Lake Minnewaska
2:00 p.m. Eat lunch
3:00 p.m. Awosting Falls
4:30 p.m. Hike back to Park office
6:00 p.m. Dinner reservations at Friends and Family Hillside Restaurant
8:00 p.m. Drive back to Mohonk Mountain House

Day 4/Night 4
9:00 a.m. Breakfast at Main Street Bistro
11:00 a.m. Arrive at Belleayre Mountain
11:15 a.m. Swimming at Belleayre Beach in Pine Hill Lake
1:30 p.m. Eat lunch
3:00 p.m. Rent kayaks or pedal boats
5:00 p.m. Drive back to Mohonk Mountain House
6:30 p.m. Dinner reservations at Mohonk Mountain House
8:00 p.m. Movie night at Mohonk Mountain House
Guidebook and Itinerary

Day 5
10:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet at Mohonk Mountain House
12:00 p.m. Guided nature walk at Mohonk Mountain House
2:00 p.m. Swimming in indoor pool or Lake Mohonk
4:00 p.m. Check out of hotel
Conclusion:

Overall, these sites in Ulster County exemplify a variety of recreational activities that are available to people of all ages and tourists from all over the world.
Working Annotated Bibliography

www.belleayre.com
Wayside
Shows its story and historical facts.

www.mohonk.com
History
Talked about the story of the Mohonk Mountain House and what role it had about being environmental.

Wayside
Talked about the history of Mohonk Mountain House and some fun facts about it.

http://walkway.org
Talks about the history of the bridge and its facts.

http://Lakeminnewaska.org
Wayside
Shows the origins of Minnewaska State Park and tells what it offered back in time.

www.rockinghorseranch.com
Wayside
Description of the story of Rocking Horse Ranch and how it has changed over the years.

http://www.thruway.ny.gov/about/factbook.html
History
Tells how the thruway gave quicker routes to Ulster County and its resorts.

http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2011/03/05/148930/top-five-things-unions/
History
Explained how people spent more free time with the new labor laws.

http://www.catskillslark.org/history/forest.htm
History
Discusses the history of the Catskill Park and how it promoted resorts in the region.

www.co.ulster.ny.us
County Seal
Used County Seal to represent the county’s symbol.