

## Practical Example of Outdoor Education Project

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In the case of regional work-study programs, it is important for education institutions, residents, enterprises and NPOs to work together and promote mutual relations, and through interaction in the accessible outdoors, we can create an affection for local regions and a good environment for education. However, fundamentally this is a volunteer project and unlike the motivations for other operations, work related to education, and administration, unless there is a strong interest in the subject, and unless it is a worthwhile activity and fun, then it is impossible to continue. Therefore, we have set up an Aussie games field and a beachcombing field and have organized an outdoor educational program that offers various games where the participants will be able to overcome challenges and meet the fixed group and individual goals that they have set for themselves. The activities will be led by foreign leaders and Japanese instructors focusing on children from elementary school to junior high school in groups of about 30 to 40 with programs running from a few hours to a week. As a result of fully utilizing all of the 5 senses and experiencing things rather than studying them, the participants will gain valuable skills such as cooperation, communication, leadership, analyzing ability, problem solving ability, goal setting and achieving, self determination, mutual trust and diversification. These skills will be developed through simple games and learning experiences. On the other hand, participating in these activities as a whole region puts part of the burden of education on the program as it teaches skills that exceed the educational project, and it is also possible to renew the stereotypes of regional society and think of the participants as “regional children.”

However, in the future it will be necessary to promote the gradual introduction of an unrestricted framework and to make the ideas and goals of the program clear. It is also thought that it will be necessary to have a mechanism and procedure that can coordinate educational institutes, government, residents, enterprises and NPOs.

The subject area, Kitsuki, is a city located in the northeast of Oita prefecture and Sumiyoshihama (the site of the project) separated Beppu Bay and Morie bay from the east and west. The area has widespread tidal flats at the river and mouth of the river and is a region with a precious environment that holds such biological species as fossils of the famous helmet crab, endangered species such as the Blue Whiting, the *Hamabo* and rare plant life such as the *Hamasaji*.