



"Empowering youth through multimedia"

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Spy Hop Productions Receives Time Warner Grant To Fund Innovative After-School Program

Spy Hop Productions, Utah's non-profit youth media and educational enrichment center, has been awarded a Time Warner 21st Century Literacy Community Grant. Through this grant, the Time Warner Foundation supports community-based organizations that work directly with teens in the non-school hours to teach 21st century skills using media, technology and community involvement. The purpose is to support and expand innovative programs and to identify and share effective models of 21st century learning.

Through this grant, Spy Hop Productions will continue to fund their Media Studio Apprenticeship program. The Media Studio Apprenticeship is an innovative program where high school age young people train in media production and earn a modest stipend. The six-month program allows Apprentices the opportunity to work with professional industry mentors and instructors within three main media studio disciplines: Film and Video Production, Sound Engineering, and Web Development. Apprentices must also dedicate six of their ten lab hours per week to develop their own creative portfolio. "We are excited to add Spy Hop to our network of grantees doing youth media work," says Michele Saccognaghi, Executive Director of the Time Warner Foundation, "we believe that these programs have the power to deeply engage young people and help them develop critical skills for success."

Young People need more than what is offered in traditional educational settings. They need "real-life" experiences, which also help to develop strong leadership skills, a sentiment shared by the Time Warner Foundation (Partnership for 21st Century Literacy, 2002).

"Real-life" means "hands-on" – youth need the experience of working with cameras, coding computers, and mixing music. "Hands-on" participation has lasting effects. For example, when a young person participates in the filmmaking process they understand how to create a story and how to create a vision. They learn to problem solve and to articulate their ideas. They are able to unleash their creative energy through the educational model of multimedia (which has a truly dynamic educational nature).

Since 1999 Spy Hop Productions has been empowering youth through multi-media education. Their mission is to cultivate the visions and voices of an emerging generation – via the big screen, the airwaves, and the world-wide-web. They are committed to:

- Providing a safe after-school learning center for underserved youths k-12.
- Access to the latest technologies and closing the "digital divide."
- Promoting media literacy, youth leadership, and sense of community.

For more information on Spy Hop Productions call Gena Edvalson at 801-532-7500 or email her at gena@spyhop.org. You can also visit Spy Hop on the web at www.spyhop.org. For more information about the Time Warner Foundation and the 21st Century Literacy Community Grants Program go to www.timewarnerfoundation.org.

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