



ASOCIACIÓN DE BATEADORES DE ORO BARCIAECUS

Navelgas (Spain)

WGA PROJECT

GOLDpanning AT SCHOOLS

Two years ago, when all the members were asked for any interesting proposal with the goal of being funded by WGA, the Association Barciaecus came up with an activity that we were just beginning to carry out: Goldpanning at schools.

The idea of this project came long time ago. As you may know, Navelgas is the venue of Spanish Goldpanning Championship for more than 15 years. At the beginning of the times, a lot of people from the town were interested to take part of it, but lately we noticed nobody, but the usual participants and foreign people, were signed up to the competition.

We sat down to discuss how to improve the Navelgas Gold Weekend or, it would come to an end. What were the problems? Among many others... the most important were the number of the participants: Not growing, actually declining. It was not attractive for new people and the children of the beginning had grown up and no one came behind.

The first thing we did was to invite all children and junior to take part of the competitions: free registration, and set up new categories that might be attractive to them: Pinchin Trophée, Panning under the moon, and junior couples (First time in competition it is better if you are not alone!). We wanted to make it easy for them because we were sure that once they tried it, they would repeat year after year. They only need a boost. And it worked. Number of children and junior's were increasing in the past 5-6 years.

Another big problem was, most of them didn't know the rules, and there is no place better to learn something, than at the school.

For that reason, at the beginning of 2015, we planned to organize a championship at Navelgas School, where **all pupils** would take part of it. We thought, once they became familiar with the game, the rules, etc.. They dared to participate in this case, in the World Championship that was going to be held in Navelgas. We could not allow the children of Navelgas to stay out of this event. They had to feel part of it, so the goldpanning would start to mean something for them. (As soon as we proposed our idea at the school they said yes.)

CHAMPIONSHIP AT SCHOOL. 2015.

The project was divided in 2 parts: **LEARNING** and **PANNING**.

LEARNING. During the gym class, the rules and basic notions were explained to every group (primary and secondary level) by an association member: How to pan, the gold, tubes, sand, times, and everything they should know. Little goldpanners helped little amateurs.



A brochure with rules was given by the association to all pupils so they also worked the activity at class and home.

PANNING.

After all this work, came the party. During two days an authentic competition was celebrated at Navelgas School. Nerves and adrenaline were present. It was a very good way to break the routine. It was happening, panning finally meant fun for them.

First day: primary level.

12 pools, 3 heats, semi-finals and final.

One of the most interesting things is how secondary level was involved with the organization: helping with the buckets, times, bibs, and all the works necessary in the championship. Some of them collaborated also in the World Championship. Another step forward.



Second day: secondary level.

12 tubs, 3 heats, semi-finals and final.

Besides the competition, this day another school was invited to participate of this activity of cultural exchange. Navelgas children taught other children what was the competition about and did a couple heat. Also teachers took part, at the end.



CHAMPIONSHIP AT SCHOOL. 2016.

After the success of the last year, another nearby school asked us to participate in the cultural exchange of the goldpanning activity.



We are already working in next meeting for June 2017. Navelgas School will host another nearby school for another cultural exchange about goldpanning.

OTHER ANNUAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE “GOLDPANNING AT SCHOOLS” PROJECT.

Besides this project, we have organized for 15 years, the annual Goldpanning Championship for children, at the **University of Mines of Asturias**, during its mineral fair on March, where a lot of children of the city of Oviedo, take part and that makes them come to Navelgas on summer, for the National.



To add to these activities, from the Museum we go to several schools to talk about gold and goldpanning and make some demonstration. Also a lot of groups of children come to visit us and take part of our Goldpanning Workshop placed in the MOA backyard.



CONCLUSIONS

We hope we can do these activities for many more years, but as you all may know this has always a cost:

- Sand for LEARNING time and PANNING time. 1 Big Bag: 150 €
- Tubes for 40 participants (Learning and panning): 30 €
- GOLD for 40 (Learning and panning): 200 €
- Awards (6) : 120 €
- Sound system rental: 70 €
- Rules copies for all children: 10 €

We will be very grateful to receive some help to our project to keep on working on it.

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