



Top 10 4-H Projects

- 1 Agriculture Appreciation/ Interpretation
- 2 Junior Master Gardeners
- 3 Food and Nutrition
- 4 Leadership
- 5 Character Education
- 6 Mobile Dairy Classroom
- 7 Hatching in the Classroom
- 8 Workforce Preparation and Careers
- 9 After-School
- 10 Investigating Water



Impact of 4-H Curriculum Enrichment Programs

Implementing 4-H curriculum enrichment programs in the Tarrant, Travis, and Harris county school districts has revealed positive results. The study represented 85,238 fourth, fifth and sixth graders in these urban counties.

A survey of Texas teachers in 2002 reported a 30 percent increase in class attendance during the 4-H curriculum enrichment projects. These teachers also reported that tardiness fell to less than one percent.

As a result of this attendance increase, these school districts had significant financial benefit. The state tax revenue provided to schools, based on average daily attendance, is \$39.38 per student, per day. 4-H curriculum enrichment is a one day to eight week experience. The increase value to Texas for 549,428 (2002 enrollment) youth to participate in these projects is \$6,490,942.

Additional studies of 647 Texas students of seven elementary schools, who participated in 4-H science based curriculum enrichment projects, showed increased science based achievement scores compared to students who were taught using traditional classroom methods. The children involved in 4-H curriculum enrichment gardening programs demonstrated an increase of 5.33 TAKS science score points above the average score of students not involved. This increase in score elevated the children into the upper 75th percentile of children across Texas.

Risky Behavior

In comparing 4-H members with youth in general, it was discovered that 4-H youth are more likely to report that they:

- * Succeed in school
- * Are leaders in school
- * Are looked upon as role models
- * Help others in the community

4-H youth reported that they are less likely than other youth to:

- * Shoplift or steal
- * Use illegal drugs
- * Ride with a drinking driver
- * Smoke cigarettes
- * Damage property for fun
- * Skip school or cut classes

"I have developed a better work ethic and communications skills."- Isaac, Age 16.

Building Future Citizens

A national study by Channel One Network found teens between the ages of 12 and 17 felt that the two most important causes of problems in society today are people who do not respect the laws of their communities and people in communities not thinking of the rights of others.

The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program surveyed a random selection from the 75,000 community club 4-H members (N=534) representing all regions of Texas, results indicate 96 percent of 4-H members felt that the adults who work with them instill the importance of respecting others and their property. A frequency of 90 percent of 4-H community club members indicate that

4-H has taught them to be involved in community concerns and that helping others in their community is important.



Youth in Leadership

Youth today desire involvement in a program that treats them as an equal partner according to the National 4-H Leadership Trust Youth in Governance document.

Findings of The Points of Light Foundation are that youth are more committed and enthusiastic about their roles as leaders when they have a true sense of ownership and responsibility. Texas 4-H youth are involved in the planning, implementation, evaluation and interpretation of 4-H programs which gives them a sense of ownership of the program.

The 4-H and Youth Development Program is unique in the advisory

"I never knew anyone thought of me as a leader. This program increased my self-esteem and helped me have a positive image" - Emily, Age 11.

role it gives teen members. It is one of the few organizations that have youth as partners on all its governing boards. Although 4-H is not the only organization that promotes leadership life skills development, it has unique characteristics that make it an effective organization in fulfilling this purpose.

Volunteer Impact

The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program is large and diverse. It requires county Extension agents to involve trained volunteers for more youth to be reached.

Texas 4-H and Youth Development reached 1,059,829 urban and rural youth in Texas with an experiential learning plan that trains 52,279 volunteers (older youth and adults) and parents to teach youth life skills that prepares them for employment, citizenship and decision making in Texas during 2004.

The value added time for volunteers (five hours per month per 52,279 volunteers X 12 months X \$17.19, which is the Independent Sector per hour value of volunteer time) who reach Texas 4-H youth is \$53,920,561.

Character Education

Many problems of Texas' society can be based on lack of character development and character based choices according to Texas Community Futures Forums in 1999. Texans Building Character, a statewide Texas Cooperative Extension effort has met the needs of character education in their local groups. More than 170,000 education contacts have been made with this effort. Program evaluation efforts have focused on awareness of ethical decision making, acceptance or responsibility for one's own actions, honesty and cooperation. 1602 youth were included in the study which showed unwanted behaviors among youth such as cheating, mistreatment of others, stealing and vandalism to decrease.

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2003-2004 ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

Types of Membership		Membership by Ethnicity***		Membership by Residence**	
4-H Clubs	72,763	White	410,388	Rural	63,189
4-H Special Interest Groups*	470,127	Hispanic	356,958	Towns under 10,000	136,155
4-H Curriculum Enrichment*	520,119	Black	216,671	Towns & Cities under 50,000	145,346
Camping*	4,990	Asian	37,787	Suburbs	159,515
		Native American	38,025	Urban	555,624
Membership by Age**		*includes multiple participation **duplications eliminated from membership *** youth may have designated more than one ethnicity.		Volunteers Involved in 4-H	
Age 8 and younger	370,648			Adult Volunteers	43,572
Age 9 to 11	395,191	<p>Making the Best Better!</p>		Youth Volunteers	8,707
Age 12 to 13	135,326			Total Volunteers	52,279
Ages 14 to 19	158,664				

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