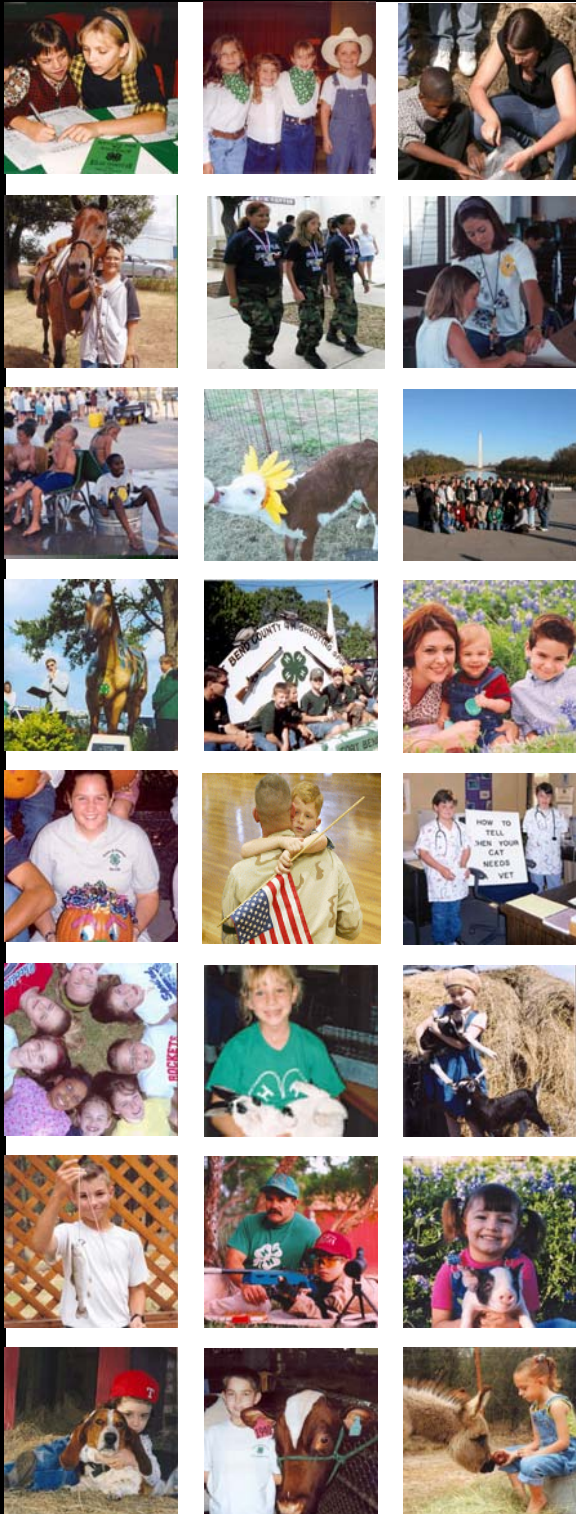




# TEXAS

Texas Cooperative  
**EXTENSION**  
The Texas A&M University System

# 4-H



*No* other youth development organization impacts Texas like 4-H, developing the minds and hearts of the youth.

By equipping youth with positive character, effective problem-solving and decision-making skills, 4-H is empowering the next generation.

### 4-H Enrollment Facts:

- **959,595** youth are involved in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program.
- **62,255** youth are involved in 4-H clubs across Texas.
- **449,796** youth participated in school enrichment programs in 2005.
- **438,095** youth participated in special interest educational activities in 2005.
- **48,705** volunteers invested their time and talents to 4-H either directly or indirectly with the youth.

Consumer & Family Science  
18,370

Environmental Education  
89,641

Health Education  
148,906

Plants & Animals  
792,878

Personal Development & Leadership  
65,936

Science & Technology  
46,803



### Demographic Facts:

- **Forty-nine percent (49%)** of youth involved in the 4-H Program reside in urban areas of Texas.
- More than **50%** of Texas 4-H youth represent minority, racial, cultural & ethnic populations.
- Gender participation in the 4-H Program is **equally divided** between males and females.
- Building Community Inclusion programs involves more than **695** youth with physical/mental disabilities statewide through involvement in educational activities and camps.



## YEA! 4-H AFTER-SCHOOL LEARNING ADVENTURE

In 2005, the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program premiered YEA! 4-H Afterschool learning adventure. Through the Texas Community Futures Forum process in 2004, a total of 174 counties identified the issue of constructive time for youth. Over the next four years, the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program has, and will continue to have, a strong presence in training staff, establishing new programs, and evaluating the benefits of 4-H afterschool programs.

Afterschool programs across the nation have proven to:

- provide children opportunities to succeed academically and develop new life skills;
- keep children safe during the hours when violent crime is most likely to occur and when children are most at-risk of becoming victims;
- support working families by providing safe, enriching places for children while their parents are at work.

## TECHNOLOGY AND YOUTH: ADDRESSING THE FUTURE THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY



Established in January 2005, the Texas 4-H Technology Team has played an important role of diversifying the opportunities and delivery methods of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program. Through the technology project, youth are developing skills in GPS/GIS, robotics, digital photography, and computer applications.

Technology is the future of everyone's life and will only continue to effect each of us more and more. The need for GIS (Geographic Information Systems) trained personnel in the upcoming years will be tremendous. As our world relies more and more on this technology, the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program wants to be an active partner in preparing our youth.

In the Spring of 2005, Galveston, Denton, and Bexar Counties received grants from ESRI to acquire GIS software and equipment. As a result of these grants, 4-H members have had the opportunity to collaborate with other state agencies and municipalities in assisting mapping parks, wildlife areas, 911 systems, and hurricane damaged regions in Texas. These grants have also provided for career opportunities (present and future) for many of the youth involved.



### TEXAS 4-H FACT:

In 2005, Texas 4-H members contributed more than \$75,000.00 to community service projects that were organized on a state-wide basis.

## HELPING OTHERS THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Tsunami Relief began in early January with 4-H members in 55 Texas counties raising more than \$12,000.00. The funds were presented to Mercy Ships In Garden Valley to replace village fishing boats in Sri Lanka. Mercy Ships is the leader in using a growing fleet of hospital ships to deliver free world-class health care services to the poor. Since 1978, Mercy Ships has treated more than 300,000 people in village medical clinics, performed 18,000 surgeries, 110,000 dental treatments and completed hundreds of construction and agriculture projects.



Hurricane Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast with permanent affects. Texas 4-H members once again stepped up and provided letters of support and encouragement to 4-H members in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Monetary donations from across Texas were given to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation that were later distributed to 4-H members in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Kits including learning activities, toys, craft supplies, notebooks and pens/pencils for the youth of Texas affected by Hurricane Rita were donated and assembled by Texas 4-H members. More than 570 "KITS FOR KIDS," valued at \$75.00 each, were assembled and distributed in Southeast and East Texas on behalf of the members of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program and Texas Cooperative Extension. A total of more than \$50,000.00 in monetary and in-kind support was donated to hurricane relief efforts.

In addition to the disaster relief efforts, the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program continued its work on making life better for others by helping build the second Habitat for Humanity house in the Bryan/College Station area. At the 2005 Texas 4-H state-wide event, Texas 4-H Roundup, a check for \$10,000.00 was donated, bringing the total donation to Habitat for Humanity in Texas to more than \$25,000.00 in less than two years.

## OPERATION MILITARY KIDS

Addressing the issues facing military families, particularly suddenly military children, Texas Cooperative Extension and 4-H established the Operation Military Kids and Speak Out for Military Kids in 2004. These programs promote an understanding and awareness of the military culture and lives of military youth. Additionally, the 4-H Military Program has created 4-H military clubs on all Army and Air Force bases in Texas, conducted two Purple Camps at the Texas 4-H Center for military youth, and hosted numerous conferences and community service projects supporting our states military youth.



### TEXAS 4-H FACT:

The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program has the largest 4-H scholarship program in the United States. More than 1.4 million dollars are awarded annually to graduating Texas 4-H members.