4-H Youth Project Camp Provides Fun & Education Opportunities for Area Youth and Leadership Opportunities for Area Adults

The Situation
The Bonner County Extension Office along with 4-H volunteers planned and conducted the annual youth 4-H project camp. The project camp was open to any youth in the area and was created to accomplish three major goals:

- To explore new ways to involve leaders and volunteers across all discipline and project areas;
- To provide an opportunity for youth to have a concentrated learning experience;
- To provide a fun and educational experience that would allow participants to have their projects evaluated for effort and accomplishment.

Ten different projects were offered to area youth. Participants could enroll in up to three projects over the five-day period. Instructors, volunteer leaders, and participants worked together to finish projects including demonstrations, record books, and project evaluations. In addition to exhibiting at the Bonner County Fair, an exhibit of completed projects was put on display in the Bonner Mall.

Ninety-six percent (96%) of past participants said they had fun and learned something by participating. Ninety-four percent (94%) indicated they would participate in project camp again. A large majority of parents of participants, volunteer leaders, and class instructors rated the project camp as excellent in all areas.

Over seventy local youth participated in this year’s program. That number was only limited by the number of volunteers available to lead a project. In the future as the popularity grows and volunteers increase, numbers of youth enrolled will only grow.