Percent of 4-H Members in Oneida County Is Higher than the State Average

The Situation
Youth programs in a community seem to be a necessary part of the community’s ability to train its youth to be responsible adults. Today’s youth are confronted with more problems and challenges than previous generations. They need to have structured activities and learning experiences to keep them involved, out of trouble and learning responsibility for their own actions on their way to becoming productive members of society.

Our Response
University of Idaho Extension Educators, 4-H assistant and office staff have worked to provide opportunities for the youth in Oneida County to be part of the 4-H program. Each year school visits are held in the county schools. Youth in 3rd-5th grade are introduced to the different activities in 4-H and are invited to join 4-H for the first time or to continue to be members. Middle school students are also invited to join 4-H and have an opportunity to view a poster presentation about 4-H. High school youth are given opportunities to be part of school enrichment classes and traditional 4-H programs. Day camps for sewing, rocket building, leather-craft, cookie decorating and others are taught during the year by 4-H volunteers and 4-H staff. 4-H camp is one of the highlights of the 4-H year bringing many of the county youth into the program and helping to keep many others active in 4-H. There are youth who attend 4-H camp as their only 4-H experience of the year. Traditional 4-H clubs function throughout the year with forty-five adult 4-H volunteers serving as leaders and mentors for county youth.

Program Outcomes
The last five years 4-H in Oneida County has consistently had a higher percentage of its school aged children in 4-H than the state average. Between the years of 2000 and 2004 Oneida County has averaged 23% more of the school age children in grades 3-8 enrolled in 4-H than the state average (see figure 1).

Figure 1.

The increased numbers continue into grades 9-12 with 17% more of the youth involved than the state average.
Future goals of the Extension office in Oneida County are to continue to promote and support growth in the 4-H program areas adding new and exciting projects each year and stabilizing the established ones.

For More Information
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