Bingham County 4-H Campers Report Positive Outcomes

The Situation
Since 2002, Alpine 4-H Camp participants from Bingham County have participated in an evaluation at the end of camp to identify levels of satisfaction with camp and the attainment of skills related to subjects taught. A Journal of Extension article (June 2003, Volume 41 Number 3) discussed an evaluation tool utilized in Virginia that provided outcome vs. output data. Therefore, questions on the Bingham County 4-H camp evaluation were revised to gain information on the impact of 4-H camp on the youth.

Our Response
In 2005, the evaluation tool was revised to include information on immediate learning as well as short-term action and longer-term impacts resulting from program participation. This evaluation tool was completed by each of the campers on the last day of camp.

Program Outcomes
The table summarizes the results of the program evaluation. Sixty-nine percent of campers reported that camp had improved their self-confidence. Over seventy-five percent of campers said that they developed new skills and became more independent while at camp. Over eighty percent of campers indicated that camp helped them make new friends, learn more about different subjects, develop closer friendships, become more responsible, and see the world beyond their hometowns.

In the future, we plan to not only evaluate the campers, but also their parents and caregivers to learn the impact of 4-H camp on youth.

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