

IMPACT



University of Idaho
Cooperative
Extension System

Ada County Extension System, 5880 Glenwood St., Boise, Id 83714

4-H Reaching New Audiences Through Partnership

The Situation

In 1999, in the Northwest, 70% of parents with children under 18 worked outside the home. With greater numbers of parents in the work force there has become fewer available volunteers for youth programs and a greater demand for youth care services. Forming partnerships with other agencies is necessary for continued programming. 4-H has been reaching youth audiences through a summer program in Boise City Parks. These children attend a day camp sponsored by the Boise City Parks and Recreation Department. The extended day camp offers supervised activities five days a week at various city parks throughout Boise and serves as summer child-care for many urban families. Parents arrange for their children to attend on a weekly basis. Children are at these park sites from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our Response

The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Ada county 4-H Program, in collaboration with the Boise City Parks and Recreation Department, developed a special program in 1995. This program offers hands-on learning to non-traditional urban youth who have never heard of 4-H and resulted in a positive image for 4-H and agriculture. 4-H provided a variety of workshops and fun. The weekly schedules of the camp program in summer 2000 included:

- Team Building
- Art

- Health and Safety
- Theatre Arts
- Entomology
- Aerospace
- Ice Cream (Dairy)

A short introduction, 4-H pledge, and an explanation and discussion of the day's activity preceded each hands-on activity. On certain occasions, following the activity, the youth were presented with a 4-H sticker, pin, or certificate of participation. Participants in each park designed and painted a banner to hang in the 4-H Exhibit at the Western Idaho Fair. Each banner was 2 feet by 3 feet and depicted a creative theme in relation to the day camp.

Six 4-H members, ages 13-17, volunteered to be Day Camp Counselors the summer of 2000. They were involved not only in the planning and conducting of the camp, but also participated in the evaluation. As a result, teens modified the daily routine to improve the camping experience.

Achievements

- A total of 4,634 children participated in the program in the five-year period.
- Urban children became more aware of 4-H.
- Urban children learned about agriculture.
- Additional collaborative efforts with Boise
- Parks is available.



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- Evaluation comments from the participants included:

“I was telling my mom about 4-H and she told me when she was my age she was in 4-H. She raised a lamb and took it to the fair. How can I do that too?”

“4-H was a lot of fun. I learned a lot of cool stuff. I wish we could do 4-H every day.”

“I want to join 4-H so I can be a 4-H Day Camp Counselor next year.”

- Evaluation comments from teen counselors and Parks and Recreation Departmental staff included:

“I really enjoyed this project. I got to practice being flexible, got to teach other kids, and had lots of fun.”

“The kids looked forward to 4-H and were eager to participate in the activities. They especially were excited when they heard they would get to make ice-cream.”

Cooperators

Boise City Parks and Recreation Department
Wheat Commission
Idaho Dairy Products Commission
Idaho State Grange
Amalgamated Sugar Company

Future

The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension will begin planning for summer 2001 in the spring.

For More Information

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