Funtastic Fridays

The Situation
Cost cutting measures have lead to the school districts in Custer County going to a four day school week. As a result, student test scores have risen and in general the teachers, students and parents like the four day week. However, this leaves many youngsters with nothing to do on Fridays. In addition, even with the best of recruiting efforts, we have not been able to reach all youth of 4-H age.

Our Response
Goals for our project included:
• Fill a need for Custer County youth to participate in a quality after school program in a safe environment with caring adults.
• Provide an awareness and exploration of the natural resources in Custer County.
• Reach minority groups, low income families, and non 4-H youth.
• Introduce participants to the 4-H Program.
• Provide an opportunity for Teens to exhibit leadership.
• Get past leaders involved and re-enrolled in the program.

A cooperative program in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation was developed. With the help of caring adult volunteers, the Custer County Extension Office and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation partnered to host an educational and fun filled 6 week after school program in March and April of 2006. The Forest Service, BLM, and Fish & Game personnel were asked to provide personnel to teach specific topics.

Program Outcomes
To ensure that all youth who wanted to participate had access to this quality after school educational program with little or no cost; we needed a source of funding. We applied for and received grants from the 4-H Endowment Board, Thompson Creek Mine and the Custer County 4-H Leaders Council. In
addition Idaho Parks and Recreation contributed funding and the meeting location.

We did reach under served youth and non 4-H members as only one attendee was a previous 4-H member. We also taught programs that youth have shown interest in but had no leaders to provide the programs.

Hopefully, we have also helped young people develop into productive citizens and helped the growth of a healthy community through community service activities and an awareness of our environment.

Participants should also be better able to enjoy and have a better understanding of the natural resources in Custer County. They should be able to do this in a safer matter after completing training on ATV and water safety, in addition to learning survival skills.

Four former leaders were also recruited back into the 4-H program and are now active leaders again.

The Future
By developing a stringent budget and buying in quantity, we will be able to provide a similar program next year at a minimal cost to participants.

For More Information
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Funtastic Fridays
Have you ever....
Eaten a leaf?
Panned for gold?
Built a boat?

Do you know how....
To use a compass?
Set up a tent?
Cook on a stick?

Do you like....
Games?
Fun Activities?
Spending time with your friends?
Cool Art Projects?

Gear Up for a Funfabulous Time!

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