

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

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## Spring Into 4-H Fun in Lewis County

### *The Situation*

4-H is the principal youth development program in Lewis County. Approximately 40% of eligible public school students in the two school districts located on the prairie area of Lewis County are enrolled in 4-H. For the Kamiah school district, that number is closer to 10%. Lewis County 4-H seeks to strengthen and expand opportunities for youth, particularly those who may not have had full access to the program.

“Spring into 4-H Fun” is a fun and educational one-day program taught by University of Idaho Extension staff and volunteers. The program is for all youth and its goal is to increase participation and involvement in the 4-H youth development program across the county. The 2007 event has held in Kamiah at the public school, partly to focus on increasing the participation levels in Kamiah. Youth from Reubens, Winchester, Culdesac, Craigmont, and Nezperce were bused to Kamiah so they too could participate.

### *Our Response*

“Spring into 4-H Fun” was held on March 29, 2007, during spring break. Participant’s selected from a variety of classes in which they participated in “hands-on” activities in a safe learning place. Two Extension staff, 18 adult volunteers, and 6 teens worked from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the day of the activity. Several of the adult volunteers were from the local Kamiah Kiwanis Club. About forty hours of staff preparation time were used to plan and organize the event.

The Lewis County Extension Office provided office support, duplicating, and office supplies. Class supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses were funded with registration fees and an Idaho State 4-H Endowment Grant of \$800.

“Spring into 4-H Fun” is designed for any child, ages 8 to 18, who would like to participate in a day of fun, hands-on activity. In 2007, we targeted children from low-income and working parent families who may be home alone or possibly in less desirable care. We are also trying to build strong ties with the children and parents of the Nez Perce Tribe in Kamiah.

Registration forms were available at the Extension Office, schools and libraries in Lewis County.

Participants were charged \$10 for the day of activities and bus transportation.

Offered activities included:

Rockets	Woodworking
Super Snacks	Wildlife
Tie Blankets	Small Engines
Homemade Scrapbooks	String Art
Terrarium	Sport Fishing

Each class was offered twice. Each time period offered 4 classes choices with each class lasting 50 minutes.

## ***Program Outcomes***

Forty-two youth participated in “Spring into 4-H Fun.” Nineteen of these youth were not 4-H members. This program gave participants the opportunity to:

- Do something fun and educational.
- Have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on activity.
- See what 4-H is about.
- Participate in an activity in a safe learning environment.
- Interact with caring teen and adult volunteers.
- Develop life skills.
- Feel accepted for who they are.

Participants did learn about the exciting opportunities in 4-H. Information about the 4-H program was supplied to each youth, including a list of available projects. We received several positive comments about this activity. A Kamiah school principal said she has heard nothing but positive comments about the event. The Kamiah School District Superintendent attended some of the classes and offered very positive comments about the organization and outcomes of the event.



### ***Tie Baby Blankets***

*These were donated to Loving Hands Charity Center.  
They will be given to new mothers who need help.  
The participants loved the idea of giving!  
Eight blankets were donated.*

In May, we returned to Kamiah to start a new 4-H club during early release time each week at the school. Seven youth attended and enrolled in 4-H. None of them had previous 4-H experience and six of them had attended “Spring into 4-H Fun.” This is a great beginning for broadening 4-H participation in the Kamiah area and introducing Lewis County youth to the opportunities in 4-H.

### **The Future**

“Spring into 4-H Fun” helps youth learn about the opportunities available in 4-H and have a fun and educational experience in the process. This program will be repeated next year in another town in Lewis County. We will rotate through the main communities in Lewis County and return to Kamiah in three years.

## ***For More Information***

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