Latah County 4-H reaches underserved audiences

The Situation
The Latah County 4-H Program is a successful youth development program in both urban and rural Latah County. During the 2007-2008 4-H program year, 360 youth and 91 volunteer leaders were enrolled in the Latah County 4-H program.

To expand and diversify the Latah County 4-H Program, UI Extension has expanded efforts in Afterschool and out of school programming.

Our Response
4-H Afterschool

4-H Afterschool program provides life skills based activities in the underserved rural communities of Latah County. By partnering with afterschool programs in Troy, Deary, Juliaetta, and "Come 4 Fun" in Juliaetta, 4-H is helping to give students the feeling of belonging and accomplishment. The students are learning by doing, developing problem solving skills, and becoming better citizens in their communities.

The program reaches approximately 105 elementary age students each week. It provides programming six hours a week in the afterschool programs. This is divided between three programs, four days a week. 4-H Afterschool also provides one hour of activities a month at a church based program, "Come 4 Fun," in Juliaetta.

Other Outreach

Latah County 4-H also provides programming to youth through other out of school times. A partnership has been established with Moscow Parks and Recreation to provide day camps during Moscow School District No-School Curriculum Fridays.

There are six of these days throughout the academic year. 4-H day camps have provided a safe place with valuable programming and life skill development for 180 youth this past year. Day camp programs have included; Lego Robotics, Aerospace, Food and Nutrition, Entomology, Ecology and Wood Working.

These day camps have also generated increased enrollments in the club based programs.

Currently the Potlatch School District does not have an afterschool program in their community. With this void, Latah County 4-H has been providing a week long summer camp for Potlatch youth for the past four years. The 70 youth in attendance have the opportunity to work on 3 different 4-H projects throughout the week. Much of the leadership at this camp is provided by local 4-H teen members who are enrolled in the leadership project.

Program Outcomes
The success of the Latah County 4-H program is based on a high project completion rate, increased enrollment numbers and quality adult volunteer recruitment and training. The diversity of the program is evident in materials delivered as well as audiences reached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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