4-H programs taught during Minidoka County migrant summer school program

The Situation

The 4-H program has been a part of the Migrant Summer School program for two years. The encouragement and cooperation on the part of the Minidoka County Migrant Education Administration has made this program successful with the summer school kids as well as the teachers. This program is recognized by the extension staff to be an important link to the non-Caucasian population, both youth and adults. Therefore, expanding the number of 4-H projects used in the summer school program was a main focus for the 1993 program. Training volunteers (the 4-H assistant and a 4-H teen) to help in the program also became necessary. More volunteer cooperation is a key to helping this program grow in the future.

Our Response

In 1993, Migrant Education administration and teachers met and chose three 4-H projects to be taught in 5 sessions and one in 7 sessions: Wildlife (11 - third graders), Health, the Fourth H (16 - fourth graders), and Safety (21 - fourth graders) were taught for 5 sessions, 1-1/4 hours each session. Blue Sky Below My Feet was taught by the teacher to 14 - fifth graders with the extension staff providing videos and other support materials. After five sessions and successful completion of the book and poster, 2 sessions were spent building and shooting off rockets with the help of an extra volunteer.

At least one speaker was scheduled for each project with Health and safety having two. These projects were slightly modified in order to provide the structure needed in a classroom situation. Although much of the sessions were taught by extension staff and volunteers, the teachers took initiative to further work on and/or complete the information outside of the set time.

Achievements

Throughout the summer school sessions, the migrant school administration took videos of students interacting with the speakers and participating in class activities. This video will be used to
secure funding for the migrant school summer program and other activities, including 4-H. Completed student 4-H projects were judged just like any other 4-H projects and ribbons awarded to the students. These projects were displayed at the Migrant Summer School Parent's Night. A special exhibit was put together by the volunteer teen and displayed at the 1993 Minidoka County Fair.

The Future

Plans are being formed for the 1994 Migrant School Summer Program. Since the teen volunteer enjoyed the experience, including more teens is a goal for next year. Teachers gave favorable responses to the projects and expressed a desire to expand the number and variety of 4-H projects taught. Recruitment and training of adult volunteers to teach the 4-H programs in summer school will allow the extension staff to concentrate on planning and organizing programs.

For More Information

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