4-H Youth Project Camp Provides Fun and Educational Opportunities for Area Youth

The Situation
The Benewah County Extension Office under the leadership of Karen Goodson and other 4-H volunteers planned and conducted a very successful youth project camp. The project camp was initiated to accomplish three major goals:

- To explore new ways to involve leaders and volunteers across all discipline and project areas.
- To provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to have a concentrated learning experience.
- To provide fun and educational experience that would allow participants to have their projects evaluated for effort and accomplishment.

Response
Thirteen different projects were offered to area youngsters. Participants could enroll in up to three projects over a 5 day period. Instructors, volunteer leaders and participants worked together to finish projects, including demonstrations, record books and project evaluations.

Findings
The program was very successful as evidenced by the positive evaluations from both participants and volunteers conducting the camp. Ninety percent (90%) of participants said they had fun and learned something by their participation. Ninety-four (94%) indicated they would participate in such an effort if offered the following year. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the leaders indicated they would be willing to help with the project camp if it were offered next year. A large majority of parents of participants, volunteer leaders, and class instructors rated the project camp as excellent in all areas.

Summary
We were impressed with the enthusiasm with which these young people were willing to learn and respect they displayed toward their volunteer instructors. This demonstrated that an educational activity can be developed that should and will make a positive difference in the life of a child.

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