

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **BOUNDARY COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Boundary County • [www.uidaho.edu/boundary](http://www.uidaho.edu/boundary)



## 2023 By the Numbers

- **6,377** direct contacts
- **3,392** youth participants
- **84** volunteers
- **1,431** volunteer hours
- **\$109,972** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Boundary County: Joan Poppino, Jan Bayer, Shirley Anderson, Lauren Kuczka, Wally Cossairt, Kimberly Cushman, Laci Click and Tiffani Beggerly.

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2023 Impact

UI Extension, Boundary County partnered with U of I faculty and two other rural Idaho counties to receive a three-year grant from the Idaho Children's Trust Fund totaling \$50,000. These funds will be used to implement a free multi-week parenting education program for families with youth age 5-11. In spring 2023 a nine-week session was implemented in Boundary County with four families completing the program. As part of the grant, the team is creating a parenting education curriculum designed to meet the needs of rural families in Idaho.

Thirty-one forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs in 2023, including the Thinning and Pruning Field Day. Currently, five Boundary County forest owners are certified UI Extension volunteers with the Idaho Master Forest Stewards, who provided over 509 hours of volunteer service to over 1,027 forest owners and others in the Idaho Panhandle in 2023.

Another successful program was the continuation of virtual food safety and food preservation classes that were implemented in 2021. Boundary County partnered with UI Extension, Owyhee County to offer monthly classes on a variety of food topics. In the live Zoom presentations from Nov. 2022-Oct. 2023, there were 353 participants attending 13 classes.

## 4-H in Boundary County

A total of 250 youth participated in the traditional 4-H program in Boundary County and exhibited their projects at the county fair.

Boundary County 4-H received almost \$60,000 in grant funding from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to implement programming to help address learning loss due to COVID-19. This grant was used to hire a full-time robotics instructor and purchase robotics curriculum and materials. Four-week robotics sessions were provided to every K-5th grade class in the county, as well as several out-of-school and summer programs that also included many homeschooled youth.

During the summer 4-H offered six full-day camps and six half-day camps. The topics of these camps included cooking, art, mystery science, entomology, STEAM, natural resources, gardening and a youth farm tour.

4-H Friday Friends celebrated its' 16th year of all-day programming for elementary-age children on Fridays during the school year. This program saw lots of participation from community visitors including the library, sheriff's office, and many others. This program received \$6,000 in grants in 2023, allowing enrollment rates to stay affordable for Boundary County families who had children participating in the program.

## On the Horizon

In 2024 UI Extension, Boundary County will again offer the Idaho Master Gardener class and continue to recruit into the active Advanced Master Gardener group. Funding and research will be sought and directed to the unique agricultural pursuits in Boundary County such as the nursery, niche production, and specialty crops industries. UI Extension will continue to provide support to new and beginning farmers who seek to expand and explore markets through connecting partners and dissemination of information.

UI Extension will move into the second year of the three-year grant from the Idaho Children's Trust Fund. These funds will be used to implement another free parenting education program for families with youth age 5-11. They will continue creating a parenting education curriculum designed to meet the needs of rural families in Idaho.