

IMPACT



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Nez Perce County and Asotin County Youth Activity Camp 2002

The Situation

Local needs assessments conducted by the UI/Nez Perce County Extension and WSU/Asotin County Extension Offices documented that the demand for quality educational programs for underprivileged and at-risk youth continues to be an important need in the Lewis-Clark Valley.

Our Response

August 2002 marked the second year of a highly successful Youth Activity Camp that is making an impact upon area youth. A goal of the 2002 camp was to increase the number of non-4-H members participating in the camp and to use the camp as a 4-H recruiting program for low-income and high-risk youth.

With the help of an Asotin County Developmental and Residential Services grant of \$500, we were able to maintain low registration costs and provide scholarships for four low-income youth to attend camp. Based on a parent request, we provided an interpreter through the University of Idaho Student Disability Services Office for a third grade student who is deaf and has hearing implants.

Because of high interest expressed on the 2001 camp survey, classes on Scrapbooking, Science, and Snacking were offered again. New classes offered include Pet Care, Sports Fishing, Jr. Master Gardener, Aerospace, and Pallet of Fun.

The food services supervisor for the Lewiston (Idaho) School District partnered with us to provide free lunch and snack for all interested youth. An extension educator completed the district's food service training in order to serve food to campers throughout the week.

Transportation to and from each county extension office to the camp facility was offered. Each county supplied a vehicle for this purpose. With most youth being picked up and dropped off by family members, utilization of this service was minimal.

Program Outcomes

Forty-seven 2nd to 6th grade youth attended this year's camp held in Grantham Elementary School in Clarkston, Washington. Attendance this year represents a 64% increase in participation from last year's camp. Only 37% of the 2002 camp participants were members of 4-H, as compared to 69% in 2001. An additional 20 adult volunteers contributed time to this program. A survey administered at the end of camp indicates that the majority of parents learned about camp from Extension/4-H newsletters, flyers and brochures posted in the community, and through word of mouth. Eighty-four percent of parents completing the survey rated their satisfaction with the logistics of camp—dates, time, location, cost, class quality, snack quality—as good or excellent. Parent comments from the survey also convey a high level of satisfaction and appreciation such as, "(this camp)

had a variety of activities for the students to choose from. It was well organized, fun and educational,” and “this camp provided a wonderful opportunity to do something new, fun and interesting, just when summer begins to become boring.”

The Future

Our goals for future programming include:

- Conduct a follow-up survey with 2001-2003 participants to determine camp’s effects on 4-H enrollment.
- Alternate camp facilities annually between Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington.
- Target businesses and social agencies that service limited-resource families to market camp.
- Develop an evaluation tool for youth to assess their level of satisfaction with the camp.

For More Information

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