

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

Canyon County, 501 Main Street, Caldwell, ID 83605; 208-459-6003; Fax: 208-454-6349

## 4-H Summer Day Camps

### *The Situation*

Although Canyon County still has very agricultural roots, the composition of Canyon County is becoming more and more urban. 4-H is traditionally viewed as an agriculture program in Canyon County and the majority of the project enrollment in the club program is in livestock areas. 4-H activities offering youth an opportunity to be involved in a way that does not necessarily center on agriculture is needed for youth who have other interests. 4-H summer day camps provide an opportunity for youth to participate in positive social and educational activities during the day. The Canyon County 4-H program has not offered a summer camp program in recent history to fill this need.

### *Our Response*

4-H summer day camps provide an opportunity for youth living in more urban areas of Canyon County to experience the potential of the 4-H program. The day camps provided a sampling of project

curriculum available and an opportunity for youth to have interactions with other youth. Through the day camps, youth could learn life skills such as cooperation, respect, tolerance, sharing, and helping others as well as subject matter knowledge.



Ten summer day camps were planned, implemented and evaluated. Day camp subject matter was selected to provide opportunities in science, art, outdoor life, foods and nutrition, sewing and small animal. Day camp presenters included existing 4-H club program volunteers, community members and Extension personnel. A brochure was created including the camp descriptions and registration information. Five local schools serving 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade were targeted with the brochure as well as direct mailing to families previously expressing interest in 4-H. Brochures were also available at the front desk of the Extension Office, as a 4-H newsletter insert and posted on the County Extension website. Two articles promoting the day camps appeared in the

Idaho Press Tribune and each camp was posted on the University of Idaho youth programs web page.

## ***Program Outcomes***

Of the ten 4-H summer day camps offered in Canyon County this year, six reached maximum enrollment before the camp date, in many cases with several more youth wishing to register. All camps reached the minimum number of youth required to be held.

The majority (89%) of youth participants were not previously exposed to 4-H, 19% of participants not previously enrolled in 4-H have followed up and made efforts to enroll in the 4-H club program. Both of these statistics quantify the success of the day camps reaching new audiences that 4-H has not previously reached and increased the awareness of enrolling in the club delivery method of 4-H. The day camps have exposed youth and parents to project areas of 4-H outside of the stereotypical agricultural projects.

Youth reported on the day camp evaluation changes in their knowledge and how they will use it. Comments include; “Art isn’t just like how well you draw, you can do other stuff instead. I can use it when people tell me they’re not good, so I can tell them otherwise!”, “I learned about pollinators, I’ll use it in the future as an entomologist.”, “I really like baking, but I didn’t know how to frost, now I do!”

### **The Future**

Day camps will be offered annually during the summer in Canyon County. As a result of the positive response, additional day camps will be added and plans will be made to accommodate a larger enrollment, although not to exceed 20, in most camps.

### **Other Contributors**

Tina Holmquist, 4-H Program Coordinator

## ***For More Information***

Nancy Shelstad, Extension Educator  
University of Idaho Extension—Canyon County  
501 Main Street  
Caldwell, ID 83605  
208-459-6003  
Fax: 208-454-6349  
Email: [shelstad@uidaho.edu](mailto:shelstad@uidaho.edu)

28-08nshelstad-camps.doc  
9-08