

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

Idaho 4-H Volunteer Association (IVA) funding statewide opportunity grants

AT A GLANCE

Funds are being used to help active, certified 4-H volunteers deliver a positive and educational experience for youth throughout Idaho.

The Situation

Every year counties in Idaho are assessed a \$2 fee, payable directly to the Idaho 4-H Volunteer Association (IVA), for each of the county's certified 4-H volunteers. The funds are then used to assist volunteers statewide and support their educational programs to Idaho's youth.

Due to the global pandemic, the closure or delay of multiple state and national 4-H conferences reduced the need for some historical IVA expenditures such as chaperone scholarships. Additionally, the introduction of new program delivery methods presented members of the IVA Executive Board with the opportunity to re-evaluate the ways their limited funds were allocated and ensure maximum programmatic impact.

Our Response

In August 2020, IVA board members were tasked with assessing the needs of 4-H volunteers statewide and proposing additional funding avenues for the IVA. Six projects were then presented in November 2020 to the subcommittee for further discussion and exploration.

Project proposals:

- Leader to Leader Videos — Three to five-minute videos of experienced volunteers giving



Sagle Saddle Tramps archery club pictured with archery targets purchased using Idaho 4-H Volunteer Association grant funds.

instructions related to specific topics such as completing Animal Weight Charts, KYG Record Books, conducting a club meeting, completing a club audit and other topics.

- Virtual Clubs targeting 4-H members in remote areas — Connecting adults with a passion in a particular area (like photography) with members in counties or locations in the state where they may not otherwise have access to these projects.
- Opportunity Grants — IVA would become a funding mechanism for providing needed financial support to applicants. An example would be a county program that applies for \$500 to purchase shooting sports equipment.

- **Mentoring Program** — Experienced volunteers working through 4-H professionals in their counties are assigned to mentor new and inexperienced volunteers intentionally. A specific set of guidelines and expectations would be provided to mentors.
- **Activities to Increase County Involvement** — Developing a program that explicitly targets participation in the state's underrepresented or less involved sections. There is no specific project designed for this activity, but it is one of the concerns committee members expressed a need to address.
- **Outreach Program for Association** — A short-term or single-year project in which the IVA devotes resources to developing and delivering a program to connect with every volunteer in the State of Idaho regarding the association, its membership and its benefits 4-H volunteers.

Program Outcomes

For the first grant cycle, which ended on May 17, 2021, eight applications were prepared and forwarded to the selection committee. Three grants were able to be funded through the IVA Opportunity Grant program.

One grant recipient was the Sagle Saddle Tramps archery club in Bonner County. Organizational volunteer, Robert Earl, reported that with assistance from "The Arrow Works," his club obtained eight Supreme targets, three yellow jacket targets and six additional covers to refurbish worn targets.

Two of those targets were also used in the practice line at the Bonner County archery competition. As a result, the targets were able to be utilized by all contestants at the event.

The Future

The second window of grant funding opens on Nov. 15, 2021, with a submission deadline of Jan. 15, 2022. An additional \$2,500 is dedicated to supporting the work of 4-H volunteers statewide.

The Idaho 4-H Volunteer Association is making slight adjustments to the opportunity grant application process by renaming the grant in honor of ET Walker, an active volunteer from Canyon County who was integral in developing the grant program.

Additionally, one item for discussion at the IVA's quarterly meeting on Nov. 12, 2021, is the increase in at-large grant awards if all four districts are not represented in that grant cycle.

Announcements will be rereleased through the 4-H enrollment system, email contacts, flyers and various social media platforms.

Grant #	District	County Fees Paid	Score	Funded
1	Northern	Bonner - Y	17	Y
2	Northern	Clearwater - Y	17	N
3	Central	Twin Falls - Y	15	N
4	Central	Cassia - Y	28	Y
5	Central	Jerome - Y	11	N
6	Central	Twin Falls - Y	25	Y
7	Central	Twin Falls - Y	14	N
8	Central	Minidoka - Y	23	N

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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