

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

Bingham County, 208.785.8060, Fax: 208.785.2511  
583 W. Sexton, Blackfoot, ID 83221

## Bingham County 4-H campers learn life skills

### The Situation

Camping professionals and researchers have reported that camp is more than a location or a program. It includes what happens to youth during and after the camping experience, such as their increase in knowledge, becoming more independent, gaining self-confidence, and becoming more responsible. Bingham County 4-H faculty and staff revised a Virginia camping evaluation tool (Journal of Extension 2001, Volume 41, Number 3) to gain information on the impact of 4-H camp on participants.

### Our Response

Bingham County 4-H holds a yearly three day, two night camp at the district 4-H camp facility near Alpine, Wyoming. Camp attendees participate in some of the same activities and events each year, such as archery, air rifle safety and shooting, and hiking. Other activities, such as games and crafts, are based on a rotating camp theme. On the last day of camp, each participant completes an evaluation to measure self-reported knowledge and life-skill development. Questions asked are shown in the next section.

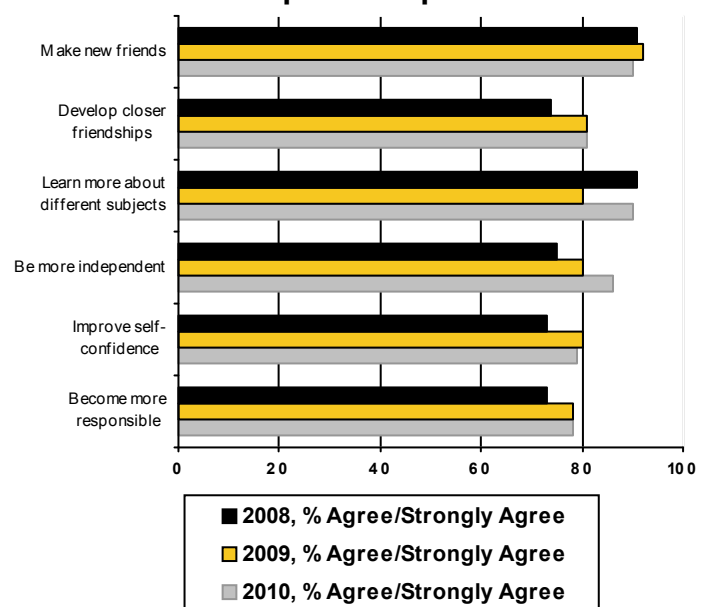
### Program Outcomes

The table summarizes the results of the evaluation for 2008-2010. Seventy-seven campers took the evaluation in 2008, 86 in 2009, and 72 in 2010. Results show that campers made new friends and developed closer friendships with people they already knew. They learned more about different subjects related to camping and the yearly themes. Between 75% and 86% of campers agreed or strongly agreed that they became more independent and able to take care of themselves while at 4-H camp. Campers reported feeling more self-confident and becoming more re-



Bingham County 4-H Campers use teamwork during the nature hike at Alpine 4-H Camp. Photo by Bill Bohl.

### 4-H Camp has helped me...



sponsible. Although not statistically determined, it is interesting to note that over the years the campers appear to be learning how to be more independent and take care of themselves. This would indicate that 4-H camp is having a positive effect on those attending.

#### **The Future**

Bingham County educators and staff will use these evaluation results to improve 4-H camp further so that these life skills are further enhanced. These results can also be used to demonstrate to parents, who may question the validity of camp, that camp is more for their children than just spending three days and two nights away from home. It provides an environment where their children learn skills that will last them for a lifetime.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Marnie Spencer**, Extension Educator  
University of Idaho Extension, Bingham County  
583 W. Sexton  
Blackfoot, ID 83221  
Phone: 208.785.8060  
Fax: 208.785.2511  
E-mail: marniers@uidaho.edu

**Scott Nash**, Extension Educator  
University of Idaho Extension, Bingham County  
583 W. Sexton  
Blackfoot, ID 83221  
Phone: 208.785.8060  
Fax: 208.785.2511  
E-mail: snash@uidaho.edu

**Bill Bohl**, Extension Educator  
University of Idaho Extension, Bingham County  
583 W. Sexton  
Blackfoot, ID 83221  
Phone: 208.785.8060  
Fax: 208.785.2511  
E-mail: wbohl@uidaho.edu

Other participating faculty/staff:  
Debbie White, 4-H Program Manager  
Nola Cates, Fort Hall 4-H Program Director

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