

4-H Afterschool in **Fond du Lac County** is a partnership with Boys & Girls Club. In the program, third through fifth graders meet on Mondays for five to eight week time periods. 4-H and other curriculum that we have used has emphasized art, electricity, nature, plants, theatre, aerospace, leadership, diversity and mini-society.



It is led by both UW-Extension and Boys & Girls Club staff. We have a program at two different facilities. One unique thing about our sites is that the Extension Staff teach a lesson at one site while the Boys & Girls Club staff observe. Their staff then re-teaches the same lesson later in the week at the second site.

One Friday a month we have "4-H Friday" where youth from grades one to five are involved in hands-on meetings.

Both sites have chartered 4-H clubs. The club names are Rainbow Kids and Shining Shamrocks. Each has created a club banner. We recite the 4-H pledge and do projects



related to science, art, nutrition and community service. At the end of each meeting the children take home a flier that says, "Today in 4-H Afterschool we learned about.... (fill in the topic). Ask me what we did!" Parents have commented how helpful this has been in finding out what is happening.

This summer five youth from 4-H Afterschool participated in county 4-H



summer camp and 25 attended day camp. Because of the friendships

that one of these youth made, she has since joined a community 4-H

club. Three youth have also participated in the County 4-H Music Festival and one

exhibited at the county fair.

The challenges we face in 4-H Afterschool are that parental involvement is not very strong, so having children participate in county 4-H activities has had low success. It has been difficult to get 4-H members in the community club program to commit to volunteer at 4-H Afterschool, mainly because of the time of day that it is held. Because Boys and Girls Club and 4-H have different missions, policies and procedures, it has required extra time to discuss and agree on methods of operation.

Our greatest sense of accomplishment is knowing that we are reaching a new audience that probably would not otherwise be involved in 4-H. Over one-half of the children that are being reached in 4-H Afterschool in Fond du Lac County live at poverty level.

