

4-H Afterschool Training Funds Request

Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development

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Brief historical description:

UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff was approached by T.B. Scott Library staff in the spring of 2004 about the flood of middle school students at the library after school and some of the issues this created. After conducting needs assessments with middle school students in May of 2004, UW-Extension formed a Steering Committee composed of key stakeholders in the community and middle school youth that planned and launched the "After the Bell" program on November 29, 2004. The "After the Bell" program is intended to provide a safe place for middle school students after school to learn new skills. During the 2005-06 school year, the principal at the Prairie River Middle School approached us about the possibility of incorporating an after school tutoring component into the program through a grant the school district had received. As a result "After the Bell Plus", a tutoring component was added to the 2005-06 program and many additional participants to the program. Working with members of the steering committee, UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff has taken the lead role in organizing this program, training additional staff (parents and high school volunteers), and securing necessary funding. We have raised \$5,113 from various community organizations and businesses in the Merrill area and received an additional \$21,000 through the Merrill School District After School Tutoring grant to support the 2005-06 program. Funds are being used to cover staffing costs (supervisors and tutors) and supplies (snacks, program supplies). In addition, we have received donations of snacks from an area grocery store, refrigerator from local appliance store and activity supplies from community members. Plans are underway to continue both parts of the program in the 2006-07 school year as well as an "After the Bell – Summer Edition" that will be offered during the 2006 Summer School program through summer school funds the school district receives.

In addition to this program, 4-H Youth Development has been approached during the 2005-06 school year to provide enrichment activities at both the Washington Elementary School After school program and at the Tomahawk Before school program. Working with the 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor, the 4-H Ambassadors have taught 4-H project enrichment activities in both of these programs this school year. Not only does this provide the after school participants with a positive 4-H experience, but also provides an opportunity for the 4-H Ambassadors to develop their teaching and leadership skills as well as serving as role models for younger youth. Recently, the 4-H Youth Development Agent was approached about starting an after school program at Midway School in Gleason for the 2006-07 school year.

As a result of the growing number of requests that 4-H Youth Development staff are receiving to provide after school programming, we would like to offer a training in August and/or September to familiarize all staff (UW-Extension, 4-H Ambassadors and School Based Staff in both Merrill and Tomahawk School systems) with the 4-H Afterschool resources and how they could utilize in their programs. In addition, we have noted an increase in challenging participant behavior during the year, particularly at the middle school program and would like to include some training for staff on handling challenging behaviors appropriately.

The 4-H Ambassadors are again planning to offer monthly programs in each of the after school programs in the county. 4-H Youth Development staff became familiar with a character education program during a recent conference and would like to train the 4-H Ambassadors so they can offer this character education program next year. By training 4-H Ambassadors in August, they would be ready to begin offering this program in September and continue to do a lesson each month in each program. Having 4-H Ambassadors provide this type of program would again help build their teaching and leadership skills as well as provide them with an opportunity to serve as a positive role model for younger youth throughout the county.

Planned Training Goals and Objectives:

- As a result of their participation in this one-day training, after school staff will become familiar with the 4-H afterschool resources and will be prepared to utilize them in their programs.
- As a result of their participation in this one-day training, after school staff will be prepared to handle challenging behaviors by participants more appropriately.
- As a result of their participation in training, the 4-H Ambassadors will be prepared to deliver a character education program in after school program settings and other settings (4-H clubs).

Training Outline and List of Potential Training Resources:

Afterschool Staff Training (UW-Extension, 4-H Ambassadors, High School Volunteers from Octagon Club and National Honor Society and School Based staff in both Merrill and Tomahawk) will include:

- Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development (utilize resources from "Strengthening Positive Youth Development Environments – Research Based Frameworks for Extension Educators")

- Ages and Stages of Youth Development (utilize resources from "New 4-H Volunteer Orientation")
- Dealing with Challenging Behaviors Appropriately (recruit a local school teacher/guidance counselor to provide training)
- 4-H Afterschool Resources (recruit members of the state 4-H after school training team to provide training utilizing the teaching kits and skillathons from the 2004 and 2005 4-H Afterschool regional trainings from the State 4-H office, provide each participant with a binder of resource materials for their use)
- Evaluation (utilize UW-Extension evaluation resources to assist program staff in developing evaluation tools can use to evaluate their programs, such as Program and Activity Assessment Tool and evaluation tools have developed for middle school program)
- Planning Time – allow teams of staff from each program to develop action plans for how they will utilize the resources received during the training

Character Education Training (4-H Ambassadors will include):

- Developing Teaching Skills and Practicing Teaching Strategies (utilize resources from the "Friends Helping Friends Peer Education" program manual)
- Introduce Character Education Program (utilize *Boomerang: Circle of Courage* program developed by Manitowoc County 4-H Youth Development and Family Living Educators)
- Planning Time – allow group time to develop action plan for how they will implement the Character Education program in the afterschool programs
- Grant – allow group time to develop a grant proposal to submit to the Lincoln County Safe and Stable Families Youth Activities subcommittee for funding materials to implement this program
- Evaluation (utilize UW-Extension evaluation resources to assist the group in developing an evaluation plan for the program)

Proposed Project Timetable:

Late June – Early July:

- Contact Rich Thwaites, Merrill Public School After School grant coordinator and Mary Ingham, Tomahawk Elementary School Before School Coordinator to discuss training, determine training date and staff to invite to the training

July:

- Develop and distribute training invites and registration materials for both trainings
- Plan and develop/secure curriculum/materials for both trainings

August/September:

- Conduct both of the trainings and collect evaluations
- Submit training expenses for reimbursement and post training documents (participant evaluation forms, participant roster and training materials)

September thru May:

- Serve as a resource to program participants as they implement the afterschool programs

May/June:

- Collect post-training evaluations from program participants about the usefulness of the training and how they utilized the training materials provided to them
- Prepare Success Story about the training

Proposed Budget Expenditures:

Travel	\$200
Training materials	\$300
Food/Refreshments	\$150
Meeting Room Space	\$150
Total Request	\$800

Travel: This money would be utilized to reimburse members of the state 4-H After school team to provide training on after school materials.

Training materials: This money would be utilized for producing training materials and for creating the binder of resources that each participant would receive to implement in their after school program for each training.

Food/Refreshments: Funds utilized to provide lunch and break refreshments for each training.

Meeting Room Space: This money would be utilized to pay for room space for each of the trainings. Try to utilize meeting room space that is free, but is becoming more difficult to obtain.