

Northeast District Innovative Programs Proposal

Project Title: Brown County Urban 4-H & Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary's Natural Science Learn and Serve Program (4-H Rangers Club)

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Project Collaborators:

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Kathy Kauth, Brown County Urban 4-H Coordinator
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Maura Dasho, VISTA, Jefferson Elementary School
Ty Baumann, Director, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

Situation Statement:

Like other mature American cities, Green Bay's challenge is to revive its central city even though many businesses and residents have fled to the suburbs. Neighborhoods in and near Green Bay's downtown are among the poorest in Brown County. These neighborhoods also house the county's largest concentration on minority residents. The Brown County Urban 4-H Program has a successful history of engaging youth from these neighborhoods in after school and summer 4-H Programs.

The Urban 4-H Program works in partnership with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the Green Bay Area Public Schools, and Neighborhood Family Resource Centers to deliver youth programming during out-of-school time. 4-H programming with these partners has centered on the 4-H tradition of experiential learning focused on 4-H project curriculum and service to one's community.

The aim of this project is two-fold: to increase students' knowledge of natural science by using service learning as a method of delivery during out-of-school time, and to connect youth with their neighborhoods so they can empower other youth and their families to experience what the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary has to offer.

The Urban 4-H Program seeks to continue its dedication to community partnerships and programming with youth by forming a new partnership with VISTA and the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. Through the use of Northeast District Resource Management District Funds, 4-H Natural Science curriculum will be used to engage ninety youth from nine near downtown Green Bay elementary schools to learn about their environment while immersed in the natural surroundings of the wildlife sanctuary. Youth will complete service-learning projects as part of this program. Their mission will be to promote both natural science and the benefits of Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary to their fellow students and families living in these near downtown neighborhoods.

Project Goals:

- To provide experiential, natural science programming to 90 unduplicated youth from 9 elementary schools during 3 different 8-week sessions which last for two hour.
- To broaden youth's knowledge of their environment and how they can positively impact the environment.
- To instill a sense of community consciousness through programming that motivates youth to live with a sense of responsibility for the world around them.
- To provide youth with quality, hand-on educational activities based on "Critical Elements of Youth Development"
- To increase 4-H visibility and thus enrollment in the After School 4-H program.

Project Outcomes:

- Youth will gain a broader knowledge of the natural sciences
- Youth will increase their awareness of resources available through the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and share this information with other youth and their families living in Green Bay's near downtown neighborhoods.
- 4-H will gain positive exposure in at-risk neighborhoods in Green Bay
- Enrollment in the 4-H after-school program will increase
- Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary will receive greater exposure as participating youth serve as 4-H Rangers.
- New relationships will be developed with the VISTA program and Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

Project Timeline:

Month	Action	Person Responsible
December 2002	Integrate 4-H and service learning curriculum w/ Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary programming offered to youth.	4-H Program Assistant VISTA and Wildlife Sanctuary staff
December 2002	Develop Evaluation Tool	4-H Youth Development Educator
January 2003	Promote project in near downtown schools & enroll youth	4-H staff VISTA
January 2003	Inform media of this programming opportunity	Urban 4-H Coordinator
January-May 2003	Offer three, 8 week sessions, serving 9 schools and a total of 90 unduplicated youth	Urban 4- H Coordinator, 4-H Program Assistant VISTA
January-May 2003	Develop evaluation tools.	Urban 4-H Coordinator VISTA
End of Each session	Evaluate the youth and community impacts	Instructors 4-H Youth Devel. Educator
May 2003	Submit finally report to Resource Management team	4-H Youth Educator Urban 4-H Coordinator

Evaluation Plan:

- Survey youth participants after each of the 8-week sessions to determine if knowledge was increased in the subject area presented. This will be complete using a short written survey and a continuum line.
- Youth will keep a journal of their learning as well as a portfolio of their work as an ambassador for the project (i.e., media coverage and promotional materials).
- Provide the 4-H Program Assistant and VISTA volunteer with a questionnaire to fill out for every 4-H session. The questionnaire will include information on the numbers and demographics of the youth served (also to fulfill ES237 requirements), any suggestions for improvement, and an area to include qualitative data from the session (comments the youth made, testimonials, observations, etc.).

Detailed Budget:

Bussing ¹	\$1,560
Urban 4-H Coordinator ²	480
VISTA Stipend ³	864
Supplies ⁴	200
Total:	\$3,104

- 1) Youth will be bussed between the wildlife sanctuary and their elementary schools.
- 2) The Brown County UWEX Urban 4-H Coordinator will oversee the operation of the program.
- 3) The VISTA, who is housed at one of the participating schools, will assist with program implementation at all nine schools.
- 4) The supplies will include restocking the NE District Natural Science Curriculum Kits, purchase of 4-H Ranger Club t-shirts, and other program supplies.