

NORTHEAST DISTRICT FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

Project Title

4-H Wild About Animals – Learning Enrichment Activity

Project Contact

Karla A. Voss
4-H Youth Development Educator
Brown County UWEX
1150 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54302
920-391-4613
karla.voss@ces.uwex.edu

Project Collaborators

Green Bay Area Public Schools, *Connections* After School Program
Sarah Schultz, Brown County 4-H Program Assistant
Kathy Kauth, Brown County Urban 4-H Coordinator
Green Bay Boys and Girls Club - After School Site Coordinators
Howe School YMCA - After School Program Coordinator

Situation Statement

The Urban 4-H Program collaborates with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers to deliver 4-H youth programming during after-school hours in 10 at-risk schools in the Green Bay central city. 4-H programming with these partners is centered on the 4-H tradition of experiential learning focused on 4-H project curriculum. The Urban 4-H program assistant has developed an after school project called 4-H "Wild about Animals", a 6-week program focused on environmental education, specifically animal adaptations. The curriculum was adapted from Upham Woods environmental education curriculum.

The youth who are enrolled in Green Bay's After-School programs all attend urban schools that are designated "at-risk" and Title I school wide project sites. The youth who participate in the 4-H "Wild about Animals" program attend schools that are economically, culturally and ethnically diverse. These schools are among the poorest in Brown County. The poverty rate, as indicated by free and reduced lunch data, averages 80% in 2004. This indicates that these children live in homes where parents must work full time, shift work or even multiple jobs; leaving little if any time or resources to provide educational enrichment activities for their children.

The youth who have been enrolled in 4-H "Wild about Animals" are in currently learning about animal adaptations in an informal after-school setting, yet are limited to the confines of their learning space. In some cases, this learning space is an area where other after school activities are happening and can be a very distracting learning environment.

This culminating activity will provide a capstone to this 4-H learning experience by giving youth a day-long focused experience at Fallen Timbers Environmental Education Center. This experience will reinforce and expand upon prior classroom learning as well as provide youth with an experience in an outdoor, environmentally rich setting.

Project Goals & Expected Outcomes

Project Goals

- ☼ To provide experiential environmental education to 40 youth from 10 elementary schools.
- ☼ To provide an expansion activity that will reinforce and expand upon learning that occurred during the 4-H Afterschool program
- ☼ To provide youth with an outdoors nature experience away from their neighborhood
- ☼ To expose youth to several different animal adaptations in an innovative learning environment.

Project Outcomes

- ☼ Youth will gain appreciation for the natural world and the organisms living in it.
- ☼ Youth will increase their understanding of animal adaptations.
- ☼ 4-H will gain positive exposure in at-risk neighborhoods in Green Bay

Project Timeline

Month	Action	Person Responsible
February-March 2004	Collaborate and plan for learning experience with environmental center.	4-H Program Assistant Environmental Center Staff
February-March 2004	Promote project in after-school programs and hand out fliers to youth who were formerly enrolled in Wild about Animals	4-H Program Assistant 4-H Support Staff Urban 4-H Coordinator
February-March 2004	Develop Evaluation tools	4-H Educator
March 2004	Inform media of this programming opportunity	4-H Program Assistant 4-H Educator
Early April 2004	Enrollment forms due/follow up with families	4-H Program Assistant
May 1	Travel to Fallen Timbers Environmental Center	4-H Program Assistant Urban 4-H Coordinator
May 30	Submit evaluation results and Success story to Resource Management Team	4-H Educator

Evaluation Plan

- ☼ The 4-H Program Assistant will fill out a questionnaire following this outdoor experience which will include information on the numbers and demographics of the youth served (also to fulfill ES237 requirements), any suggestions for improvement and the qualitative data from this experience (comments from youth, testimonials, observations, etc.)
- ☼ The 4-H Program Assistant will work with Fallen Timbers Environmental Center and 4-H Youth Development Educator to develop a simple pre/post evaluation plan based on mutually agreed upon goals.
- ☼ Staff will survey youth participants following the experience to assess the quality of the experience. This will be a short written survey with a continuum line.

Proposed Budget and Funding Request

Urban 4-H Program Assistant	40 hours @ \$10.00/hour (**** Fringes covered by Brown Co.) (Planning, curriculum development)	400.00
Urban 4-H Program Assistant	Travel to Site Travel for Program Promotion	30.00
Urban 4-H Program Staff	Staff time for program (**** Fringes Covered by Brown Co.)	260.00
Fallen Timbers Environmental Center	Admission and access to Naturalist	112.50
American Income Life Insurance	Accident Insurance for participants	15.00
	Meals and snacks for participants	120.00
Lamers Bus Lines	Transportation	200.00
	TOTAL REQUESTED	\$1,137.50

This is a first-time submission for this proposal.